

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

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\$1

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

A reminiscence of Brandon's Thomas Answering Service. It was the precursor to answering machines and voice mail.

PG. 2

## NEW OWNERS AT GOURMET PROVENCE

Matt and Carrie Lewis take ownership of the beloved bakery on June 5. Read about their plans.

PG. 3



## WELCOME THE REVEREND

Rev. Sara Rossigg was installed as the settled pastor at the Brandon Congregational Church on May 21.

PG. 8



## MEMORIAL DAY

The annual parade and flower ceremony took place on Monday.

PGS. 12-13

## BEWARE THE BEAR

Bears are prowling the area looking for food. Vermont Fish & Wildlife has some advice.

PG. 5



PG. 10



Eric Mallory stands in the bay of Mallory's Automotive in Forestdale, open again after some health issues forced him to close shop for several months. Photo by Steven Jupiter

## Eric Mallory reopens after health issues

BY STEVEN JUPITER

FORESTDALE—Eric Mallory has probably fixed your car. After 30+ years in business, he's had his head under the hood of nearly every car from Salisbury to Pittsford. But earlier this year he had to put his tools aside for a while because of health issues that required intensive treatment. Just this past week, though, he threw open the bays of his garage at Mallory's Automotive in Forestdale and welcomed back his clients.

"I had pancreatic cysts. Not cancer, but it can lead to it," he said at his shop. "I was hospitalized twice. The doctors thought they might have to take out half my pancreas, but they ended up not needing to. I have to take enzymes now to digest my food."

It's been a rough stretch lately. On top of his own health problems, he lost his father earlier

(See Mallory's Auto, Page 9)



## Memorial Day in Brandon

BRANDON REMEMBERED ITS fallen soldiers with its traditional parade of first responders, flower girls, school band, and boy scouts. Perfect weather and patriotism drew large crowds to pay respects to those who gave their lives in service to their country.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

## A tragic weekend on Brandon's roads

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer, marking the beginning of barbecue-and-beach season. But this year's holiday was marred by tragedy in Brandon. Two separate motor-vehicle accidents claimed two lives.

Around 8 p.m. on Friday, May 26, a logging truck and a pickup collided on Route 7, near Lovers Lane. Both vehicles left the pavement and ended up down an embankment on the west side of the roadway, with the logging truck on top of the pickup. The collision caused overhead electrical wires to snap and fall onto the vehicles.

The driver of the logging truck was able to escape his

vehicle, but the driver of the pickup was trapped. By the time power was cut to the fallen lines and first responders were able to get to the driver, she had already died. Police have not released the names of either driver. Brandon PD did confirm, however, that the deceased was not a resident of the Brandon area.

Just two days later, on Sunday, May 28, around 8:30 p.m., a motorcycle crashed on Union Street, just north of Twin Oaks Road. The driver had lost control of the motorcycle and went off the road. He did not survive. Brandon PD has not released the name of the deceased.

Police have not released any details as to the precise cause of (See Brandon roads, Page 7)



A COLLISION BETWEEN a logging truck and a pickup resulted in a fatality on Route 7 in Brandon on Friday, May 26. Neither the cause of the accident nor the identities of the drivers have been released. Photo by Robert Aitchison



# Blast from the past

## The Thomas Answering Service of Brandon

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Before cell phones, before pagers, and even before push-button phones, there was the rotary-dial phone. In 1961, this was the modern marvel of engineering. They allowed one to directly dial another telephone without

going through the operator. Before that invention, to make a call, you would “ring” the operator by cranking the handle. The rotary dial phone eliminated the need for a local operator, who, in Brandon, was located on the second floor over the present River Pub. However, new

technology created a new problem for the fire department: how to get the word out about a fire. Fortunately, Fire Chief Dan Trombley convinced his friend Joan Thomas to start an answering service.

From 1961 to New Year’s Eve of 1997, Joan and Bob Thomas were



JOAN AND BOB Thomas man the 30-odd phones they kept in their home for the answering service they operated in Brandon from 1961 to 1997. Before the days of answering machines and cell phones, services such as this were the only way to get through to people who weren’t around to take a call.

Photos provided



PLENTY OF FOLKS alive today can recall when rotary phones were standard equipment, before push-buttons and then cell phones made them obsolete.

fire, police, and concerned citizens with the same calm, even voice. One fellow called every weekend, early at 2 or 3 am after drinking. Joan said, “He just needed someone to talk to. After it continued, finally I had to say no.” After a late-night police call, Joan would make donuts and coffee for the officers out on the call.

Joan answered the calls about house fires, auto and other accidents, and was the coordinating center. She manned the radio for the fire, police, and rescue. There were 2 large antennas on top of their house, as well as a generator to ensure they could always be available. She had the book of license plate numbers and car owners issued by the state police. Joan got the calls about late-night fights at the local bar, LaDuke’s. She answered the police phone for folks on probation reporting in. Joan got a call from Seeley Hall saying “I didn’t do it! And neither did Tony (his brother).” Joan received this call before a crime was reported! As the Rescue Squad coordinator, sometimes she would send a squad member to the scene and another to get the rig (the ambulance).

With no beepers, Joan would have to track down her customers to deliver messages. I was a primary-care physician in this town and she could track me down anywhere! Joan would call my house and if I wasn’t there, she knew to call the hardware store, lumber yard, gift shop, or restaurant, to track me down. As I wandered through town before I got to a telephone, people would wave me down saying “Joan is looking for you!”

Bob didn’t start out as a partner in the business but it ended up as a critical part of their life together. Each day, as he returned home from his work as a builder, dinner would be ready or there would be a can of spaghetti on the counter indicating Joan had had a bad day and wouldn’t be making supper

that night. In addition to answering the phones, Bob Thomas was integral in establishing the Brandon Rescue Squad, which was necessitated when Frank Miller, the funeral director, closed his ambulance service. Bob and Dudley Berry made sure every house in town was numbered in case the state police had to respond to a 911 call at a residence on a rural road.

This is how the Thomases lived their life: “The phone could ring at any moment.” The television was in the bedroom so Joan could answer the phone without missing the program they were watching. Joan, Bob, and the 2 kids, Linda and Robbie, piled onto the bed. Bob built a porch on the north side of the house, just off the bedroom, so Joan could have some time outside while still listening for the phones to ring. They had an intercom so the phones could be heard in the kitchen as well as the basement laundry room. It was good for the dog as he was never alone. Joan took Wednesdays off with Lil Wetmore or Mimi Brown filling in. They also filled in on occasional weekends so the Thomases could attend an event. Joan and Bob hosted a Christmas party every year at their house so they could attend. For this, Joan would make 6 gallons of eggnog! And they would run out! “It was probably best that we did it at that time of night!” says Joan. When daughter Linda got sick at Otter Valley, a taxi came to get her as mom couldn’t leave the phones. There were few vacations, only 2 in Linda Balch’s memory as a child. One to Massena, NY, where they watched the boats go through the locks on the canal, and the other to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The Thomases have lived a long life. Bob and Joan were both brought up in Brandon and were married in 1955. They’re still here, living in the house Bob built back in 1955!

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the Thomas Answering Service. This was the era before beepers and cell phones. After hours, if you called the doctor, dentist, or veterinarian, you got Joan or Bob. If you called the fire department, police, or ambulance, you got Joan or Bob. If you called the bank, insurance agent, or hairdresser, you got Joan or Bob. If you called in the middle of the night, during the lunch or dinner hour, or on the weekend, you got Joan or Bob. How they did this is nothing short of amazing.

With up to 31 phones arranged on doors upon sawhorses, Joan and Bob’s bedroom was a sea of rotary dials. The phones had a special switch to turn off the ringer when the business was open. Joan insisted that businesses buy their phones so she did not need to bear the expense of a switchboard. Day and night, weekends and holidays, the phones were answered. When multiple phones rang at once, Joan would just touch the phones to see which was ringing. Rare was a full night’s sleep, even after a long hard day. While callers were generally very nice, Joan was a saint. In an emergency, she would talk to the



# Passing the baguette, Gourmet Provence under new management

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—On any given day in downtown Brandon, you'll see a steady stream of folks in and out of Gourmet Provence on Center Street, picking up their morning coffee, a sandwich for lunch, a bottle of wine, or a cake for someone's birthday. But change is in the air. After 18 years, Robert and Line Barral—who also own Café Provence just up the street—have sold the bakery to fellow Brandonites Matt and Carrie Lewis. The transfer officially takes place on June 5.

The Lewises moved to Brandon from Florida 10 years ago. Carrie worked in advertising and public relations after college and has been a nurse at Middlebury Animal Hospital for the last 8 years. She grew up working in her grandparents' Hallmark store, where she learned the importance of customer service.

Matt has an eclectic background, having worked as a sailing instructor, a carpenter, a restaurant manager, and a rock-

climbing gym manager. When he and Carrie moved to Brandon, he was working as a consultant with AT&T, a job which allowed him to work remotely. When his contract with AT&T recently came to an end, he and Carrie decided to take advantage of the chance to do something new.

As foodies, they knew they wanted to do something in that field. When an opportunity in Middlebury fell through, they realized there was something unique available practically in their own backyard: Gourmet Provence.

"I said to Matt, 'Let's do it,'" recalled Carrie in a conversation at the bakery she's about to take over. "The location is fantastic. Brandon is in an upswing. The town looks beautiful and there's a lot of new energy."

"It's a very special spot," added Matt.

They plan to retain the staff and the offerings that people have come to love and expect while adding other options, such as wood-fired pizza and artisanal

meats. They also hope to turn Gourmet Provence into an evening destination, working in sync with Red Clover Ale Company just two doors down. They'd like to expand Gourmet's range to serve that particular market, a younger crowd that appreciates artisanal food and is often looking for a place to go when other food venues in town are closed.

