

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, June 21, 2023

\$1



GARDENING CORNER

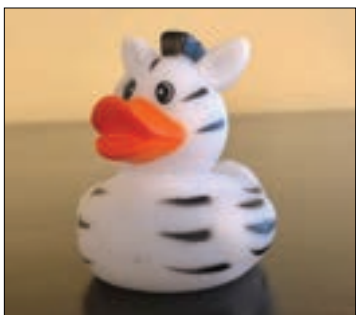
Lyn Desmarais celebrates spring in the garden.

PG. 21

OTTER VALLEY SHINES!

OV students receive awards and honors.

PG. 11



DUCK RACE DRAMA

Read about last year's big winner, big loser, and two new contenders.

PG. 2

NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Genealogist Michael Dwyer continues his research into the Bird family of Vermont.

PG. 7



BROTHERHOOD

The "Fighting Fales" of Brandon were instrumental in the formation of the Brandon Fire Department

PG. 8



Brandon SB sets goals for management

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard assembled for a public meeting on Monday evening to discuss and set goals for Town Manager Seth Hopkins and Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore. The meeting was designed as a "workshop," in which ideas were exchanged and debated in a conversational style rather than as formal proposals and motions. The meeting was initiated at Mr. Hopkins request, as a way for the Board to "measure performance against expectations" when assessing Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Moore in their new roles.

The meeting began with an enumeration by Board member Tim Guiles of several areas in which the town should set clear goals as part of a "10-year plan." As Mr. Guiles put it, "The Selectboard chooses the" (See Brandon SB, Page 15)



Rutland celebrates first Pride Festival

CENTER STREET IN Rutland was the setting for the city's first-ever LGBTQ+ Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17. The weather wasn't great, but there were rainbows all around.

Photo by Steven Jupiter



Respect for the Stars & Stripes on Flag Day

WWII VETERAN BURT Reynolds and his sister Pat watch as discarded American flags are ceremonially incinerated at American Legion Post No. 55 in Brandon on Flag Day, June 14. Mr. Reynolds led attendees in prayer before the flags were set ablaze.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Davenport Electric Fest to take place at OVUHS, July 8

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In 1837, Thomas Davenport obtained the first American patent for an electric motor—a device he built in his workshop in Forestdale with his wife, Emily, and her cousin Orange Smalley. He spent the rest of his short life (he died in 1851) trying to convince the world of the benefits of his remarkable invention. Alas, he died without ever knowing commercial success and has languished ever since in the shadow of better-known 19th-century American inventors, such as Thomas Edison and Samuel Morse.

But his extraordinary achievement—done with meager resources in a tiny Vermont town—paved the way for the modern conveniences we take for granted today. The electric motors that increasingly run our world were made possible by his innovations. And on Saturday, July 8, the

Brandon Energy Committee (BEC), the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC), and the Brandon Museum will present the second annual Davenport Electric Fest at Otter Valley Union High School to commemorate Davenport's 221st birthday and promote the use of electric power to help curb climate change.

"The Davenport Electric Fest serves as a testament to Davenport's legacy and the enduring impact of electric motor technology," according to the BEC. "The festival aims to educate and inspire attendees about the crucial role electric motors play in creating a sustainable and resilient future."

The festival will feature interactive displays, exhibits, and green-energy vendors and tech companies. Beta Technologies of Burlington will be on site with (See Davenport Electric Fest, Page 9)

Where are they now?

Catching up with the winner (and biggest loser) of the 2022 Rubber Ducky Race

BY STEVEN JUPITER AND LORYNDA FISH

BRANDON—Last year's Independence Day Rubber Ducky Race was one for the ages. The drama! The suspense! The plot was as twisty as the Neshobe's tricky currents! While everyone thought the winner was in the bag from the

get-go, fate intervened and the front runner fell behind while a dark-horse ducky pulled off a surprise win.

The Reporter sat for a conversation about last year's results and this year's race with last year's big winner and loser, as well as with two new contenders in this year's event.

Last year's winner: Beaky

Age: 8 • Hometown: Brandon



Last thing I wanted was to get trapped in the middle. I wanted space to break away once we all went over the falls."

And break away he did. Once over the falls, all eyes were on Winky, who still held the lead. But poor Winky drifted into the current of death and was trapped against the rocks.

"I saw my opening and I took it," said Beaky. "I knew it was my moment."

Beaky's advice for duckies that want to win: "Don't overeat beforehand. Have something light, like worms with kale and wheatgrass. Don't fight the pack. Keep your lane open. Trust your training."

After his victory last year, Beaky celebrated with pepperoni pizza at Brandon House of Pizza and a chocolate/vanilla twist creamie with ant sprinkles (he provided them to the grossed-out staff at BHOP).

"I want to give a shout out to the Brandon Fire Department," he added. "They did a fantastic job getting us in and out of the water last year. A real top-notch group. I couldn't have done it without them."

Beaky grew up the 3rd of 5 ducklings—the proverbial middle child, always needing to prove something. Well, last year beaky proved he had what it took to vanquish a tough field and claim the prize for himself.

"I was always athletic," he said. "I was a very strong swimmer and very adventurous. I love new challenges and the Independence Day Rubber Ducky Race looked like a perfect opportunity to test my capabilities."

As those who attended last year's race know, the front runner,

a white ducky named Winky, had what looked like an insurmountable lead early in the race. To all appearances, it was a done deal. But Beaky didn't despair or panic.

"I've spent years studying water currents. As a duck, you really have to be able to read a body of water and know which way it's flowing. Your life could depend on it."

Last year, Beaky positioned himself on the outside of the pack at the beginning of the race.

"I read the currents. I knew I had to swim the outside track.



Malibu

Age: 9 •

Hometown: Scarborough, Maine

Malibu is 9 and originally hails from Scarborough, Maine, where she was called Petunia. But she changed her name and her life when she flew out to California and got into the surfing scene. This will be her first year in the race.

"I'm a West Coast kind of duck," she said. "I like the sun, the beach, the ocean. I like hanging out with my friends and riding the big waves. But the Brandon Rubber Ducky Race is one of the biggest events on the duck circuit and I knew I had to try it. I'm a great paddler, so it was a natural thing for me to do."

Malibu gets up early and heads to the beach every morning to study the waves and practice paddling. All that familiarity with water patterns has convinced her she has a shot at the race this year. Her training diet consists of alfalfa sprouts, orange smoothies, and frog eggs for protein. She likes to carry a bunch of frog eggs in a thermos so she can get a boost whenever her energy is lagging.

"My strategy for the race is to get in position early," she said. "I want to stay on the right-hand side of the pack. I've heard the left side below the falls is the danger zone. I'm gonna just shut my eyes, hold my nose, and let myself tumble over. If I've positioned myself correctly, I should end up far away from the whirlpool of doom."

If Malibu wins, she plans to treat herself to the fish stew at Café Provence, with extra garlic bread smothered in smashed worms.

pieces as he watched Beaky glide by to victory.

"I saw it coming but there was nothing I could do. THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO!"

Winky now spends his days floating aimlessly on Otter Creek.

"I'm worried about him," said his mama ducky, Lilypad. "He needs a comeback. He really needs a comeback."

"I hope someone takes a chance on me again," Winky said.

Canyon

Age: 7 •

Hometown: Middlebury

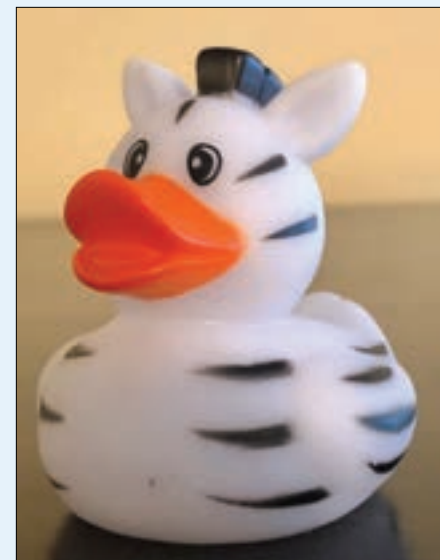
Canyon is 7 and was born and raised in Middlebury. Canyon is back on the scene after a stint in the mallardentiary, where he served six months for selling duckweed. "I'm ready to show the world who I am and what I can do," he said. "When you grow up with Canada geese and turkey buzzards like I did, you get tough or you get beaten. Those are the options. And I don't like getting beaten."

"My training regimen? Ha!" Canyon scoffed. "I don't need one. I'll cheat if I have to. I'd sell my own mother to a French chef just to get that trophy. The best part of winning is watching every-

one else lose. My motto is 'It's me, not thee.' Everyone else can kiss my tailfeathers."

"Diet? I eat whatever I want. And what I want is whatever someone else is eating. Leave your food unattended and I'll swoop in and take it. Seagulls ain't got nothin' on me."

And his plans if he wins? "I'm gonna laugh at the losers."



