

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



'CELEBRATING THE CREATIVE ARTS'

Brandon Congregational Church held its spring art show 'Celebrating the Creative Arts' last weekend.

PG. 23



GOSHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Goshen Historical Society will hold exhibit on WWII at Brandon Town Hall on Sunday

PG. 2



GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais visits Brian Jerome's beautiful gardens in Brandon.

PG. 22

THEATER REVIEW

'Going up the County,' a musical adaptation of the book about Vermont's hippie culture

PG. 2



Brandon Inn finds a new owner



INN: THREE 'GENERATIONS' of innkeepers celebrate the sale of the Brandon Inn. (L to R) Sarah Pattis, Louis Pattis, Isidro Beccar-Varela, Darcy MacClaren, Joel MacClaren. Mr. Beccar-Varela, who goes by 'Sid,' is the newest steward of the historic hotel.

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—As of last week, the historic Brandon Inn has a new owner: Isidro "Sid" Beccar-Varela. The Inn's previous owners, Joel and Darcy MacClaren, passed the torch to Mr. Beccar after two years during which they made significant upgrades to the physical plant and expanded the Inn's offerings, even opening the Neshobe Café, a mornings-only coffee shop. The MacClarens, for their part, bought the Inn from Louis and Sarah Pattis, who had run it for 31 years and still live in the

house they built behind it.

These five past and present owners celebrated the sale with a glass of champagne before Mr. Beccar immediately rolled up his sleeves and jumped right in. "The Pattises and MacClarens did a fantastic job, but the work never ends," he said.

"When you think of small New England towns, you think of this," Beccar continued, gesturing at Brandon's downtown through the window of the coffee shop he now owns. "This town has everything you need, (See Brandon Inn, Page 8)

Bit by a tick: Preventing tick borne illness

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Summer's almost here and it's time to get outside! Fun things like walking the dog, going for a hike, swimming, and paddling in the lake or playing a round of golf are a few of my favorite options. However, nothing ruins

an outdoor experience like being covered in ticks or, worse yet, finding one attached. Ticks carry a variety of diseases, including Lyme disease

(named after Lyme, Connecticut where it was discovered), Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Anaplasmosis. We worry most about Lyme disease but the CDC reports cases in the Northeast of all of these diseases. While there are treatments available for most of them, wouldn't it be better to not get them

in the first place?

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" goes the old saying, and it is especially true in the case of tick borne diseases. Ticks live in grassy areas, brush, and bushes as well as forests. That kind of sounds like all of Vermont, doesn't



LEARNING TO PROTECT yourself from ticks is key to outdoor activities.

it? I remember hunting through a bunch of whips a few years ago and finding 16 ticks on my clothes and skin afterwards! Luckily, there are ways to keep the ticks away.

You don't have to spend the summer holed up inside your house, just take a few simple measures to protect yourself. Ticks are upward climbers. This means they'll get on your shoes or socks and climb up your clothes until they reach a spot to get under clothes next to your skin. Tucking your pants into your socks is a good first (See Stopping Ticks, Page 14)



KEITH CARRARA, CENTER, stands with his parents, Jeff and Sarah. Keith, 18, was one of only 53 Vermont scouts to reach the highest rank in scouting this year.
Photo by Steven Jupiter

Brandon's Keith Carrara reaches scouting's highest rank: Eagle

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Though scouting organizations exist around the world, the Boy Scouts are a quintessentially American institution, drawing in millions of members since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

in 1910. Participation in scouting has become almost a cliché of American childhood.

Brandon's Keith Carrara, 18, takes scouting very seriously. He's devoted much of his childhood to the develop- (See Keith Carrara, Page 15)

Goshen Historical Society remembers WWII

BY STEVEN JUPITER

GOSHEN—As with many towns in Vermont, it's easy to pass through Goshen without realizing that you've even been there. There's not much of a center to it and the most numerous inhabitants are trees. But the newly active Goshen Historical Society is extremely proud of the town's past and will remember the experiences of the town's inhabitants during WWII at an event next Sunday at the Brandon American Legion.

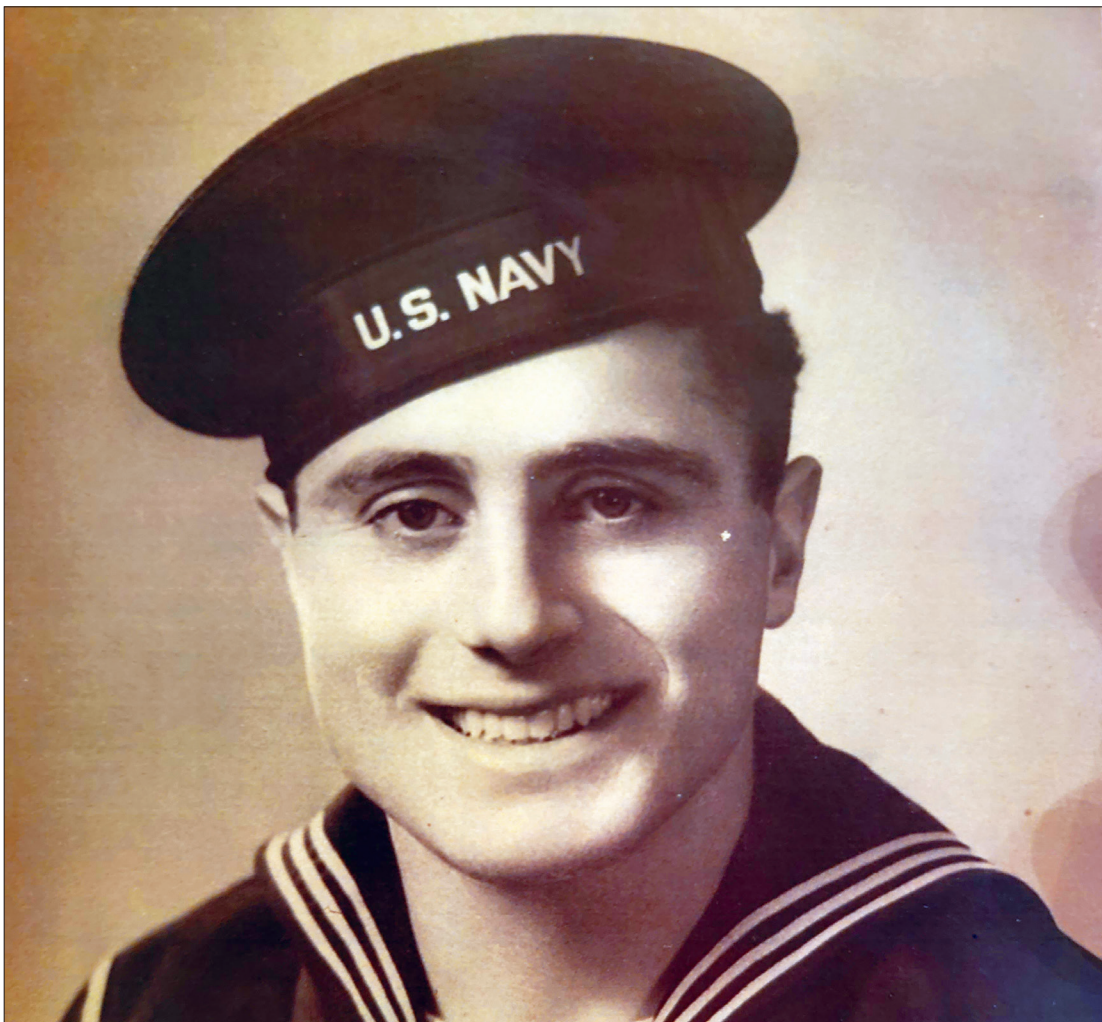


Marci Hayes of GHS said the event is one of a series of events that GHS planned around the three markers in Goshen that commemorate the town's citizens who served in the Revolutionary, Civil, and both World Wars.

"We thought it would be interesting to create a program for each marker," said Hayes. "Last December, we did the Civil War. Now we're doing WWII. There are still veterans around. And their children who remember hearing stories about the war when they were young."

The program will include visual exhibits of photographs and relics, donated for the event by local families and other his-

★★★ Remembering World War Two ★★★



RAYMOND FASANO WAS 22 when his ship was hit by a kamikaze plane near Okinawa. His body was never recovered. He is listed as missing in action. His story will be featured at the Goshen Historical Society's exhibit on WWII at the Brandon American Legion.

torical organizations, such as the Pittsford Historical Society and the Brandon Museum.

"We put the word out to the community [for donations]," said Hayes. Three or four families from Goshen are contributing material, as well as families from California with ancestral ties to Goshen.



"There's still space available on the tables," Hayes continued. Anyone who would like to donate material relating to WWII should contact Ms. Hayes at hayesm812@yahoo.com.

Refreshments will be served and the Otter Valley Jazz Band will play songs from the 1940s as well.

People who would like to get involved with GHS or find out more about the organization and its events should follow the group on Facebook.

The WWII event will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m. at the Brandon American Legion. The event is by donation and proceeds will go to an organization helping veterans, according to Hayes.



Imagine Zero Music Festival imagines a world with zero pollution

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—When the music stops and the crowds go home, every music festival looks the same: a grotesque sea of empty water bottles, red Solo cups, and food wrappers. Enough plastic to start a landfill. The garbage gets hauled away, hidden from view, and forgotten. Not to mention the vast amounts of electricity needed to power the affair, electricity that isn't always produced sustainably.

Now, imagine a music festival that's still awesome fun but with zero waste and zero emissions, where food and drink are served only in reusable and/or biodegradable containers and everything is powered by solar. The Imagine Zero Music Fest, to be held in Brandon on Satur-

day, May 13, is moving us ever closer to that reality.

The festival is the brainchild of Ben Kogan of Reusable Solutions, a sustainability consultancy in Woodstock, and his friend Cliff Johnson, a social-impact entrepreneur. The idea for a zero-pollution music fest came to them on a hike in fall 2022, when they found themselves lamenting the massive waste generated by the music festivals they liked to attend.

Kogan recalled, "Cliff turned to me and said, 'Why don't we put on our own music festival?' By December of 2022, we were seriously making it happen."

Kogan is himself a musician (his band will be performing at Imagine Zero) and had already been trying to introduce no-
(See Imagine Zero, Page 21)

'Going up the Country in West Rutland' explores Vermont's 'Back to the Land' movement

BY STEVEN JUPITER

WEST RUTLAND—When I was growing up in New York, my idea of Vermont was that it was full of hippies eating sprouts and making macrame. That perception, I dare say, is probably not uncommon among people who've never lived here. Once I moved to Vermont, though, I realized very quickly that the state's renowned hippies—the original "back-to-the-land'ers"—were a rare breed and becoming rarer with each passing day. Alas, the hippie fever that overtook Vermont in the 60s and 70s had cooled, with many of the Aquarius crew either reassimilated or concentrated in discrete and diminishing pockets of the state.