"We're hoping to have a point of sale right in Red Clover so people can order directly from us from there," said Carrie. "And Matt really, really loves making pizza."

"It's exciting to see the pizza blow up right in front of you," Matt laughed.

Robert and Line Barral had been looking for buyers for both the restaurant and the bakery. They recently sold the physical building that the restaurant and Center Street Bar occupy but were still looking to sell the restaurant and bakery businesses.

"We feel it's time to semi-retire and we felt they were very



MATT AND CARRIE Lewis stand in the doorway of Gourmet Provence, of which they will assume ownership on June 5.

Photo by Steven Jupiter



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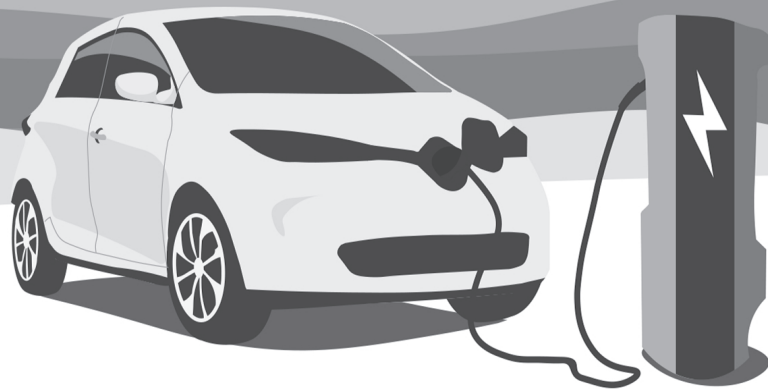
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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Essay

Compassionate Communication/Communication that Blocks Compassion

BY HILARY COLLIER

In Marshall Rosenberg's book *Nonviolent Communication*, he focuses on the concept of "life-alienating communication." This style of communication alienates us from others and only increases the divisions that already exist among us. Rosenberg focuses on a few specific examples of "life-alienating communication" and how easy it is to fall into the traps of judgment and comparison when we communicate with others. Understanding these pitfalls is also vitally important to being aware of how we communicate with students in the classroom.

Moralistic judgments are one way that we assess other people and their behaviors. In a classroom environment, it is easy to give accolades to the students who do the right things, while tending to negatively recognize the same students over and over again who struggle to make the right choices.

What is illuminating about the way we make these judgments is that they are actually expressions of our own values and needs, rather than a commentary on those of others. As a teacher, I need my students to feel safe and supported in their learning environment, and I therefore value behavior

that encourages that. That said, when I am dealing with behaviors that go against these values and needs, communicating my own needs and why they are important/matter, not just to me but to the entire group, is a far more effective strategy for creating a dialogue than providing the "problem" student with negative consequences and criticism.

For example, when a student continually seems distracted or distracts others when a teacher is trying to provide instruction, it is easy to respond in frustration with, "You need to stop fooling around and pay attention or you won't know what we are doing later." This seems harmless but will likely cause communication to shut down rather than creating space for a solution, and these same issues will continue to repeat themselves in the future. Instead, the teacher could respond with, "I am feeling frustrated because I am concerned that you are missing material because you are having trouble focusing. I also want to make sure that everyone in the class is able to do their best learning, and I need your help to do that." This helps the student understand why the teacher's efforts matter, and it also helps them become invested in not

others when a teacher is trying to provide instruction, it is easy to respond in frustration with, "You need to stop fooling around and pay attention or you won't know what we are doing later." This seems harmless but will likely cause communication to shut down rather than creating space for a solution, and these same issues will continue to repeat themselves in the future. Instead, the teacher could respond with, "I am feeling frustrated because I am concerned that you are missing material because you are having trouble focusing. I also want to make sure that everyone in the class is able to do their best learning, and I need your help to do that." This helps the student understand why the teacher's efforts matter, and it also helps them become invested in not

*It is also okay if we make mistakes along the way, because that is a big part of how we learn.*



**Primped and preened**

**THIS MAGNOLIA WARBLER is just one of the feathered jewels that migrate to Vermont. This male was seen on Wildcat Rd. in Chittenden.**

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Too many veterans struggle with substance use disorders

This Memorial Day, millions of American families will take time to honor the memory of the men and women who lost their lives fighting in one of the nation's wars. It can be challenging for families who recently lost a loved one.

We must also never forget the veterans who lost their lives after making it home because of addiction, drug overdose, or suicide. Too many vets across the nation struggle with substance use disorders. Addiction can easily develop while serving in the military or when leaving.

In Vermont there are over 30,000 veterans, most of whom are wartime vets. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 3.9 million veterans nationally have a substance use disorder or mental illness.

Unfortunately, substance use disorder significantly increases suicidality among veterans ages 18 and older. Suicidal thoughts and behaviors are also common among veterans ages 18 to 49.

"Early intervention saves lives, but it can be challenging for fami-

lies to know where to seek help or how to access treatment," said Michael Leach of Addicted.org.

Numerous causative factors lead to substance use disorders among veterans. For instance, many vets struggle to adjust to civilian life. They may experience financial hardships, difficulty finding employment, or accessing benefits.

Many other veterans struggle with mental and emotional health problems. This can often be compounded with physical pain or chronic injury leading to pain medication use. Untreated trauma, for example, increases rates of drug use to cope with unwanted feelings.

There can also be barriers to treatment, such as cost and gaps in health insurance. Stigma regarding addiction is still prominent. Veterans in rural areas have limited access to treatment. Communities may not have enough funding for more support options.

Besides the usual support provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA facility locator, other support options may include:

Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs provides support for veterans and their families;

ThinkVermont offers various services and support for veterans, such as job transition assistance; Pathways Vermont provides supportive services for veterans' families;

Helpful hotlines include the Veteran Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255, and the Lifeline for Vets, 1-888-777-4443; SAMHSA has a treatment facility locator where veterans can find specific help for addiction in Vermont.

Families also play a critical role in helping their loved ones addicted to drugs. It's ok to express concern about their drug and alcohol use. Speak to them openly and honestly about their substance use. Help them find treatment. Remember, addiction is treatable.

*Veronica Raussin is a Community Outreach Coordinator for Addicted.org, passionate about spreading awareness of the risks and dangers of alcohol & drug use.*

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## Community Forums

# Bear conflicts are expected to increase in June, officials increase bear coexistence outreach

*In light of recent incidents of bears raiding feeders and trash in Brandon Village, we offer the following caution from Vermont Fish & Wildlife:*

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is increasing outreach efforts to encourage Vermont residents and visitors to get ahead of an anticipated jump in bear conflicts this June.

“Last year, we saw reported bear incidents spike from 206 in May to 473 in June,” said the department’s Black Bear Project Lead Biologist Jaclyn Comeau. “We want to head off that spike this year, and we need the public’s help to do it.”

The department has seen increasing bear conflicts between May and June over the past several years. However, 2022 showed a more pronounced spike than the three-year average of 182 reports in May and 370 reports in June. This year the department had already received 136 reports as of May 27. That number does not include incidents reported directly to game wardens and will likely grow as warden reports are processed over the next two weeks.

To increase awareness about

the steps Vermonters can take to prevent bear conflicts, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is expanding its outreach effort this year.

“This month, Fish and Wildlife will be using every channel we have to reach everyone who lives in or visits Vermont with the message that bear coexistence is a shared responsibility,” said Comeau. “For the first time, we are teaming up with the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the Department of Environmental Conservation to put up ‘Keep Bears Wild’ signs at state parks and transfer stations. Anywhere there is a risk of bears learning to look for food near people, we want people to be able to see how to reduce that risk.”

In Vermont, the leading cause of bear conflicts is unsecured garbage, including household trash collection bins and dumpsters at businesses and campgrounds. Keeping garbage bins inside until a few hours before trash collection can significantly reduce the risk of bear conflicts in residential neighborhoods. Insisting that garbage collectors provide businesses and public facilities with bear-proof dump-

sters can reduce the risk of conflicts in other locations.

When preventative steps are not in place and bears learn that unsecured garbage is an easy food source, they can quickly become bold, and sometimes aggressive.

“If a bear develops aggressive behaviors like breaking into buildings in search of food, the department may have to kill that bear to protect human safety—nobody wants that outcome,” said Comeau. “Our goal is for everyone to know the steps to prevent bear conflicts from happening in the first place. Proactive coexistences is the best thing for bears and for people, and it will only work if everyone who lives in or visits Vermont treats it as a shared responsibility.”

A full list of steps for coexisting with bears is available on the department’s website at: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears>

Vermonters who notice bears seeking food in their yards or in public places like campgrounds should report the incident at: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>

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](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)

## 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

## Thank you from the Brandon Methodist Church

Members & friends of the Brandon Methodist Church extend our gratitude to all who donated to our fundraising event on May 27th. A special thank you to Pat Snow and Naomi Olsen for their contributions of time, talent and hospitality. Our endeavor would not have been a success without the generosity of the community that exists beyond the walls of our spiritual home. Thank you.

The Brandon United Methodist Church is home to the Food Shelf and Friend Zone. For more information or to help us and our endeavors to sustain the marginalized & underserved in our community, please contact Vicki Disorda ([vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto:vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com)) or (802) 345-4125. Monetary donations may be mailed to Brandon United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 55, Brandon, VT 05733.

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# Obituaries

## Rollande Lucille Bryant, 89, Brandon

Rollande Lucille Bryant, age 89, passed peacefully May 15, 2023, at the home of her care provider in Bristol.