Winky

Age: 6 •

Hometown: Rochester

all sewn up when he broke away from the pack and cruised to a sizeable lead early on.

"I'd been training all year. I was out front. Victory was within my grasp. But then..."

He can't even talk about it. The memory haunts him still. That small little ripple in the water turned out to be an eddy, an eddy of pain and destruction that broke his soul and shattered his psyche as it thrust him against the rocks and pinned him there for what seemed an eternity. His heart shattered into a hundred

Last year's frontrunner, Winky, took his unexpected loss hard. A born competitor, he thought he had it



Official declaration of June as Pride Month in Rutland City

WHEREAS, Rutland City, Vermont recognizes the importance of fostering an inclusive and welcoming community for all individuals

Whereas: the LGBTQ+ community in Rutland City has made significant contributions to the city's cultural, social, and economic fabric, enriching the lives of all residents;

Whereas: June has historically been recognized as Pride Month internationally, commemorating the Stonewall Riots of 1969, which catalyzed the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement;

Whereas: Pride Month serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the unique struggles faced by the LGBTQ+ community, celebrate the diversity and resilience

of LGBTQ+ individuals, and promote inclusivity and acceptance for all;

Whereas: the City of Rutland, Vermont recognizes the importance of fostering a community that is inclusive, diverse, and accepting of all its residents;

Whereas: the City of Rutland seeks to demonstrate its commitment to equality, justice, diversity, and dignity for all its residents, and to create an environment where everyone feels safe, respected, and celebrated;

Whereas: Pride Month presents an opportunity to raise awareness about LGBTQ+ issues, educate our community, and foster a spirit of inclusion and acceptance among our residents;

Now, therefore: the City of Rutland, Vermont hereby declares the month of June as Pride Month on this Saturday, June 17, 2023.

Michael Doenges, Mayor of Rutland City, Vermont



CLOCKWISE FROM L to R: Fans sign Amy Leigh Celestial's gown as Carmen Gettit stands by. Mayor Mike Doenges welcomes the crowd Rutland's first-ever Pride Parade, reading a Declaration establishing June as Pride Month in Rutland City. Crowds filled Center Street in downtown Rutland, despite the inclement weather.

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This event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

June 27 — Pluckett

Folk duo Willy Clemetson & Silas Hamilton bring a potpourri of songs, new & old. Described as "impossible not to dance to. Your feet will lead the way."

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Essay

Expressing anger productively

BY HILARY COLLIER

When we are trying to communicate compassionately with others, one of the biggest road-blocks can be understanding each other's common humanity. This is particularly true when the messages and behavior being communicated by the other person do not align with our own morals and values.

It is easy to react with judgment or anger, but we need to understand where these feelings of judgment and anger are actually coming from in order to effectively communicate with others in

situations of conflict. Violence comes from the belief that other people cause our pain and therefore deserve punishment. But if we are able to transition to a more empathic perspective, that violence and anger can be replaced with far more productive communication and understanding.

In a classroom setting, it can be easy to fall into the trap of making judgments or assumptions about the cause of students' behavior. But it is far more productive to take the time to look through an empathic lens, and think about what that student might need, and how that need might be the actual stimulus for the behavior that student is exhibiting. This allows us to more effectively communicate with that student and get to a place of common understanding.

We can help students communicate more effectively around these ideas by encouraging a switch from "I am angry because they are..." to "I am angry because I am needing...". The real cause of anger lies in our own thoughts of blame or judgment. But rather than making a mental analysis of wrong-

ness regarding somebody else, we can choose to connect to what is alive inside of us - what are we needing in this moment.

Anger is a result of life-alienating thinking that is disconnected from our needs.

It indicates that we are using our heads to analyze and judge others rather than focusing on which of our own needs are not getting met. But these judgments of others also contribute to self-fulfilling prophecies, because students are less motivated to have open and honest communication around an issue if they feel they will be judged or punished. The choice is ours at any point to "shine the light of consciousness" on our own feelings and needs, as well as the feelings and needs of others.

When we are in a situation where feelings of anger are present, or tensions are high, it can be difficult for others to hear our feelings and needs. A student might need to feel like their own needs are recognized before they can be open to hearing our needs. Helping stu-

(See *Productive anger*, Page 4)

If we are able to transition to a more empathic perspective, that violence and anger can be replaced with far more productive communication and understanding.



Floats like a butterfly, sings like a... bird

THIS IS AN American redstart, a warbler, and is currently seen near Sanderson's covered bridge.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Brandon United Methodist Church Tag Sale Fundraiser on July 1st

The Brandon United Methodist Church is having a Fund-Raising Tag Sale Saturday July 1st 9-1, 1 Franklin Street. Rain or Shine. Donations Welcome.

We will be accepting donations Sunday, June 25th, from 12:30-2 and Tuesday, June 27th, from 12-3. No clothing or upholstered furniture please. Table space will be available

for a monetary donation to the church. Mark your calendars and clean out your basements and garages.

The Brandon United Methodist Church is home to the Food Shelf and Friend Zone. For more information or to assist the church in its endeavors to help sustain the marginalized & underserved in our community

or to help restore this historic building, please call (802) 247-6524 or contact Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125). All donations specifically for the Food Shelf should be sent to Brandon Emergency Food Shelf, PO Box 345, Brandon, VT 05733. Thank you.

Productive anger

(Continued from Page 4)

Students shine that light on their own feelings and needs is vital to creating an open and honest dialogue. When we become aware of our needs, anger gives way to life-serving feelings. The more we can empathize with our students, the more likely they are to reciprocate that empathy later.

We also need to give ourselves empathy when dealing with others, particularly when their message or behavior may conflict with our own values. As an educator, it can be hard to take the time to respond to a conflict rather than simply reacting. But giving ourselves empathy enables us to focus our attention on the humanness

behind whatever message or behavior is being communicated, rather than simply reacting with judgment. When we hear someone's feelings and needs, we recognize our common humanity, and open the door for productive and effective communication.

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REPORTER

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Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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Updates from Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was first confirmed in Vermont in February 2018. Dead and dying ash trees along the public right-of-way and in public places, such as parks and schools, pose a risk to public safety. The loss of ash trees will leave gaps, impacting the ecological, economic, and aesthetic benefits provided by every municipality's urban forest. It's the official start of the Emerald Ash borer flight season.

The invasive beetle has killed millions of ash trees in the U.S. since it first arrived in 2002 and it poses a significant threat to Vermont's ash trees.

Starting around the beginning of June, the bug emerges from the infested ash trees, logs, and firewood and tries to find a new host tree and mates.

Vermont forestry officials say people can help slow the spread of the insect by not moving firewood, using local firewood, and reporting signs of EAB infestation.

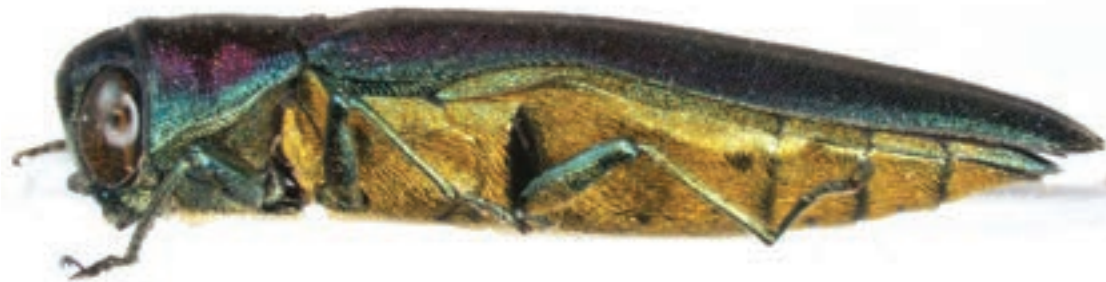
New detections of EAB in Vermont have expanded the existing Infested Area within Orleans county. The towns of Irasburg, Jay, and Troy were added

to the Infested Area.

To help illustrate where there are actual EAB infestations, view the list of municipalities with EAB infestations below. These depict the municipalities where EAB has been detected as well as the year of detection. While the Infested Area List shows that high-risk areas for EAB (a 10-mile radius around a detection) include many municipalities, visibly infested trees are still rare in Vermont.

WE ARE ENTERING THE EAB FLIGHT SEASON

The EAB flight season starts on June 1st and goes through September 30th. During this time of year, EAB will be emerging from infested ash trees, logs, and firewood and seeking new host trees and mates. Moving ash materials during the flight season could spread EAB to currently uninfested areas. Therefore, there are more stringent recommendations for moving visibly infested ash materials in Vermont's Slow the Spread Recommendations to protect these areas, including delaying harvesting and not moving untreated ash until after flight season (Oc-



tober 1st). Slowing the spread of EAB will allow us more time to prepare and respond, but we will all need to work together.