"Going up the Country," an entertaining and informative new musical adapted from Yvonne Daly's book of the same name and produced by the Vermont Actors'
(See 'Going up the Country', Page 3)



ALANAH GRANT AS Melanie in 'Going up the Country.'

'Going up the Country

(Continued from Page 2)

Repertory Theater, takes a hard-
yet-affectionate look at the fate of
those rebellious, crunchy folk and
at the legacy they left Vermont, a
legacy that reverberates through
the Green Mountains to this day.
The show was written and com-
posed by Eric Peterson and John
Foley, and directed by Kimberlee
Moyer, who all clearly have great
fondness for the “hippies, dream-
ers, freaks, and radicals” who
moved to Vermont to escape the
suffocating expectations of Ameri-
can society but found that a life of
total freedom wasn't the utopia
they'd imagined.

The show begins with a glimpse
of the late Yvonne Daly, back
when she was a young, broke hip-
pie poet who talked her way into a
writing job at the Rutland Herald.
She ended up working there for
decades, writing stories about any-
thing and everything in Vermont.
She eventually wrote the book this
play is adapted from.

From there, the production in-
terposes informational segments,
dramatic vignettes, and original
songs.

The vignettes follow the rela-
tionship of Steve and Melanie—
a young, naïve couple trying to
make a go of it as hippies.

The original, often-funny songs
by John Foley perfectly capture
the folksy, bluegrass, Americana-
inflected music of the era. The en-
semble cast sings and plays acous-
tic instruments, including guitar,
mandolin, and banjo. Mr. Foley
said in a conversation at intermis-
sion, “There was more substance
there than we thought at the time.
We wanted to take another look at
[the era.]”

The informational segments re-
lay the true stories of hippies who
eventually left the commune and
found some sort of conventional
success, including the famous Ben
Cohen and Jerry Greenfield (of
Ben & Jerry's ice cream) and the
not-so-famous Lisa Lindahl, Polly
Smith, and Hinda Schreiber (who
fashioned the first commercially
successful sports bra out of two
jockstraps). These segments are
presented with humor and pride:
hippies were smart, resourceful
people. They had to be just to sur-
vive those early years when they
bought cheap land with no idea

how to live on it.

Which brings us to Steve and
Melanie, whose first
scene finds them
wondering how
much wood they'll
need to survive the
impending win-
ter (answer: much
more than they
thought). They be-
friend a young man
from a neighboring
farm who initially
helps them out of
sheer pity but even-
tually comes to em-
brace their culture
even as Steve and
Melanie struggle to
maintain it them-
selves. The stresses
of the hippie life
and the deep-seated
American desire to

achieve eventually take a toll on
the relationship. Alanah Grant and

Eric Ray play Melanie and Steve
with compassion and authenticity,

particularly
Ms. Grant.
They're the
only two
cast mem-
bers with
sustained
character
arcs, though
the rest of
the ensemble
(Scott For-
rest, Vanessa
Mills, Olivia
Olson, and
Donovan
Thacker) do
an excellent
job playing
all the pe-
ripheral char-
acters that
surround the

couple. Mr. Thacker has a num-
ber of very funny moments as the

*The heyday of the
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new Vermonters
who were too young
for the original gra-
nola boat still came
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vestige of it, or just
to enjoy its lingering
echoes off the Green
Mountains.*

young farmer who takes a shine to
the hippie life.

Director Kimberlee Moyer
called the production a “docu-
play,” and said she wanted to emphasize
the bonds forged between the new-
comers (interlopers, even) and the
native Vermont farmers who took
them under their wings and taught
them how to wring subsistence out
of the Vermont soil. For her first
directorial effort, Ms. Moyer does
an admirable job juggling the his-
tory, drama, and music.

“They learned to tolerate and
accept each other,” said Moyer.
And that hard-won relationship,
between the hyperliberal hippies
and the hyperconservative Ver-
monters, still offers us lessons for
coexistence in today's political at-
mosphere.

The set design by Ian Holmquist,
Vanessa Mills, and Ms. Moyer,
was simultaneously minimal and
maximal. The actual stage was
kept somewhat spare but the au-

ditorium was covered with groovy
posters bearing era-appropriate
slogans, like “Don't hate what you
don't understand.”

The heyday of the hippies may
have passed, but their impact on
Vermont is lasting. So many new
Vermonters who were too young
for the original granola boat still
came here to find some vestige
of it, or just to enjoy its lingering
echoes off the Green Mountains.

Anyone who has a fondness for
the era, whether they lived through
it or not, will certainly have fun
getting to deepen their understand-
ing of that moment in Vermont his-
tory and of the hippies who made
it happen.

“Going up the Country” will
play again at West Rutland Town
Hall (35 Marble Street) on Friday,
May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at 7:00
p.m., as well as on Sunday, May
7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the
door.

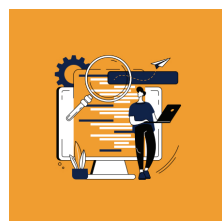
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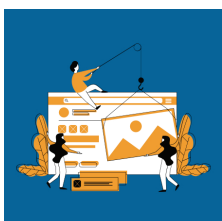
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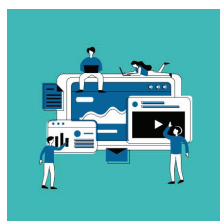
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Correction

Correction: In the last
Gardening Corner, the pho-
tos of Ellen Walter's gar-
den were taken by Ellen
Walter herself, not by Lyn
Desmarais, as we wrote.
Apologies for the mixup.

BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Notes from the Pulpit

Headline News 2/23/20: Ahmaud Arbery jogged down the wrong road. Headline News 4/18/23: Kaylin Gillis drove up the wrong driveway. Headline News 4/13/23: Ralph Yarl rang the wrong doorbell. Headline News 11/19/22: Daniel Davis Aston, Kelly Loving, Ashley Paugh, Derrick Rump and Raymond Green Vance went to the

wrong nightclub. Actually, there is nothing wrong about doing any of these - except the shootings that left them dead.

Leaving church, a parishioner said to me, "It can happen anywhere, anytime, to anyone." But being shot is most likely to occur

here in the United States, where the incidence of gun violence far exceeds any that in other country. It is hard to believe that tens-of-thousands of our people die every year from gunshots (per the CDC). If any nation or terrorist group did that, we'd be sending the troops after them. Yet, little is done to curb this violence and the suffering it causes. Why?

The reasons have a lot to do

with our fears, our faith, our loves, and our lack of inner freedom, to broadly name some of them. One more I would mention here - the now-undervalued divine imperatives that for millennia have been the civilizing safeguards in societies, like the Sixth Commandment of Moses: "Do not kill/murder." In stark contrast, our culture unremittingly

In stark contrast, our culture unremittingly reinforces the efficacy of violent force and the legitimacy of weapons to carry it out. We are feeding our minds death and reaping it in real life.

reinforces the efficacy of violent force and the legitimacy of weapons to carry it out. We are feeding our minds death and reaping it in real life.

Religious faith can bring us back to our moral senses if it doesn't also justify and bless recourse to violence. Re-

member the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." It certainly rules out shooting anyone. It is still a good foundation to right what's wrong.

*Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman
Brandon United Methodist Church*



Get off my tree!

A WINTER WREN sings a complicated song that is bigger than this 4 inch bird.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month in Brandon, learn the signs, help a child

BY VICKI DISORDA

BRANDON—Each year, the President of the United States issues a proclamation designating April as National Childhood Abuse Prevention Month. In order to raise awareness and recommit state resources to the pursuit of protecting children, many governors follow suit. On March 30th, Governor Phil Scott likewise signed a proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Vermont.

In the accompanying photo, in the center of town, are a National Child Abuse Prevention sign, along with traditional symbolic pinwheels associated with child abuse prevention. Also displayed is a blue Child Abuse Prevention Month flag. Blue is the color associated with Childhood Abuse Prevention.

Pinwheels, often blue in color, are thought to represent the playfulness, joy, and whimsy of childhood. The type of experience every child should have. Pinwheel gardens are planted at schools, businesses, and child-advocacy centers to serve as a

reminder that we all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Confidence is key when it comes to keeping a child safe. Know what to look for.

THE SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE:

- Has unexplained injuries, such as burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Has fading bruises or other noticeable marks after an absence from school
- Seems scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn, or aggressive
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Shows changes in eating and sleeping habits
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Abuses animals or pets
- Seems frightened of his or her parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home

While it's important to know the signs of physical, mental, and emotional abuse, the following signs of general maltreatment can also help determine whether a child needs

GENERAL MALTREATMENT CHILD:

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance (changes in grades or attitude)
 - Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parents' attention
 - Has learning problems (or difficulty concentrating) that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes
 - Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen (Also a symptom of PTSD)
 - Lacks adult supervision
 - Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn
 - Comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home (And I might add, clings to other families/adults)
 - Is reluctant to be around a particular person
 - Discloses maltreatment
- PARENT:**
- Denies the existence of — or (See *Child abuse prevention*, Page 5)

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Letter to the Editor

Cheers to Brandon and the Brandon Inn

In the blink of an eye, two years have gone by as Darcy and I say goodbye to our quintessential Vermont town of Brandon and the Brandon Inn. It is the task of the Innkeeper to take care of the Brandon Inn, as Innkeepers have done since 1786, until the next Innkeeper steps into the role. Thank you to our wonderful guests, the staff that came together, and the townspeople who love the Inn. Thank you to the tradesman and vendors who keep the Inn running and supplied. My coworkers know how all the moving parts come together when each day we open the Neshobe Café,

greet overnight guests with a delicious Vermont Country Breakfast, host weddings and family celebrations, Celebrations of Life, and serving group dinners as the front desk greets the evenings' check ins.

Making your way in the world today/Takes everything you've got/Taking a break from all your

worries/Sure would help a lot/Wouldn't you like to get away? Here, the Brandon Inn provides everyone who enters the opportunity to "Make a Little History of Their Own." We took over from the amazingly capable Sarah and Louis Patis and now we have handed

over the keys to a wonderful new Innkeeper, Isidro "Sid" Beccar. Sid stayed with us to see how we ran the Inn for a bit, and I know in no time, he will come to love Brandon's Gray Lady. It's good-bye to Brandon as Darcy and I return to Connecticut. Already planning as to when I can get to our home at Stratton, we'll always think fondly of Brandon. My family wishes everyone good health and happiness.

