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\$1



BRANDON IDOL CONCLUDES

Brandon Idol ended with a bang and a buttercup. Find out who won the big prize! (Pictured, Bethany White.)

PG. 2



GOSHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Goshen Historical Society paid tribute to WWII at Brandon American Legion.

PG. 21



THEATER REVIEW

OV's Walking Stick Theater performed their last plays of the year last weekend. Read about "Math" and "Almost, Maine."

PG. 22



Brandon Masons honor former Gov. Jim Douglas

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Union Lodge No. 2 of Middlebury honored one of its most esteemed members—former governor Jim Douglas—at a ceremony at the Masonic Lodge in Brandon last Thursday evening. Officers and members of Union Lodge No. 2 and St. Paul's Lodge of Brandon, along with friends and family, filled the Masonic Hall on Park Street Extension. Also in attendance were officers of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, which oversees the local lodges across the state.

Mr. Douglas, who had already been given several awards by the Grand Lodge of Vermont, including the Grand Lodge Medal of Honor in 2003, received a pin from the Grand Master of Vermont, Jim Stevens, to mark his 50th year in Masonry. Local artist Doug Lazarus unveiled the oil portrait of Mr. Douglas that he was commissioned to paint for the occasion.

Mr. Douglas's fellow Masons recounted with fondness his many years of service to Ma-
(See *Masons*, Page 23)



Down on the Otter Creek

WADE DAVIS SENT us this terrific shot from his kayak, taken in the flooded area west of Champearl Street and north of the train tracks in Brandon. Spring in Vermont is in full swing and the great outdoors beckon!

Brandon Selectboard appoints Heather Nelson; Tracy Wyman becomes chair

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In a special meeting on Monday evening, before their regular meeting at 7:00, the Brandon Selectboard appointed Heather Fjeld Nelson

to fill the vacancy left by Seth Hopkins when he left the board to become Brandon's town manager. Ms. Nelson will occupy the seat for the remainder of Mr. Hopkins's one-year term, which

ends in March 2024. At that point, she will have to run for the seat in a public election if she wishes to remain on the board.

Five people had submitted ap-
(See *Brandon SB*, Page 9)

Course correction: Crown Point marker relocated in Pittsford

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—In 1759, as the French and Indian War raged across New England, British soldiers under the command of General Jeffrey Amherst built a military road from the Fort at Number 4 in southwest New Hampshire to Fort Crown Point on the southern shores of Lake Champlain. At the time, most of what is now Vermont was not settled by Europeans and travel across the mountainous, wooded terrain was difficult. The new thoroughfare, now known as the Crown Point Road (CPR), allowed the British to move supplies across the Green Mountains to maintain the terri-

tory they had recently taken from the French (around present-day Ticonderoga, New York).

The CPR worked its way diagonally across Vermont, essentially from Springfield to the town of Addison. It crossed Otter Creek at Clarendon and followed the western bank of the waterway northwest, eventually passing through present-day Proctor, Pittsford, and Brandon.

After the war ended, in 1763, the CPR became the major route by which European settlers entered Vermont from elsewhere in New England, making the Green Mountains one of the last areas in
(See *Crown Point*, Page 8)



PRESIDENT OF THE Pittsford Historical Society Bill Powers, President of the Crown Point Road Association Barry Griffith, and Vermont State Regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution Catherine Brodeur-Johnson plant flags at the new, correct location of Marker 45A on the Crown Point Road in Pittsford.
Photo by Dale Christie

Shannon Wright wins Brandon Idol

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After a 5-month competition with a particularly talented field, Brandon's own Shannon Wright took the top slot as the winner of the whole shebang. He clinched the title, and \$1,000 in prize money, with an improbably affecting rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miserables, a notoriously difficult song that catapulted Susan Boyle to fame on Britain's Got Talent in 2009 and won Anne Hathaway her Supporting Actress Oscar in 2012. And now it has elevated Shannon Wright to the pantheon of Brandon Idol winners.

Decked out in a tuxedo, Wright oozed class as his baritone slithered through the

melody, nailing the infamously tricky upward run on the word "shame." The fact that the lyrics tell the story of a desperate prostitute in 18th-century Paris absolutely did not prevent Wright from making the song his own and wowing judges and audience alike.

Seemingly stunned by his success, Wright was at a loss for words when the judges (Penny Billado, Dennis Marden, and Harry McEnery) announced their decision. His silence was fleeting, however, as the audience implored him to reprise one of his greatest hits in the competition: "Delilah" by Tom Jones. It was a deliriously fun way to end a competition that has definitely been deliriously fun.

"Brandon Idol really has given me a chance to open up to new genres and hopefully turn a hobby into a real passion," he said afterwards in an email.

Kudos to the whole field for five incredibly enjoyable months of great music and performances. On Saturday, the rest of the contenders offered up an astonishingly broad and entertaining range of tunes that didn't adhere to any theme.

Peggy Sue Rozell performed Trace Adkins's version of "Wayfaring Stranger," a mournful song made famous by Johnny Cash.

Baker Larock performed Maneskin's version of "Beggin'", originally a 1967 pop confection from Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Maneskin's cover puts an edge on the sugar.

Rachel Spellman offered "Daddy Lessons" by Beyonce, a Texas-twanged song of no-nonsense female empowerment. Spellman sang as if she'd *seen things* in her life.

Irene Simons took the stage with "You Say" by Lauren Daigle, a powerful declaration. (See Brandon Idol, Page 11)



SHANNON WRIGHT TOOK home the \$1000 prize with his rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables." **Congrats, Shannon!**
All photos by Kevin White



LOGAN SHADDOCK WITH "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus.



GUNNAR TINSMAN WITH "Kissing a Fool" by George Michael.

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OVUU SB talks school transfers and code of conduct

BY WILL ROSS

BRANDON—The OVUU school board gathered last Tuesday evening in the Otter Valley library. In addition to discussions about school choice transfer policy updates and the board member code of conduct, there was communication from residents who hoped to make their concerns known to the board.

Barry Whitney brought up the condition of the Otter Valley locker rooms, pointing out that only three additional shower curtains had been put up in the boys' locker room

since he made a request at the last meeting. Whitney also commented on a recent theft that occurred at the school and was concerned about the manner in which it was handled. Whitney was reassured by Superintendent Kristen Hubert that the insurance company was notified and that the correct policies and procedures were followed.

Next to speak was Jennifer Tinsman, who brought up concerns about a board member's behavior regarding transphobic comments made online. Tinsman believed that the board member did not adhere to the code of conduct, specifically the responsibility "to provide a physically and emotionally safe place for students." Tinsman pointed out that the policy specifically mentions social media comments.

Alex Hilliard of Poultney stated additional concerns about these non-inclusive comments. Hilliard made a number of requests at the previous school board meeting, which included a revision of the code of conduct, a discussion on the school board member code of conduct, and an apology from the board member in question.

Barry Whitney went on to share his thoughts on the matter, standing up for the importance of free speech and First Amendment rights. Whitney stated that what people do in their own personal lives has no effect on their service in a social or administrative capacity, noting that if this type of comment were made at a meeting, it would be cause for concern. However, Whitney felt that asking somebody to change how they feel outside of that capacity would be unconstitutional.

Once residents had made their voices heard, the meeting continued into a discussion on the new school-choice policy. The policy will help to mitigate the growing discrepancy between

children attending kindergarten at Neshobe and those at Otter Creek Academy. The revised policy will narrow down the standards that qualify families for school choice, ensuring there is a valid reason to transfer school districts. Board member Greg Bernhardt expressed concern, stating, "I just don't want to see school choice go away." He was reassured by Hubert that school choice will not go away, but families must qualify.

Next came a lengthy conversation about the board member code of conduct. Chair of the Board Laurie Bertrand informed the group that she spoke to the lawyer and the individual responsible for the transphobic posts. The board does not have the ability

to remove the board member in question because he is an elected official; however, if comments of this nature were made during a board discussion, they would have the ability to censor this individual. Bertrand pointed out that while everyone has the right to free speech, the Board's priority is keeping students safe.

Alex Hilliard submitted a motion for the board to approve the aforementioned requests. However, the board is not required to entertain a motion that is submitted by a citizen. The board did not accept Hilliard's

motion, though they did go on to discuss the code of conduct. Bertrand began by stating, "We do need to protect all students. I'm just going to say it, and I think all of us here believe that." Natalie Steen noted that these are individual opinions that do not reflect the opinions of the full board as per the code of conduct, adding that the board is there to ensure students' safety and success regardless of gender. Barbara Ebling went on to state that the board should not feel the need to force an apology but should be mindful of upholding their job and responsibilities.

At this point, Brent Scarborough, the board member who posted the original transphobic remarks, made a statement. Scarborough began by saying, "I don't have any issues with any particular person. I don't have any issues with any students. Nothing I posted was directed toward any individual or group. As I stated, I can have my own beliefs." Scarborough went on to say, "It doesn't affect what I decide here or what I talk about here."

When addressing the request for an apology, Scarborough stated, "As far as an apology goes, I will apologize to the board for any inconvenience, embarrassment, or harassment I may have caused them. But apologizing for my own individual beliefs and opinions - I will not apologize for that."

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— Brent Scarborough

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Bernhardt continued the discussion by agreeing with the im-

(See OVUU SB, Page 6)

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Green Up Day

MITCHELL DOMBROWSKI HELPED keep Vermont clean on Green-Up Day, last Saturday. He spent 5 hours picking up trash and debris along Route 73 and Otter Creek. Thanks, Mitchell! And thanks to everyone who participated!

Photo by Amy Menard

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Sittin' on the rock of marsh!

THIS GREEN HERON, seen at the small marsh on Pearl St., is one of the few tool using species. It will use bait dropped on the water to attract small fish.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Brandon Heart & Soul Potluck Supper

Community Heart & Soul is a resident-driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it.

The seed for Community Heart & Soul was planted by a Vermonter, Lyman Orton, who is the proprietor of the Vermont County Store. The Community Heart & Soul model has been implemented in over 120 communities and 23 states, and the

numbers are growing every year! Communities have experienced a range of benefits: an increase in volunteerism, a deeper understanding of what matters most to residents, and an increase in civility and respect among community members, just to name a few.

Come and learn more about how the Community Heart & Soul model can be part of Brandon's future! We are excited to tell you all about it.