VERMONT MUNICIPALITIES WITH EMERALD ASH BORER INFESTATIONS:

Alburgh	2019	Colchester	2021	Rupert	2021
Townshend	2022	Derby	2019	St. Albans	2021
Barnet	2022	E. Montpelier	2021	Shaftsbury	2020
Vernon	2021	Grand Isle	2021	Somerset	2022
Barre Town	2018	Groton	2018	South Hero	2018
West Rutland	2020	Guilford	2023	Stamford	2018
Belvidere	2021	Hartford	2021	Swanton	2020
Williamstown	2022	Highgate	2021		
Bennington	2020	Isle La Motte	2020		
Williston	2022	Londonderry	2019		
Berlin	2021	Marshfield	2020		
Wilmington	2021	Middlebury	2021		
Bristol	2019	Milton	2022		
Brookfield	2021	Montpelier	2018		
Cabot	2022	North Hero	2021		
		Orange	2018		
		Plainfield	2018		
		Pomfret	2022		
		Poultney	2022		
		Pownal	2022		
		Readsboro	2020		
		Richmond	2020		

REPORT SUSPECTED EAB!

If you think you have found EAB or an infested ash tree, report it! Having more information about where EAB is around the state will help all of us in managing the pest.

*Sincerely,
Neil Silins
Tree Warden
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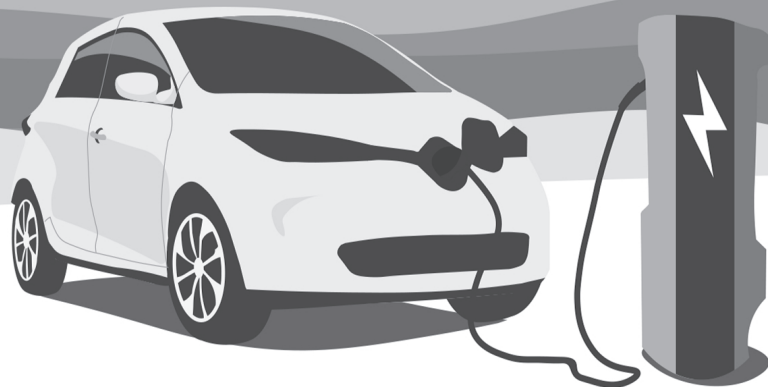
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Obituaries

Kenneth William Dukette, 79, Leicester

Kenneth William Dukette, age 79, passed peacefully, on Sunday, June 18, 2023, at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington.

Kenny was born in Salisbury on February 6, 1944. He was the son of Leonard and Lena (Clark) Dukette. He grew up in Salisbury, where he received his early education, and afterwards he attended Middlebury High School. He had done farm work in his earlier years. He began his working career at White Pigment in Florence. He later worked as an equipment operator for the Town of Salisbury and then for Harold Conant. He was forced to retire due to failing eyesight in 1992. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and 4-wheeling. He especially enjoyed going to lawn sales with his daughter Tina.

He is survived by his former wife, Crystal Sears, 4 sons



KENNETH W. DUKETTE

(Jamie Allen Dukette Steven Sears, Shawn Sears, and Jason Dukette), 1 daughter (Brenda Dukette) and 2 sisters (Elaine McLaren and Diane Euber.) 10 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents, a daughter (Tina Lena Dukette), a son (Willy

Dukette), and 2 sisters (Barbara Delahant and Bertha Counter) and a grandson (Michael Sears).

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 12 noon, at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Brookside Cemetery in Leicester.

Friends may pay their respects at the funeral home on Thursday, June 29, from 11 AM until service time at 12 noon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 199 Water Street, 11th. Floor, New York, New York 10038.

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

Janet Marie Lamoureux, 86, Shoreham

Janet Marie Lamoureux, age 86, passed peacefully, Sunday, June 18, 2023, surrounded by her family at Helen Porter Health & Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

Janet was born in Rochester on February 21, 1937. She was the daughter of John and Madie (Fuller) Austin. She grew up in Rochester

and Brandon, where she received her early education and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1955. In her earlier years, she had worked as a waitress. On December 1, 1956, she married Wilfred Joseph Lamoureux in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brandon. They bought a farm in Shoreham in 1958, where she helped her husband and raised their family. She enjoyed playing the piano and fishing with her husband. She loved animals, flowers, and dancing.

She is survived by her husband, Wilfred, her children Darcy Lamoureux, Dawn Angier, Wilfred Lamoureux, Jr, Connie Bi-



JANET M. LAMOUREUX

lodeau, David Lamoureux, and Julie Whittemore. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her sister Evelyn Nickerson and 3 brothers, Raymond, Gilbert, and Gerald Austin.

The Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 10 AM, at Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church (St. Mary's Church) in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor will be the celebrant.

Following the mass, a private graveside committal service and burial will take place, in the family lot at St. Genevieve Cemetery Shoreham.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; Addison County Humane Society, 234 Boardman St. Middlebury, VT 05753.

Arrangements are under the direction of the 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.



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Names lost in Vermont, Part 2: Mary Bird

BY MICHAEL DWYER

Part 1 ended with the mystery of why Mary Bird's date of death was not recorded on her gravestone in St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon. Under her husband Edward Bird's name and dates of birth and death, it reads Mary E., His Wife, Nov. 1, 1827. Mary died in Brandon on 7 December 1910, age 81 years, 1 month, 6 days, with her name recorded as Mary La Point Bird. Correspondence in Edward Bird's Civil War pension file disclosed her son Simeon Bird expected the United States government to pay for inscribing his mother's death date on the stone. They did not, leaving us only with her incorrect date of birth. Although Simeon Bird recorded his mother's maiden name as La Point, he had no knowledge of his maternal grandparents. How then do we rediscover family history lost for over a century?

One of the trickier aspects of French-Canadian genealogy is recognizing "dit" surnames, a nickname, alias, or what appears to be a double name. A prevalent example is the surname Audet dit Lapointe. In

Québec records, sometimes the full three-part name is written out, other times written only as Audet or Lapointe, even when describing the same family. Thus, when Mary married Edward Bird, her last name

Concerning French-Canadian women's names well into the 20th century. Nearly all girls were baptized with the first name, Marie [Mary]. Usually, they went by a second or third name. In non-French speaking

sachusetts, on 20 July 1850, her name written as Zoa Odit [Phonetic rendering of Audet] Bird, with parents named as Edward Bird and Zoa O. Bird. "Zoa" This child adopted the name Mary, rather than Zoa. She married John Fredette and died in Brandon on 19 November 1923.

Back to our subject, Edward Bird's wife. I would therefore seek a baptismal record in Québec of a Zoa Audet dit Lapointe. To narrow the search for her parents, I explored the possibility that in another marriage performed by Rev. Azariah Hyde, that Toussaint Odet [Audet] who wed Emilie Croto [Original name Croteau dit Vincent] on 16 January 1847 may have been Mary's brother. Indeed, they were both proven as children of Toussaint Audet dit Lapointe and his wife Ursule Quintin. Marie Zoa Audet dit Lapointe, later known as Mary Bird in the United States, was born in Beloeil, Québec, on 3 November 1831. [The birth date on her death certificate is closer than the one on the gravestone!]

Unlike his sister Mary Bird, Toussaint Audet and his wife

Emilie soon returned to Canada where their first daughter was baptized in a Catholic Church. This couple moved frequently, occasionally with brief sojourns back to the United States, as when they lived in Putnam, Washington County, New York, in the early 1850s, while the Birds also lived there. Emilie Audet would continue to bear children over the next thirty years. A chilling statistic from the 1900 United Census when Toussaint and Emilie Audet lived in Putnam, Connecticut, tells us that of her 20 children, only 8 were living!

Peeling back another layer of history gives us a glimpse of why members of the Audet dit Lapointe family landed in Benson, Vermont, in the 1840s. Their father, Toussaint, a resident of Mont-St-Hilaire, Québec, was caught up in the unsuccessful Rebellion of 1837, often called Papineau's Rebellion, a key factor in French-Canadian immigration at that time. He and some of the other rebels fled over the border into Vermont. Shards of their stories remain largely unexplored.



MARY LAPOINTE BIRD'S death certificate from 1910.

Photo provided.

was recorded as Audet. At her death, Simeon Bird remembered the name as La Point. He was not wrong. Without knowledge of these "dit" names, one might think they are two separate families.

New England, however, if that first name sounded foreign, the person reverted to being known as Mary. We'll see how this worked in the Bird family. Edward and Mary's only daughter was born in Auburn, Mas-

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Brandon's 'Fighting Fales' was a moniker to be proud of

BY JAMES PECK

BRANDON – Brandon's fire department, the Dunmore Hose Company (DHC), was formed in 1894 as a strictly voluntary force, and it quickly established a reputation as a prompt and reliable outfit. One recipient of their services on Champlain Street in 1896 was even moved to sing their praises in a poem, "To the Dunmores," written to the Brandon Union.

This poem was recently found by Kyle Hutchins, a firefighter at the Brandon Fire Department and currently President of the Dunmore Hose Company. Hutchins liked it so much that he framed it and displayed it in the display case at the fire house for inspiration to his fellow firefighters.