Sincerely, Joel MacClaren
Former Innkeeper,
Brandon Inn



BLUE PINWHEELS ARE meant to symbolize childhood during Child Abuse Prevention Month, which ended this past weekend. Learning to recognize the signs can help spare children its devastating effects.

Child abuse prevention

(Continued from Page 4)

blames the child for — the child's problems in school or at home

- Asks teachers or other caregivers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves (Or speaks harshly to the child/uses inappropriate language)

- Sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome

- Demands a level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve (This can be a sign of abuse in any relationship)

- Looks primarily to the child for care, attention, and satisfaction of the parent's emotional needs

- Shows little concern for the child (Neglect)

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

Spotting signs of abuse means paying attention to other adults as well as children. Learn to recognize when an adult (or older child) doesn't seem to understand what's acceptable when it comes to:

PERSONAL SPACE:

- Makes others uncomfortable by

ignoring social, emotional, or physical boundaries or limits.

- Refuses to let a child set any of their own limits. Uses teasing or belittling language to keep a child from setting a limit.

- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with, or holding a child even when the child does not want this physical contact or attention.

- Frequently walks in on children/teens in the bathroom.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN

- Turns to a child for emotional or physical comfort by sharing personal or private information or activities, normally shared with adults.

- Has secret interactions with teens or children (e.g. games, sharing drugs, alcohol, or sexual material) or spends excessive time emailing, text messaging, or calling children or youth

- Insists on or manages to spend uninterrupted time alone with a child.

- Seems "too good to be true," e.g., frequently baby sits different children for free; takes children on special outings alone; buys children gifts or gives them money for no apparent reason.

- Allows children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors.

SEXUAL CONVERSATION OR BEHAVIOR

Frequently points out sexual images or tells dirty or suggestive jokes with children present.

- Exposes a child to adult sexual interactions or images without apparent concern.

- Is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating).

This might seem like a lot, but remember...

Child abuse and neglect are preventable.

Letters to the editor

Letters Policy: The Reporter will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed.

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge.

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m.
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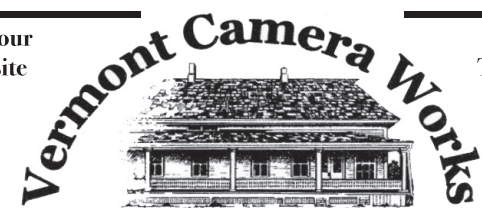
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Obituaries

Ronald E. Richards, 75, Goshen

Ronald E. Richards, 75, died peacefully on April 15, 2023 at his home with his partner, Jeanne, by his side. He was born on November 7, 1947 in Rutland, VT, the son of Edward and Susanna (Kapitan) Richards.

Ron had a great (mischievous) sense of humor, quick wit, and could recall stories long forgotten by others. He was a straight shooter, told it like it was, and gave good advice. He was a fiercely loyal friend to many, especially Willy and Ward, who accompanied him to the hospital for his recent knee surgery. Ron was a creative builder and stone mason who, along with his sons, designed and constructed beautiful homes and living spaces for family and friends in his life. His love of birds was exemplified by his detailed carvings of duck decoys and imaginative naming of numerous wild birds at his feeder. With his green thumb, he grew many vegetables in his



RONALD E. RICHARDS

garden and tended a household full of plants. Ron was a wonderful cook and looked forward to finishing a meal with one of his mom's or sisters' pies, especially pumpkin.

Ron is survived by his partner, Jeanne Meyer of Goshen; mother Susanna "Sue" (Kapitan) Richards of Brandon; aunt Leah Kapitan of Proctor; son Matt Richards of Brandon; daughter Rebecca Costello of Boston, MA; siblings Donna Durgin (husband Ed) of Wood-

stock, Suzanne Tinker (husband Bob) of Pittsford, and Bernie Richards of South Ryegate; former wife, Patti LaDuke of Brandon; grandchildren, Thomas & Cathrine; nieces & nephews Kris Durgin and his daughter Paloma, Jason Durgin and his son Rhys; Shawn Keith & his wife Lynn; and Kelly Keith and daughter Olivia, as well as many cousins. He leaves behind close friends Willy Maynard, Ward Mann, Fran Viko, Tammy Walsh, Jack Sherry, and Jackie LaRocque; longtime employer and personal friends Harold & Judy Zimmerman and their families. He was predeceased by his son, Christopher, and his father, Edward.

A celebration of life will be held June 3, 2023, at 12 noon at his home in Goshen. Please bring photos and stories to share.

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

Ruth Marion Nichols, 89, Rutland

Ruth Marion Nichols, age 89, passed away peacefully, with family by her side, at her home in Rutland. She resided at The Maples for the past six years.

Ruthie was born in Orwell on January 15, 1934. She was the daughter of Leo and Virginia (Fortier) Christian. She grew up in Orwell, where she received her early education. On April 23, 1949, she married the love of her life, Robert Nichols. They made their home in Brandon for many years. She and her husband had owned and operated Nichols Slaughter House until his passing. Mr. Nichols predeceased her on January 19, 2000. Ruthie served on the Brandon Area Rescue Squad for many years. She enjoyed knitting and ceramics. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brandon.

She is survived by three daughters and a son: Andrea Lamphere (Fayette) of Sudbury; Patricia Hetzel (Artie) of North Clarendon; Stacie Woodward (David) of Brandon; and Jeff Nichols (Laurie) of Rutland. She is also survived by her sister, Barbara Blair of Orwell. She also had 17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.



RUTH MARION NICHOLS

In addition to her husband, she was also predeceased by two sons, Jimmy Nichols and Robbie Nichols, and by her daughter, Cricket Greeno. She was also predeceased by two grandsons, Robert "Nick" Greeno and Taylor Woodward, and by her brother, Thomas Christian.

There will not be any calling hours. The graveside committal service and burial will take place on May 13, 2023, at 11 AM, at the family lot in Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

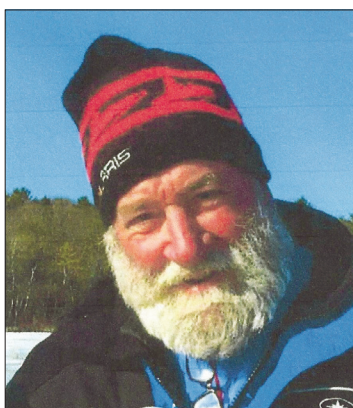
Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Ronald Alan Preseau, 63, Sudbury

Ronald Alan Preseau, age 63, died, peacefully Tuesday April 18, 2023 at home.

Ronnie was born in Middlebury on September 5, 1959. He was the son of Wilfred Joseph and Cecile Mary (Cousineau) Preseau. He grew up on the family's farm in Sudbury, where he attended Sudbury elementary school and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School in 1977.

Ronnie was well known by many for running Ron's Auto in Brandon, VT. He was a member of the Eagles Club of Fair Haven. As an avid outdoorsman, Ronnie loved to hunt, especially whitetail deer, which he'd hunt in Vermont and Alabama with some of his best friends, collecting trophies and even more stories. He also loved fishing, from crashing through the waves of the ocean chuckling at the ones getting seasick to sitting on the



RONALD ALAN PRESEAU

ice to see who gets the next tip up. He loved to entertain family and friends at his camp, and the campground. He couldn't wait to grill whatever he picked up on sale.

Ronnie is survived by his children he shared with Norma Lee Young: Jason Preseau, Joshua Preseau, Kristin Preseau, David Young Jr., Tracey Young,

Mark Young, Caleb Young, and Jeremy Young. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren that he adored. Also, his sister-in-law and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A special thanks to his nephew Evan Preseau.

He was predeceased by his parents, brothers Edgar, Rene and Peter Preseau, and partner, Norma Lee Young.

A gathering In Celebration of His Life will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023, 2-5 pm at the Brandon American Legion Post #55. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at the family lot in St. Genevieve Cemetery in Shoreham.

Memorial gifts, in lieu of flowers, may be made in his memory to the Brandon American Legion Post #55, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

Blue Cross of Vt. to work with Michigan counterpart

**BY KRISTEN FOUNTAIN/
VT DIGGER**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont is seeking to become part of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan "family of companies."

The Vermont organization's decision to affiliate with its Detroit-based counterpart, announced Monday, would give the state's largest provider of health insurance access to a more sophisticated array of digital technology than it could afford on its own, according to BCBS of Vermont CEO Don George.

"Through this partnership, we will access advanced technology and capabilities and new program capacity for our members and customers without having to build or purchase them ourselves," he said in an interview.

The affiliation allows Vermonters to take advantage of the resources available to BCBS of Michigan because of the latter's

scale. BCBS of Michigan is that state's largest insurer and provides coverage for around 5.2 million people, around 3.9 million of them in Michigan. The Vermont insurer covers around 200,000 people.

Both organizations are structured as nonprofits, and each of their respective governing boards recently approved the agreement to affiliate. The companies are now seeking regulatory approval for the affiliation in both states.

BCBS of Vermont expects to provide all required materials to the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation within two weeks, George said. The two companies hope to close on the partnership by October 1, 2023.

George said he is confident that the department will conclude the arrangement is "in the public good in Vermont and to the benefit of Vermont subscribers."

Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com. Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Only two legislative weeks left

Progress report before adjournment

The first half of the biennium is quickly coming to an end and there are only two legislative weeks until our tentative adjournment on May 12. We have made much progress on the priorities which we set out in the beginning of the session. Two big bills are still working their way through the legislative process and necessary multiple committee stops - S.100 (Housing) and S.56 (Childcare). I am hopeful that we can make progress on these important issues.

S.5 Affordable Heat Act:

There has been much disinformation provided about the Affordable Heat Act (AHA), and I want you to have the best information about this bill. The goal of the AHA is to help Vermonters transition away from fossil fuels — and save money on heating bills — by making options like weatherization and heat pumps more affordable for more people. The bill prioritizes Vermonters at risk of being left behind in the transition to clean energy, including rural Vermonters, older Vermonters living on fixed incomes, Vermonters living in mobile

homes, and Vermonters of low and moderate income. These community members are the most impacted by rising and volatile fuel prices (\$2 a gallon in the last year alone) folks who right now are least able to afford to make the switch.