Rollande was born in Irasburg on September 24, 1933. She was the daughter of Roland and Marie (Messier) Demers. She was a graduate of Fair Haven High School, class of 1952. On September 20, 1952, she married Robert Bryant, Sr., in St. John's Catholic Church in Castleton. They made their home in Wallkill, NY for several years before coming to Brandon. She had been a cook at Otter Valley Union High School for over 20 years. She retired in 1998. She enjoyed Bowling and arts & crafts.

She is survived by 3 daughters and 2 sons: Linda M. Bryant of Burlington; Tina L. Boyd



**ROLLANDE BRYANT**

and her husband David of Forest Dale; and Susan E. Bryant of Foristell, MO; Robert W. Bryant, Jr. of Walden, NY; and Michael C. Bryant of Poughkeepsie, NY. Seven grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive

her. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Bryant, Sr. on January 10, 2016, and her brother, Leo Paul Demers.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor of Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church will officiate.

A special thanks to Heather Shepard for opening her home to our mom and showering her with love, support, and kindness.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753.

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

## Kelly Jean Berthiaume, 53, Goshen

Kelly Jean Berthiaume, age 53, passed peacefully on Sunday, May 28, 2023, at her home in Goshen.

Kelly was born in Burlington on June 9, 1969. She was the daughter of Arthur and Barbara (Oney) Berthiaume. She spent her younger years in Middlebury. For the last 28 years, she made a home with her care provider, Jennifer Keeler.

Among many things, Kelly enjoyed going to Silver Towers Camp in Ripton, listening to music, especially The Beatles, and giving whomever she could a joke or a laugh in her own special way. She enjoyed horseback riding, shopping, and camping. She belonged to Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church and held many of her friendships made there close to her heart.

Kelly was lucky to have had the love of not just her family but many of those who cared for her throughout her lifetime and who loved her immensely. She is survived by her mother, Barbara Berthiaume of Middlebury, and 3 sisters (Joan

Vaccarelli, Ann D'Avignon, and Debra Mitchell.) She is also survived by her long-time care provider, Jennifer Keeler, known to Kelly as Mama Jen, and Jennifer's husband Martin, known lovingly as Dutch. Also surviving her are her brothers Nate and Scott, her beloved dog Lyla, her Nana Barbie, and several nieces, nephews & cousins.

Kelly was predeceased by her father, Arthur.

The memorial service "In Celebration of Her Life" will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 10 AM, at Forest Dale

Christian Fellowship Church. Rev. Barry Tate, pastor, will officiate. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot, at St. Mary's Cemetery in Middlebury.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; Silver Towers Camp, 56 Silver Towers Road, Ripton, VT 05766.

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



**KELLY JEAN BERTHIAUME**

## Raymond Arnold Bushman, 62, Brandon

Raymond Arnold Bushman, age 62, passed away peacefully at his home in Brandon on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

Raymond was born at Proctor Hospital on October 18, 1960. He was the son of George Edward Bushman and Grace Elizabeth (Holcomb) Bushman. Ray spent his life in the Brandon area. He attended the Brandon Training School, where he met Mark Scamman, who became his lifelong friend and caregiver. After the closure of the school in 1995, Raymond moved in with Mark. For nearly 28 years, Ray enjoyed birds and dogs, watching his favorite game shows and soaps, finding amusement in teasing many who stopped by to



**RAYMOND BUSHMAN**

visit him. If you were lucky, he would shine a bright smile and offer a salute.

Ray had many who cared for

him and will be especially missed by his friends: Oren Rhodes, respite provider Jane Browe, and guardian Mindy Hammann. He is survived by his brothers, Robert Bushman and Ricky Bushman, and predeceased by sister Joyce (Steves) Bushman, brother George R. Bushman, and long-time friend and caregiver Greg Bishop. Ray's family and friends are grateful and comforted to know that Mark provided Ray with a full life and excellent care.

Private services will take place at a later date.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## 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.

## Communication

(Continued from Page 4)  
only their own learning but that of the whole class in a more compassionate way.

Another way that we make communication more difficult is by making comparisons. As I mentioned in my last column, we already have a tendency as humans to evaluate ourselves in a way that promotes more self-hatred than learning, and when we communicate using comparisons, our students do the same. This form of communication does not encourage growth and compassion, but instead blocks creativity and learning and creates divisions among students.

One example of this could be as simple as regularly praising the student who lines up quietly when asked, while regularly providing negative feedback for the student who does not. Finding opportunities to provide students with positive feedback is vital, even when those moments are few and far between. Particularly when a student frequently struggles to follow expectations, it is even more important to notice and celebrate the moments when they make the right choices, which in turn will encourage repetition of that positive behavior in the future.

Many times, when we try to

broach a difficult conversation with someone, denial of responsibility is another huge barrier to communication. It can be particularly challenging for us as educators to own our mistakes because admission of a mistake feels like a relinquishing of power. But if instead we see it as an opportunity to model a growth mindset and resilience for our students in the face of failure or adversity, we teach them that these

are things we can learn from positively.

Imagine that an educator is trying to teach a new unit and is already feeling less than confident about the material. Any slight miscommunication of information or moment of uncertainty feels like a huge failure. But instead, the teacher could be more open about her own limitations/hu-

manity by beginning the class with a statement like, "This is going to be new information for all of you, but it is pretty new for me as well, and I am really looking forward to the learning we will do together. It is also okay if we make mistakes along the way, because that is a big part of how we learn." This not only lowers the stakes for the educator, it allows the students to feel more comfortable working with something new because the teacher has already taken that pressure off and removed some of the negative power dichotomy that typically exists in the classroom.

*Another way that we make communication more difficult is by making comparisons.*





## Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

### Welcome to Vermont, home of the garden zealot!

If there is a role columnists take very seriously, it is that of a social watchdog - sounding alarms when troubling trends arrive. In light of this charge, I would like to address an issue Vermont has been silent about far too long. I write today about nothing less than fanatical gardening excess.

As always, I won't tax your attention with a lot of facts and figures (of which I really don't have an ample supply). But let me at least cite the incontrovertible, deep, and abiding conviction in my stomach that gardening has really gotten out of hand.

Lest I be accused of overreacting, I will tell you about an old neighbor of mine. Her gardens were the envy of the county. Around her house she had built lovely, meandering, stone-terraced creations that would have rivaled any English countryside manor. Her labyrinthine creations were truly the Disney World of gardens. Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar himself had nothing on these gardens.

Stopping in for a garage sale some time ago, it was quite impossible not to acknowledge all the greenery. What also couldn't be overlooked, however, was that the handsome stones of her gardens were the same as her old farmhouse foundation. On a whim, I asked if she was ever tempted to slip one of those good-looking stones from her basement. You know, to use in her gardens. What followed was a rather awkward silence, an exasperated look on the face of her husband, and just one more reminder of the runaway Vermont zeal for gardening. (My wife later likened the situation to a dangerous, large-scale version of the game Jenga.)

(For the record, we recently met another couple looking to buy that now-empty house. We listened patiently to their enthusiasm for the lovely gardens,

warmly shook their hands, and then discreetly suggested they make a good inspection of the foundation.)

But what is perhaps most astonishing about stories like this is that Vermonters are really not all that astonished. They get it. That lose-your-head kind of zeal for gardening is really par for the course here. Gardening

*Underlying her instructions was a tone of seriousness I had not heard since she thought her appendix had ruptured. The health of our very marriage seemed to be at stake. Failure was not an option.*

is no longer a poky little pastime done in postage-stamp size plots. Garden expansion is now the name of the game. Whether you chalk it up to the long winters, an overdeveloped love for tomatoes, or just a post-pandemic by-product, gardening in

Vermont is fast approaching the intensity of blood sport. Or, to quote my favorite Nick Parks film, "We're just simple country folks, it's all we got!"

I was reminded of this again somewhat more recently at an otherwise lighthearted backyard barbeque when conversation sharply turned to serious gardening. A number of the wives circled up their lawn chairs, and began whispering (almost conspiratorially) about a rumored batch of aged, composted manure a farming friend had been curing for some years. Had you missed the beginning of the conversation it wouldn't have been unreasonable to conclude they were discussing a rare shipment of French Bordeaux.

In short order I was scripted by my wife to acquire our own shipment of the wonder soil. A phone call that evening confirmed farmer Ray's generosity. Only a gift of a few well-chilled beverages would be required to close the deal. I later learned that my farming friend had been gifting his aged manure to his more immediate neighbors for some time. Had he gone into local politics his newfound popularity would have been quite unrivaled.

By now, my wife had also been infected with the summer

gardening frenzy. She had expanded her garden enterprises to rival Master Gardener Steve down the road. A load of Ray's much-storied soil would be just the thing to supercharge her tomatoes. (Steve, incidentally, gardens like a doomsday prepper. He and his food fortifications from large-scale gardening could probably withstand the worst of economic collapses.)

After packing me a cooler of diplomatic gifts, she shoved the keys to our old pickup into my hands. Underlying her instructions was a tone of seriousness I had not heard since she thought her appendix had ruptured. The health of our very marriage seemed to be at stake. Failure was not an option.

Arriving with my pickup, I soon discovered Ray's generosity for myself: he unleashed about 2 yards from his tractor bucket into my truck bed, which dropped my bumper to the ground and sent my hood toward the sky.

"That'll do you for a while!" he bellowed from his tractor.

About 20 minutes later I limped into my driveway, flush with a lifetime of composted manure and a very happy wife. (I counted it as good fortune that my 29th anniversary was around the corner - and that I lived in a place where free aged manure is a perfectly acceptable anniversary gift.)

In hindsight, I probably was not helping much in stemming that aforementioned gardening craze. Perhaps now that the pandemic is well behind us, we'll eventually return to more respectably-sized gardens. And maybe a time of cooler gardening heads.



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## Gourmet Provence

(Continued from Page 3)  
eager," said Line in a separate phone conversation. "They're very eager to learn, especially Matt. It was his dream to make pizza."