One line in the poem intrigued him: "With Denning, Howland. And Fighting Fales, We Beat All Former Gangs

with Pails." Who were these three original "Dunmores" anyway?

From old pictures of the Company, he suspected "Howland" was "B. W. Howland," whose picture appears on the Dunmore Hose portraits of 1902. He held the position of Steward in the DHC. But who were "Denning" and "Fighting Fales?"

Neither appeared in any pictures. Could "Fighting Fales" be related to current firefighter Rob Fales?

In February, Hutchins posed

this question to this writer, a trained genealogist who grew up in Brandon and now lives in California. After some detailed research, it was found that, in fact, "Fighting Fales" was the great-grandfather of current firefighter Rob Fales!

His name was David Miranda Fales, and he was born in Brandon on September 15, 1864, the son of Albert Fales and Emmeline Page. He grew up at what is now 46 Carver Street with his widowed mother and two siblings.

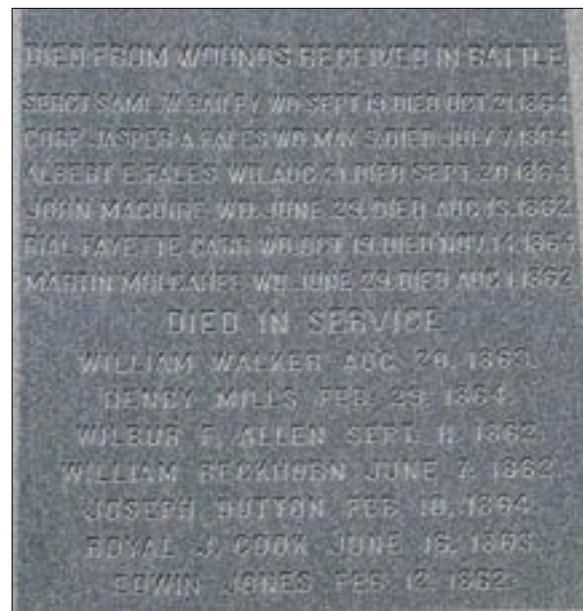
Dave "Fighting" Fales mar-

ried Eva Morris in Brandon in 1889. He worked as a clerk in town, volunteered at the fire house, and was one of the original Dunmores. He must have been spirited to earn the "Fighting Fales" moniker. In 1900, they sold their house on Carver Street and moved to Rochester.

But it turns out Dave wasn't



DAVE "FIGHTING" FALES



ALBERT & JASPER Fales inscription on Brandon's Civil War Monument.

really the original "Fighting Fales." That honor belongs to his father, Albert Elias Fales, who died on September 20, 1864, from severe wounds (right arm amputated) suffered while fighting for the 3rd Vermont Infantry in the Wilderness Campaign in Virginia, far from his Carver Street home. He died only five days after his son David was born.

Private Albert "Fighting" Fales is buried in Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg, Maryland. His name is inscribed on the Civil War Monument in Brandon along with fifty-three other Brandon men who lost their lives in that war.

What's more, Albert's two oldest sons also were "Fighting Fales" in the Civil War. Son Jasper also died of his wound in the Wilderness and his name appears above his that of his father on the Brandon monument. Son Prosper survived the war in the artillery and was described in one news clipping as "a mere stripling of a boy, but possessed of true Green Mountain pluck" for his bravery.

Furthering the "Fighting Fales" tradition was Dave and Eva's son Edward Clarke Fales who fought in World War I and died in France of a wound received only six days before the Armistice on 11/11/1918. Edward's praises were sung by his commanding officer as an "ideal American soldier with real American pep and spirit".

As for Denning and Howland in the poem, the former was Will Denning who was a very popular actor in town and an original Dunmore who left Brandon to study medicine at UVM, graduating in 1899. The latter was, as Hutchins had sus-

(See 'Fighting Fales', Page 9)

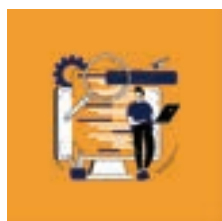
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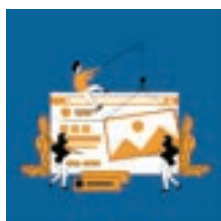
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Davenport Electric Fest

(Continued from Page 1)

flight simulators to give folks a taste of the technology it's been perfecting for its signature electric airplanes. Green Mountain Power will also be present to educate about various programs available for consumers interested in reducing their carbon footprints. There will be food vendors and face painters as well.

The Brandon Museum will debut its new exhibit on Thomas Davenport, an exhibit several years in the making that includes new information about Davenport's efforts to capitalize on his invention.

"We've spent the last few years putting together this exhibit," said Harmony Van Eaton, Interim Board President of the Brandon Museum. "We've got a beautifully designed exhibit that tells Davenport's story from a human perspective, based not only on what was already known but also on the recent research done by Dr. Kevin Thornton."

In addition to the Museum's exhibit, David Hammond, formerly of the physics department at UVM, will demonstrate the working replicas he constructed based on Davenport's original patent designs.

"Thanks to Thomas Davenport, Brandon is the birthplace of electric power in America," said Kevin Thornton. "This small town is one of the key places where the modern world began. The electric motors so important to everything in modern life, from our phones and computers to our tools, our kitchens and our cars, began here. Davenport was a visionary who foresaw a future in which clean, quiet, safe electric power ran the world, including its transportation systems. Today's Brandon is proud to be the place where that past and that

future come together. That's what Brandon and Davenport fest are all about."

The BEC adds that the festival "is a family-friendly event, offering an opportunity for visitors of all ages to immerse themselves in the world of electric motors." The festival is free and will run from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. At 4:45, there will be a vehicle procession from OVUHS to Pine Hill Cemetery to lay a bouquet on Thomas Davenport's grave and thank him for his contribution to society.



THE ONLY KNOWN image of Thomas Davenport, his signature, and his 1837 motor, the first to ever receive an American patent. Davenport's life and achievements will be celebrated in Brandon on July 8.

"Come learn about one of the major figures in American scientific history, who happened to live and work in Brandon," said Van Eaton.

"By accelerating the adoption of electric motor technology, we can pave the way for a greener and cleaner transportation system," added the BEC.



FRAMED POEM

'Fighting Fales'

(Continued from Page 8)

pected, Bert W. Howland who served in many capacities in the DHC including Steward in 1902.

According to Kyle Hutchins, current firefighter Rob Fales, who joined the BFD and DHC in 2006, continues the tradition: "I would certainly say that Rob lives up to the moniker of his ancestors. He is the kind of guy you want in your corner if things start going south on a fire scene." A 22-year Navy

veteran, Rob retired as a Master Chief in 1999.

Ironically, the home of the first two Fighting Fales, Albert and Dave, at 46 Carver Street, is within a few hundred feet through the woods of the current Brandon Firehouse at 61 Franklin Street. After the leaves have fallen, current firefighters might just catch a glimpse of the former Fales home, now owned by the Atwood family.



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NEW ENGLAND
WOODCRAFT

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Lauren Green

GRADE: 1

SCHOOL: Neshobe

HOMETOWN: Brandon

TITLE: Cat City

MEDIUM: Marker and crayon on paper

TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM LAUREN:

In this picture there is a dragon trying to eat a bird. There is a cat jumping over a river. There is also a cat bus with a little cat getting into the bus. There are little cat cars and heart shaped clouds. And the sun is a cat.

STATEMENT FROM MR. B:

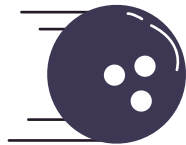
This is a really fun picture! Cat city! Thank you to Lauren for sharing her creativity and imagination with all of us!

Our Creative Kids Poetry Corner

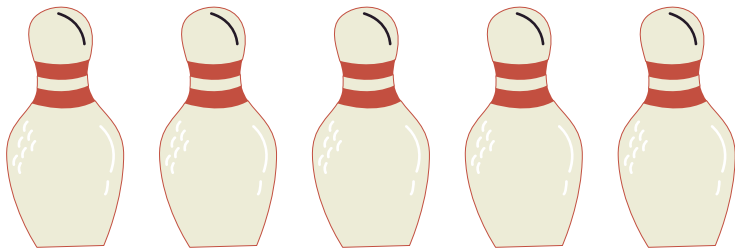
Bowling

By Maggie

Bowling
Fun, cool
Stepping, rolling, aiming
Happy, proud, sad, mad
Bowlerama



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



Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



Proctor High School Principal's List, Spring 2023

KADEN AUSTIN
BRENDAN COLTEY
OLIVIA GIANNI
CADENCE GOODWIN
MITCHELL KNOWLES
ZOE REYNOLDS
ALEEA RICHARDSON

Local scholars receive college honors

NATHAN DEPATIE OF BRANDON
was named to the President's List at SUNY Potsdam in Potsdam, New York.