The bill lays out a careful two-year process for research and public input. This includes reports on the estimated impact of the AHA on fuel prices, the potential savings to Vermonters across the state, and the nuts and bolts of how the program will be implemented gradually over time. In 2025, the proposed rules will return to the legislature, with this detailed information, with the option for the House and Senate to approve the program, revise it, or even to stop it. The program cannot take effect in 2026 without full legislative review and approval. The bill has now passed both the Senate and the House, and the Senate will consider the changes made by the House. A helpful resource for questions about S.5 can be found at: [https://www.eanvt.org/featured-news/affordable-](https://www.eanvt.org/featured-news/affordable-heat-act-faq/)

heat-act-faq/

In my Commerce and Economic Development Committee, we have worked on consumer-protection bills that directly benefit our friends and neighbors. Some of the recent bills include the following:

S.48 An act relating to the regulation of the sale of catalytic converters:

This bill helps to make catalytic-converter theft a little bit more difficult. This criminal activity is on the rise in Vermont and in surrounding states, and this bill seeks to reduce it through a few key provisions. The bill requires that catalytic converters be labeled with their VIN numbers (via a marker or engraving) when they are being transported and sold, that scrap metal processors/salvage yards maintain good records of the sale and purchase of these items, that model documentation be provided by the state for the recording, sale, and transfer of catalytic converters. Additionally, scrap-metal processors/salvage yards will be subject to a surprise visit every few years by the state to en-

sure that their records are well maintained, for the benefit of law enforcement agencies.

H.81 An act relating to fair repair of agricultural equipment:

This Right to Repair bill has passed out of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and was sent to the Commerce Committee for further review. The Commerce Committee worked closely with farmers/growers, licensed dealers, consumer advocates, independent repair shops, and manufacturers to create a bill that ensures that farmers can repair their own equipment. The purpose of this bill is to ensure equitable access to the parts, tools, and documentation that are necessary for independent repair providers and owners to perform timely repair of agricultural and forestry equipment in a safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable manner. I am pleased that owners of large farm and forest equipment can now repair the equipment they have purchased on their own terms!

S. 73 - An act relating to

workers' compensation coverage for firefighters with cancer:

I was happy to work on this bill to help our local firefighters. The important legislation expands workers' compensation benefits for professional volunteer and career firefighters, including reproductive cancers. Firefighters are at a higher risk of developing certain types of cancers and it is important that we do everything we can to support them.

As always, I appreciate your input on the bills moving through the legislature. I continue to help my constituents with issues that they are having with state government.

*Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
Vice-Chair, Committee
on Commerce and
Economic Development
802-683-829,
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us*

MAY & JUNE, 2023 EVENTS AT THE BRANDON TOWN HALL THEATER

Friday, May 12, Saturday, May 13 & Sunday, May 14... Various Times
Neshobe School Players Film Festival

A series of 6 plays performed at the Neshobe School from 1990-2002. We will have display tables set up for all 15 of the plays.

PLAY SCHEDULE

Friday, May 12

6:00 pm: "Hollywood Hoedown" (1998)

Saturday, May 13

1:00 pm: "Flapper" (2002)

3:00 pm: "Westward Whoa" (1995)

5:00 pm: "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (1990)

Sunday, May 14

1:00 pm: "Peter Pan" (1996)

3:00 pm: "Kilroy Was Here" (1999)

This is a Free Will Donation event Sponsored by Friends of the Brandon Town Hall, Brandon/Forestdale Lions Club, Diane Bryant, Mike & Polly Goodspeed

Saturday, May 20... 7:00 PM
"The Pilgrim" (1923), Silent Movie

"The Pilgrim" (1923) starring Charlie Chaplin, plus other Chaplin shorts. The clergy, Westerns, child discipline, and baking are among the sources of laughter in The Little Tramp's last-ever non-feature-length movie, celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year.

This is a Free Will Donation event Sponsored by Bill and Kathy Mathis in memory of Maxine Thurston

Friday, June 2... 7:00 PM
The Brandon Museum Presents, A Thomas Davenport Film & "Death In The Wilderness"

This special World Premiere Of "The Indomitable Blacksmith" tells the true story of Brandon's own Thomas Davenport, the pioneering electric motor he invented in 1834 and the loyal wife who supported him through all his troubles. As an added bonus, we will have another showing of Dr. Kevin Thornton's "Death In The Wilderness"; his very successful Civil War Movie about Brandon's Frankie Davenport.

This is a Free Will Donation event Sponsored by the Brandon Museum, Friends of the Brandon Town Hall, Marc & Arlyn Briere

Saturday, June 3... 7:00 PM
"The Temptress", Silent Movie (1926)

"The Temptress" starring Greta Garbo & Antonio Moreno. MGM drama with Garbo destroying the lives of men on two continents. Unusual in that the film was made with two very different endings per order of studio boss Louis B. Mayer; we'll screen both of them!

This is a Free Will Donation event Sponsored by Gary & Nancy Meffe



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Welcome Before & After Work or School!

Brandon Inn

(Continued from Page 1)
plus a little buzz.”

Beccar, 55, was born in Argentina, though he has lived and worked in the United States for years. His relationship with America began when he was a teenager in Buenos Aires—he spent eight months as an exchange student in Westchester County, New York, just north of New York City.

“I love this country,” he said. Beccar left Buenos Aires in 2001, when the Argentina’s economy collapsed.

“Argentina blows up every ten years,” he laughed. He found himself in New York, working as a lawyer for a while before heading back to Argentina to begin his career as a real-estate developer. He found himself traveling the world to develop luxury properties, with extending stints in Spain and the Middle East. On top of the workload Beccar has just taken on with the Inn, he’s also a Regional Vice-President at Coldwell Banker. He brings over 20 years of real-estate experience to Brandon.

In 2020, Beccar and his wife, Carolina, purchased a small, 20-room hotel on Cape Cod: the Escape Inn in South Yarmouth. His

wife will continue to manage the Escape Inn while Beccar gets the Brandon Inn on track.

“With 20 rooms, you’re limited in what you can do,” he said. “We’ve gone as far as we can go with the Escape Inn.” So Beccar began a search for an additional property that he could operate on a bigger scale. Beccar hopes that the larger size of the Brandon Inn—it has 39 rooms, plus public spaces—will allow him to put together a crew that can manage the day-to-day operations of the Inn even when he’s not in town. “My idea is to build a team.” He plans to retain the Inn’s current staff.

Beccar also plans to retain the historic character of the Inn, even as he strives to bring the décor more in line with contemporary tastes.

“I like this building a lot,” he said. As befits someone who’s worked on hotel development for decades, he’s got many ideas for many aspects of the Inn, though he’s hesitant to share them publicly while he’s still settling in and getting to know the Inn and the town. He will say, though, that he hopes to increase the volume of weddings and other events.

“According to the state, 13 million tourists come to Vermont every year,” he said, suggesting that he would be devising new strategies to lure them to Brandon and the Inn.

There has been some form of inn on the site since Jacob Simonds opened a tavern there in 1786. The current iteration of the Inn was built in 1892, after a fire destroyed the white 1822 building that had been known as the Brandon House. Over the years, the Inn has changed hands numerous times. For a while, the upper floors were home to elderly residents who took all their meals in the dining room downstairs.

Today, the Inn is often host to weddings and conventions. It has the Neshobe Café and a small bar. Summer concerts that attract scores of people are held on the rear lawn. It’s part of the community and its continued success is important to the self-image of the community. Mr. Beccar is clearly enthusiastic to put his years of experience to use in Brandon.

“The sky’s the limit here,” he said.

Brandon Energy Committee



With the urgency to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to electrify everything, it’s no surprise that heat pumps are enjoying their time in the spotlight. We are all familiar with the large fan-equipped boxes on concrete pads or mounted to the sides of houses. And we have a basic idea of how they work, more or less like an air conditioner in reverse.

Heat pumps’ performance has increased considerably since their first big arrival on the scene during the oil embargo of the 1970s. Back then, they were installed mostly in milder areas of the country where winter

temperatures seldom dropped much below freezing and where they could serve the need for air conditioning in the hot summers. In the last several years, heat pumps have made their way to the colder parts of the country, with claims of good performance down to -20 degrees.

But how well do they really work in our cold winters, how do I know if they’re right for my house, and how much do they cost? Many of these questions can be answered with a simple online search, but to get a better idea of how they perform here in Vermont I asked Bernie Carr of Carr’s Gift shop here in Brandon about his experience with the heat pumps he has installed in his business and in his home.

Bernie and Beth’s first heat pumps were installed in the gift shop shortly after they sold the flower portion of the business. A 12,000 BTU through-the-wall air conditioner was removed and replaced with two heat pumps, a move Bernie “wishes he had made five years earlier.” Though

the shop still has a wall-insert gas furnace for backup that hasn’t been used since the heat pumps were installed. The electric bills with the air conditioner and floral cooler used to be “massively expensive.” Now the Carrs pay \$375 per month for the shop’s electric, cooling, and heating.

Having had a good experience at the gift shop, Bernie and Beth had a mini-split heat pump installed in the kitchen at their home. The initial idea was simply to cool the downstairs, but last fall with the price of heating oil heading toward six dollars a gallon, they decided to heat exclusively with the heat pump. It took a few fans to move the heat around, but only in February when the temperature dipped to the -20s did they turn on the oil furnace as a backup. Instead of the usual one thousand gallons of oil for the winter, Bernie says this year they used “maybe fifty gallons.” Their heating-season electric bill went up about \$1,000 over the previous year, but that’s a huge savings over the cost of heating oil.

Bernie credits Efficiency Vermont with much of the impetus for the purchase of their heat pumps as well as several energy audits that helped with insulation upgrades. “I’m definitely a (See Heat pumps, Page 15)

Independent Bookstore Day celebration



BOOK LOVERS FROM near and far came to The Bookstore in Brandon on Saturday to help celebrate Independent Bookstore Day with cupcakes, balloons, special discounts, and, of course, plenty of books! Folks purchased new reads, beloved old favorites, and gifts for friends and family. The community atmosphere at brick-and-mortar bookstores cannot be replicated online: the purchase of Judy Blume's classic 'Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret' led to a discussion among customers and staff of the importance of the book and author in their adolescent lives. Support your local bookshops whenever you can!

Photos provided

The Brandon Forest Dale Lions Club

We would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for supporting their Lion's Club in continuing its good works in the community. With you we can make a difference. Our motto is "We Serve" and we will continue to do so with your help. For more information about Lions and how you can help, please contact us at PO Box 364, Brandon, Vt 05733 or Tel: 802-349-9929, Email: info@brandonforestdalelions.org, Web: www.brandonforestdalelions.org



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Tel: 802-247-8211
Email: tray@newenglandwoodcraft.com
Web: www.newenglandwoodcraft.com

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Felix Vazquez

GRADE: Pre-school (with minor coloring help)

SCHOOL: Waldorf

HOMETOWN: Weybridge

TITLE: The Barking Cat

MEDIUM: Markers, pencil, and paint on paper

TEACHER: Home project



STATEMENT FROM FELIX:

I am a Girl Dog Named Luna, so I drew her, really myself, as a cat playing on a grassy hill. That is the silver maple tree in my backyard, and obviously, the sun in the corner.