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Doors open at 5:00 – Dinner at 5:30 – Presentation at 6:00

Brandon American Legion
 5 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT

Please RSVP with number of adults and children

Bring a dish to share, and we will provide the dessert

RSVP by emailing cbertrand@orton.org or calling 802-345-6557

Share your vision for Brandon's future

Did you know that Brandon has an official Town Plan? The Town Plan is the foundation for community programs, policy setting, and decision-making. The findings and recommendations in the plan influence the Town's budget and capital expenditures, community development efforts, and natural-resource protection initiatives. The plan is the basis for the local land-use controls, such as those in the Brandon

Land Use Ordinance. The plan also establishes policies, goals, and action items for recreation, transportation, energy usage, residential and economic development, disaster resilience, and protection of historic and cultural resources. Under Vermont law, municipal plans must be re-adopted every eight years and a current town plan is required before a municipality may become eligible for project funding.

Brandon's town plan was most recently readopted in February 2016 and, apart from an amendment in 2019 to add a section on energy planning and development, it has not been updated since. Accordingly, over the next several months, the Brandon Planning Commission will be working to update the plan against the February 2024 re-adoption deadline by reviewing *(See Brandon's future, Page 5)*



Brandon Police seek info about burglary at Jiffy Mart

Early on the morning of May 2, 2023, at 1:45 a.m., 2 suspects broke into and entered the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street in Brandon and stole over \$2,000 worth of vape pens and tobacco products.

The suspects, who were caught on the store's video security sys-

tem, appear to be Caucasian, male, and possibly in their late teens. The suspects entered the store by throwing what appeared to be a dumbbell weight through a large glass window at the front of the store. After stealing the merchandise, they fled the area.

We are asking for the public's help in trying to identify these two suspects. If anyone has any information about the two individuals, please call the Brandon Police Department (Corporal VonSchlesingen) at (802) 247-0222.

Brandon's future

(Continued from Page 4)

each section to determine which parts remain relevant, and which need to be revised. But the key to a successful update is not just review by the Planning Commission; for the plan to be an accurate reflection of Brandon's vision, citizen participation is essential. Thus, as it conducts its review, the Planning Commission is reaching out to the community for input.

A kick-off event is scheduled for Sunday, May 21, 2023, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Town Hall. Community members are invited

to come, eat some free pizza, and share their visions for the future of Brandon.

Do you dream of a connector trail between downtown Brandon and Forest Dale? Do you have strong opinions about energy usage and resources? Perhaps you'd like to see more and better sidewalks, and wider shoulders on the roads for bicycles. Or maybe you have ideas about how to increase Brandon's inventory of reasonably priced housing. Come to Town Hall on May 21, and add your voice to the conversation. And don't despair if

you can't make it to the May 21 event: the Planning Commission will be continuing its outreach program throughout the readoption process. The current version of the Town Plan is online at <https://tinyurl.com/Town-Plan>. The Vermont statutes governing the creation and contents of municipal plans can be found in Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 24, chapter 117

*Cecil Reniche-Smith
Brandon Planning
Commission*

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.
Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753.
Or email to news@brandonreporter.com

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Obituaries

Patricia Yvonne Murphy, 84, Leicester

LEICESTER—Patricia Yvonne Murphy (Pickens), age 84, passed peacefully on Friday, May 5, at the home of her daughter in Leicester.

Patricia was born in Sharon, CT on September 18, 1938. She was the daughter of Kendrick and Mildred (Bathrick) Murphy. She grew up in Canaan, CT where she received her early education and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, class of 1956. She was a stay-at-home mom in her early days. She later worked as a waitress at various restaurants in Connecticut. She afterwards worked at General Electric from 1972 until retiring in 1999 as an inspector. She then enjoyed life as a snowbird spending winters in Zephyrhills, FL. In failing health, she moved to her daughter's home in South Carolina before moving to Leicester in April 2022. She was an avid reader, enjoyed crocheting and word search. She was a



PATRICIA YVONNE MURPHY

member of Hubbardton Grange and the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Her family was her life.

She is survived by her children: Penny Eastman (Steve), Paul Phillips (Karen), Peggy LaRock, Kandie Stocker (Dennis) and Sandie Stacey (Earl). Several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great

grandchildren. Nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by 2 sons (Peter and Patrick Phillips), a granddaughter (Amanda Phillips), a grandson (James Phillips), and her 3 brothers (Kenneth, Robert & Eugene Murphy).

The graveside committal service and burial will take place, on May 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., in the family lot in Evergreen Cemetery in Central Village, CT.

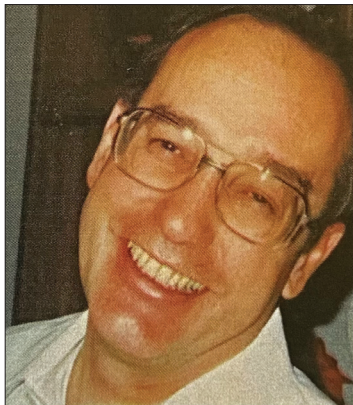
A gathering "In Celebration of Her Life" will take place, on June 4, 2023 from 12 PM until 3 PM, at the Brandon American Legion.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; Brandon American Legion Post #55, Brandon, VT 05733 or to the Center Grange #290, 1127 Monument Hill Rd, Castleton, VT 05735

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

Francis W. Delorm, 80, Brunswick, Ohio

Francis W. Delorm of Brunswick, Ohio was born March 29, 1943 at the Rutland Hospital, Rutland, Vt. to James M. and Katherine (Swington) Delorm. He attended local schools and graduated from the Rutland High School, Class of 1961. He enlisted in the Army and was stationed with the Big Red One Division, Ft. Riley, Kansas. He was honorably discharged as Sgt. Technician. On August 17, 1968, Francis married the love of his life, Judith (Goulette) Delorm. They have 3 children: daughters Renee (Dave), Cathy Jo (O.J.) and son Francis William Delorm II (Melissa). He also is blessed with



FRANCIS W. DELORM

13 grandchildren and 5 precious great-grandchildren. Francis is also survived by his brother Stanley (Annette) of Deltona,

Fl. and two devoted sisters, Pat Moyer of Rutland and Marge (Scott) Munger of Brandon, Vt. And five sisters-in-laws, Mary, Charlotte, Patty, Stephanie, and Susie.

His employment took him to Firestone for 27 years, Westpark Packaging and then Solar Testing in the capacity of Accountant/Comptroller. Upon retirement, Francis and Judy spent the winters at their Florida home.

Francis was a devout Catholic and very devoted to his family. A Mass of Christian Burial took place Friday, May 5, 2023 at 1 PM at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Brunswick, Ohio.

Celebration of Life

Wayne A. Martel

Wayne A. Martel passed away on February 26, 2023. A committal service and Celebration of Life will be held for Wayne on May 20, 2023. Independence Lodge will offer a Masonic Service at 12 PM at Mountain View Cemetery, Orwell. Family and friends are welcome. Following the service, please join us for a light meal and time of fellowship at the Congregational Church, Main St., Orwell, VT for Wayne as well as his father Edward who passed ten days before him, and his mother, Marjorie who passed in 2018. Wayne's wish was that everyone dress in casual clothes. Masks will be available should you choose to wear one.

Celebration of Life

RONALD C. LEWIS

The memorial service and reception for Ronald Lewis, 72, who died March 07, 2023, will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Brandon Inn in Brandon, Vermont. There will be time for reflection, sharing thoughts and memories, and of course, poetry. Please come and bring your collective memories of Ron to share with family and one another.

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.

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OVUU SB

(Continued from Page 3)

portance of free speech but noting that he doesn't believe free speech can be used to propagate harm in any way.

Board member Jeremy Gildrien stated he would like to address these concerns with actionable steps rather than just rhetoric. He hopes to show the community that the board is taking concrete steps

to resolve this. The board began to float ideas. Some that were suggested included additional diversity and inclusion training, improving the current onboarding process, and re-reading the current equity policy. The board will determine the ideal schedule, and additional training will be provided for members prior to the next school year.



(L TO R): Jim McCuen on bass, Monique Monette on vocals, and Rob McCuen on guitar. Yurtbags gave a knockout show at Red Clover Ale Company in Brandon on Saturday night.

Photos by George Fjeld

'The Yurtbags' perform live at Red Clover Ale Company

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Three nursery school classmates have banded together decades later to wow an excited and diverse audience at Red Clover Ale Company last Saturday night. Jim McCuen played bass and Rob McCuen was on guitar with Matt Davis drumming for the 3 hour, 2 set show. Classic rock tunes from The Police, Jefferson Airplane, Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, Janis Joplin, and Tom Petty were belted out, electrifying the crowd. Vocalist Monique Monette sang with such energy that you couldn't help but dance, according to local Susan Johnson. The feeling in the room was amazing, the energy was high, and "We were in the zone" according to bassist Jim McCuen.

Twins Jim and Rob McCuen and their schoolmate/bandmate Matt Davis have been playing out in different guises for twenty years. They started jamming together in their teens back around 1991. This present iteration, The Yurtbags, is from a nickname given drummer Davis when he lived full time in a yurt. The trio previously played out in 2 different bands, Acoustic Underminds and Wiley



Dobbs. They played in mostly New York 2001-2005 and rekindled in Burlington a few years ago. Presently, The Yurtbags practice as 2 and 3 commonly and all 4 to get ready to play out. Jim and Rob also have two other bands, Swing Noir and Bloodroot Gap, which are predominantly acoustic. They're really enjoying this electric show.

Monette commented, "It was a joy to see so many local friends out having a great time on such a beautiful day. This band is so talented and I

have way too much fun every time we rock and roll. And Red Clover is fantastic at bringing a room full of cool folks together, great beer, great food vendors, so amazing!" Some folks may remember Monette from her previous band, The Redneck Aliens, back in the day! They were recorded on The Best of the Green Mountain Blues multiple times. She lives up to the fame!

Look for The Yurtbags playing soon near you!



Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

Sprinting to the finish

The legislative session of 2023 is winding down with members looking forward to a targeted adjournment date of May 12. The leisurely pace of the past several weeks has been replaced with an all-out sprint to the finish. The House is now meeting twice a day, once at 10:00 AM and again at 3:00 PM to accommodate the flow of bills moving back and forth between the Senate and the House. With this type of schedule, it is exceedingly difficult to conduct committee hearings and act on meaningful legislation, so many House committees have effectively "shut down" for the session. Money Committees, the Commerce Committee, and the Judiciary Committee are notable exceptions, as many of the bills in their jurisdiction are flowing back and forth between the bodies while the House amends Senate bills and the Senate does likewise. If the difference between the two Chambers is worked out in this manner, the legislation will be passed and sent to the Governor for his signature.