MALLORY HOGAN OF WEST RUTLAND
received a Green & Gold Scholarship from UVM.

DAVID PETERS OF SALISBURY
was named to the Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.

AL WARD OF PROCTOR
received a Green & Gold Scholarship from UVM.



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Calendar of events

June

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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



old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

Drop-In Tech Help at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Ping Pong

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

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

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

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

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the ben-

June 24, Climb Out of the Darkness: Walk for Maternal Mental Health

Gather for awareness and community connection: parents/survivors of depression/anxiety connected with childbearing or family building.

The world's largest event raising funds and awareness for the mental health of new families. The Climb is a community walk and international fundraiser for survivors, providers, and members of the community to come together.

Raising awareness for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, The Climb brings our community together to shine a light on a darkness we often don't speak about. Perinatal mood and

anxiety disorders are the most common complication of childbearing.

Our Rutland event will be a time to gather. We will have simple yoga, massage, and small activities to honor our well being. Kidzone, Door prizes, raffles, and Wellness bags to the first 20 participants at the event. To register: <https://www.classy.org/team/481765>. Sponsors: RPMC, VELCO, VNAHSR, CCN, Wonderfeet, VT Dept of Health

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Rotary Park
142-198 North Main Street
Rutland

efits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

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

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

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

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 11a.m.–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.

“May Their Memory be for a Blessing: the Lazarus Family and Jewish Life in Addison County” Sheldon Museum, June 28

Join David Rosenberg, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Middlebury College, at noon. He will speak about Harry and Stella Lazarus who migrated to Middlebury in 1911 and were among the first Jewish settlers in the town. For most of the twentieth century, their Lazarus Department Store prospered, and the family became involved in community and civic activities. His presentation is the second in a series of lunchtime talks, held every other Wednesday, between June 14 and August 23, 2023, that draw on the current exhibition, Artists in the Archives: Unseen Neighbors. The presentation is free with Museum admission and always free for Museum members.



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

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 Ketcha.m. leads an all ages painting event!

Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

Wednesday 21st

Rollin Rooster in the Chaffee Art Center Parking Lot
Join us Every Wednesday from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Rollin Rooster Food Truck. Take a seat at one of the picnic tables out back, grab a spot on the porch, or find a cozy chair inside to enjoy your lunch from the Rollin Rooster.

Carving Studio & Sculpture Center Artist in Residence Percy Kuta Presentation

Please join Artist in Residence Percy Kuta of Zimbabwe as he discusses his process and aesthetic in an Artist Talk at 7p.m. on Wednesday, June 21.

The talk will also be presented live on Zoom; please contact info@carvingstudio.org for a participation code.

Make Music Day at The Underground: NRVS, Of Conscious Mind, and Connor Frost of Dizzy Bats (solo)

FREE SHOW as part of Make Music Vermont
Doors: 7:00 p.m.// Show: 7:30 p.m., BYOB

NRVS:
When three veterans of the touring world join forces with a med school student, the result is an electrifying blend of nostalgic mid-2000s emo, infused with a contemporary edge.

Enter NRVS, the internet-born brainchild of musicians hailing from Vermont and New York.

The talented founding members, Ruston Fettig and Joe Aabye, both wield guitar and vocal prowess, while dynamic newcomers James Cross on bass and Aaron Gingras on drums complete the powerful sonic landscape.

Together, they create a unique sound that pays homage to the emo scene of yesteryear while carving their own path in today's music landscape.

With a captivating sound and an unwavering dedication to their craft, NRVS is poised to leave a lasting mark on the music scene. Don't miss the chance to follow their journey and be part of the excitement.

Of Conscious Mind:

An indie rock band from the Upper Valley VT/ NH, Of Conscious Mind features groove-tinged rhythms with vocals reminiscent of Natalie Merchant and Grace Slick.

Connor Frost of Dizzy Bats:

Dizzy Bats is a New York Pop Punk band started in the summer of 2011. Influenced by punk outfits out of the late 90s and early 2000s, they use power chords over heavily-picked basslines and infectious melodies as a vehicle for fun, energetic, Power Pop. Dizzy Bats boast an honest reflection on times past and current.

Saturday 24th

Castleton 15th Annual Town Wide Yard Sale

The 15th Annual Castleton Town Wide Yard Sale is from 9 a.m. to p.m. Over 40 vendors both outdoors and indoors at the Castleton Community Center.

Find bargains, treasures, crafts, food and one-of-a-kind items from over 40 vendor tables both outdoors and indoors at the Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main Street Castleton, VT. “Drive-around Maps” will also be available at the Center for various at-home yard sales in the area. For information call 802-468-3093 or visit www.castletoncsi.org.

The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents a salsa and reggae dance party with salsa ensemble LPT and reggae band The Human Rights

LPT is high energy. Simple as that. The Jacksonville, FL-based 10-piece has been roaming stages along the southeast for the last seven years delivering the goods wherever they turn up. The group ignited their local music scene with a hard hitting yet danceable brand of salsa and has become one of the most dependable and highest drawing acts in the Jacksonville market. The group is expanding its reach to regional markets as far west as New Orleans, south to Miami, north to Charleston, and every market in between.

When it comes to reggae in Canada, nobody does it better—while remaining true to their founding principles—than Toronto's The Human Rights. Since forming in 2007 around

Henry Sheldon Museum presents “Home Sewing Machines 1900 to Present, A Technician’s Perspective,” June 29

From 1–2 p.m. David E. Atkinson will present "Home Sewing Machines 1900 to Present, A Technician's Perspective," focusing on the evolution of sewing machines, their common components and operation, construction, repair, and DIY tips for maintenance. After a 35-year career as a software engineer at IBM, Mr. Atkinson spent eight years as proprietor of Dr. Dave's Sewing Machine Hospital in Jericho, Vermont, a repair service for home sewing machines.



This presentation is one of several programs that draw on the current exhibitions, Variety Sew: A Sampling of Textile Tools and Devices and Stellar Stitching: 19th Century Vermont Samplers. The presentation is free with Museum admission and always free for Museum members.

one of the Toronto scene's true lions, Friendlyness (previously of Culture Shock, Truth And Rights and Big Sugar), The Human Rights have developed a distinctively modern, high energy sound that blends roots reggae with jazz, funk and R&B influences, courtesy of a blazing horn section and the soulful lead vocals of Juno award nominee Trésou. On their new album Reggae Strong, The Human Rights more than live up to its title following an extended break since releasing their 2016 self-titled album and the 2018 single “I Need You”. Recorded with producer and former band member Patric McGroarty, and mixed and mastered by renowned

BRANDON 2023 LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK

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

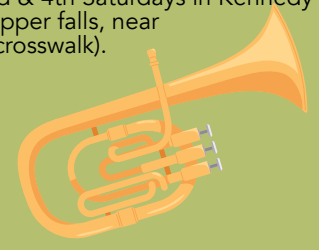
September 9

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).



Canadian reggae artist Dubmatix, Reggae Strong finds The Human Rights coming as close as they have yet to achieving a truly Canadian reggae sound, with guest appearances by Toronto's Ras Yunchie, Caddy Cad, I-Sax, and Carol Brown.

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.

From 6:00p.m.–8:00p.m. at The Putney Inn
\$20.00 - \$25.00

Saturday 24th Sunday 25th

The 7th Annual Vermont Renaissance Faire is returning to the Events Fields in beautiful Stowe, Vermont

The Vermont Renaissance Faire is a weekend of fun and merriment for the whole family! The Faire includes Medieval-inspired artisans and craft vendors; mead and cider makers from around Vermont; tasty food from local chefs; musicians, dancers, acrobats, historical demos, ensembles, a joust, Vikings, fairies, knights, jesters, pirates and even a unicorn!

The Faire is a family-friendly event for all ages. Saturday and Sunday from 10a.m.–6p.m.. Kids under 6 get in FREE.

Schedule: Saturday & Sunday, 10a.m.– 6p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are \$20 for one day or \$30 for two days.

Kids 6–12 are \$5.

Kids under 6 get in FREE.

5th Annual Harper Rose Memorial Softball Tournament

Games are scheduled from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Ka.m.persville Ca.m.pground.

Sunday 25th

English Tea at the Brandon Inn

Come and enjoy a Traditional English “Cream Tea” with teapots and homemade scones and jams with cream as well as other baked goods. Chef Louis will give a scone-making demo and there will be a short talk about the English tea traditions and culture.

The event, from 3:30–5 p.m., is put on by the Brandon Library Community Volunteers and all proceeds will benefit the Library Renovation.

Adults \$20

Under 12 years \$10

<https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events>

Otter Valley students chosen for honors

Otter Valley juniors Elizabeth Atherton and Derek Li and Class of '23 graduate Cadence Muth have been recognized for their achievements this past month.



CADENCE MUTH

Cadence Muth received a \$2500 scholarship from the Rutland Area Medical Community to attend Vermont Technical College in Randolph. According to the Rutland Regional Medical Center, “the scholarship is intended to stimulate the region’s best and brightest students, encouraging them to continue their education in the field of healthcare.”