STATEMENT FROM HIS FATHER:

This painting was done as a gift for a friend's birthday party. He used pencil to outline the shapes, and I painted in the blue mountains, and the green hill while he art directed. me. The rest was all done by him!

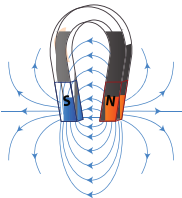


DAVID HAMMOND PRESENTS information about electricity to Neshobe students last Thursday. Photo by Steven Jupiter

Neshobe students learn about electromagnetism

David Hammond (left), formerly of the UVM Physics Department, gave a presentation on electric motors and electromagnetism to Neshobe's fourth graders last Thursday morning. He explained the basics behind the motor invented by Thomas Davenport in Brandon in the 1830s and showed the accurate reproductions he built himself.

Historian Dr. Kevin Thornton (far right), a Brandon resident, shared the story of Davenport's life. The Brandon Museum is planning an exhibit on Thomas Davenport for this summer.



Footloose & Fancy Free



MORE THAN 50 teens from all over Vermont enjoyed their 'Alternative Prom' at Brandon Town Hall last Saturday. Homeschooling parent and Brandon resident Harmony Van Eaton organized the event for homeschooled kids and anyone else who didn't feel comfortable at their traditional prom. "It was all so much fun!" she said. "Shannon Wright is a great DJ and our local dance teacher, Ms. Michaela, led some good line dances." Looks like everyone had a blast!

Photos provided.

IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS SALE!



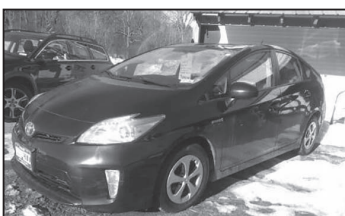
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Calendar of events

May

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2-5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open. All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hazfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

The club has begun playing 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, 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 Rossig 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.

Yoga Prana Shakti Zoom & Studio

Chair Yoga, Gentle, Wednesdays

From 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland

Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more. We spend a fair

amount of the time exercising in a seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think will soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on email list. \$15/class

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12-1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

Attendees will be led through specific sheet music by musician Steven Wilson. All levels are welcome.

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

Fridays

Chaffee Arts Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3-5

From 11am-Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

Come join us weekly to share projects from noon – 2:00 p.m.

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

Play with whoever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event! Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

"The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."

The Brandon Artists Guild presents "Five New Members" Opening reception Friday May 5, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Garrett Sadler, brings functional and decorative fused glass to the table.

Woodcrafter Guy Rossi highlights the unique elements found in wood.

Brian Hewitt shares his love of New England landscapes using intense colors mixed with sharp contrasts.

Lynn Austin captures her love of animals and nature

with her pastels.

Returning founding member, Liza Myers, sculptor and Realism painter.

The show will run through October.

The gallery is open Monday - Saturday 10am- 5pm, and Sunday 10am - 4pm

7 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733, (802) 247-4956



Friday 5th

Audubon Split Rock Trail Bird Walk in Pittsford
Spring bird walk on Split Rock Trail. We will meet at the parking area on Adams Rd in Pittsford at 7:00 a.m. The parking area is on the right approximately 0.9 miles north of the intersection with Oxbow Rd. Car-pooling is encouraged as parking is limited.

This will be an easy 3-mile bird walk open to all. Contact us at birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more info.

Songwriters in the Raw: Sara Trunzo, Breanna Elaine, Troy Youngblood
Songwriters Showcase featuring Sara Trunzo, Breanna Elaine, and Troy Youngblood
Breanna Elaine

Spring Fling

@ Pittsford Village Farm
Sunday, May 7th
3:00 - 5:00PM

Get comfortable and listen to a book presented by Maclure Library

Come together with family and friends to play yard games in the open field

Sit at the picnic tables or on a blanket in the grass and enjoy some yummy treats

Join Pittsford Village Farm, Maclure Library, Pittsford Rec Dept. & folks in the community to celebrate the arrival of spring!

Breanna Elaine performs a mix of originals as well as a wide array of covers on both guitar and banjo. Comparisons have included singer/songwriter Jewel, as well as legends Alanis Morissette and Stevie Nicks."

Sara Trunzo
Maine-based singer-songwriter Sara Trunzo isn't a born and bred Mainer, but her adopted home, its timeless coastal setting and the vibrant characters that inhabit it feature heavily in her new EP, *Cabin Fever Dream*. Take, for instance, "Liberty Tool," inspired by Maine homesteaders and named after an iconic tool emporium-meets-museum-meets-performance-art-shop in Waldo County, ME.

Troy Youngblood
Gypsy Soul Blues and gritty storytelling from Florida to New Orleans, eventually settling in Maine 6 years ago.

The Underground - Listening Room
24 Pleasant Street, Randolph
Advance: \$10 // Day of show: \$13
Doors: 7:00 // Show: 7:30
BYOB



Going up the Country, A musical playing April 28–May 7

Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre presents *Going Up the Country*. The play has been adapted from Yvonne Daley's book of the same name. Yvonne was a Vermont journalist who died this past August, and who wrote about the hippie invasion of the 1960's and 70's into the lives of native Vermonters and how each group transformed the other. Play and music written by Eric Peterson and John Foley.

Length of show: Approximately 120 minutes including intermission
West Rutland Town Hall
35 Marble Street
West Rutland, Vermont
Cash or check only at the door
This is a handicap accessible venue.
Face masks and social distancing are encouraged.

Mother's Day

Let your mom know you love her

We're running a Mother's Day special feature in the May 10th issue of *The Reporter*!

For only \$10, you can take out a 2.25" x 3" ad with a message of up to 20 words and your choice of vintage, modern, floral, or playful graphic.

Please send your message and a check to **Brandon Reporter, 294 Wheeler Road, Brandon, VT 05733**. You may drop off your message & check at that address as well. Please include a phone number or email where we can reach you if we have questions. **Or you can scan the QR code below to pay online.**

Messages received after 5/7 will not be included. Messages without payment will not be included.

HAPPY Mother's Day Jane Smith

THANKS FOR BEING MY BEST FRIEND, MOM!

LOVE, SARAH

Sample Message

Saturday 6th

Green Up Day in the West Rutland Marsh
Help clean up the West Rutland Marsh with RCAS. Join RCAS and volunteers across the state for this annual event to keep our state green and beautiful! We'll be at West Rutland Marsh, one of our birding hotspots. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9 a.m. Wear boots or old shoes and gloves. Bags will be provided.
West Rutland Marsh, Marble Street, West Rutland

Spring Tea & Sweet Treats with Artisan Market & Makerie at the Chaffee Arts Center
The Chaffee Art Center invites you to our Spring Tea & Sweet Treats with Artisan Market & Makerie on Saturday, May 6th from 10am to 2pm at the Chaffee.

Join us for Spring Tea & Sweet Treats celebrating mothers everywhere!

There will be an Artisan Market & Makerie with Tables of gift ideas for others or yourself!

And...FREE Makerie Activities:

- Cardmaking by Evie Towsley (make & take)
- Mini Floral Pour Paintings by Dale Bills (make & take)
- Cookie/cupcake decorating and demo of decorating an elaborate cake by Chrissy Moore
- Tarot card reading (12-2pm) by Raven Crispino
- Spring floral teapot arranging demo (1:30pm) by Julia Quimby-Cohen
- Plus, a Free Workshop for all ages (11am- 2pm) Spring pinecone flowers (make & take)

Door prizes: Spring floral teapot arrangement; Decorated cake; Decorated cookies & more

Tea & Sweet Treat...\$5 donation per person

*Goings on
around town*

Stopping ticks

(Continued from Page 1)

step. They also fall from trees and bushes. Wear a hat! Ticks are great hitchhikers and will get a ride on your pets to get into your house. Brush your pet when they come in or use a skin-safe bug repellent on them.

To prevent tick bites, you can use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or its active ingredient IR3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone (derived from wild tomato plants) for exposed skin. All of these are proven to work for both ticks and mosquitoes for a period of time after application. I'm looking forward to products containing nootkatone, derived from grapefruit (and responsible for the fruit's classic smell) to hit the market widely. Approved by the EPA in 2020, it not only repels but also kills ticks and mosquitos. Grapefruit oils may work but may be irritating to the skin and also stain clothing, so they should be applied to hats and gloves used outside.

Wearing permethrin-treated clothing will keep ticks from hitching a ride on your clothes. Available as a spray or in new clothing already treated, it lasts for at least 6 washings and a study showed it worked for a year. To treat your clothes, wash and dry them and lay them out outside. Spray them liberally on both sides and allow to dry before wearing. There is evidence that shoes and socks are especially important. Don't put permethrin on your skin! It's toxic! Studies show that there is no significant absorption from the clothing after daily wear for 3 months, so that's where to apply it.

Check for ticks when you come home from outdoor adventures. Check twice, the little suckers can be hard to spot. Ask a trusted friend to check hard to see awkward areas or use a mirror. Look in the scalp, hairline,

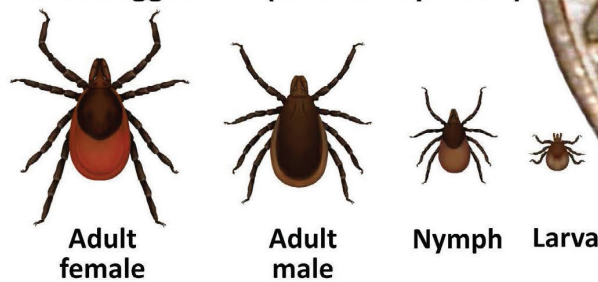
ears and behind the ears, under arms, belly button, waist, groin, and behind the knees. Or according to the New York Times, check yer back and yer crack and yer pits and your bits for ticks.

If you do happen to find a tick attached, don't panic! Tick removal is easy. Using fine tweezers, grasp the tick close to the skin and pull sharply upwards away from the skin. Don't squeeze the belly or abdomen of the tick. If you happen to leave behind little black specks, don't worry. These are the mouth parts and removing them doesn't help prevent disease and may cause secondary infection. Treat the wound with a little antibiotic ointment. The other option is a commercially available tick removal tool called a tick twister. It looks like a tiny pry bar but is used to slip around the head of the tick and rotated to make the tick release its tenacious hold on the skin. I have found it very useful and less traumatic than tweezers. It is normal to have a small red spot surrounding the bite which may itch and last a couple of days. It should not get bigger! If it does, contact a medical professional.

If you get ticks from your backyard or frequently-used path, you may consider cleaning up your yard (just joking). Really, you can reduce the tick population in a limited area by taking care of the white-footed mice in this area! These mice are the natural hosts for the ticks. Providing them nesting materials treated with permethrin will reduce or eliminate the ticks. To do this, take toilet paper tubes and stuff them with cotton balls treated with the same permethrin spray you used on your clothes. Scatter these around the area you would like to treat. You should notice a difference in a few weeks!