There are several notable exceptions to this process and when an agreement cannot be worked out, the bill is assigned to a Committee of Conference. The conferees will work out the differences and, if an agreement can be made, the respective bodies will vote either up or down on the revised language in the bill. During this process, the bill will be presented, and a vote will be taken without debate. Must-have bills for adjournment that are currently in conference are The Big Bill (General Fund Budget), The Transportation Bill, and The Capital Construction Bill. This is the process The Vermont General Assembly has been using for decades and it seems to work.

However, I have always felt this process is slightly flawed because the three Senators and three House members on the Conference Committee will make decisions for their colleagues with extraordinarily little input from the remain-

ing 174 members of the Assembly. It is the system we have, and it seems to work, but at times it is very frustrating for members that are not involved in the process.

One bill I have been following is H.494 – "The Big Bill." This bill was passed by both The House and Senate with wildly different spending priorities and funding methods for their favorite initiatives. The spending patterns are also quite different from the 8% spending increase in the Governor's recommended budget. The House version of the bill includes a 12% spending increase while the Senate proposal is an increase of 13%. The bill is now in the Committee of Conference and the differences must be resolved and sent back to the Assembly for approval before adjournment. The question now for lawmakers is "Can they get agreement for a May 12 adjournment?" Adding to the drama is that if the General Assembly does not fund or underfunds some of the Governor's priorities, he is guaranteeing a veto of H.494. The leadership of both the House and Senate are so sure of a veto that they will call the Legislature back into session on June 20 for a veto-override session. More to come as the weeks ahead progress.

Finally, a sure "sign" of adjournment is the blooming of the tulips in the State House flower gardens. This "sign" has proven true in most all the 14 years I have served in The Legislature, and this year will prove no different and they will surely be in full bloom by Friday, May 12.

I can be reached by email at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us, by phone 802-483-2398 or by mail at PO Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763. I am always available to have a conversation concerning our legislative district and your Vermont state government.

*Representative Butch Shaw
Pittsford-Proctor
Vice Chair-House Committee
on Transportation*

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WE NEED U



Crown Point

(Continued from Page 1)
 the Northeast U.S. to be settled by Europeans. Unlike coastal New England, Vermont has few traces of European settlement that pre-date the American Revolution.

Over the years, with the proliferation of other overland routes, the CPR was either abandoned, reclaimed for farmland, or incorporated into other roads. Today, remnants of it are still visible in places, though much of it has been reclaimed by nature or reworked in other development.

In the 1890s, after the centennial of George Washington's inauguration, a revived interest in colonial history in the U.S. also renewed interest in the CPR. The newly formed Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began placing markers along the route, beginning with Fort Ranger in Rutland in 1903. The Lake Dunmore chapter of the DAR, founded in 1896, began placing CPR markers in the Brandon-

the temporary removal of the marker, Bill Powers, president of the Pittsford Historical Society (PHS), asked the town to "just dig it up" put it behind the society's building near Lothrop Elementary in Pittsford Village until PHS and the Crown Point Road Association (CPRA) could determine a more accurate location for it.

Last Sunday, the marker was given a new home in a rededication ceremony on Whipple Hollow Road in the Florence section of Pittsford, on the edge of a grassy meadow now owned by Josh Towne and Liz Willis. Looking at the site today, no one would ever guess that a road once passed through the field.

About two dozen people showed up to participate in the rededication, including officers and members of PHS, CPRA, and DAR. Alicia Malay, chair of the Pittsford Selectboard was also present.

er, known to CPRA as Marker 45A. Much of the research done on the proper placement of the marker relied on *The History of Pittsford, Vermont* by A.M. Caverly, a multi-volume account of the early years of the town, published in 1872. According to Caverly, there had likely been a tavern at the marker's new site back in the 1700s, fitting for the intersection of two thoroughfares (CPR and what is now Whipple Hollow Road).

Finally, Jim Rowe, Jr., historian with CPRA, spoke about an outing that CPRA will be sponsoring in Pittsford on May 20, which will be a re-enactment of the first outing done by CPRA in 1958. Anyone interested should go to crownpointroad.org for more details.

The ceremony ended with the placement of two American flags on either side of the marker by Mr. Powers and Ms. Brodeur-Johnson.

"We've known for a while [that the marker was in the wrong location]," said Mr. Griffith, president of CPRA. "We've looked at maps and journals kept by soldiers. We consulted with DAR. We hope to make more people aware of the road and its history."

CPRA Secretary Dale Christie of Proctor, who descends from a member of the Green Mountain Boys, hoped that such events would increase awareness of the CPR as well.

John Towne, who owns the land the marker is now on, hadn't known much about the CPR when he bought the property.

"But I like that there's history here," he said. He added that extensive searches of the surrounding land, which had been farmed for years, had yielded no artifacts and cautioned people not to stray into the meadow.

There are two CPR markers in Brandon, one on Union Street just north of the intersection with High Pond Road, and one on Short Swamp Road, about halfway between Long Swamp Road and Marshall Phillips Road. The marker on Union Street is known to have been moved from its original location a quarter mile closer up the road toward Brandon Village, so it's possible that at some point in the future, another rededication ceremony might take place in Brandon.

To learn more about the Crown Point Road and the placement of markers along its route, visit CPRA's website: crownpointroad.org. You can also follow CPRA on Facebook and watch their videos (including of Sunday's event) on their YouTube channel.



PRESIDENT OF THE Pittsford Historical Society Bill Powers addresses attendees at the rededication ceremony in Pittsford on Sunday.
 Photos by Steven Jupiter

Pittsford area in 1911. They placed 1 marker in Pittsford, 2 in Brandon, and 3 in Sudbury.

However, the marker they placed in Pittsford was in the wrong spot.

Originally on Depot Hill Road between Route 7 and the eastern bank of Otter Creek, the marker was clearly on the wrong side of the river. It was known that the CPR crossed from the east side to the west side of Otter Creek down in Clarendon, so by the time it reached Pittsford, it would've been on the west side of the water.

But the marker had sat there for over 100 years, all 1,200 granite lbs. of it. Moving it would be no easy task. So when roadwork on Depot Hill recently necessitated

The program began with a presentation by Barry Griffith, president of the CPRA on the significance of the CPR. Mr. Griffith emphasized that the road may have initially served a military purpose, but it was subsequently the primary means by which Europeans entered Vermont in the late 1700s.

Catherine Brodeur-Johnson, Vermont State Regent of the DAR, spoke about the DAR's involvement with the CPR over the years, recalling that as a child she helped clean up a section of the road. She also noted that the Lake Dunmore chapter, which had placed the markers in 1911, had dissolved roughly a decade ago.

Mr. Powers then related the story of the relocation of the mark-

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Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

applications for the vacancy: Ms. Nelson, Doug Bailey, Marielle Blais, Ralph Ethier, and Samantha Stone. The board conducted interviews with the candidates in executive session during the special meeting.

In announcing Ms. Nelson's appointment, to great approval in the room, board member Cecil Reniche-Smith said, "She's a different generation. She'll offer a different perspective. She has long ties to the town and is raising a family here. Her devotion to the town came across in her interview and in her letter of interest."

"You don't choose where you're born, but I was lucky to grow up here," said Nelson. "I'm a speech pathologist...I've been in hundreds of Vermonters' homes. I've got good experience with people. I'd like my kids to see me doing this."

Tracy Wyman, who would remain vice-chair for only several more minutes at that point, said "it was a rough decision" to choose from among the five candidates.

Ms. Nelson was then sworn in by Town Clerk Sue Gage, to much applause, before taking her seat at the table with the rest of the board for the regular meeting.

After the usual opening formalities of a regular meeting (convening and approving the agenda), the board moved to reorganize itself by appointing new officers. Seth Hopkins had been chair of the board before his transition to town manager and the position needed to be filled.

Ms. Reniche-Smith moved to appoint Vice-Chair Tracy Wyman as chair. Mr. Wyman addressed the room, saying that he was "not a computer person. You can talk to me. You can call me. I will return calls. But I'm not an email person. Please bear with me."

When comment from the board was solicited, board member Tim Guiles questioned the nomination.

"Tracy, I have the greatest respect for you as a board member," said Mr. Guiles. "But I have concerns that things the chair needs to do are not things

you could pull together, like the Town Report, emails. I'm not sure it's a great fit."

"The chair is there to run meetings," replied Mr. Wyman. "The chair is not statutorily obligated to do any of those things. The Town Report is put out by the town manager."

Ultimately, Mr. Wyman's nomination as chair was approved by all members except Mr. Guiles.

Ms. Reniche-Smith was appointed vice-chair and Ms. Nelson, as the newest member, was assigned the position of clerk.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins then read highlights from his submitted report, which is available in full in the May 8 board packet on the town website.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- Mr. Hopkins has continued to acquaint himself with the operations of the town, meeting with the various departments and staff.

- Mr. Hopkins and Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore have exchanged offices.

- A replacement mechanism has been ordered for the clock on the steeple of the Congregational Church. The clock is an antique and the mechanism must be custom made, which will take several more weeks.

- The town received a \$4000 energy resilience grant.

- The State of Vermont is mandating that the groundwater at the town landfill on Corona Street be tested for PFAS, the toxic "forever" chemicals that have contaminated groundwater in other parts of the state. The tests and analyses are costly and would likely result in a recurring \$10,000 budget item. Since the landfill is owned by the town, the town would be responsible for remediation if any PFAS were found during testing. There is no specific concern that any contamination has occurred. Testing is simply a precaution.

- The Otter Creek Communications District, which works to provide adequate access to communications for residents of the Rutland area, will not be needing the \$56,000 of ARPA funds that Brandon had allocated to the organization. This money is now available for other Brandon

projects.

- The state is conducting a scoping study on the North Street bridge.

- The paving of Arnold District Road will be a priority this year. The paving was done so poorly by the contractor last year that payment was withheld. The ARPA funds returned by the Communications District plus grant money will cover the costs.

- All of Brandon's roads comply with state stormwater requirements.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR BILL MOORE OFFERED HIS REPORT:

- The town-owned parcel behind the American Legion will be prepped for use as a disc-golf course.

- The Brandon Fire Department will hold Safety Day on Saturday, May 13, with a full day of activities.

- The first Brandon Extravaganza will take place at Estabrook Park on Saturday, June 3. The event is meant to foster community partnership. More details to come.

During the public-comment portion of the meeting, board member Cecil Reniche-Smith reminded residents that the Brandon Planning Commission is holding a public discussion in anticipation of the readoption of Brandon's Town Plan. See the Planning Commission's piece in this week's Reporter for more details.