The Barrals will continue to operate the Café Provence until they find a buyer, and the bakery will continue to supply the restaurant with desserts and other items, according to Line.

Matt and Carrie see their project as an update of the business and not as a complete reinvention. They're considering changing the name but will continue as Gourmet Provence for now. Their goal is to transition as

seamlessly as possible, with as few inconveniences as possible to the loyal customer base, who can continue to rely on the bakery for coffee, lunch, and baked goods.

The one bump in the road will be the new point-of-sale system that the Lewises plan to install: it won't be able to process existing gift cards. The Lewises caution that any card with a current balance should be depleted before June 5.

"We really love the community here," said Carrie. "We want everyone to be part of what we're creating. This town is like a little family."

## Brandon roads

(Continued from Page 1)  
either event. Both are still under investigation.

Thank you to the Brandon Police Department, the Brandon Fire Department, the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, the Vermont State Police, and Green

Mountain Power for their work trying to save these lives.

Additional information about these accidents will be shared as it becomes available.

Please see page 18 for the official press releases.

## Local students recognized for college achievement

**Nathan Despatie of Brandon** received a bachelor's degree cum laude in music education from SUNY Potsdam on May 20.

**Jedidiah Danforth of Salisbury** graduated from Stonehill College in Easton, MA on May 21.

**Elinor Ross of Brandon** was named to the Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA. She

also completed an intensive research project titled "Feeding Greece: The Future of Distribution and Logistics." Ms. Ross is a rising senior majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

**Bailey Sevigny of West Rutland** was welcomed into the Pi Sigma Alpha National Honor Society at Western New England University in Springfield, MA.



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# Welcome to Rev. Sara Rossigg

The Brandon Congregational Church held a special event last Sunday afternoon, a Service of Installation for Rev. Sara Rossigg. This is a formal service to confirm her as our settled pastor. Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg led the Rite of Installation.

Rev. Jenei Rossigg provided the Charge to the Pastor while Rev. Sara Rossigg responded with the Charge

to the Congregation.

In addition to the congregation, dignitaries from the United Church of Christ attending were:

Rev. Michael Dwyer, Rev. Mary Woodman, Rev. Jenei Rossigg, Revs. Tracy & John Weatherhogg and Rev. Paul Sangree.

A reception followed the service in Fellowship Hall.

**TOP: (L TO r) Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg and Rev. Sara Rossigg**  
**RIGHT: (L TO r) Rev. John Weatherhogg and Rev. Paul Sangree**  
**BOTTOM: CONGREGANTS ENJOY refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the ceremony**



**THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

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# Mallory's Auto

(Continued from Page 1)

this year and his stepfather had to have a heart valve replaced. Then his own pancreatic issues reared up and required that he take care of himself. For folks used to taking care of others, it can be tough to slow down and give themselves the care they need.

But Mallory is back at work, though he's pacing himself as he gets his strength back.

He's had his garage on Forestdale Road since 1992, when he bought it from Pete Lester. He'd been working as a mechanic for a Chevy dealership in Middlebury, and then in his grandfather's garage on River Street in Brandon. He was already married to his wife, Brenda, and had two kids, Jessica and Matthew.

"My grandfather told me 'You need to work for yourself,'" Mallory recalled. And with a little financial help from both his grandfather and father, he decided to give it a go on his own.

The first plan was to lease a garage with a gas station in Brandon.

"I thought having the pumps would be good revenue, but my lawyer called just before we signed the papers and told us to back out," Mallory said. His lawyer had just found out that the lease stipulated that Mallory would've been responsible for the underground holding tanks even though he would've been renting the premises. Since there was no way to determine the tanks' condition, he backed out rather than assume liability.

But he found a home in Forestdale, where he's been serving the Brandon community ever since. The automotive repair business has changed a lot, however. Back when he was getting started, a car was a machine. These days, it's more akin to a computer. To stay competitive with the dealerships in Rutland and Middlebury, he's begun offering detail work as well.

"Cars full of dog hair are the worst," he laughed. "I charge extra for that." And given the physical strain of the work on a mechanic's body over the years, Mallory is beginning to think about retirement.

"You can only do this for so long," he said. He'd very much like to find someone to take over the garage. He'd like to spend more time at his family's camp off High Pond Road. Hunting and stock cars at Devil's Bowl—he's worked on cars there and sponsored teams—are two of his favorite pastimes.

"My retirement is selling this business," he said. Not only would he like to sell the business for financial reasons, but he's also become quite concerned about the loss of commercial activity in Brandon. A born-Brandonite, Mallory has been alarmed by the diminution of the business community in town since he was a kid.

"It's not the same town it used to be," he said. "We used to have a

lot more businesses. We used to have a department store. Now you have to go to Walmart in Rutland just to buy underwear."

In the meantime, he'll continue to serve the community. His son, Matt, a VTC grad who works for Silver Maple Construction in New Haven, lends a hand in the shop when he can, as do his grandsons, Austin, Emmett, and Jasper, aged 15, 13, and 9, respectively. He's especially proud of his grandsons' honesty: not long ago, Emmett found a valuable ring in a client's car and returned it to her, bringing tears to the client's eyes.

"I take great pride in putting out a satisfied customer. I love to help people out."

As we spoke, several people stopped by the garage to check in with him. The open bays signaled he was back to work, and folks just wanted to say hi.

"I got cards and letters from every church [while I was ill]. The show of compassion and love was very humbling to me," he said. "I'm blessed to live in Brandon."

So whether you've got a car full of dog hair, a temperamental transmission, or faulty brakes, Mallory is back on his feet and ready for business.



A COLLAGE OF photos and other memories hangs in the front office of Eric Mallory's garage in Forestdale. He's been open in this spot since 1992.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

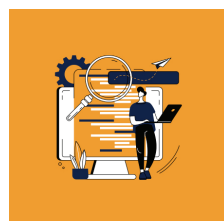
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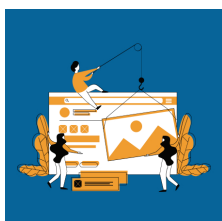
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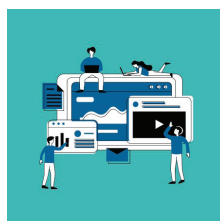
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### Enter to win the U.S. Open

The US Open is coming up! Who do you think will win this year?

Guess the correct winner of the US Open and their 4 day total score and you could win a FREE ROUND OF GOLF at Neshobe!

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Looking for a part-time line cook, no experience required. Will train dependable, creative, hard working team players to work in our seasonal golf club kitchen. Serving lunch daily along with special dinners and events throughout the season (April-October). \$16 - \$22/hour.

### The golf course is OPEN!

Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Log on to neshobe.com or call 802-247-3611 to make a tee time.

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# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Sophie Parker

GRADE: 8

SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School

TITLE: Organic and geometric drawing of  
a butterfly

TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz





# Our Creative Kids Poetry Corner

## Brandon

By Hannah

Birds  
River  
Art  
Next to Leicester  
Devil dogs  
Otter Creek  
Never moves

Submitted from Ms. Mol's  
4th grade class at  
Otter Creek Academy



## Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



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# Restaurant guide

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# Brandon's Memorial Day celebration





# Celebration was one for the ages



GRAND MARSHALLS BURT Reynolds (WWII) and John Welch (Vietnam) led the parade of veterans, servicepeople, first responders (from Brandon and Pittsford), flower girls, boy scouts, and Neshobe School Band to the gazebo in Central Park. Mr. Reynolds gave his remarks in honor of our fallen soldiers. Jean Lamarre read a memorial verse. The girls laid their flowers at the monument. Hunter Bernhardt read the Gettysburg Address. The Color Guard offered a gun salute. Calvin Ladd and Paul Scott played an effecting Taps. Brandon paid respect to its lost servicepeople. They are not forgotten.

Photos by Steven Jupiter





# 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](http://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](mailto:allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org) with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.



#### Friends Zone

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

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

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman ([hazfm@hotmail.com](mailto:hazfm@hotmail.com)) or (802) 282-7532 or Vicki Disorda ([vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto: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 audio-book? 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.

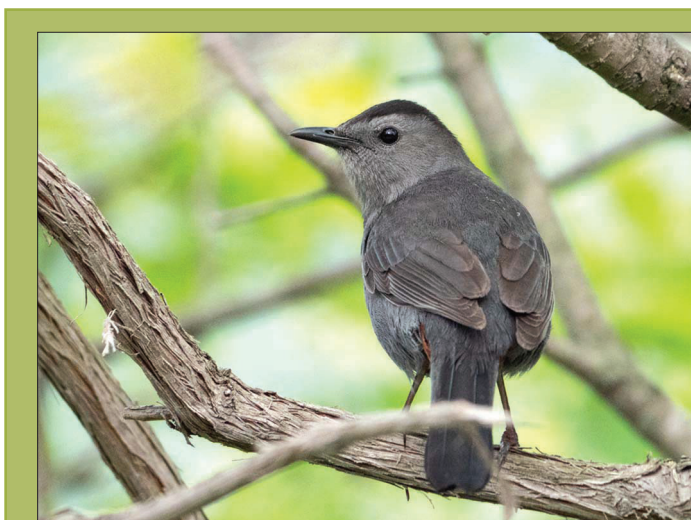
If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at [www.gmttc.com](http://www.gmttc.com).

#### Yoga Prana Shakti Zoom & Studio Chair Yoga, Gentle, Wednesdays

From 10:30–11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily



## Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk – June 17

Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area. No experience necessary. Go the entire 4 mile loop or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble Street at 7 am.