DEREK LI

Derek Li received the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce Prize Award. According to the Chamber, the \$500 award is given annually to a junior or senior “who is well-rounded, has participated in school and outside activities, has plans for higher education through college or technical school, and has participated in activities that make the Brandon community a better place to live, work, and play.”

Derek is a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the OV wrestling team. He is also a member of the OV football team. Outside of school, he works in his parents’ restaurant in Brandon and at Kamuda’s Market in Pittsford. He is a member of the Spartan Wrestling Academy and helps coach youth wrestling programs. He’s also been known to help his elderly neighbors with yard work and chores.

This summer, Derek will be living on the campus of Castleton University and taking classes.

“The award is an honor,” said Derek. “I was surprised that I even got it. I’ve heard that it’s a very difficult award to get and I’m grateful. After high school I plan to go to college, to make my immigrant grandparents proud.”



ELIZABETH ATHERTON

Elizabeth Atherton was chosen for the Girls State Program by the American Legion Auxiliary. The Girls State Program is a competitive program for girls who have completed their junior years. Selected students learn about government and civics through the formation of a “mock government” in which they hold “official positions.” This stage of the program is held in Randolph and students who do well there may be selected to go to Montpelier, where they will “shadow” state officials and learn about those roles.

Elizabeth was one of only 25 students out of a pool of 125 applicants chosen for this year’s cohort, and the only student selected from Rutland County. Her guidance counselor at OV, Meredith McCartney, had suggested that she apply to the program.

“I was supposed to be a page in the Statehouse when I was in 8th grade,” Elizabeth said. “But the program was cancelled because of COVID. I’m interested in politics, so this seemed like a good opportunity. My ultimate goal is to be a lawyer.”

Elizabeth had to write an essay and submit a resume with her application. “I had to have good grades,” she added. Outside the classroom, Elizabeth is a member of the OV Varsity field hockey team, a mentor to middle-schoolers, and was Class President last year.

Congratulations to Cadence, Derek, and Elizabeth!

Restaurant guide



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Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)
destination, the Town Manager takes us there.”

The areas that Mr. Guiles singled out as needing specific goals included the following:

Heavy equipment, such as trucks, machinery, and cars (including police vehicles)

Roads, sewer, and water

Parking and transportation

Parks and recreation

Online resources (e.g., online tax payments)

Energy

Municipal vs. independent services (e.g., Rescue, Fire, Library)

Elections/voting

Affordable housing

Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith reminded the Board that the Brandon Planning Commission, of which she is also a member, is currently revamping and updating the Town Plan, as required every 8 years by law, and that many of these issues will be addressed therein and that the Board will have to approve the plan.

Mr. Hopkins then drew the Board back to his original purpose, which was to lay out a series of concrete goals specific to the town management team that the Board could use as a metric by which to measure the team’s success over the coming year.

Mr. Hopkins’s own management plan, which he presented to the Board, separated

his goals into three categories: staff, community, and policy. Below are highlights from each category.

In staff:

Reactivate the town’s Diversity Committee, which originally consisted of Town Clerk Susan Gage, the Town Manager, and Bill Moore (now Deputy Town Manager). The Board suggested that a Board member be added to the Committee as well. The goal here would be “to deliver on the board’s vision in its declaration.”

Plan and recruit for three key retirements: Highway Foreman Shawn Erickson (January 2024), Office Administrator Elaine Smith (May 2024), and Chief Wastewater Operator Steve Cijka (November 2024).

Improve communication among town management and town staff and among the various departments at the Town Office in order to streamline processes for town residents.

In community:

Restructure the Recreation Department. Plans there include the implementation of a commissioner system for youth sports and a scholarship fund to allow access to all families regardless of income. Ideas included making the Rec Department a ballot appropriation at Town Meeting and asking surrounding towns to do the same.

Work with the Fire District No. 1 to resolve any ongoing

issues with water and sewer metering. There have been issues with meter accuracy in the past.

In policy:

Draft a social media policy for town employees.

Facilitate the completion of a wastewater capacity study by Elaine Smith. The purpose of the study is to determine the water and sewage capacity of every property in Brandon in order to determine the feasibility and benefit of capacity-based billing for water and sewer. Right now, billing is a combination of flat fee and actual usage.

Organize the Brandon ordinances, policies, and procedures. Judy Kilpeck is currently volunteering on this project.

Develop a capital plan for multi-year budgeting.

Draft and execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Brandon Area Toy Project to clarify which aspects of joint endeavors are the responsibility of which entity and how any revenue will be shared.

Pursue grant opportunities and suggest funding sources for the town’s match on any grants they apply for. Mr. Moore emphasized here that the Board should not approve any applications for which it is not prepared to provide the required match.

Correction

In our June 14 article on the Brandon Selectboard, we stated that Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins would be primarily responsible for public works and public safety while Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore would be primarily responsible for administration & finance and community development. Mr. Hopkins reached out to correct us. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Moore

will both be involved in all aspects of town management.

In that same article, we mistakenly stated that Neil Silins was appointed as an alternate to the Planning Commission to complete a term ending on June 30, 2024. The correct termination date is June 30, 2023.

We apologize for the errors.

REAL ESTATE

Dunmore & Fern Lake



DUNMORE CONDO (Above): A Sunset Hill condo. Excellent views of Moosalamoo & Dunmore. Delightful camp for Summer liv.: swimming, paddle boarding, fishing, kayaking, boating, biking & hiking. Open liv/din area, remodeled kit. & shower Bath Parlor stove, 2 BRs & screened porch completes 444 sq.ft. of liv. space. The seasonal assoc. includes a great sandy beach and lake side patio and a playground area. \$230,000.



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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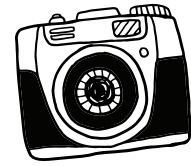
Classic colonial style home in the center of the vibrant town of Brandon. Center hall entrance, double living room, fireplace with ornate hearth, roomy kitchen with center island and walk-in pantry, and a formal dining room. There are four full sized bedrooms - one on the first floor. Well maintained property with fresh exterior paint and newer roof. Ready for you to move in. Also a great location for a home business! Carriage barn still has the original horse stalls and spacious loft. \$398,000



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Mim's Photos



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

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



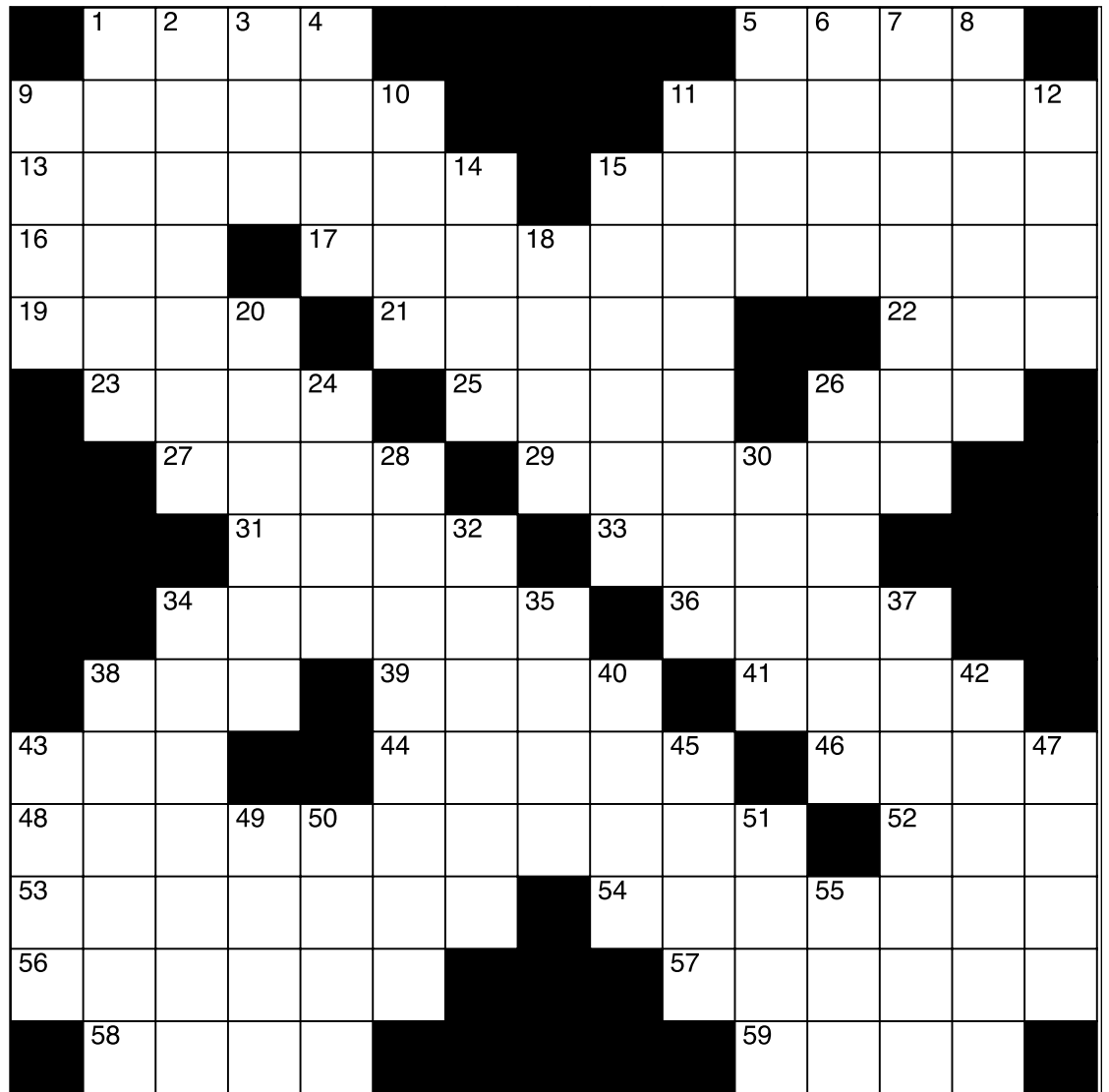
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Understand intuitively
5. Two of something
9. Not involving computer tech
11. Acclaimed
13. Undermine
15. The condition of being concealed or hidden
16. Irritate
17. The process of developing a theory
19. Ceramic jar
21. Not fresh
22. Dad's fashion accessory
23. Popular review site
25. New Mexico county
26. '___ death do us part
27. Fees
29. Takes with force
31. One-time Yankees rookie sensation
33. Gordon and Snider are two
34. Body parts
36. Arranges
38. Fiddler crabs
39. Mimics
41. Witnesses
43. They ___
44. Lasso
46. Runs down
48. In response to
52. Bird-like dinosaur
53. Metamorphic stages
54. Conditions of incapacity
56. Sodas are sold in these units
57. Break away from
58. Ethereal
59. Boggy