Doug Bailey asked that Jim Leary be thanked for his efforts organizing Green-Up Day last weekend.

The board then revisited the issue of the floor in the main hall of the Town Hall. At the board's previous meeting, the Friends of the Town Hall had requested an \$18,000 appropriation from the town to cover 1/3 of the cost of a new hardwood floor. After some discussion of alternatives to hardwood and whether it was wise to allow certain activities in the hall, the board approved the amount, to be taken from the \$56,000 of ARPA funds returned by the Communications District.

The board voted to approve the inclusion of Proctor in the Otter

Creek Watershed Insect Control District. Previously, Proctor contracted with the District for insect control but will now be a full member.

The board voted to form a Brandon Emergency Preparedness Committee, which would study and propose protocols and procedures for the town to use in emergencies, such as natural disasters that affect communications. The committee would not be involved in the implementation of

"You don't choose where you're born, but I was lucky to grow up here, I'm a speech pathologist...I've been in hundreds of Vermonters' homes. I've got good experience with people. I'd like my kids to see me doing this."

—Heather Nelson

any procedures during an actual emergency; its role would simply be to propose a framework for the town to use, such as how to help residents with mobility issues. Partnerships with neighboring towns, such as Goshen, would be formed as well. Anyone interested in participating should contact Town Manager Seth Hopkins.

Jim Emerson of the Brandon Energy Committee encouraged the board to install a town-owned 250 kw solar field at a cost of approximately \$210K after rebates, to save the town \$25K per year

in energy costs. Mr. Emerson also explained that the panels, when decommissioned decades down the road, could be sold at a profit. He also noted that the Water District has suitable sites for a solar field and recommended that the town partner with the Water District to share the costs.

The board appointed Claire Babyak-Schick to fill a seat on the Energy Committee.

The board agreed to interview Neil Silins and Sara Stevens for the seat left vacant by Bill Mills on the Planning Commission. After discussion of expanding the committee to 6 or 7 members, it was agreed to leave the number at 5.

The board appointed Seth Hopkins to be the authorizing official for the RAMP Phase II grant.

The board voted to implement a new payroll procedure whereby the town manager would compile a list of paid employees, with their salaries or hourly wages, that the board would approve so that payroll checks wouldn't have to be approved every two weeks. The list would need to be changed only when there was a change in employment status or payment amount.

Finally, the board approved a warrant to pay debts and expenses in the amount of \$377,188.62. Much of this amount was the result of the ongoing construction at the wastewater plant.



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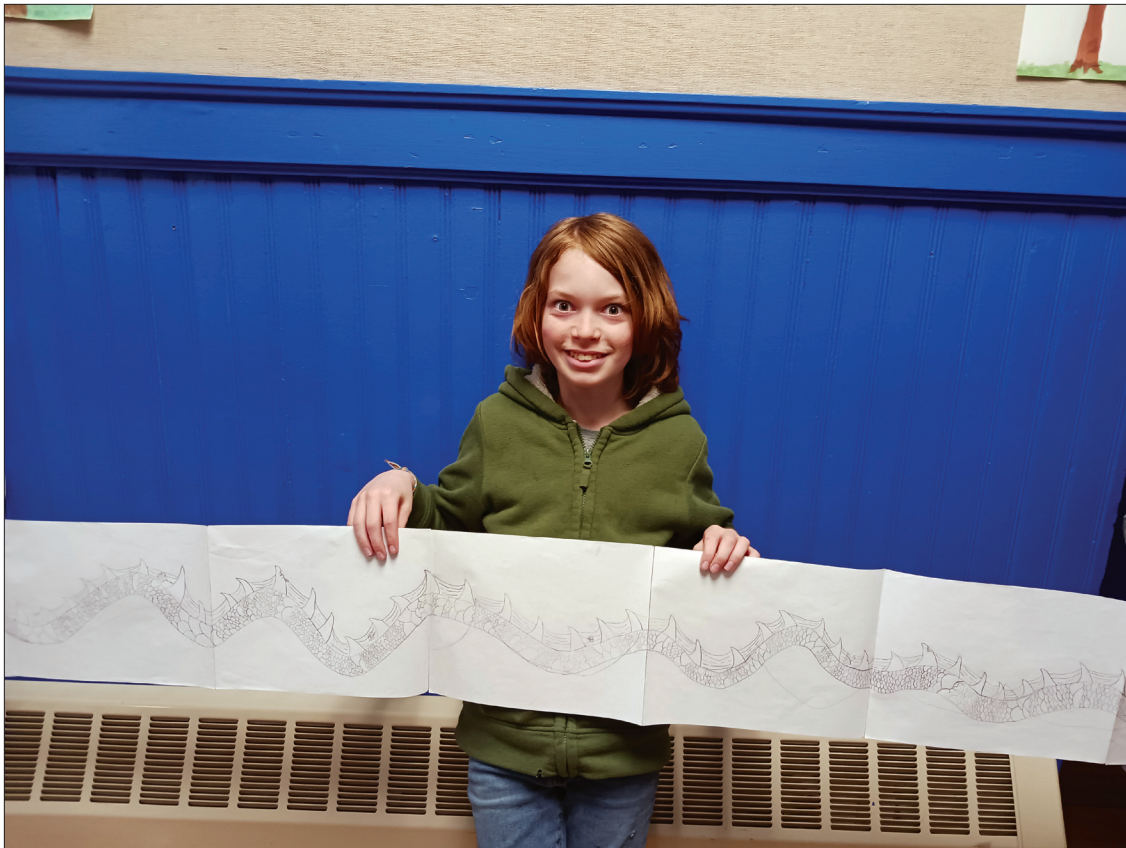
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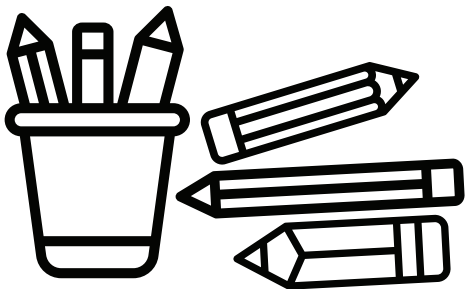
OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Brogan Malay
GRADE: 5
SCHOOL: Lothrop
HOMETOWN: Pittsford
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



STATEMENT FROM MATT AUCOIN:

Teacher statement: Brogan has been working on this piece, titled Sea Dragon, since the beginning of his current school year. Whenever there is free time he focuses his efforts on this piece. Brogan used pencil to create this ongoing piece that is currently 20 pages long, or 19 feet. He will continue drawing this piece until the end of the school year.



Brandon Idol

(Continued from Page 2)

ration of faith and the confidence it can bring.

The first half of the evening wrapped up with another great guest performance by Hilary Strasburger Collier, singing Mary Chapin Carpenter's cover of Lucinda Williams's "Passionate Kisses."

Venus Diamondis opened the second half with "Bound to You" by Christina Aguilera, from the Soundtrack of the movie "Burlesque." It's a slow, sultry song and Diamondis delivered it on point (perhaps to match the points on the delightful elf ears she wore).

Next was Logan Shaddock with Miley Cyrus's "The Climb," an ode to self-reliance. Shaddock gave the song the defiant strength it needed.

Gunnar Tinsman pulled up a stool to begin his smooth croon of "Kissing a Fool" by George Michael, which he dedicated to a family friend. Soon enough, he was back on his feet to finish the heartfelt lament.

Bethany White ended the competition with a lovely interpretation of "O Mio Babbino Caro," one of opera's most beloved arias and a departure from the theme-constrained offerings of the previous months.

While the judges went to deliberate backstage, emcee extraordinaire Bill Moore stood in for a guest performer who pulled out at the last minute and delivered a roof-raising performance of "Mustang Sally" by Wilson Pickett, getting the audience to sing backup in all the right places.

The entire cohort of competi-



BAKER LAROCK WITH "Beggin'" by Maneskin.

tors came back out for a final group performance: "Build Me Up, Buttercup" by The Foundations, a great choice to wrap up the entire competition on a fun, energetic note before Wright was announced as the winner.

It was a wild ride with some great tunes, great performances,

and great outfits. The Brandon Idol band – Ross Edmunds, Bryon Billado, and Kenny Cifone – deserve major props for rolling with all the punches over hours and hours of consistently top-notch music-making in a crazy range of styles and genres.



PEGGY SUE ROZELL with "Wayfaring Stranger" by Trace Adkins.

Well done, gentlemen!

And congrats to all the contestants. Whether or not they came away with the title, they came away with experience, memories, and new friends. We're already looking forward to Brandon Idol 2024. See you next year!



IRENE SIMONS WITH "You Say" by Lauren Daigle.



VENUS DIAMONDIS WITH "Bound to You" by Christina Aguilera.



RACHEL SPELLMAN WITH "Daddy Lessons" by Beyonce.

Thanks Mom!

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Calendar of events

May

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Come to Brandon Town Hall for Youth classes at 5 p.m., and adult classes at 6 p.m. Beginners and spectators welcome. Visit www.aikidovermont.org for more information, including fees.

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 (hzfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

Drop in from 5:30–7:00 p.m., and bring your projects to work on.

Wednesdays

Drop-In Tech Help at the Brandon Free Public Library

Drop in from 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. with your tech issues—not sure how to set up email on your phone or how to rent an audiobook? We can help.

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 Rossigg 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 Conscious, 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 you 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

Meditation Group at the Brandon Free Public Library

From 12:30–1:30 p.m. join neighbors for quiet meditation led by Kerrie Quinn.

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join Ariana at 11:00 a.m. for a story and a craft. Age 7 and under recommended. Stay for a cup of coffee!

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."

Wednesday 10th

Brandon Free Public Library Grief Group with Becki Lund of La Dimora

A monthly drop-in group for discussing grief of all kinds. From 5:30–7:00 p.m.



Big Truck May 13th from

Where: School St. Shoreham (Shoreham Elementary)
 What: Shoreham Fire Department Open House 9 - 1pm
 Shoreham Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 8 - 10am
 Congregational Church Refreshments - 1pm
 Shoreham Athletic Department Kids Games 9 - 10am
 BIG TRUCKS 9 - 1pm



Audubon De

All levels of birding experience are welcome. Bring water and a snack, binoculars, cameras, field guides, if you have them. Slow pace opportunities for observing and photographing. Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon Society and Slate Valley Trails.

Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jptilley50@gmail.com (preferred method) 802-598-2583, evenings

Saturday 20th

A Passion for Bells—Shoreham

Shoreham resident Judy Blake will highlight her lifelong passion for collecting bells at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 in the Fellowship Hall of the Shoreham Congregational Church. Judy's collection of over 5000 bells is displayed in her Shoreham Bell Museum, and she knows the history behind almost all of them. The bells are made of materials like pewter, glass, crystal, bronze, brass, clay, wood, and straw. Bells can be used on animals, in homes or schools or work places, as jewelry or toys. Bells can depict people, animals, buildings, or other objects.

A long-time member of the American Bell Association, Judy will bring a sample of bells to this presentation. Some of them can be handled and rung by those present, and some are rare and only for viewing. This event is free and open to all ages.



Day in Shoreham

8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Come check out some neat trucks, tractors, race cars and more!! There will be a Basket Raffle and Bake Sale to fundraise for the A.R.K. Child Care at Whiting Playground improvements.

Sponsors: A.R.K. Child Care, A.R.K. After School Program at Shoreham, Shoreham Athletic Department, Shoreham Fire Department, Shoreham Congregational Church, plus more!

Delaney Woods Bird Walk

May 30

8pm. Enter Delaney Cross Road off North Street in Wells, a cross from the Lakeside Park, and look for the parking area on the right. Meet at 7:30 am. Easy to Moderate terrain, 3.4 miles.



Silent Movie series to return to Brandon Town Hall

BRANDON—Classics from the silent film era return to the big screen this May at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, which will host another season of vintage cinema with live music.

First up is Charlie Chaplin in 'The Pilgrim' (1923), a farce in which the Little Tramp plays an escaped prisoner forced to masquerade as a minister. The film screens on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

Admission is free; donations are welcome to help support ongoing Town Hall renovation efforts.

Live music for each silent film program will be provided by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based performer and composer who specializes in scoring and presenting silent films.

The clergy, Westerns, child discipline and baking are among sources of laughter in The Little Tramp's last-ever non-feature-length movie, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

'The Pilgrim,' which runs about 40 minutes, will be preceded by 'The Cook' (1918), a short comedy featuring Fatty Arbuckle and Buster Keaton.

The screening of 'The Pilgrim' and 'The Cook' provides local audiences the opportunity to experience silent film as it was intended to be shown: on the big screen, in restored prints, with live music, and with an audience.

In accompanying films live, Rapsis uses a digital synthesizer to recreate the texture of the full orchestra. He improvises the music in real time, as the movie is shown.

"It's a real treat to return to Brandon for another season of great silent film," Rapsis said. "If you've never seen one of these movies in a theater, check it out. These films were the pop culture of their day, and retain their ability to hold an audience and deliver a great time at the movies."

It's the 12th year of the popular silent film series, which gives residents and visitors a chance to see great movies from the pioneering days of cinema as they were meant to be shown—on the big screen, with an audience, and accompanied by live music.

Screenings are held once a month, generally on Saturday nights starting in May and running through November. Admission is free; donations are encouraged, with proceeds to benefit the Town Hall's ongoing restoration.

Over the years, silent film donations have helped support projects including handicapped access to the 19th century building, renovating the bathrooms, and restoring the structure's original slate roof.

The screening of 'The Pilgrim' is sponsored by Bill and Kathy Mathis in memory of Maxine Thurston.

Other films in this year's Brandon



Town Hall silent film series include:

- Saturday, June 3, 7 p.m.: 'The Temptress' (1926) 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. Sponsored by Gary and Nancy Meffe.

- Saturday, July 15, 7 p.m.: 'The General' (1926) starring Buster Keaton. Buster's Civil War-era masterpiece tells the story of a Confederate railroad engineer whose train is hijacked by Northern spies. One of the great movies of any era! Sponsored by Gary and Nancy Meffe; Ben and Claudette Lawton; Bertram D. Coolidge; Frank and Ettie Spezzano; Ronald, Carolyn, and Ricky Hayes; and Hayes Pallets.

- Friday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.: 'The Ten Commandments' (1923) directed by Cecil B. DeMille. Long before Charlton Heston played Moses in Technicolor, director Cecil B. DeMille filmed this silent blockbuster on a grand scale. Many say it surpasses the remake—see for yourself as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the film's original release. Sponsored by Bruce Ness and Nancy Spaulding-Ness.

- Saturday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.: 'The Freshman' (1925) starring Harold Lloyd, Jobyna Ralston. We welcome football season with Harold Lloyd's blockbuster hit about a college boy who dreams of gridiron greatness. One of Lloyd's all-time best! Sponsored by Frank Mazza and Linda Zaragoza; Kathy and Wayne Rausenberger; Edward Loedding and Dorothy Leysath.

- Saturday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.: 'My Best Girl' (1926) starring Mary Pickford, Charles 'Buddy' Rogers. In a big city

department store, romance blossoms between a humble stockroom clerk and the store owner's son—who is already engaged! A sparkling "rich man, poor girl" romantic comedy from 1927 starring screen icon Mary Pickford and Charles 'Buddy' Rogers, her future real-life husband. Sponsored by Harold and Jean Somerset; Fyles Brothers, Inc.; and Jeanette Devino.

- Friday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.: 'The Cat and the Canary' (1927). Can a group of distant relatives survive the night in a haunted house to learn the secret of a madman's will? Find out in the original Gothic thriller from silent-film director Paul Leni. Just in time for Halloween, a movie filled with deep shadows, dark secrets, and a surprisingly timeless mix of humor and horror that will keep you guessing. Sponsored by Pam and Steve Douglass.

- Saturday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.: 'The Big Parade' (1925) starring John Gilbert. We salute Veterans Day with this sweeping saga about U.S. doughboys signing up and shipping off to France in 1917, where they face experiences that will change their lives forever—if they return. MGM blockbuster directed by King Vidor; one of the biggest box office triumphs of the silent era. Sponsored by Donald and Dolores Furnari; Jeanette Devino; and Lorie Byrom.

See Charlie Chaplin in the uproarious farce 'The Pilgrim' (1923) on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

For more about the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.

Our Town: A Mid-Century check-in with Brandon

BY JANET MONDLAK

BRANDON—Exactly 50 years ago, way back in 1973, the Brandon League of Women Voters published a nifty booklet called “Brandon – Our Town.” I’m sure a percentage of readers were living in Brandon at this time, but I would venture to say that most of you were either too young to think about your community or were not yet living here.

1973 is at the tail end of the “mid-century” era, usually thought of in terms of design and style. So, what did it mean in terms of community and lifestyle? What was happening in the 1970s?

This little 40-page, 5-1/2 x 8-1/2” booklet tells us much about the life and times of Brandonites. Included is a synopsis of history, present-day characteristics, community life, government, finances, education, public health and safety, the library, senior citizens, day care, recreation, the Brandon Training School, fire signals, and a business directory. If we simulated this treasure trove of information today, what would we include? What is important to us? What do we value as a society?

Here are some Brandon stats from 50 years ago:

- Population: 3697
- Police Department: Chief and 2 Patrolmen; 2 cruisers
- Fire Department: 40 men; two fire pumper trucks and a van
- Brandon Area Rescue Squad:

57 men and women; two ambulances

· Brandon Public Library: 29,000 books, 56 periodicals, over 500 circulating records

· Brandon Training School: 485 residential students in Brandon (no mention of number of employees)

· Newspaper: Dateline Brandon

· Fire signals throughout Brandon and Forest Dale: 40. I’m sure the only one the kids cared about was signal 6 – no school.

Town governance has changed little in the last 50 years, especially at the top hierarchy. I would consider it an indication of a well-functioning town that our former town fathers and mothers established successfully. We are still governed by Selectmen, although we now call them Selectboard members. We have a town manager, highway foreman, and police officers, all outlined in the flow chart. Some of the volunteer appointed positions have been dissolved as life changed, such as town constables, listers, and a town grand juror.

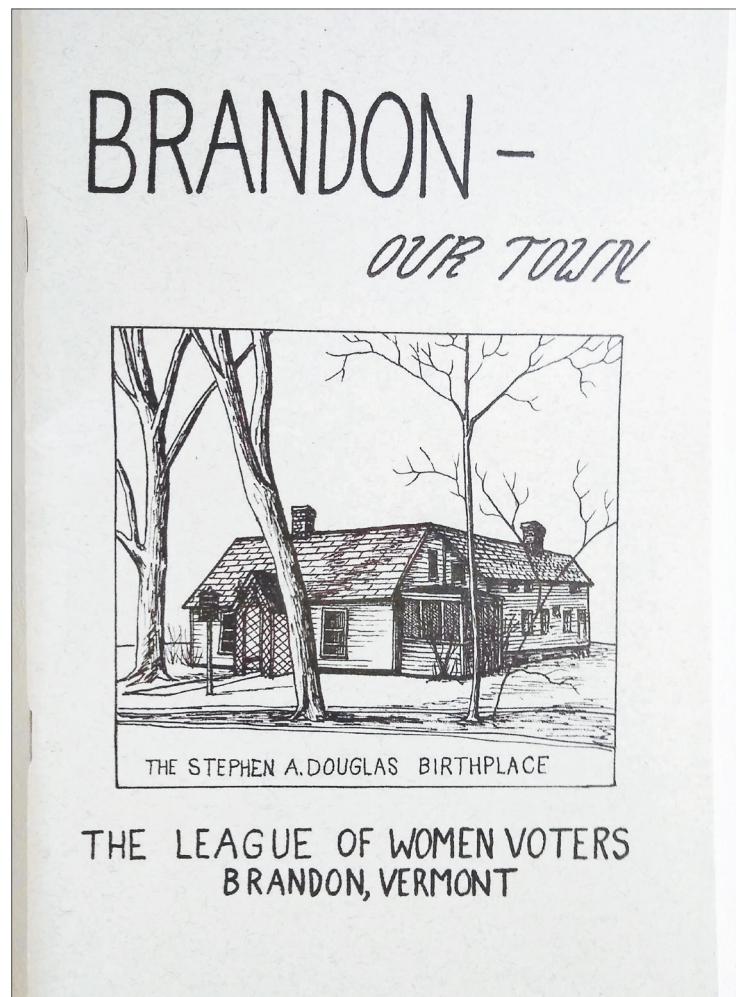
The Community Life page names 40 clubs and organizations. Reading through the list, I would venture to guess that half or more are no longer in existence. Who out there remembers the High Pond Ski Club? That was a popular one. The town had its own Garden Club and Historical Society, which are no longer in existence. But the good news is that those functions are being

performed by others: Sarah Patis and her team of gardeners and the Brandon Museum, respectively.