All are welcome!  
More info: [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org)

making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

We spend a fair amount of the time exercising in a seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think will soon notice a

## Pittsford Rec. Summer Camps

Each week campers will go on a field trip (no trip July 4th week), enjoy a surprise guest, play games, swim, tie dye, enjoy activities, get messy, and so much more!

For children entering kindergarten through entering 6th grade at the start of camp.

Camp is based in the Lothrop

Cafeteria.

Limited slots, only 40 participants, and the registration fee is \$90 per week.

For more information visit [www.pittsfordvermont.com](http://www.pittsfordvermont.com), or call 1-8002-483-6500 x17, or email [recreation@pittsfordvermont.com](mailto:recreation@pittsfordvermont.com)

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.”



### Friday 2nd

#### Teen Advisory Group at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join other teens ages 11–19 for free pizza, games and fun! RSVP if possible by phone/text (802) 247-8230 or email joni@brandonpubliclibrary.org.

#### Brandon Museum presents two short films featuring the historically important Davenport family of Brandon.

First up will be “The Immortal Blacksmith,” a 10-minute biography of Brandon resident Thomas Davenport, who received the first American patent for an electric motor he invented in Brandon in 1837. The short film was made in 1944.

The second film will be “Death in the Wilderness: A Love Story,” by Brandon resident and history professor Dr. Kevin Thornton. This 2016 film tells the story of Frankie Davenport, who was married to Thomas Davenport’s son George, as she attempts to bring her husband’s body home from Virginia, where he perished in the Battle of the Wilderness, one of the Civil War’s bloodiest conflicts. Her experience has had lasting effects on Brandon, including the town’s beloved Memorial Day flower girl tradition.

These films are being presented in anticipation of the Brandon Museum’s upcoming exhibit on Thomas Davenport, which will debut at the

Davenport Electric Festival in Brandon in July. Stay tuned for more details on that event! Free admission, starts at 7 p.m.

Kiran Ahluwalia performs at The Putney Inn as part of the Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series Two-time JUNO (Canadian Grammy) winner Kiran Ahluwalia’s open-hearted vocals have established her as one of global music’s most compelling cross-pollinators. Her six-

piece band is led by ace guitarist Rez Abbasi whose accolades include the Guggenheim Fellowship and frequent appearances on the Top Ten Guitarists of Downbeat’s International Critics Poll. Kiran and Rez are a real-life couple, one born in India, the other in Pakistan. Having grown up in the Diaspora they crossed ethnic and religious lines between their two warring motherlands to forge a musical and life partnership. Together they craft songs that are equal parts reflective and groovy and bring together

the disparate traditions of Indian music, West African Blues and Jazz. Three continents come together in these songs so organically that they sound like nothing else – ethereal, raw, urgent and elegant at the same time. Over the course of seven albums, Kiran’s work has featured collaborations with leading musicians from the Celtic and Fado worlds, as well as Malian super group Tinariwen. Her reworking of the classic Qawwali tune Mustt Mustt has amassed over 3 million views online and the inspiration that drove her to create it continues to inform her music today.

Her ease of manner on stage makes her a unique and inspiring performer whose legion of fans continues to grow with every captivating performance. Kiran has toured regularly in North America, Europe, and has performed at desert festivals in Mali, Morocco and India. Her music has garnered glowing praise from critics around the world.

The Bandwagon

Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. More than 20 performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold onsite, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts.

### Audubon Cadwell Loop, Pittsford, Bird Walk – June 2



Meet at 7:00 a.m. on Elm St. Pittsford. The parking area is at the Cooley Covered bridge approximately one mile south on Elm St. from US 7 and Kamuda Market in Pittsford. Car pooling is encouraged as parking is limited. This will be a 3-mile bird walk open to all. Should see some birds along the rivers, warblers and other interesting wildlife. Contact us at [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org) for more information.

### Thursday 8th

#### Henry Sheldon Museum Exhibit Reception

From 5–7 p.m. there will be a reception for four new summer exhibits at the Henry Sheldon Museum: Artists in the Archives: Unseen Neighbors: Community, History & Collage; Variety Sew: A Sampling of Textile Tools and Devices; Stellar Stitching: 19th Century Vermont Samplers; and Recent Acquisitions. Free, open to all. Curators Eva Garcelon-Hart and Allison LaCroix Hayes will be present. With live music by Back Porch Jazz. The Sheldon Museum is located at One Park Street, Middlebury. For more information/exhibit details visit [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org) or 802-388-2117.

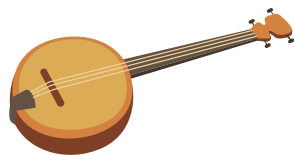
## SASH Presentation, Saturday June 10 at Fellowship Hall of the Church

Support and Services at Home (SASH) is a caring partnership of local agencies together to help individuals stay healthy and remain living at home. It is free and available to Medicare-eligible people in our community.

Sue Balfe, our local SASH coordinator, will give a presentation about this program on Saturday, June 10 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Shoreham Congregational Church. She will explain how you can enroll to

obtain services like a Wellness Nurse, local agencies on Aging, personalized health and wellness programs, social support programs, support after a hospital visit or a stay in a rehab center and more. Its mission is to help you stay in your home -- happy, healthy, and connected.

This presentation is free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend to learn all about it!



Davenport Electric Festival in Brandon in July. Stay tuned for more details on that event! Free admission, starts at 7 p.m.

Kiran Ahluwalia performs at The Putney Inn as part of the Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series Two-time JUNO (Canadian Grammy) winner Kiran Ahluwalia’s open-hearted vocals have established her as one of global music’s most compelling cross-pollinators. Her six-

piece band is led by ace guitarist Rez Abbasi whose accolades include the Guggenheim Fellowship and frequent appearances on the Top Ten Guitarists of Downbeat’s International Critics Poll. Kiran and Rez are a real-life couple, one born in India, the other in Pakistan. Having grown up in the Diaspora they crossed ethnic and religious lines between their two warring motherlands to forge a musical and life partnership. Together they craft songs that are equal parts reflective and groovy and bring together

# June

## BRANDON 2023 LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK

- June 10**  
Ethan Nelson covers & originals
- June 24**  
Kevin Kareckas singer/songwriter
- July 8**  
Will Reed folk alternative
- July 22**  
Ellie & Co. Fiddle-infused folk
- August 12**  
Tom Van Sant folk rock
- August 26**  
Melissa Moorehouse singer/songwriter

- September 9**  
Doug Ross w/ Wade Davis rock covers & originals
- September 23**  
Silas McPrior acoustic rock

All shows will be 11a.m.–1p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays in Kennedy Park (upper falls, near the crosswalk).







# Mim's Photos

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



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



## Recognized



Terry Ferson recognizes the teacher, Chris Brown, and Brian Ketcham beside her. Tony Deanfelis is beside the priest in the back row.



Terry was also able to recognize the man next to the priest. He is Jimmy Butler.



Cliff Kenyon is delighted to see the picture of his family in Mim's. He has an actual copy of the photo and the original story that Mim put in her July 21, 1995 edition! "We had so many tents on our lawn that people thought we were selling them and they stopped to buy some!"



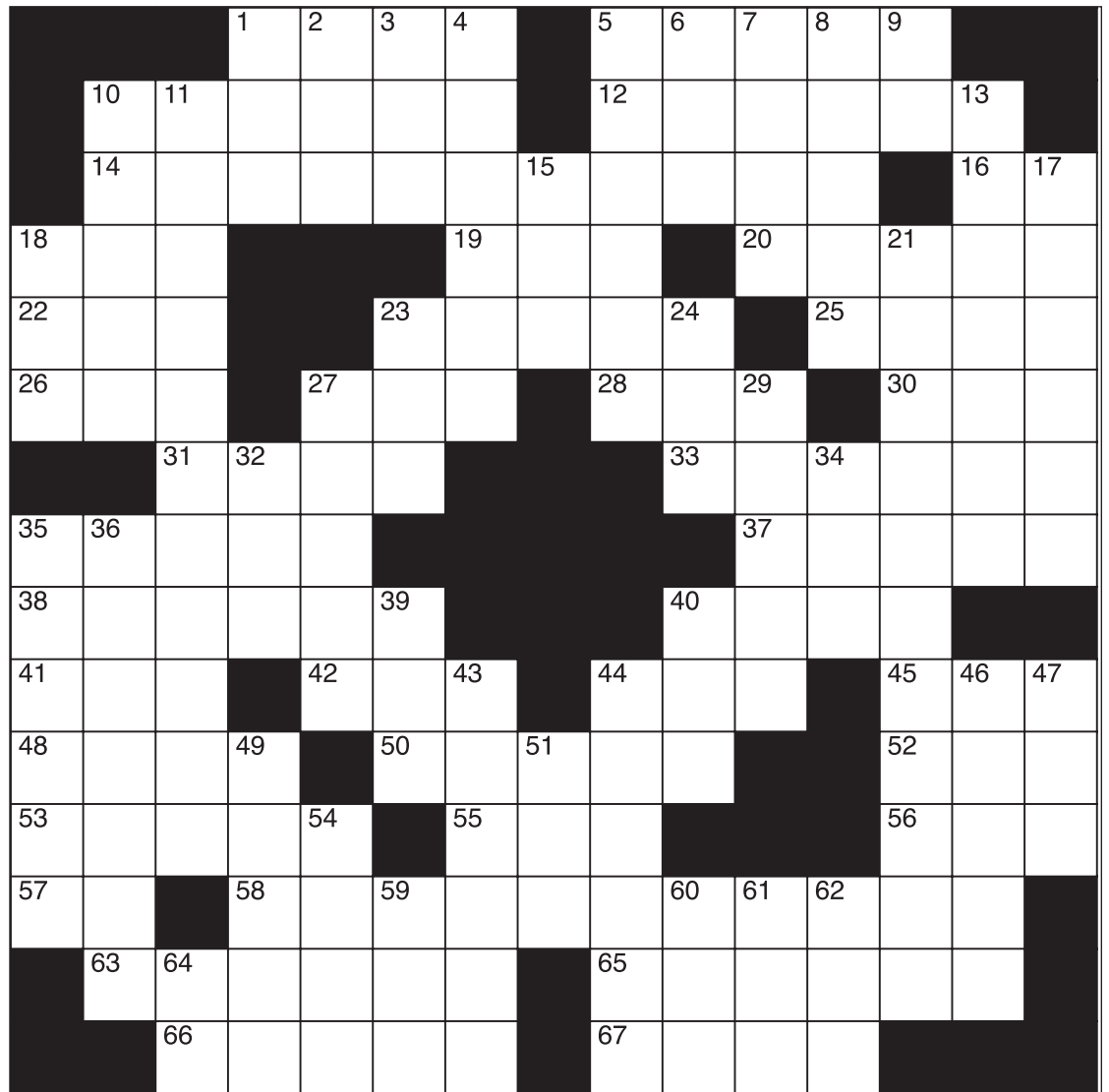
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Sloping position
5. Descendant of a notable family
10. Following accepted norms
12. Root vegetable
14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
16. Integrated circuit
18. Records electric currents of the heart
19. Used to anoint
20. Japanese city
22. After B
23. Muffles
25. Pass over
26. Vase
27. Soft touch
28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
30. Patti Hearst's captors
31. Israeli politician
33. Degrade
35. Type of wrap
37. Polyurethane fabric
38. Avoids capture
40. Vegetarians avoid it
41. Decay
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Vessel to bathe in
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
48. Frosts
50. Dipped into
52. Controversial replay system in soccer
53. Comforts
55. Needed for yoga
56. Ands/\_\_\_
57. South Dakota
58. Printing system
63. Dramatic works set to music
65. Highest points
66. Social division
67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