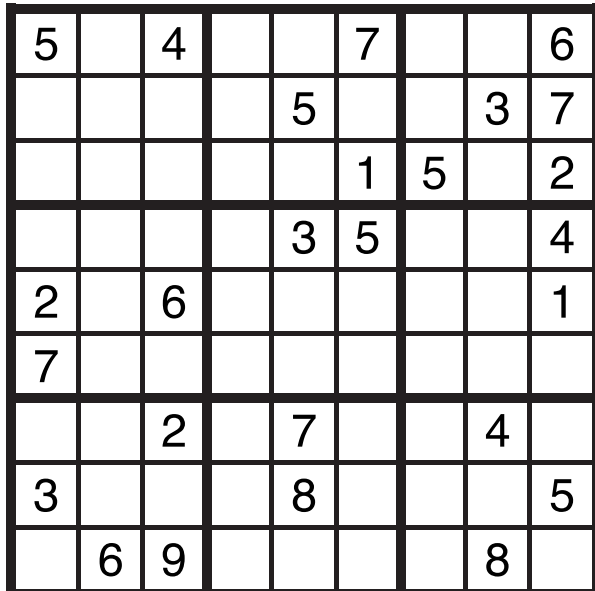
CLUES DOWN

1. Mangled
2. Ruffled some feathers
3. Not young
4. Lakers legend
5. Nocturnal S. American rodent
6. Direction (Scottish)
7. Intestinal inflammation
8. Spring back in fear
9. Owl genus
10. Girls
11. Unbeliefs
12. Force unit
14. Expired trade agreement
15. Went alone
18. Animal noises
20. Woman who graduated from a specific school
24. The very top
26. Organs in males
28. Earnings
30. Z Z Z
32. Reddish browns
34. A salt or ester of acetic acid
35. A place to get off your feet
37. More disreputable
38. Kidney condition
40. Cease moving
42. Quick
43. Extra seed covering
45. "Survivor: Panama" winner
47. Six
49. One who inspects lamps
50. Small parrot
51. Primordial matter of the universe
55. ___ fi (slang)



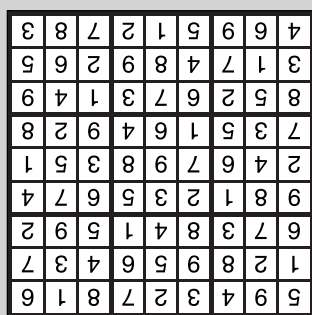
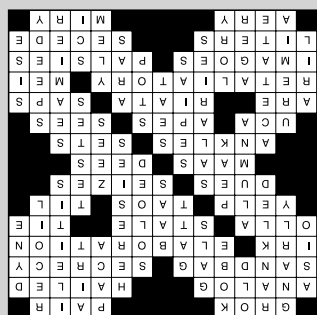
Sudoku

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



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The Rutland County Humane Society would like to invite you to a night of entertainment with the Onion River Jazz Band. We are working with The Paramount Theatre and the Pittsford Village Farm for a Night Under The Stars on Friday, July 7th 2023 at the Pittsford Village Farm to raise needed funds for the animals in our care. Since 1984, the Onion River Jazz Band has been delighting audiences throughout Vermont and New England with their spot-on renditions of vintage jazz, ragtime and swing instrumentals and songs. ORJB's seven red-hot musicians' combined professional performing experience is well over 300 years. Gates will be open at 6 pm and the concert begins at 7 pm. Ticket fees are as follows, Adults: \$20 + tax/fees and Child/Under 18: \$5 + tax/fees. Tickets can be purchased online at our website (www.RCHSVT.org), at the Paramount Theatre Box Office on Fridays from 11am-6pm and at the gate the night of. We can't wait for you to join us for a night of fun for all!

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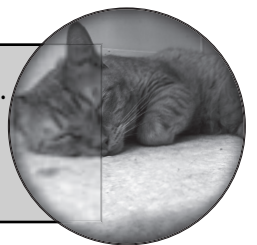


MEET COOPER - 1 1/2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. MIXED BREED. TAN AND BLACK.

This delightful character is looking for a family who will treat him like the royalty that he is. Cooper did take a little too much interest in cats, so he would do best in a home without any cats. Cooper loves to go for walks, and how can you say no to a face like his?!

MEET SHIR KAHN - 1-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. ORANGE.

Who likes lounging around and living a blissful life? It's Shir Kahn! Shir Kahn came to us from a busy shelter in the south and has been settling in well in our Community Cat Room. He's spent most of his time here, hanging out on the "catio", enjoying the warm sun. He is not much for playing with toys but always welcomes pets with a purr.



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New this week for large print, donated by Brenda Whittaker

Near Miss by Stuart Woods donated in memory of Charles H. Whittaker

Stone Barrington is back and enjoying some downtime in New York City when a chance encounter introduces him to a charming new companion. Too bad she also comes with the baggage of a persistent ex-boyfriend intent on retribution. As Stone skillfully dodges each disturbance, it becomes clear that there's an even more treacherous game being played behind the scenes. When long-standing grudges resurface, Stone is brought back into the orbit of some familiar enemies. He must use all of his tricks—as well as those of a few old friends—to evade trouble before it's too late. But this time, danger just might catch up with him.

The Survivor by Iris Johansen, donated in memory of Marion Philipsen

When archeologist Riley Smith comes to ask Eve Duncan for help, Eve has to say

no. Traveling halfway around the world on a dangerous quest is not her expertise as a forensic sculptor. But Eve is intrigued by the prospect of an isolated island that holds a secret locked in time. Traveling to Southeast Asia, Riley is aware of the threat from treasure hunters who are already searching and have no qualms about killing to get what they want. When she successfully evades them and finds the perfectly preserved body of a female warrior, it is just what she needs to entice Eve to help unlock the mystery. As these two strong women seek answers about this extraordinary past life, Riley makes a living, breathing discovery that will change history. If she can escape the island and survive long enough to share it with the world.

YA graphic novels:

The Mighty Nein: Origins (3 graphic novels)

Fans of the podcast Critical Role will enjoy these three graphic novels telling the origin stories of Veth (aka Not the Brave), Fjord, and Mollymauk.

Picture Books

Before, Now by Daniel Salmieri

The story of young Ava, as she moves from girl to student to scientist, from daughter to mother to grandmother. While years pass and some things change, there is even more that is constant in this portrait of family connection through the generations.

I am a Meadow Mermaid by Kallie George

A landlocked little girl dreams of adventures in the water and feels the spirit of the ocean all around her . . . even though she lives on the prairie, with flat land as far as the eye can see. But she won't let a little detail like that stand in the way of being a meadow mermaid! Frolicking in the "waves" of wheat and "oceans" of grass, spying sea horses and . . . a shipwrecked sailor? Even if that shipwreck is actually an overturned bike and the sailor is a new kid from a neighboring field, it's still a chance to make a new friend, one with an imagination as expansive and a love of the ocean as deep as the little girl's own.