We had a Future Farmers of America chapter and one from the Future Homemakers of America. We had the Neshobe Grange and the Neshobe Sportsman Club, which was specified in the booklet as (Snow Mobilers). Each of the churches in town had a number of clubs or associations for their members. Not only are most of the church clubs not in existence, some of the churches have been dissolved also. The last one I’ll mention is the publishers of this little book I’ve been reading: the Brandon League of Women Voters.

I would say that the most radical changes in the 05733 have been in Brandon’s business community. No surprise about that. The internet and the growth of big box stores have probably impacted more small-town business communities in our country than any other factors. And while very different than 50 years ago, it is pleasing to note that Brandon’s downtown and business community today is still robust.

Pondering how 50 years ago, our town, with a slightly smaller population than we have today, was able to sustain four car-sales businesses and 8 service stations or garages, takes some thought. I can’t imagine that households had more cars back then than they do now. Being in the antiques business, I marvel at the



THE BRANDON LEAGUE of Women Voters published this booklet in 1973. It's chock full of information about Brandon 50 years ago and gives us a glimpse into what life was like here half a century ago.

Photos by Janet Mondlak

listing of nine antique shops. Who was buying all those old things? We had seven realtors and seven insurance agencies. That seems like a lot of real

estate being bought, sold, and insured. There were even eight grocery stores and four restaurants – there was clearly a wide
(See Our Town, Page 15)

Restaurant *guide*

Robert's
Café Provence
From Provence to You
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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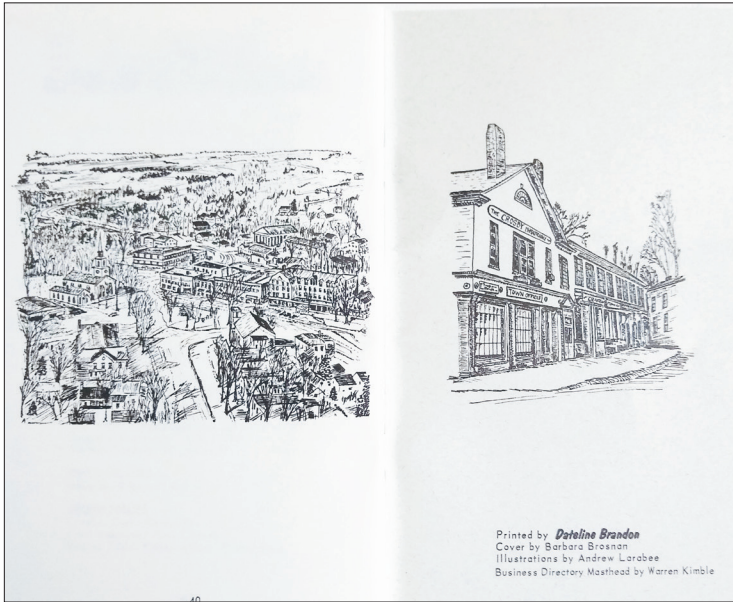
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Call 802 236-4662, or email george@brandonreporter.com for more information

Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



Mother's Day in 'The Reporter'



Printed by Darlene Brandon
Cover by Barbara Bronson
Illustrations by Andrew Larrabee
Business Directory Masthead by Warren Kimble

THESE ILLUSTRATIONS BY Andrew Larrabee are both strange and familiar. Most of these buildings still stand but their occupants are mostly different now.

Our Town

(Continued from Page 14)

selection of food available. Sadly enough, there were also eight manufacturing businesses and

still call Brandon home today. I did not include businesses that might still be here in some form but have been sold to an "outside" company (like First Brandon National Bank). However, I did include businesses that might not have the same owner today as in 1973, but that are still locally owned: Kudos to Ken Mohan, McDonough's Garage, Sheila's Hair Styling, Blue Seal, Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon Inn, Brandon Motor Lodge, Crosby Lawnmower Service, New England Woodcraft, Whittaker Real Estate, and Wood's Market.

we all know what happened to that industry in small towns everywhere.

Here's a shoutout to all the businesses that were in existence in Brandon 50 years ago that

Look around "Our Town." What will it look like in 50 years? 2023 will be here before we know it!

PRESENT DAY CHARACTERISTICS

Brandon is an attractive small town of 3697 inhabitants, centering on a handsome town park with radiating tree-lined streets. Its secondary population center is in the village of Forest Dale, three miles away. Both the Neshobe River and Otter Creek flow thru the town. Its position, sheltered by mountains and foothills on three sides, has given it favorable topography for farming and lumbering and the valley is dotted by farms which raise beef and dairy cattle, sheep, grain, apples and vegetables. The town, which is midway between Rutland and Middlebury, is the shopping center purveying a variety of goods and services for the inhabitants of the surrounding area.

Although many residents commute to neighboring communities to work, Brandon has a number of small industries, as well as shops which provide employment for her population. In addition, the home office of the Ayrshire Breeders Association is located here and the Brandon Training School, a state institution for the mentally retarded, is just north of the village.

Brandon's location among the lakes (Dunmore, Bomoseen, and Hortonia) and several major ski areas, has made it a popular resort for summer, winter, and the autumn foliage season. There are comfortable motels, inns and camping grounds as well as vacation homes. There are also many restaurants, antique and gift shops as well as other facilities for vacationists.

Among other residents is a relatively large group of retired persons who have come to enjoy the pleasant life of a rural community and who contribute so much to it.



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

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



Sue Wetmore recognizes the woman in the middle shaking hands as Eleanor Young, a long time supporter of our library and the Friends book sales.

Terry Ferson recognizes the woman on the left as Marge Charbonneau of Brandon.

Brud Leedom from Sudbury identified the woman in the dark top as Marge Charbonneau and the woman in the center in white top is Dr. Eleanor Young.

Kristen Varian recognizes her family in this Nativity scene. The holy family is Kristen Varian as Mary and her husband, Barry Varian as Joseph, their son Lee as the shepherd (1 1/2 yrs) and their son Karl (6 months) as baby Jesus. She believes the angel is Crista Oberkirch. Although her portrayal of Mary is a bit tired and crabby looking, it was actually a wonderful experience and a very happy memory.



Terry Ferson was also able to recognize someone in this photo of people working on a Habitat for Humanity house that they built just above the Junction Store. The man farthest in the back (with sunglasses) is Earl Thomsen of Brandon.



Terry Ferson called in to identify the man on the far left with a white T-shirt as Lorelard Delancey, but most folks knew him as "Bud". He used to be an electrician and lived in Brandon.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Fathers
9. Wine grape
14. Al Bundy's wife
15. Organic compound
16. Venezuelan state
17. Interest term
18. Experts
20. Central cores of stems
22. Smooth and glossy
23. One-time S. Korean city
24. One from Damascus
28. Short message at the end of an email
29. It cools your home
30. Oh, God!
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Men
37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in steps
41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
42. The Great Lake State
43. Dog-__: to mark a page
44. Stop moving
46. Ancient Dead Sea region
49. Of I
50. Clerical vestment
51. Songs sung to a lover
55. Charges
58. Popular design program manufacturer
59. Where to park a boat
60. One who values reason
64. Slang for cigarette
65. Sailboats
66. Actress Zellweger
67. Screen material
68. Country music legend Haggard
69. Puts together in time
70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
2. Philly's rail service
3. Leaves a place
4. No longer be a part in
5. Guitar players use them
6. Cease to exist
7. General's assistant (abbr.)
8. Shaking of the earth
9. Strong winds
10. For each one
11. A bog
12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
13. Affirmative
19. Pie ___ mode
21. Nonclerical
24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
25. Learning environment
26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. Bring out or develop
31. Shows up
32. Theatrical device
34. Loads
35. Popular Hollywood alien
36. Distinguishes
40. College dorm worker
41. Secondary or explanatory title
45. Resembling wings
47. One who delivers a speech
48. In the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Airborne (abbr.)
54. Beloveds
56. Ordain
57. Breed of small cattle
59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They ___
62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
63. A place to stay

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

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

April Showers Bring May Kittens!

Did you know that Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) takes in about 400 kittens each year? As it starts to get warmer, the kittens will be here before we know it! Please help RCHS take care of our many new kitten arrivals this season. May 16th-20th we will be hosting a Kitten Shower! If you would like to shop online, you can check out our Amazon "Kitten Shower" wish list under "Ways to Give" at rchsvt.org, and your gifts will be shipped directly to RCHS. If you'd like to shop locally, you can also bring supplies by the shelter! Some of the items we need include: KMR kitten formula, chicken or turkey baby food (Gerber brand), cat beds and toys, pate canned kitten food, dry kitten food, small animal heating pads, fleece blankets, and monetary donations and/or gift cards to Chewy or local pet food stores. For more information, please call the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700, or e-mail Adoptions@rchsvt.org. Thank you for helping us take care of the kittens!

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



MEET RED - 16-MONTHS-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK MIX. RED. 57 LBS.

They call dogs "man's best friend," and Red sure fits that. Red is currently in a foster home, so we are learning a lot about him. He is quick to pick up on new things and wants to please. He doesn't seem to like other dogs, and due to his prey drive, would not be suitable for a home with cats or other small animals. He would be happiest in a home without a lot of new people coming and going as he does get worked up by new interactions. When he gets excited, he romps around like a puppy and sometimes forgets his size, so he may not be a good fit for a home with kids. Red is looking for an outdoorsy and active person to go on fun adventures with, and to spend lazy afternoons on the porch just watching the world.

MEET OLIVER - 10-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. GREY AND WHITE. 9.4 LBS.

This beautiful boy is looking for a special person. Although he is 10 years young, he is as sweet as they come with lots of love to give! He is a little underweight with some muscle loss, and because of his age, he does have severe gingivitis. So, he may need a dental in the future. We also found a slight heart murmur, but it hasn't changed his quality of life. Oliver needs a home where he can enjoy afternoon naps with his person, and live out his golden years. If Oliver sounds like the cat you've been looking for, please stop by to meet him, or call us at 802-483-6700.



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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Here are some new Large Print books donated by Brenda Whittaker
Where Are The Children Now? by Mary Higgins Clark, donated in memory of Marion C. Sawyer

In this sequel to "Where are the Children?" Nancy Harmon's daughter Melissa has recently married a man whose first wife died tragically, leaving him and their young daughter, Riley, behind. While Melissa and her brother, Mike, help Nancy relocate from Cape Cod to the equally idyllic Hamptons, Melissa's new step-daughter goes missing. Drawing on the experience of their own abduction, Melissa and Mike race to find Riley to save her from the trauma they still struggle with.