## CLUES DOWN

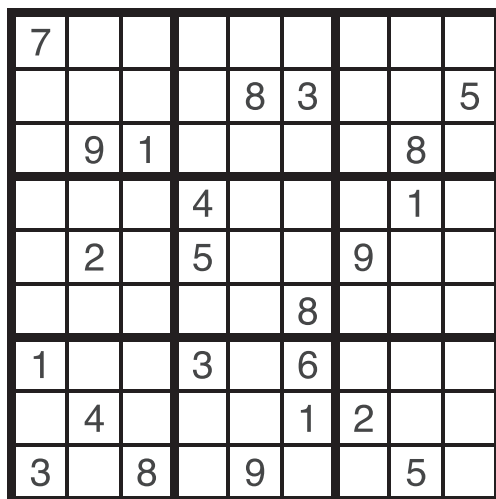
1. Hill or rocky peak
2. Initial public offering
3. Type of light
4. Test
5. Flaky coverings
6. Former NFLer Newton
7. Part of the eye
8. Roman god of the underworld
9. Negative
10. Indiana pro basketball player
11. Replaces lost tissue
13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
15. Historic college hoops tournament
17. Hut by a swimming pool
18. Defunct European monetary unit
21. Feeds on insects
23. Adult male
24. Melancholic
27. Sheets of glass
29. Slang for famous person
32. Not good
34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
35. The "World" is one
36. Used to make guacamole
39. Midway between south and southwest
40. Wet dirt
43. Ancient Egyptian name
44. Set of four
46. Strips
47. Wife
49. More dried-up
51. Socially inept person
54. Clusters on fern fronds
59. Bar bill
61. Prefix indicating "away from"
62. Fiddler crabs
64. Special therapy



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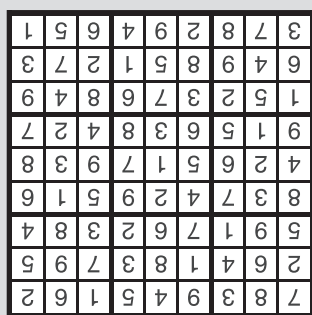
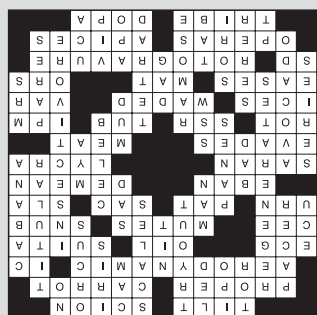
# Sudoku

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.



Level: Intermediate

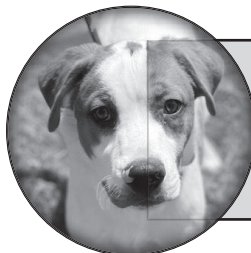
## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



## Gardening and Pets

Many of us are getting excited about putting in our gardens and planting our flowers but the Rutland County Humane Society would like to remind you of a few things to keep in mind if you have pets. **Poisonous Plants:** Rhododendron and azaleas for instance are toxic to both dogs and cats. Mushrooms and other Cycads (the Sago Palm is a popular houseplant in this category) can cause liver failure. **Other dangerous plants include** lily of the valley, oleander, foxglove and kalanchoe can damage your pet's heart. **Fertilizer:** Carefully choose your fertilizer if you have pets and follow instructions carefully about when to let your pet outside unsupervised after spreading it. **Cocoa mulch:** That wonderful chocolate smell is tempting to dogs but it poses the same health risks chocolate can when consumed. **Insecticides:** Always store pesticides carefully and use carefully. Follow the manufacturers' label and don't place where your pets can be exposed to or ingest them. **Garden Tools:** The hazards are obvious but the dirt caked into sharp tools pose a risk for tetanus to you and your pet. If your pet ingests something you think may be toxic, contact your veterinarian. There is a pet poison hotline that can be reached at 888-426-4435. There is a charge for the hotline service. Have a safe spring with your pets!

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

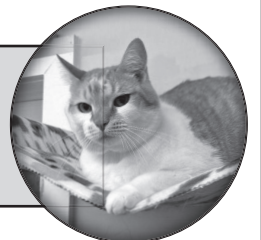


### MEET GUERNSEY - 7-MONTH-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. LAB MIX. TAN AND WHITE.

This cutie is looking for his forever home. Guernsey is still a puppy, so chewing, house training, and all that puppy energy are things he still needs to work through. He is a little slow to warm up at first, but once he has some time to get to know you, he is just a big goofy guy. He does need someone to work with him to gain his confidence with proper socialization.

### MEET DIESEL - 2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. ORANGE AND WHITE.

Diezel is anything but fast and furious. She is a sweet, mellow girl waiting for visitors to come and visit with her in our Community Cat Room. You will usually find her lying in a hammock or soaking up the sun in the window. Diezel is a laid-back cat looking for her forever home.



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# OFF THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



### New in Fiction:

#### Fractal Noise by Christopher Paolini

July 25th, 2234: The crew of the Adamura discovers the anomaly. On the seemingly uninhabited planet Talos VII: a circular pit, 50 kilometers wide.

Its curve is not of nature, but design. Now, a small team must land and journey on foot across the surface to learn who built the hole and why. But they all carry the burdens of lives carved out on disparate colonies in the cruel cold of space. For some, the mission is the dream of a lifetime. For others, it is a risk not worth taking. And for one, it is a desperate attempt to find meaning in an uncaring universe. Each step they take toward the mysterious abyss is more punishing than the last. And the ghosts of their past follow them.

#### The Disenchantment by Celia Bell

When her husband is present, the Baroness spends her days tending to her children and telling them elaborate fairy tales. But when he's gone, Marie Catherine indulges in a more liberated existence, one of forward-thinking discussions with female scholars. At the center of her freedom

is Victoire Rose de Bourbon, Mademoiselle de Conti, the androgynous, self-assured countess who steals Marie Catherine's heart and becomes her lover. Victoire possesses everything Marie Catherine does not: confidence in her love, and a brazen fearlessness in all that she's willing to do for it. But when a shocking and unexpected murder occurs, Marie Catherine must escape. And what she discovers is the dark underbelly of a city full of people who have secrets they would kill to keep.

#### Sidle Creek by Jolene McIlwain

A collection of short stories set in the hills of Appalachia in western Pennsylvania. Stories include the tale of a man named Hube, who becomes obsessed with a doe that keeps visiting his property, doing what he can to spare her from hunters; the story of a couple who can read the future in broken egg shells; and a man who goes from breeding dogs for dogfights to having his sons fight.

#### The Old Lion: A Novel of Theodore Roosevelt by Jeff Shaara

A fictionalized account of Roosevelt's life from his upbringing in the rarefied air of

New York society of the late 19th century to his time in the rough-and-tumble world of the Badlands in the Dakotas, from his rise from political obscurity to Assistant Secretary of the Navy, from national hero as the leader of the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War to his accidental rise to the Presidency itself.

### New in DVDs:

#### Moving On (Rated R)

Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda star as estranged friends who plot revenge on the widower of their recently deceased friend.

#### Antman and the Wasp: Quantumania

Paul Rudd and Evangeline Lilly return along with Michael Douglas and Michelle Pfeiffer. When Scott's teen-aged daughter accidentally creates a portal to the Quantum realm, the entire family is pulled in. They not only need to figure out a way home, but also why they're being hunted by a mysterious and dangerous person.

Because of trainings and absences at the Brandon Police Department this week, there is no Police Log in this issue. We will feature a two-week log in the next issue. We offer here instead Chief Kachajian's official press releases concerning the fatal accidents in Brandon this week.

## News Briefs

### Official press release about logging truck accident

On Friday, May 27, 2023, at approximately 8:09 p.m. the Brandon Police Department was

dispatched to the area of Grove Street/Route 7, just south of Lovers Lane, in the Town of Brandon for a report of a head-on motor vehicle crash between a log truck and a pick up truck.