So, get protected and get out to enjoy our great Vermont spring, summer and fall!

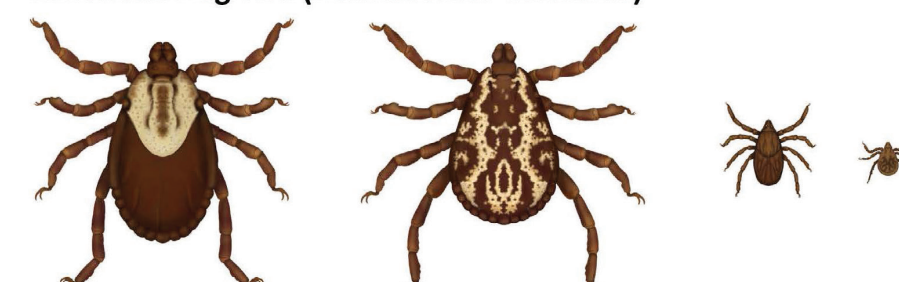
Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)



American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)



NOTE: Relative sizes of several ticks at different life stages.

Engorged female *Ixodes scapularis* tick. Color may vary.



Restaurant *guide*

Robert's
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De la Provence à Vous

Wednesday - Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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MAE'S PLACE

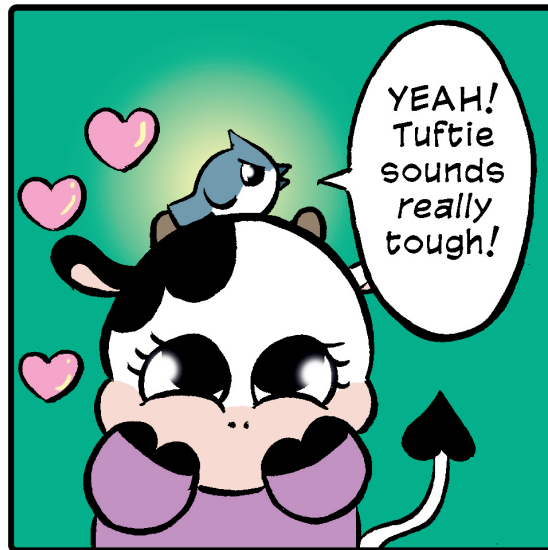
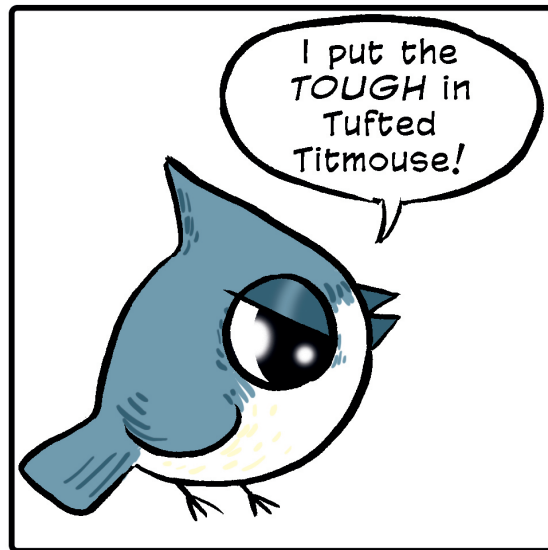
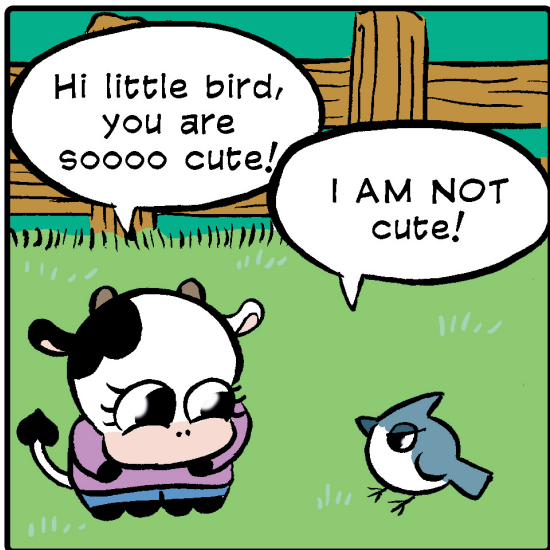
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Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



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Keith Carrara

(Continued from Page 1)
 ment of the practical and leadership skills that BSA requires for advancement through the ranks. He has just reached BSA's highest level: he is now one of just 53 scouts to be promoted to the rank of Eagle in Vermont in 2023.

Keith comes from a family that's been immersed in scouting for years. Both of his parents, Jeff and Sarah, are currently involved in the local organization as well. Jeff Carrara is Scoutmaster for the Pittsford area and was an Eagle Scout himself, while Sarah oversees the local Cub Scout program. Their other children—Christina (16), Lucia (13), and Jon (10)—are all involved in scouting, too.

But Keith wasn't blindly following in his parents' footsteps. He joined the Cub Scouts in 1st grade, "crossed over" to the Boy Scouts in 5th grade, and came to value the program for the camaraderie, discipline, and education.

"I was brought into it," he said. "And I had fun with it."

In order to reach the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout has to earn 21 merit badges before the age of 18, including 13 mandatory badges in areas such as first aid, citizenship, cooking, emergency preparedness, and personal fitness.

Keith's favorite badge, though, was an elective: wilderness survival. Asked if he could survive by himself in the woods, he laughed and simply said, "Probably."

At age 18, however, even an Eagle Scout must transition out of the Boy Scouts. Keith will now become a Unit College Scouter

Reserve at Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph, where he has already spent his senior year of high school in the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) program. VAST allows selected students to spend their senior years earning college credit as they satisfy their high-school requirements as well. Keith will graduate with 2 diplomas: one from VAST and one from Otter Valley. He plans to continue at VTC and complete a degree in electromechanical engineering.

The leadership skills Keith developed as a scout have already served him well at VTC: in his first month at VTC, he successfully organized and founded a Nerf gun club on campus, an endeavor that required negotiations with the administration because there was a campus ban on the toy guns the club would use.

He's not the only Eagle Scout at VTC, however. He knows of four other Eagle Scouts on campus, some of whom recognized him as a fellow Eagle by the clothing he wears.

"I have enough scout stuff to wear something every day," he joked.

And his talents as an engineer are already apparent in his successful design of the new stairs up to the stage in the auditorium at Otter Valley.

"I consulted engineers and printed a 3-D scale model," he said proudly.

Congratulations to Keith and his family on this important milestone. He is certainly an impressive young man and the community wishes him continued success.

Heat pumps

(Continued from Page 8)
 disciple" he says of Efficiency Vermont. "Don't be afraid to call them." Among other services, they can help with financing, rebates, advice, and finding qualified contractors. "Tie into Efficiency Vermont because they are going to help."

So now that you are thinking about it, let me add that spring is a good time to do your research and make a few calls. There are different options when considering a heat pump. There are ducted systems and ductless systems, the mini split (love the name), as well as air-to-water and geothermal heat pumps that work with radiant heating systems. Size and type will of course vary the cost.

The current payback period, according to the Vermont Public Service Department, is about 12.5 years (although the Carrs recouped their installation cost in one winter) With rebates from the State of Vermont and a 30 percent tax credit from the Inflation Reduction Act that payback could be much shorter.

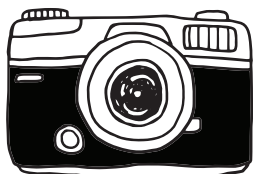
Which system will work best for you? That is a discussion you should have with a service such as Efficiency Vermont. Then call a few installers and find the best solution for your heating and cooling future.

Michael Schick for the Brandon Energy Committee



Mim's Photos

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



Recognized



Sue Wetmore confirmed that the woman sitting is in fact Helen Noel.

Kathy Mathis also recognized and confirmed that the woman seated is Helen Noel.

Nancy Bunting agrees that this is Helen Noel. Nancy remembers she was the secretary to her husband Frank Bunting.



E-mail
ads@brandonreporter.com
if you can identify someone in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Dull and flat
6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
9. Education-based groups
13. Not behind
14. Runners run them
15. Japanese ankle sock
16. Grave
17. Japanese industrial city
18. People of southern Ghana
19. Particular designs
21. Device fitted to something
22. Infections
23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
24. Expression of sympathy
25. Rock guitarist's tool
28. Neither
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. You ___ what you sow
33. Ruined
36. Narrations
38. Body art (slang)
39. Fencing sword
41. Apartment buildings
44. Type of missile
45. Fathers
46. Extremely high frequency
48. Type of school
49. Incorrect letters
51. Two-year-old sheep
52. Nasty manner
54. One who accepts a bet
56. Indian prince
60. Asian country
61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
62. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
63. Detailed criteria
64. Son of Shem
65. Talked wildly
66. Discount
67. Not good
68. Growing out

CLUES DOWN

1. Actor Damon
2. A call used to greet someone
3. Part-time employee
4. Emaciation
5. "Westworld" actor Harris
6. Gains possession of
7. Relaxing spaces
8. 23rd star in a constellation
9. Northern grouse
10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
11. Manila hemp
12. Unites muscle to bone
14. Makes deep cuts in
17. 18-year period between eclipses
20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
21. Synthetic rubbers
23. Unwelcome rodent
25. Expression of creative skill
26. Some is red
27. Seems less in impressive
29. Harry Kane's team
30. Gland secretion
32. Action of feeling sorrow
34. Disallow
35. Deceptive movement
37. More dried-up
40. Crimson
42. Actress Ryan
43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
47. Accomplished American president
49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
50. Sheep breed
52. Appetizer
53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Influential film critic
56. NY Giants ownership family
57. Type of script
58. Assist
59. London park
61. Bar bill
65. In reply indicator

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
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60					61					62			
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

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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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

E	T	A	N	E	D	B	E	T	S			
D	E	A	V	R	M	C	E	P	S			
Y	B	V	G	S	V	L	V	N	W	O		
H	V	J	V	H	V	M	R	K	V	T		
S	P	D	E	N	S	E	T	E	S	S		
D	W	F	H	E	S	E	S	I	S			
R	K	E	N	S	T	N	E	M	E	N	T	
R	E	B	V	S	T	V	T	S	E	T	V	
H	V	D	E	G	A	V	S	R	E	A	V	
S	E	I	N	V	S	H	O	N	A	M	P	
W	V	W	U	S	S	E	O	S				
E	C	V	B	S	C	F	A	P	A	T		
N	V	K	V	I	V	K	V	S	E	W	O	
I	B	V	T	P	S	L	D	E	H	V		
S	V	A	T	P	S	T	E	T	V	A	W	

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

RCHS Can Help with Feral Cats

Do you have feral cats near your home or workplace? Do you see them when you're out, especially at night? Are you currently feeding feral cats? If so, the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) can help. RCHS is working with citizens around the county where feral cats are living on a population control program called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), in which feral cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated against rabies and sterilized. Young kittens may be adopted into homes and the other healthy cats too wild to be adopted are returned to their familiar habitat under the lifelong care of volunteers. To learn more about our Free Roaming Cats and TNR program, please contact the Adoption Center at 483.6700 or adoptions@rchsvt.org.