Simply Lies by David Baldacci, donated in memory of Ann Livak

Mickey Gibson, single mother and former detective, leads a hectic life juggling the demands of children with her job working for an investigation company that hunts down wealthy tax cheats. When Mickey gets a call from a colleague to investigate a delinquent client, a series of events leads to Gibson becoming a prime suspect in a murder. Before long, Gibson is locked in a battle of wits with a brilliant woman with no name, a hidden past, and unknown motive, a woman whose

end game is as mysterious as it is deadly.

Strawberry Lane by Jodi Thomas, donated in memory of Marie Butterfield

When Rusty O'Sullivan wrecks his car on the same road where Starri Knight's parents died twenty-years early, she thinks it must be fate that's brought them together. Rusty, a loner, discovers he's the beneficiary of an inheritance from a father he never knew, bringing him the family he's never had. It's a good thing he's got new friends to help him with life's surprises.

A Novel Proposal by Denise Hunter, donated in memory of "Tish" Holmes Washburn Morris

When western novelist Sadie Goodwin is pressured to write a romance novel to rescue her lackluster sales, she accepts an invitation to hole up at her friend's beach duplex for the summer and devote herself to this task. But she soon finds ways to procrastinate—like getting to know the beach regulars and installing a Little Free Library on the property. She even attempts conversation with Sam Ford, the frustratingly stubborn neighbor on the other side of the duplex. Things take an unexpected turn when Sadie finds an abandoned novel with a secret compartment inside the little library—with an



engagement ring tucked inside. Now, locating the ring's owner becomes the perfect way to put off writing that romance. When Sadie draws a reluctant Sam into her mission, she finds he just might make the perfect hero for her romance novel—or maybe even her heart.

Seven Girls Gone by Allison Brennan, donated in memory of Mary Blackmer

Over three years, seven women have gone missing after leaving the Magnolia Inn, eventually turning up dead in the small bayou town of St. Augustine, Louisiana. Police detective Beau Hebert is the only one who seems to care, but with every witness quickly silenced and a corrupt police department set on keeping the cases unsolved, Beau's investigation stalls at every turn. With nobody else to trust, Beau calls in a favor from his friend on the FBI's Mobile Response Team. While LAPD detective Kara Quinn works undercover to dig into the women's murders and team leader Matt Costa officially investigates the in-custody death of a witness, Beau might finally have a chance at solving the case. But in a town where everyone knows everyone, talking gets you killed, and it's going to take the entire team working around the clock to unravel the truth.

A week of overdoses and domestic disturbances

May 1

• Brandon Police Department (BPD) received a hang-up 911 call from a residence on Fox Road. The call was determined to be a landline issue.

May 2

• BPD responded to a late-night burglary at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. A window was smashed and merchandise was stolen. Vermont State Police assisted at the scene. Please see BPD's press release in this issue for further details and a request for assistance.

• BPD received an after-hours call about a man sleeping in the vestibule of an apartment building in Conant Square. The man was awakened by a tenant and left without incident.

• BPD received a call from a resident of Park Street who reported that she had been the victim of online fraud in which a man had falsely represented himself to be an employee of her bank in order to obtain personal information about her accounts. BPD strongly encourages anyone who receives communication from an unknown person representing themselves as an employee of their bank or credit card company to cut off communication with that person and call the institution directly. This type of fraud is becoming very common.

• BPD responded to a call from Forest Dale Cemetery

Brandon Police Report

for a report of an unconscious male. Responding officers were able to locate the man and determine, from information provided by a family member on scene, that he had overdosed on heroin. The officers administered Narcan to no effect. The man was transported by Brandon Rescue to Rutland Hospital.

May 3

• BPD responded to a two-car crash with injuries at the intersection of Franklin Street and Country Club Road. Officers determined that one car rear-ended the other because of driver inattention. The driver at fault sustained minor injuries while the passengers in the other car were not harmed. A ticket was issued to the driver at fault for Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle and for Driving Without a Seat Belt.

• Traffic enforcement on North Street. No violations observed.

• BPD responded to a report of domestic assault on Franklin Street. A juvenile was taken into custody and charged with misdemeanor Domestic Assault. The juvenile was subsequently ordered into DCF custody.

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

JOIN US FOR OUR GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY



SUNDAY, JUNE 4th at 2PM
 Rain or shine at 4 Franklin Street

Help us celebrate this monumental step forward for the library!

DID YOU KNOW? Botanist Melissa Green from the Forest Service will be presenting "Gardening for Pollinators" at the library on 5/18 from 5:30-7 pm. Find out how you can contribute to the pollinator pathway by planting a native garden. Free to attend!

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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TICKETS @ [IMAGINEZEROFESTIVAL.COM](https://www.imaginezerofestival.com)
 USE BRIZ PROMO CODE FOR \$25 OFF FULL PRICE TICKET

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

May 4

- BPD conducted a wellness check at the request of the subject's sister. The responding officer was able to talk with the subject and her daughter. It was agreed that the daughter would reach out to her mother's counselor for assistance.
- A homeowner on Frog Hollow Road called BPD to report trespassers and ATVs/dirt bikes racing on his road. The complainant later called back to report that the trespasser was in fact a surveyor. The information about the vehicles racing on the road was forwarded to patrol force to address as an ongoing problem.
- Motor vehicle stop for speeding on Forest Dale Road. Warning issued.
- Motor vehicle stop for speeding on Forest Dale Road. Warning issued
- Officers responded to a residence on Park Street for a report of an out-of-control juvenile. The juvenile attempted to swallow a sharpened piece of plastic and a metal tack in the presence of the officer. The

juvenile was not harmed and was voluntarily transported by EMS to the hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

May 5

- A concerned parent on Franklin Street reported that a dark-colored car had passed a school bus that was boarding children. The car's plates were taken and an investigation is being conducted to find the driver.
- A non-reportable car collision occurred in the parking lot of Otter Valley High School. No injuries were reported.
- BPD received a call from someone in North Carolina who reported that he had been contacted by someone via Facebook who claimed to be a Brandon Police officer. The caller was advised that no officer by that name has ever worked for BPD and to cease communication with that Facebook account.
- Traffic stop conducted on Franklin Street for speeding. Driver was issued a written warning.
- Foot patrol conducted on Center Street.

May 6

- BPD received a report from a residence on McConnell Road that an intoxicated woman had left the home with her young child. The woman was located by Middlebury Police and not found to be intoxicated. Neither the woman nor her child appeared to be in distress. An outside agency was contacted per procedure.
- Report received of underage drinking by a parent to their juvenile child at the Brandon Motor Lodge on Franklin Street. A diversion ticket was issued to the juvenile and a ticket was issued to the parent for providing alcohol to a minor.
- VIN verification conducted on Arnold District Road.
- Motor vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Driver was issued written warning for both speeding and display of plates.
- BPD responded to a report of a family fight at a residence on Churchill Road. Upon investigation, John H. Gibbud, 39, of Brandon was arrested and charged with domestic assault. He was later released

on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on May 8, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. for arraignment.

- BPD responded to reports of a man slumped over the wheel of his car with drugs in his hand in the vicinity of Grove Street.

May 7

- A restraining order was served on Forest Dale Road.
- An officer responded to a report of larceny at Neshobe Golf Club on Town Farm Road. The incident was captured on surveillance cameras and is under investigation.

• Motor vehicle stop for speeding on Franklin Street. Ticket issued to operator.

- Officers assistance Brandon Area Rescue at a medical call on Richmond Road.
- Officers responded to a motor-vehicle crash on North Birch Hill Road. Upon further investigation, Adam Sears, 38, of Whiting was arrested on suspicion of DUI-alcohol. Sears was processed and then released on citation to appear in Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on May 22, 2023 for arraignment.
- /BPD conducted a property watch at Mallory's Automotive on Forest Dale Road.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23–Aug. 23
Important lessons about balance could come your way soon, Leo. You need to find that happy medium between work and home responsibilities.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22
Events this week could leave you a little dazed and bewildered, Virgo. Nothing seems to be going to plan and that could get on your nerves. Figure out a way to de-stress.

ARIES March 21–April 20
Aries, try to rectify an imbalance in a relationship with another person close to you this week. It's never too late to make amends, and the rewards are fully worth it.

TAURUS April 21–May 21
Taurus, friction can be overcome with patience and perseverance. Take an even-keeled approach and give things time to simmer. Change will come.

GEMINI May 22–June 21
The brighter you shine, the more things will come your way this week, Gemini. Wear a big smile on your face and get out into the thick of things.

CANCER June 22–July 22
Cancer, you may have to change your way of thinking to get on the same wavelength as some others this week. Be open-minded to new experiences.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20
Others may be begging for your attention, Capricorn. But this week is all about self-healing for you. Focus inward to bring about any personal change you desire.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18
You can accomplish a great deal when you happen to get moving, Aquarius. This week the struggle may be finding the motivation to take the first step.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20
Pisces, take a break from reality by reading a good fantasy book, watching a movie or enjoying a stage show. You can use the respite.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- May 11 Martha Graham, choreographer and dancer (d)
- May 12 Katharine Hepburn, actor (d)
- May 13 Stephen Colbert, The Late Show host (59)
- May 14 Cate Blanchett, actor (54)
- May 15 Jasper Johns, artist (93)
- May 16 Adrienne Rich, poet (d)
- May 17 Taj Mahal, blues musician (81)

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Goshen Historical Society presents WWII history



The Goshen Historical Society remembered WWII at Brandon American Legion on Sunday. They presented artifacts, letters, and even model tanks, to relate the experiences of local folks and their families. The Otter Valley Jazz Band, led by Pat Roberts, played a short, tight set of 1940s pieces. One could feel the emotion as people retold their family stories.



MEMBERS OF THE Goshen Historical Society (l to r): Madine Brown Reed, Galina Chernaya, Marci Hayes, Abigail Hayes, Barbara Brown, Kathy Mathis, Erin Van Auken, Ken Brown. In the frame is a list of Goshen residents who served in WWII.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER wartime materials loaned by Kathy Mathis in honor of her father's service in WWII.