When the officers arrived on-scene they observed a full-size tractor trailer log truck overturned on top of a pick up truck, off the traveled portion of the road and down an embankment, with live power lines on top of the vehicles. The drive of the log truck was able to safely get out of his vehicle, but the female operator of the pick up truck was trapped inside. The Brandon Fire Department, Brandon Area Rescue, and Green Mountain Power also

responded to the scene to assist. Grove Street/Route 7 was subsequently shut down and power was disconnected to the fallen wires, which made it possible for emergency personnel to safely approach the pick up truck, which was underneath the log truck. It was soon determined that the woman operating the pick up truck had succumbed to her injuries as a result of the crash.

The cause of the accident is under active investigation by the Brandon Police Department, Vermont State Police Crash Reconstruction Unit, and Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, and the State of Vermont Medical Examiner's Office. The names of the operator(s) and/or victim have not been released at this time.

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### Official press release about motorcycle accident

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, at approximately 8:23 p.m. Brandon Police responded to the area of Union Street, just north of Twin Oaks Road, in the Town of Brandon, for a report of a single vehicle motor vehicle crash involving a motorcycle that had gone off of the road. The operator of the motorcycle was located at the scene of the crash and was immediately placed into an ambulance for transport due to his injuries. The operator subsequently died on his way to the hospital. The crash is under active investigation by the Brandon Police

Department and the State of Vermont Medical Examiner's Office. The Brandon Police were assisted on-scene by the Brandon Fire Department and Brandon Area Rescue. The name of the operator is being withheld pending notification of his next-of-kin.

If anyone witnessed this crash, please contact the Brandon Police Department at (802) 247-0222.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Chief David Kachajian  
Brandon Police Department*



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17



# Spray foam often poses devastating risks to homeowners

BY ALDEN WICKER/  
VTDIGGER

Londonderry contractor Abe Crossman was keeping busy with small projects at his family's home in June 2020 during the newly arrived coronavirus pandemic. He was working outside when he noticed that the paint was peeling off the trim at the peak of the gable end of his roof.

With 25 years of building experience, he knew that peeling paint indicated the presence of moisture. But the location was odd — that trim underneath the overhang should stay dry. So he grabbed a ladder and a pry bar to take a closer look.

His stomach dropped as he sank the pry bar into the soft wood sheathing underneath the trim and peeled away the vinyl siding down to four feet below the roof line. What had been wood disintegrated into dust in front of his eyes, he later recalled, leaving behind nothing but spray polyurethane foam insulation.

At first, Crossman thought he might have a roof leak. But he found no issues with the standing seam roof. In any case, he said, when a contractor had installed spray foam insulation in his roof and second-floor walls a decade earlier, he had been promised that the type of foam used, open cell, would let water come through in case of a leak,

so he should have noticed it immediately.

He headed inside to his daughter's bedroom, cut a square out of the ceiling's sheetrock and hacked at the spray foam so he could see the structure underneath it. He grasped a rafter, and it crumbled in his hand. The roof had dry-rotted.

"I was in shock and disbelief," he told me this past winter. "I wanted to cry, honestly."

He was starting to wonder if the spray foam itself might be the problem.

The big spray foam push

Vermont's old homes desperately need to be insulated and upgraded. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, residential homes consume the largest share of energy in Vermont, representing 35% of its energy consumption, and account for one-fourth of Vermont's petroleum consumption. About three out of five Vermont households use some sort of fossil fuel to heat their home. Only Maine and New Hampshire have a larger share of such homes.

The federal government and Efficiency Vermont both hand out rebates to encourage homeowners to weatherize their homes and reduce their oil consumption. The Inflation Reduction Act signed into law last summer provides new fed-

eral income tax credits of up to \$3,200 annually to homeowners to help cover heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, new doors and windows, home energy audits and, of course, insulation.

While there are many types of insulation — cellulose, mineral wool, foam board and batting — the spray foam industry has benefitted mightily from this green weatherization push, since spray foam is such a terrific insulator and can be easily installed in one day without tearing out walls.

I experienced this push toward spray foam myself. In early 2022, my husband and I purchased a 180-year-old farmhouse in southern Vermont, near Londonderry. After my first \$600 oil bill, I visited Efficiency Vermont's website and found two certified energy auditors. One was booked for months, but the other showed up the next week.

After touring the house and doing a blower door test, he recommended we spray foam the cathedral ceilings, inside the knee-wall attic and in the basement.

I questioned how green it was to fill my walls with a fossil-fuel-based plastic product, but the energy auditor assured me that there wouldn't be any problems; we would have heard about them if there were. And

he knew a local spray foam installer. (I recently called him back, but he wouldn't comment on the record for this story.)

Two days later, we had our first walk-through of the house with Crossman, whom we had hired as our contractor for renovations. When I shared the energy auditor's recommendations and said that I had asked Chester-based Vermont Foam Insulation to give me an estimate, he gently cut me off.

"You know I'm suing Vermont Foam, right?" he said.

After Crossman left, I canceled my appointment and began investigating best practices for weatherizing my home. I figured, as a journalist with years of experience researching green materials, I would make quick work of it.

Instead, during what would become a year-long journey, I found myself in a thicket of contradictory, outdated or biased information. Plenty of horror stories lurked in forums and blogs: historical homes ruined, fishy smells, moisture problems and people falling ill.

Every terrible tale, however, was followed by an explanation excusing the foam. The homeowners didn't run a proper ventilation system. They should have installed a vapor barrier. The contractor built the house wrong. That particular spray foam installer did a bad job. Anything and everything but the spray foam itself seemed to be the culprit.

I was left with more questions than answers. Are Vermonters unwittingly destroying their homes in their quest to be green? And how many people are about to peel back their own siding and find a nasty surprise?

For this story, I spoke with four Vermont building science experts, plus a building materials specialist, residential architects, contractors, homeowners, spray foam representatives, and a mold remediation expert. I dug through forums, building trade journals, news reports, and court cases looking for clues.

As I tried to cut through the noise of online comment sections, a clearer picture started to emerge.

Spray foam can be an excellent insulation material and safe for people and homes when perfectly applied — which is difficult to accomplish in real Vermont conditions.

Underqualified and unregulated contractors are pitching spray foam insulation to bewil-

dered homeowners as a safe, easy, quick, affordable and eco-friendly solution to cutting their heating bills, without disclosing its risks.

Poor application can lead to extensive moisture damage, including rotted framing and toxic mold. Remediation and repair can easily run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Spray foam is the best option for old, rubble-stone cellars and basements, but building science experts don't recommend it for anywhere else inside homes. Nevertheless, it's frequently specified for insulating cathedral ceilings, attics and walls.

Spray foam is especially risky for homes built prior to the 1950s, and for low-income homeowners who cannot afford architects, contractors or energy auditors with building science training.

Homeowners have little protection from shoddy workmanship, and those who discover damage and mold years later have little recourse.

Industry representatives like to say that less than one-tenth of 1% of spray foam installations fail, but this is based on informal polling of installers and manufacturers. There has been no comprehensive short-term or long-term followup with homeowners to ascertain the real percentage of unhappy customers.

Among the experts I talked to was Jacob Deva Racusin, the director of building science at the worker-owned cooperative New Frameworks in Burlington, which specializes in sustainable retrofits of older homes. He doesn't want to demonize spray foam as a product, he said, but he's seen the installation process go off the rails.

"I just see spray foam being used inappropriately very frequently without consideration around its moisture management applications," he said. "It can be a real liability in (above ground) scenarios."

Is anyone in charge?

Americans — and Vermonters in particular — are especially vulnerable to the risks of poor spray foam installation. In Canada, spray foam installers must be third-party certified. In the U.S., there are no legally required training, educational or certification requirements for spray foam installers at the federal or state level.

Until last year, when the state passed legislation aimed at (See *Spray foam*, Page 22)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



one thing at a time and keep making progress.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, situations may seem like they are a matter of life or death this week, but there's a good chance you're just being overly dramatic. Try to go with the flow.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Emotions are running wild and you're worried about what others think of you, Virgo. Embrace a point of view that relies more on the rational than the emotional.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, after a few stops and starts, you and your romantic partner are on quite a roll. Enjoy that you both are in tune and aspiring toward shared goals.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, it's possible you feel blocked on all sides regarding your employment. While you can't get ahead right now, there are some opportunities coming.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Be careful about speaking before thinking through your words, Sagittarius. Knee-jerk responses can have unexpected consequences. Take time to form your opinion.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

This week is bound to be pretty intense, Capricorn. But you'll find a way to skirt through it relatively unscathed. Rely on a few friends as sounding boards.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, try not to cut off channels of communication with loved ones as you deal with a few difficult issues. Others are willing to step up and help as needed.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, others will not always see the world the way you do. Interactions this week can be a little stilted or even frustrating.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- June 1 **Ronnie Wood, guitarist, The Rolling Stones (76)**
- June 2 **Charlie Watts, drummer, The Rolling Stones (d)**
- June 3 **Rafael Nadal, tennis player (37)**
- June 4 **Alexei Navalny, Russian opposition leader (47)**
- June 5 **Laurie Anderson, artist, musician (76)**
- June 6 **Marian Wright Edelman, creator, Children's Defense Fund (83)**
- June 7 **Prince, musician (d)**

### ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, things may not progress the way you want them to unless you become a little more persistent. Figure out how to walk the line to achieve your goals.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, many things are going right with your life. But now it's time to get a handle on your love life. You may have to put in some extra effort, especially this week.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, keep things on the lighter side when conversing with coworkers this week. Now is not the time to delve into controversial discussions in the workplace.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, as you try to become more organized, try not to get too overwhelmed by the scope of the task at hand. Tackle



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# Brandon Museum presents Davenport double bill at Brandon Town Hall

This Friday, June 2, at 7 p.m., the Brandon Museum will present two short films featuring the historically important Davenport family of Brandon. Free admission.