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

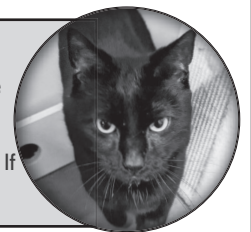


MEET BA-LOO - 3-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. SHEPHERD MIX. BLACK/TAN.

If you have ever seen the famous Jungle Book movie, you know how fun and goofy Ba-loo is. Well, this guy is no different as he loves people and loves to snuggle. He was in foster for a couple of months, so we were able to learn more about him in a home environment. He absolutely loves toys, is great for walks, and even enjoys a good bath! He is crate-trained and does well sleeping in it. He is very treat-motivated, knows "sit," and "lay down," and is learning the meaning 'shake' as well. He seems to like other dogs, but he really doesn't like cats.

MEET TAZ - 6-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK.

Taz arrived at our shelter on March 30 with his friend, Mabel. Although they have lived together, once they settled in here, they paid no attention to each other, and have since made new feline friends. Taz is a lovebug. He will greet you at the door in our Community Cat Room, chatting and rubbing up against your leg, looking for some pets. He is one that cuddles up with you and purrs the night away. If you are interested in meeting him, please stop by!



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM 11AM-4PM. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



DID YOU KNOW?

TAG (our Teen Advisory Group) is back on the first Friday of the month, starting 5/5! Great for those ages 11-16.

celebrated wingmen during the Korean War.

The Son (Rated PG-13)

Peter's life is thrown into disarray when his ex-wife drops off their depressed teenage son, Nicholas. While Peter struggles to balance his new wife and baby's needs with those of his older son, Nicholas's depression begins slipping into suicidal ideation.

Juniper (NR)

An aging former war correspondent with a drinking problem and newly broken leg. A troubled grandson who's been kicked out of school and is grieving the death of his mother. An unexpected bond forms between the two when they're left alone together during the holidays.

Jesus Revolution (Rated PG-13)

This film follows the early life of a young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) being raised by his struggling mother, Charlene (Kimberly Williams-Paisley) in the 1970s. Inadvertently, Laurie meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher, and Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer) who have thrown open the doors of Smith's languishing church to a stream of wandering youth. These meetings lead Laurie to his calling, and he later opens the Harvest Christian Fellowship.

Invitation to a Murder (Rated PG-13)

In 1934, aspiring detective Miranda Green and five other strangers are invited to the remote island mansion of billionaire Lewis Findley. As the weekend progresses, the clues about why they have been invited begin to unfold along with a sinister mystery when a guest is found murdered.

Devotion (rated PG-13)

The true story of two pilots, Jesse Brown and Tom Hudner, who became two of the most

We just received a bunch of new DVDs! Here are some of the titles we've gotten in:

Triangle of Sadness (Rated R)

In this dark comedy, the social hierarchy is turned upside down. Celebrity model couple, Carl and Yaya, are invited on a luxury cruise for the uber-rich, helmed by an unhinged boat captain (Woody Harrelson). Soon the Instagrammable trip ends catastrophically, leaving the survivors stranded on a desert island and fighting for survival.

Living (Rated PG-13)

Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a council bureaucrat's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation. Stars Bill Nighy.

It's best not to literally throw the book at someone

April 24

- Police contacted owner of a vehicle that had been abandoned by Sanderson Bridge. The owner removed the car.

- A theft was reported at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. A male and female fled the store with food and cigarettes.

- Police received a report of a woman, in a hoodie, removing a license plate from a residential parking area on Mulcahy Drive. The woman, who is believed to have been accompanied by a man, fled the area in an older Chevy pickup truck. The responding officer checked the parking lots but was unable to locate either the alleged thieves or the car with the missing plate.

- A resident on Corona Street reported several stolen packages from around her mailbox over the previous week. The U.S. Postal Service in Brandon was notified by the resident as well.

- Fingerprints taken for school chaperone.

- Brandon PD assisted Pittsford PD in locating a driver who had fled from a traffic stop in Pittsford. The driver was located and taken into custody by Pittsford PD.

- Brandon PD received reports of a "suspicious" vehicle parked on North Railroad Avenue. Responding officers determined that the car contained juveniles who were "hanging out." No criminal activity was detected.

April 25

- Brandon PD received reports of a man jumping up and down while trying to open a car door in the parking lot of Hannaford in Brandon. Responding officers contacted the man, who provided identification. No criminal activity was detected during a preliminary investigation.

- Brandon PD responded to a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian on Champlain Street. No injuries were reported and no citations were issued.

- Brandon PD responded to a report of a tractor trailer that had broken down and was blocking traffic. The wait for a tow truck would be lengthy, so Brandon Public Works Department was enlisted to pull the truck into an adjacent lot to restore the flow of traffic.

- Brandon PD assisted Brandon Rescue with a medical call on Mulcahy Drive.

Brandon Police Report

April 26

- Brandon PD responded to an alarm at the Heritage Family Credit Union building on West Seminary Street. The building was checked and appeared to be secure.

- Brandon PD responded to a complaint of domestic violence on River Street. The responding officers determined that there was no validity to the complaint and that the complainant simply wanted the police to remove her significant other after an argument. Both parties were advised.

- Brandon PD responded to a report of juveniles assaulted with a taser by another juvenile on Champlain Street. Officers determined that the weapon was in fact a plasma lighter. The juvenile with the lighter was identified, taken into custody, and issued a citation to appear in Rutland Superior Court-Family Division, for arraignment on the delinquent act of Aggravated Assault. The juvenile was remanded back into DCF custody.

April 27

- Fingerprints taken for school employment.

- Brandon resident sought assistance from Brandon PD with regard to an individual who had been harassing him over a Facebook post. The complainant was advised as to the available options and was referred to the Rutland County Court for a stalking order.

- Brandon Police responded to reports of theft at Green Mountain Garage/NAPA Auto Parts on Franklin Street. A woman entered the premises and stole two jump packs. She fled in a car that was driven by a man. The suspect was later located by Vermont State Police and identified as Danielle Allen, 36, during an unrelated stop in Benson. She was issued a citation to appear in Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on July 10 at 11:00 a.m. for arraignment on charges of retail theft.

- VIN verification was conducted for a resident of West Seminary Street.

- Brandon PD assisted Pittsford PD in trying to locate a stolen vehicle on Prospect Street in Brandon. The vehicle

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION



CHECK OUT OUR FANTASTIC NEW WALL MURAL

With enormous gratitude to the artists who created and installed this masterpiece...Ethan Nelson, John Brodowski, Matt Aucoin, and Josh Hummel.



DID YOU KNOW?

TAG (our Teen Advisory Group) is back on the first Friday of the month, starting 5/5! Great for those ages 11-16.

Open at the Town Hall

Tuesday 10 am-7 pm
 Wednesday 10 am-7 pm
 Thursday 10 am-6 pm
 Friday 10 am-6 pm

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
was not found.

- Officers responded to reports of an unruly juvenile at a residence on Franklin Street. The responding officer determined that the juvenile and gotten into an argument with his mother regarding the boy's Xbox gaming system. The juvenile agreed to spend the night at a friend's house to avoid further conflict. No criminal activity was noted.

April 28

- A concerned citizen reported a male slumped over the steering wheel of a yellow truck parked on Town Farm Road. Officers were unable to locate the truck.
- Speed enforcement conducted on Grove Street.
- Brandon PD responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence on Park Street regarding a man with dementia and some juveniles. A juvenile was transported to the hospital for a psy-

chiatric evaluation. No one else needed rescue, not were any charges brought against anyone at the residence.

- A woman on Mulcahy Drive reported harassment via telephone. Officers advised her how to obtain an Order against Stalking.

April 29

- Officers received a report of a vehicle being operated by someone who was possibly drunk in the area of Mount Pleasant Drive. An area alert was issued between Brandon and Middlebury, but the vehicle was not located.

- Brandon PD responded to a report of a disorderly male in the area of Conant Square. The male had broken a window at a residence by throwing a book at it. The male had fled the scene before the arrival of the police but he was later identified as Stephen Beck, 67, of Brandon. Beck was issued a citation to appear at Rutland County Su-

perior Court-Criminal Division on July 10 at 11:00 a.m. for arraignment on charges of disorderly conduct and unlawful mischief.

- Brandon PD assisted Brandon rescue with a woman attempting suicide by overdose on Mulcahy Drive. The woman was transported to the hospital.

- Vehicle stopped for speeding on Grove Street. Operator was issued a written warning.

- Brandon PD received complaints of fireworks at night. Officers were unable to locate the origin of the fireworks.

April 30

- A theft of a dirt bike was reported on Wood Lane. Case is currently under investigation.

- Parent on Franklin Street requested assistance with unruly juvenile. Officers handled the situation without incident.

- Resident of Park Village reported the theft of jack stands from his truck. The case is still under investigation.

SPREAD THE WORD!
Have an event to add to our calendar?
EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ing certain issues is not the way to go. Confront them head on.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Leo, if you are going to leap, do so with both eyes open; otherwise, you may miss some of the dangers along the way. Always take the bigger picture into consideration.

ARIES March 21-April 20
Aries, pay attention to the smaller details, as those are the ones most often ignored. You'll be highly regarded if you pinpoint any errors in a timely manner.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
Work to the best of your ability, Taurus. Focus on your own work and serve as a source of encouragement to those around you who may be experiencing some difficulties.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
A loved one may be hinting at a few things he or she wants to do with you, Gemini. Find the time to make these things happen. Let loose and have fun.

CANCER June 22-July 22
It could be tempting to hole up in a bookstore or a coffee shop for hours in the days ahead, Cancer. However, avoid-

you have managed to come through with your head held high. Keep up the progress.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
There's not much that will bother you this week, Capricorn. It seems you have all of your ducks in a row. Enjoy this good fortune while it lasts.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Remarkable opportunities are coming your way, Aquarius. All you need to do is sit back and wait for them to start. There is no need to do much legwork in this situation.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Big changes can sometimes be scary, Pisces. But change is just what you need to do right now to spice things up.

♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

May 4 Audrey Hepburn, actor (d)
May 5 Nathan Chen, figure skater (24)
May 6 Willie Mays, baseball player (92)
May 7 Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, Nobel-laureate (d)
May 8 Raoul Trujillo, choreographer (58)
May 9 Sophie Scholl, anti-Nazi activist (d)
May 10 Bono, singer (63)

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Imagine Zero

(Continued from Page 2)

ability, which has gotten pledges from bands and venues to abide by attainable principles of sustainability. But the Imagine Zero festival puts their money where their mouth is, attempting to prove that concerts and sustainability aren't mutually exclusive.

There will be no bottled water and all alcohol will be served from kegs (wine included), to avoid cans and bottles. Black Flannel Brewing Company of Essex Junction even came up with a new Imagine Zero IPA just for the event. The festival will also be powered entirely by solar panels.

"We're not going to get all the way [to zero pollution]," said Kogan, acknowledging the inherent difficulty of his goal. "But we want more festivals to aspire to be zero waste and zero emissions."

The event will take place at SolarFest's compound on Steinberg Road, just north of Brandon Village. Kogan and Johnson are both based in Woodstock and wanted a venue within 100 miles of home that could accommodate an all-solar event.

"There were dozens of venues we could've chosen, but once we added in the solar, the number of options went down to 2: SolarFest in Brandon and another venue in Woodstock," said Kogan. Ultimately, they went with So-

larFest because of the sustainable-energy collective's prior experience with music festivals, one of which took place at their compound in Brandon last summer.

"I played one of their festivals 13 years ago and people kept recommending them," said Kogan. "It's a great opportunity for them and us both."

The show itself will feature 8 acts, including nationally known bands like Dawes, an L.A.-based folk-rock group, and locally prominent musicians, such as Kat Wright, Myra Flynn, and Ben Kogan himself. The winner of this year's UVM Battle of the Bands—Earthworm—will open the event. Whatever your views on sustainability, if your musical tastes run to indie/folk rock, you're sure to enjoy the lineup.

Kogan emphasized that, ultimately, it's still a music show and not a sermon.

"We've got all the ingredients for a really good time."

Imagine Zero Music Fest will take place on Saturday, May 13 from 12 to 8 p.m. at SolarFest on Steinberg Road in Brandon. Visit imaginezerofestival.com for tickets.



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See page 17

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GARDENING CORNER

BRIAN JEROME'S GARDEN at his home in Brandon is a labor of love and the result of decades of experience and study. The garden surrounds an expanse of lawn and overlooks a sweeping view of the Green Mountains to the east. His advice for aspiring gardeners is to visit as many gardens as possible and draw inspiration from what you admire about them.

Photos by Brian Jerome

Beyond the Garden Gate: a visit with Brian Jerome

BY LYN DESMARAIS

BRANDON—Brian Jerome's garden welcomes you with ten-foot-high deep-pink calla lilies in pots and planted in the ground.

Brian has been gardening

since he was a child, taking care of his parents' vegetable garden in upstate New York. He went to UVM, met his future wife, Stephanie, there, studied biology and became a high-school biology

teacher. Stephanie's job took them to Washington, D.C. He worked for National Geographic and could see the organization's full-time gardener out his office window, so he got to see how he gardened.

"Stephanie and I bought a house in a shady neighborhood with lots of tall mature trees. It had no landscaping at all. I spent 7 years learning how to grow shade-loving plants and shrubs and have a rich, varied, and interesting landscape. I learned a lot," said Brian. "And I believe I left the next owner a nice garden."

A theme that runs through our entire conversation is taking the time to go to see other gardens that speak to you or that you just love. For Brian, that was all the parks in Washington, D.C., Dumbarton Oaks in D.C., and Longwood Gardens in PA. For any gardener at any level, garden visits give us time to just look and not see our weeds! We get to see how other gardeners use a view, use existing plants, combine colors and textures, or solve a problem we might be having in our garden.

Twenty-five years ago, Brian and Stephanie moved back to Vermont. They found the house and land they wanted here in Brandon. They have built a business and raised their children here. And Brian resumed his gardening. He has left most of the existing trees,



while taking down a few to bring in the morning sun and to open up the view of the Green Mountains. Brian estimates that he has about an acre of lawn with a flower border on all sides. He thinks he has about 250 feet of border that is 8 feet deep. He has lawn in front of the borders and a mowed path behind so that he can weed from

both sides.

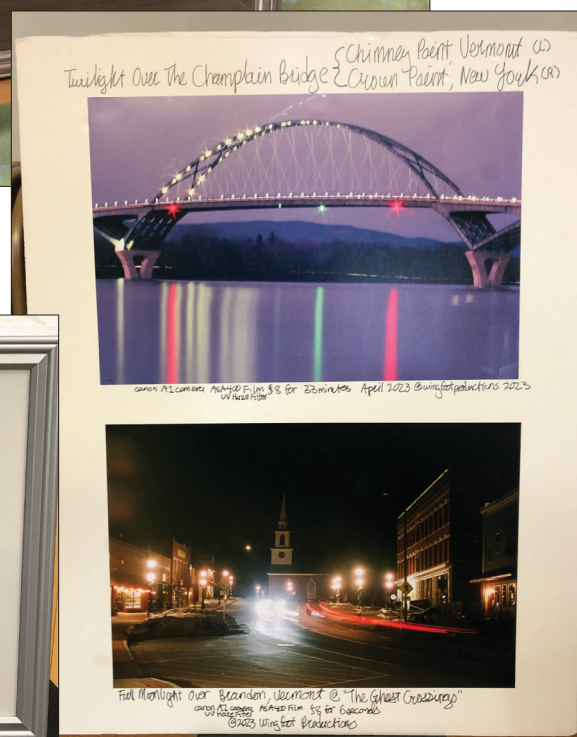
Brian chose to design this border garden so that they would have a large lawn. His garden pattern repeats itself at the 1/3 and 2/3 marks. Brian uses a lot of blues and lavenders in it at the moment, with anise hyssop taking a starring role. There's a pop of pure
(See Gardening Corner, Page 24)



Celebrating the Creative Arts with the Brandon Congregational Church

THE BRANDON CONGREGATIONAL Church held its annual art show last weekend. The theme was 'Celebrating the Creative Arts' and the works on display absolutely did just that. A beautiful array of painting, pastel, sculpture, photography, and textiles. The congregant-artists who made it happen (l to r): Virginia Creighton, John Astone, Sue Wetmore, Kristen Varian, Wyatt Waterman. Pictured below are some representative works of these artists. Featured on the front page is a detail of a work by Gene Childers.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



GOSHEN CEMETERIES & GROUNDS Invitation to bid

The Town of Goshen is accepting bids to provide grounds maintenance for Fiscal Year 2024. For more information and a bid spec sheet contact: Ken Brown. 802-247-3194 or kennethbrown@myfairpoint.net

Plainly marked sealed bids must be delivered to Goshen Town Office by 12:00 Noon Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Bids will be Opened at the Goshen Town Hall on May 18, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

TOWN OF BRANDON Notice to property taxpayers – 4th and final qtr payment due Monday 5/15/2023

Notice is hereby given that payment for the property taxes assessed upon the grand list of the Town of Brandon for the 4th quarter of the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 is due Monday, May 15, 2023. Fourth quarter payments not received by Monday, May 15th or postmarked after May 15th may be subject to an 8% penalty and interest at 1% per month. Please furnish the remittance slip with your payment. Payments may be made by mail, at the Town Offices, 49 Center Street (M-TH, 9-4) at either of the two drop boxes located in front of the Town Office and at the Neshobe School or by credit card, echeck or paypal through our online payment service which can be found on our website. Thank you.

Susan Gage,
Town Treasurer

BARSTOW CONTROLS BID PACKAGE

This is a copy of the invitation that is in the specification:

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Chittenden, VT, invites contractors to bid on the renovations to the existing Temperature Control Renovation. In general, the work includes:

1. Replacement of existing DDC control systems to operate on a web-based System.
2. Replace all of the pneumatic controls throughout the building with new DDC controls.
3. All cutting, patching, painting and repair of finishes affected by the new work as noted on the drawings or as specified herein.

Sealed bids will be received electronically by the Engineering Services of Vermont Daniel Dupras, daniel.dupras@esvtllc.com, until May 15, 2023 at 9 AM.

Sets will be distributed via email. Printed copies are the responsibility of the bidder. Please contact Daniel W. Dupras at Engineering Services of VT, LLC, Telephone 1-802-855-1010 or 1-802-855-8091.

Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond, a separate Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required of the successful Bidder.

Davis Bacon Wage Rates apply.

A 100% Performance Bond is required.

A 5% Bid Bond is required for the project.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on May 4, 2023 at 3 PM at the site. Please meet at the main entrance.

Construction is anticipated to start as soon as possible after notice to proceed no later than June 1, 2023 and be substantially complete on or before September 15, 2024.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept informality and irregularity in the bids.

Gardening corner

(Continued from Page 22)

deep red from the crocosmia Lucifer, a gorgeous Zone-5 flower that I have not had success with, but which is thriving in Brian's garden. Brian has introduced the following plants to his border this year: Culvert's root, New York iron weed, meadow rue, ornamental oregano, sea holly, and Helenium can can. To keep the borders looking great, he edges three times a year.

I don't know if the photos can accurately show the drama of this garden, but the border drops off to a valley, there is intervening mist, then the mountains beyond.

We watch hummingbirds flit between the bee balm. I learned that Brian also is a master gardener. He is currently taking a 15-hour course certificate in landscape architecture, where he is learning a ton. It's hard to imagine he has more to learn, as he appears to me to have an almost encyclopedic knowledge of his flowers and shrubs, with their Latin name and cultivar name.

Brian is humbler than I think I would be with such knowledge. He says, "gardening is an evolution; the more I learn, the more I want to know about plants, what makes them look good, and what

they need, so I read about it."

Brian's tips:

VISIT GARDENS

There are some great gardens right here in Vermont and New York State to visit.

Hildene in Manchester has crocosmia Lucifer in August.

Shelburne Farms' garden on the lake has great peonies in June.

The King's Garden, a large walled garden of vegetables and flowers, near Fort Ticonderoga.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park in Woodstock has a nice garden.

Brian also encourages gardeners is to drive around the Brandon area and take pictures of what you like. If it's here, you know that it will grow here.

BUYING PLANTS

He recommends stopping at Blue Seal, Virgil and Constance, and Miller Hill to look at what plants they currently have for sale. All of these nurseries have plants that should thrive in Brandon. Nurseries like Miller Hill have a garden display as well. Finally, there are specialty nurseries like Summer Sweet in East Hardwick, which is known for its phlox, and the Vermont Flower Farm in Marshfield for daylilies and hosta.



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