BAG kicks off spring with a new show

THE BRANDON ARTISTS Guild (BAG) welcomed 4 new artists and 1 returning one to the gallery last Friday evening. The 4 new artists are Brian Hewitt (painting), Garrett Sadler (glass), Lynn Austin (painting and pastel), and Guy Rossi (woodworking). Liza Myers, who was a longtime member has returned with her paintings after several years away. Guy Rossi is featured here standing next to his work. BAG Jury chair Ashley Wolff said "We had a strong field to choose from. We were looking for something different and we found it."

Photos by Steven Jupiter





HADEN LAFOND AND Colleen Unzelman in the prologue of Walking Stick Theater's production of "Almost, Maine" at Otter Valley High School. The play featured a series of vignettes about love, both lost and found. Photos by Steven Jupiter

Walking Stick Theater performs 'Math' & 'Almost, Maine'

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theater put on its last shows of the year last Thursday and Friday: a double bill of "Math" by Don Zolidis and "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani.

The two plays took the troupe in very different directions, allowing its members to play satiric comedy and heartfelt drama.

In "Math," Elyse Singh plays Dahlia, a smart yet unmotivated student who believes that algebra is a form of "punishment for all eternity." She and the rest of her classmates—with the exception of college-obsessed Jace (Emil Dardozzi)—loudly and persistently insist that algebra is pointless, "an elaborate lie made up by dead people."

At home, Dahlia shares her frustrations with her parents. Her mother (a fretful Alyssa Raymond) initially tries to help Dahlia with her algebra homework but quickly comes to agree that the concept of variables in algebra just doesn't add up: "You can't just decide to be a different number when you feel like it. It's unnatural." And her father (a blustery Brendan McLoughlin) asks the profound question: "Why are there letters next to numbers?"

Initially, Dahlia can't believe her good luck; her parents think algebra is just as useless as she does. In fact, her father goes so far as to run for school board in order to put an end to all algebra education. Dahlia quickly regrets drawing her parents into

her contempt for algebra when the school hires monitors to make sure that her math teacher (a beleaguered Jordan Bertrand) doesn't even so much as utter "x" or "y." A furtive attempt by the kids to teach themselves algebra ends equally badly. Dahlia has had enough.

Meanwhile, Dahlia's father takes the crusade to Washington, D.C., hopping on a train to go lobby Congress to pass a federal ban on algebra. Dahlia resolves to end the madness and uses algebra to figure out how fast another train would have to travel so that she could intercept her father in Washington before he has a chance to eradicate algebra for good.

Dahlia's ironically successful use of algebra allows her to confront her father and convince him to end his crusade. She feels as if she's saved human civilization from impending doom. As she walks away, glowing with newfound love for algebra, her mother calls her father and the audience learns that the whole crazy mess had been a reverse-psychology scheme between parents and school to teach kids to appreciate algebra after all.

It was a cute show with some good laughs and some timely satire of "science deniers." The cast was game and clearly having fun. Ms. Singh was especially winning as Dahlia, playing the part with convincing exasperation.

The second play was "Almost, Maine," a collection of short

vignettes that all take place in a small town in Maine where the aurora borealis appears to have magical powers and everyone seems to be looking for love, sometimes finding it and sometimes not. The series of mini-plays gave pretty much the entire Walking Stick ensemble a chance to be a lead for a few minutes at least.

The play starts off with Pete and Ginette (Haden Lafond and Colleen Unzelman) sitting on a bench under a starry sky. Pete notes that on a sphere, like Earth, two people sitting next to each other can be seen as supremely distant if one measures the long way around. Ginette then begins to walk away, traveling the circumference of the Earth in order

to get closer to the person right by her side. It symbolizes well the rest of the play, where the characters try (and sometimes fail) to get closer to other humans.

Each little one-act vignette had a clever and satisfying twist that seemed to be triggered by the flash of the aurora borealis in (See *Walking Stick Theater*, Page 23)



BRENDAN MCLOUGHLIN AS a devious father trying to get his daughter (Elyse Singh in the vest and orange shirt at right) to appreciate algebra. In the end, his scheme pays off.

Walking Stick Theater

(Continued from Page 22)
the night sky.

In “Her Heart,” Jaden Grace and Eliza Norford played East and Glory, respectively a repairman and a woman with a broken heart who wanders into his yard.

In “Sad and Glad,” Ian Miner and Cebelle Hull were Jimmy and Sandrine, former lovers who run into each other at the restaurant where Sandrine is holding her bachelorette party. Jimmy wishes her well, but his pain is apparent. The aurora sparks a glimmer of hope as the waitress (Dani Polli) seems to take a shine to the despondent Jimmy.

“This Hurts” featured Chloe Derepentiny and Dillon Ladd as Marvalyn and Steve, neighbors in an apartment building who manage to waken each other’s deadened feelings in the laundry room. An ironing board provided some lovely physical comedy from the two leads as well as the “aha” moment that let the audience know the characters were going to turn out fine.

“Getting It Back” had Morgan White and Calvin Ladd as Gayle and Lendall, a couple experiencing a rupture in their relationship that manifests in literal garbage

bags full of love that Gayle insists on returning to Lendall. When she demands her love back from him in return, she finds herself reconsidering everything as she looks in the bag he hands her.

Pajua Gamba and Milo Piovano played best friends Deena and Shelly in “They Fell,” the origin story of a romantic relationship that neither of them was able to express until the aurora made them literally fall for each other.

“Where It Went” found Nate Gaisert and Sally O’Brien as Phil and Marci, a married couple having a less-than-wonderful anniversary at a skating rink. As much as they’ve tried over the years, they just can’t connect. Finally, the other shoe literally drops and they accept where their relationship is headed.

In “Story of Hope,” Adia Polli and Andrew Kenyon play Hope and Daniel in a tale of missed opportunity. Hope has come to tell Daniel that she’s finally ready to accept his marriage proposal, only to find that she no longer recognizes him and that love doesn’t always wait for folks to make up their minds.

Sophie Moore and Bryce Connaughton played Rhonda and

Dave in “Seeing the Thing,” about a friendship that Dave is determined to turn romantic through a painting he gives to Rhonda, who has done everything in her power to keep things platonic. When she “can’t see” what he’s painted for her, he demonstrates it physically and Rhonda’s emotional glacier begins to melt. Vermonters will appreciate the humor in their multiple layers of winter clothing.

The show ended with Ginette finally completing her circumnavigation of the globe, ending up back in Pete’s arms, having gone the long way around to find love.

Whereas “Math” was broadly funny, with some sharp satire of current politics, “Almost, Maine” had some moments of genuine feeling between the characters. The entire cast acted beyond their years, conveying a maturity that their own life experience probably hasn’t yet provided. It was a wise choice by director Jeffrey Hull to give his students, especially his graduating seniors, the chance to play something with both depth and humor.

Masons

(Continued from Page 1)
sonry, a relationship that began in 1973 and has entailed many important offices within the organization.

One colleague related with admiration that Mr. Douglas’s interest in others was such that he was able to recall the colleague’s wife’s name at a campaign event even though Mr. Douglas had met her only once, four years earlier.

Other Masons also received milestone pins at the event.

Union Lodge’s Jim Selleck received a pin for 55 years of service to Masonry. Seth Hopkins of St. Paul’s Lodge of Brandon expressed great respect for Mr. Selleck’s dedication to the fraternity, especially for Mr. Selleck’s efforts to realize the move of Union Lodge from its previous location in Salisbury to its current location with St. Paul’s Lodge in Brandon.

Howard Grant of Union Lodge received his 60-year pin. He was Citizen of the Year in 2006. His colleagues recalled him affectionately as “head waffle and pancake maker” for the Lodge.

In an apparent departure from the usual process, Seth Hopkins of St. Paul’s Lodge asked that

the gathering adopt a tradition from other lodges: after receipt of their pins, the honorees were escorted once around the room to sustained applause from attendees.

Freemasonry has a long history in the United States, with Lodges dating back to the early 1700s in the British colonies. Union Lodge No. 2 was founded in Middlebury in 1794 and St. Paul’s Lodge was founded in Brandon in 1852. Union Lodge moved from its 1830s brick building near the Middlebury Green to Salisbury several years ago and recently moved to the building used St. Paul’s Lodge in Brandon. Union Lodge had its first meeting in Brandon in November. Each Lodge maintains its own members, officers, and meetings.

In the Lodge on Park Street Extension, the altar in the center of the room is still the same one that was used by the Lodge in the 1860s. The placement of the officers’ seats around the room is also highly symbolic: The Master’s seat, which resembles a throne, is on the east and three steps up from the floor. The Senior Warden sits in a similar seat two steps up on the west

side. The Junior Warden is on the south wall, one step up. No officer in a Lodge is ever seated on the north side, explained Cedric Tashro, the Master of Union Lodge, because sunlight never illuminated the north wall of King Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem.

Freemasonry has been the subject of much myth and lore—it’s long been said that the mysterious symbols on the back of U.S. dollar bills are Masonic in origin—but at its core it’s a fraternal organization. According to the website of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, Masons must act with honor in everything they do, believe in a Supreme Being (in any faith), and strive to make the world a better place.

Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins has been a full-member Mason since 1998, when he was a young man living in his hometown in Massachusetts.

“There were older men in my town that I greatly respected,” he said. “When I found out that they were Masons, I wanted to spend time with them as role models and joined.”

Anyone interested in learning more about Masonry should visit vtfreemasons.org.

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TOWN OF BRANDON

Notice of Public Hearing

Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

On Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 7:00PM; both In-Person at Town Hall, 1 Conant Square (ground floor) and via Zoom remote conferencing; the Brandon DRB will hold public hearings to review the following:

Application #6244 from Matthew and Marcy Cram (Applicants) and Jennifer Keeler (owners) for a Set-Back Waiver for the construction of a Single-Family residence with a porch at 121 Furnace Road (Parcel #150-20-17). This is in the Aquifer Protection District.

Application #6229 a continuation of the conditional use hearing from March DRB hearing from Matthew and Marcy Cram (Applicants) and Jennifer Keeler (owners) for the construction of a Single-Family residence with a porch at 121 Furnace Road (Parcel #150-20-17).

Hearing an Appeal of the Zoning Administrators Determination of zoning compliance of past zoning permits for the structure(s) at 12-14 Conant Square (Parcel # 22-51-22.02) by Linda Grace of 3 Briggs Lane.

Complete copies of Hearing documents regarding these matters are available for review at the Town Office, 49 Center St. Brandon.

This Meeting & Hearing will be conducted by Zoom audio & visual program. Log on instructions are posted on Town website, Post Offices and Town Office. Interested Parties are to be registered and present testimony, or have submitted written testimony to the Town, by 7:10pm of the Hearing date or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to the VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).

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

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