First up will be "The Immortal Blacksmith," a 10-minute biography of Brandon resident Thomas Davenport, who received the first American patent for an electric motor he invented in Brandon in 1837. The short film was made in 1944.

The second film will be "Death in the Wilderness: A Love Story," by Brandon resident and history professor Dr. Kevin Thornton. This 2016 film tells the story of Frankie Davenport, who was married to Thomas Davenport's son George, as she attempts to bring her husband's body home from Virginia, where he perished in the Battle of the Wilderness, one of the Civil War's bloodiest conflicts. Her experience has had lasting effects on Brandon, including the town's beloved Memorial Day flower girl tradition.

These films are being presented in anticipation of the Brandon Museum's upcoming exhibit on Thomas Davenport, which will debut at the Davenport Electric Festival in Brandon in July. Stay tuned for more details on that event!



## Death in the Wilderness: *A Love Story*

*He died for the principles they shared. She went on living for them. A true story about Vermont and the Civil War.*

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## Dunmore & Fern Lake



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**Fern Lake Building Lot** (Left): 123.54 feet frontage at North end of Fern Lake. 1.02 Acre wooded lake lot. Mountain views to South. Soil work indicates standard in-ground system is possible. Level lake road access from Route 53. Close to Brandon/Middlebury for shopping, theater, groceries & dining. **\$175,000.**



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(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)  
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com  
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE



## Cross the finish line

**JIM LEARY** OF Brandon completes his 33rd Vermont City Marathon in Burlington on May 28th. He's raced in every one that they have held for the last 35 years (2020 and 2021 were canceled because of the pandemic). He broke his leg last January and wasn't sure he'd be able to run, but he did!

Photo by Nancy Leary

## SPREAD THE WORD!

Have an event to add to our calendar?

EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM



## HOUSE FOR RENT IN PITTSFORD

Beautiful property in a country setting! Expansive lawn and long driveway that sets you well off the road! 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, cathedral ceiling, basement for storage or workout area, 2 decks and whole home generator installed. \$2,300 per month with no utilities included (fuel oil, plowing, mowing, electricity and minimal amount of propane for the generator). First, Last & Security to start the lease. Pets negotiable.

Please call Wendy Rowe Feldman at: 802-236-9112



# Classifieds

# Spray foam

## COMMUNITY

SCATTER KINDNESS; - Be a Brandon/Forest Dale Lion! For more information contact Bruce Blanch blanchedge@aol.com 802-558-5449.

(Continued from Page 19)

making housing more affordable, Vermont was one of the few states that didn't require contractors to register with the state. And there was no way for homeowners to lodge an official complaint against any

residential contractor, including weatherization contractors. Even now, most spray foam jobs cost less than \$4,000, and the new law exempts jobs under \$10,000. (State officials unveiled the registry earlier this month.)

Efficiency Vermont was partnered with Vermont Technical College to offer a free, voluntary educational program, the Building Performance Institute, for builders and weatherization contractors, but that partnership ended during the pandemic. It now provides online training with Green Training USA, and is requesting proposals for contractor training and testing.

And two trade organizations, the Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance in Virginia and the Air Barrier Association of America in Massachusetts, offer voluntary professional certifications. The only Vermont spray foam contractor listed by either trade organization is an Overhead Door Company location in Williston.

When asked how a homeowner could assess whether they're hiring a high-quality insulation installer, Brent Ehrlich, a products and materials specialist at BuildingGreen, an information platform based in Brattleboro, said, "I don't really have a good answer to that."

I asked Matt Sharpe, a senior building consultant for Efficiency Vermont, about the issue.

"We want to make sure whatever you're doing to the house

is not going to do more harm than good," he said.

But he remained agnostic throughout our conversation as I delineated the potential risks from spray foam.

"Those are all legitimate concerns. And I think those concerns would all be legitimate to other products as well," he said. "The performance of the work in general, no matter what material you're using, is very important."

Unfortunately, there's currently a shortage of qualified weatherization experts and contractors in Vermont. Efficiency Vermont estimates that only 2,000 homes in Vermont are weatherized a year, when 13,400 homes need it to meet the state's climate goals. Many other states report similar labor shortages in weatherization and residential construction.

"Weatherization is a higher-skill job than I think most people realize," Sharpe said. "And it's in horrible conditions. Not many people want to do it."

The result is a Wild West of spray foam installation, raising questions about the long-term damage to homes and ruinous costs to homeowners who are just trying to do the right thing.

## MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT IS HIRING!

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If you have event, hospitality, food and beverage, or coordinator experience, this may be the role for you! Must be passionate about people, celebrations, and creating life-long memories. Experience is a plus, but not required. Full time/year round.

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# Summer fun in Proctor



**THE PROCTOR SKATING Rink is proud to offer a new \$50K playground, made possible by a generous grant from the Mortimer Proctor Fund. (L to R): Brian Cannucci, Judy Taranovich, and Megan Cannucci. The Cannuccis manage the rink and Ms. Taranovich sits on the Board of the Proctor Fund. The rink offers a summer camp for kids pre-K through grade 6. There are still spots open for July.**

## Yard Sale?

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Call 247-  
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**TOWN OF PROCTOR, VERMONT**  
**Website: <http://proctorvermont.com>**  
**NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF THE TOWN OF PROCTOR'S ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

On May 22nd, 2023, the Selectboard of the Town of Proctor, Vermont, adopted amendments to the existing Animal Control Ordinance under authority of 20 V.S.A. § 3549, 24 V.S.A. §§ 2291 (10), (14), and (15), and 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59. This notice is published pursuant of 24 V.S.A. §1972 to inform the public of these amendments and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove these amendments.

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT**

To define the phrase "potentially vicious dog," declare that owning a potentially vicious dog is a nuisance, and create penalties for owning a potentially vicious dog.

**CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE**

Title 24 V.S.A §1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove ordinance amendments adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the amendments signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the amendments. Unless a petition for requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1973, the amended Public Nuisance Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

**PERSON TO CONTACT**

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Michael Ramsey, Town Manager at 45 Main Street, Proctor, Vermont 05765, or by calling 802-459-3333 Ext. 13 during regular office hours.

**RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION  
AND BARSTOW MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union and Barstow Memorial School Chittenden, VT, invites contractors to bid on the renovations to the existing HVAC Renovation.

Bid Spec and Plan will be available and posted **online Monday, June 5, 2023** at: <https://www.rnesu.org/page/public-bids>

Pre-Bid Conference will be held Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 3:00pm at Barstow Memorial School, 223 Chittenden Road, Chittenden, VT

Sealed bids will be received electronically by the **Engineering Services of Vermont, Daniel Dupras, [daniel.dupras@esvtllc.com](mailto:daniel.dupras@esvtllc.com)**, until Monday, June 26, 2023 at 9 AM.

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

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

- Davis Bacon Wage Rates apply.
- A 100% Performance Bond is required.
- A 5% Bid Bond is required for the project.
- A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 3 PM at the site. Please meet at the main entrance.
- Construction is anticipated to start as soon as possible after notice to proceed no later than July 10, 2023 and be substantially complete on or before September 15, 2024.

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

**OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL  
DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) provides email notifications of all planned spraying to control adult mosquitoes. Those notifications are sent no later than six (6) hours in advance and include the spray route(s) to be treated and the pesticide(s) to be used. In addition, notification will be provided at least monthly regarding the anticipated schedule of trapping and treatment for all towns in the district to alert residents to be aware of potential notification of spraying. The OCW's published spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwicd.com/route-maps/>. To subscribe to the spraying notification email list, please send a request to: [ocwicd@gmail.com](mailto:ocwicd@gmail.com). Please include your name, E-911 physical street address, and town in your request. Requests for inclusion on more than one email notification list will be accommodated.

**Further information can be obtained from:**  
 Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or  
 Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator  
 Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
 P.O. Box 188  
 Brandon, VT 05733  
 (802) 247-6779  
[ocwicd@gmail.com](mailto:ocwicd@gmail.com)  
<https://ocwicd.com>

**Comments or complaints about OCW spraying operations should be addressed to:**  
 Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division  
 Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets  
 116 State Street  
 Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
 (802) 522-6973  
[Steve.Dwinell@vermont.gov](mailto:Steve.Dwinell@vermont.gov)

*Like all things vintage?*

## Mim's Photos

*are on page 16!*





## Busy weekend in Brandon!

LAST SATURDAY, BRANDON was buzzing with activity. Blanche Welch sold paper poppies for the American Legion Auxiliary; Carol Fjeld, Sarah Pattis, and David Roberts sold plants to benefit the Brandon Library (customer Courtney Satz pictured); Vicki Disorda organized a sale at the Methodist Church; Lois Jackson, Jean Childers, Phyllis Torrey, Brenda Whitaker, and Lucille Gumbus organized the plant sale for the Congregational Church; Medena Gabbard, Warren Kimble, and Robin Kent greeted folks at their folk art gallery on Park Street for Open Studios.



# STONE 4X4 EXPO

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Some Cars & More!**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24 • 10-2**

*G. Stone Motors and Stone CDJR invite you to show off your ride or just mingle with others who share the love of adventure!*

General admission is free. \$10 Entry fee for each 4x4 displayed, proceeds to be donated to the Vt. Children's Museum. Enter by June 1 to receive a goodie bag and a T shirt! **Questions? 802-388-9961.**



Scan the QR code to register your vehicle!



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**Grand Opening of Stone  
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Fun activities for the Kids**