BPD kept busy with traffic violations, domestic disturbances

June 12

- The Brandon Police Department (BPD) assisted the Rutland County State Attorney's Office with serving subpoenas in an upcoming court case.

- Report of illegal dumping of furniture on Wagner Road.

- The Union Street Grocery on Union Street contacted BPD about issuing a trespass notice on an individual they did not want back in the store and who was currently at Hannford Supermarket. The individual was located and issued the notice.

- An officer responded to a 911 hang-up call from a cell-phone at a residence on Marble Street. It was later determined that the call was made accidentally and that there was no emergency at the home.

- Officers responded to a mental-health crisis involving a juvenile on Park Street that had tried to commit self-harm. The individual was later transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center for treatment.

- BPD received a complaint about a vehicle traveling at excessive speed on Franklin Street. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

- Motor-vehicle stop at the intersection of Grove Street and Lovers Lane for defective equipment. The driver was determined to have a civilly suspended drivers license and was issued a ticket.

- BPD assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a medical call on High Pond Road in which an individual was having an anxiety attack.

- Foot patrol conducted on Center Street.

June 13

- 911 hang-up call received from Otter Valley HS. Officer contacted the school and was advised that there was no emergency and that a student had likely dialed 911 accidentally. No police action needed.

- Principal of Otter Creek Academy in Leicester requested a welfare check on a young student on Franklin Street that hadn't been in school since the previous week. An officer contacted that family and determined that the child had been ill.

- A concerned citizen requested a welfare check on several horses, who appeared "sickly" in a field on Town Farm Road. An officer determined that the horses had health conditions but were being looked after by the landowner.

Brandon Police Report

- BPD received a report of lost property at Hannaford Supermarket. The complainant later informed BPD that she had found her wallet.

- BPD responded to a residence on Grove Street for an unwanted individual at the home.

- Directed patrol conducted in the area of Seminary Park on West Seminary Street because of ongoing traffic complaints. No violations were observed.

- Motor-vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective headlight. Warning issued.

- Motor-vehicle stop for speeding on Grove Street. Ticket issued.

- Motor-vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued for speeding and ticket issued for failure to carry a drivers license.

- Motor-vehicle stop in Conant Square for speeding. Warning issued.

- Business check conducted at Mallory's Automotive on Forest Dale Road.

- Business check conducted at Walgreens on Union Street.

- Business check conducted at Union Street Grocery on Union Street.

- Property check conducted at a residence on Pearl Street.

June 14

- Business check conducted at 802 Spirits on Conant Square.

- Business check conducted at Otterside Animal Hospital on Conant Square.

- The owner of a business on West Seminary Street reported a suspicious male who had sold her some substandard speakers. The male was described as white, in his 50s, and driving a maroon SUV with Florida plates.

- BPD responded to a minor two-car crash on Park Street in front of the Bar Harbor Bank. It was determined that one of the drivers had failed to use care & caution when backing up, causing a collision with another vehicle that was pulling out of an opposite space.

- Directed traffic enforcement on West Seminary Street due to ongoing complaints. No violations were observed.

- Motor-vehicle stop on (See Police report, Page 19)

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION Get tickets for summer events!



English Cream Tea Party Sunday, June 25th 3:30 - 5:00pm On the Front Porch of The Brandon Inn

Enjoy a Traditional English "Cream Tea" with teapots, homemade scones, jams with cream as well as other baked goods. Chef Louis will give a scone making demo and there will be a short talk about the English tea traditions and culture. Adults: \$20, Under 12 years: \$10



PIZZA BY THE POND Sunday, July 9th 5:30 - 8:00pm At Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen (Rain date July 10th)

Join us around the pond for live music and wood-fired pizza! Open to the public, all ages, BYOB. Includes all-you-can-eat wood-fired pizza buffet, lemonade & iced tea. Bring a picnic blanket/chairs. Adults: \$40, Under 12 years: \$20, Family: \$100



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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
Franklin Street for speeding. Written warning was issued.
• BPD assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a medical call on Mulcahy Drive.

June 15

- A resident of Barlow Avenue called to report a fraudulent charge on her credit card.
- BPD responded to Conant Square for a report of construction vehicles blocking parking spaces in front of a business. All parties were spoken with and the situation was resolved, with suggestions made to the business owner regarding potential solutions to the parking issue.
- Fingerprints taken for nursing license.
- Traffic stop on Forest Dale Road for no turn signal. Warning issued.

June 16

- Business check conducted at 802 Spirits on Conant Square.
- Business check conducted

at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.
• Business check conducted at Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road.

- Fingerprints taken for nursing school.
- Property check conducted at residence on Wheeler Road.
- Officers conducted directed speed enforcement on Park Street, Grove Street, High Pond Road, and McConnell Road. 2 warnings and 2 tickets were issued.
- Officer assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad with a general medical call on Stanton Road. Police assistance was not needed and patient was transported to hospital.
- Officers responded to Brandon Inn on Park Street for report of individual stuck in elevator. Staff was able to open the elevator with a key and the individual was found to be safe.
- Officers conducted a welfare check at 2095 Franklin Street, Apt 39, and located a male with an active arrest warrant. Brian N. Dobbs (36) was taken into custody and lodged

at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for the charge of Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order as well as for an in-state arrest warrant.

June 17

- Vehicle stopped for speeding on Conant Square. Warning issued.
- Welfare check conducted on Rossiter Street. The subject of the check was found to be safe.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Ticket issued for failure to provide proof of insurance.
- BPD responded to Pine Tree Drive for a domestic disturbance.

June 18

- Business check at Union Street Grocery on Union Street.
- Business check at Brandon Lumber on Grove Street.
- False alarm at Champlain Farms on Grove Street.
- Vehicle stop for speeding on Forest Dale Road. Ticket issued for an unregistered ve-

hicle.
• Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Written warning issued.


- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Ticket issued for lack of liability insurance.
- BPD received report of an individual who was claimed to be intoxicated and on the way to pick up a child on Church Street for visitation. The suspected intoxicated driver contacted BPD and reported that she was being harassed and was neither driving nor intoxicated. Both parties were advised as

their options for resolving the matter.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for speeding. Ticket issued.
- BPD responded to reports of an injured deer on McConnell Road. Officers determined that the deer was already deceased when they arrived.
- Officers with BPD H.E.A.T. Unit conducted directed speed enforcement on Franklin Street. One driver was stopped for speeding and taken into custody for suspected DUI.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21–April 20
Aries, you will likely be giving much thought to your future and strategies that may increase your financial security. Reach out to your network for advice.

TAURUS April 21–May 21
Taurus, if communication has been difficult in the past, you will find that things change for the better in the days to come. You will gain a deeper understanding of others.

GEMINI May 22–June 21
Gemini, useful information reaches you this week, which helps you make important decisions about your finances. Use this opportunity to make changes.

CANCER June 22–July 22
Cancer, a social gathering presents you with an opportunity to meet new friends who may become valued business contacts. Treat every introduction with care.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23
Leo, you may be wondering what the next few months will hold for you. It is impossible to know all the details, but there are strong indications that there is a big change coming.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22
Career goals may come together even further this week, Virgo. This enables you to move into a position that will not compromise your needs or ideals.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23
Libra, you want to make a new start but may just need a little push to get you moving. Thankfully, your mind is clear from distractions that normally might derail your plans.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22
Scorpio, soul searching is to be expected due to the positioning of the planets this week. Once you figure out your true goals you may be surprised at what you discover.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21
Take time out from some of the exciting things that have been happening to you, Sagittarius. Figure out if you're satisfied in your career. You may decide to make changes.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20
A new understanding with others comes from improved communication and more flexibility, Capricorn. Optimism and understanding will spill into all areas of your life.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18
Your mind is on family and those close to you right now, Aquarius. Any decisions you make in the weeks ahead will be focused on the priority people in your life.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20
Information about investments and career potential may come to you soon. Take everything with a grain of salt until you can investigate.

II II II II II II II II II

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- June 22 Katherine Dunham, dancer, choreographer (d)
- June 23 Bob Fosse, dancer, choreographer (d)
- June 24 Mindy Kaling, comedian (44)
- June 25 Antoni Gaudi, architect (d)
- June 26 Pearl S. Buck, author (d)
- June 27 Lucille Clifton, poet (d)
- June 28 Peter Paul Reubens, artist (d)

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BY LYN DESMARAIS

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growth can be almost alarming. Other times it can appear dead, for years. Sometimes it really is dead. Come on, it's been three years, let it go.

Topsy turvy weather occurs; it's too hot, too cold, too windy, too soggy. We water, we stake, we weed, we cover and try to protect these baby plants from the harsh vicissitudes of life and weather. Then one sunny week in June, the magic happens. Just

as the daffodils and last lilacs are fading, baby plants (vegetable and flowers) emerge, and flowers open. Sprinkle around some annuals and wow! Enjoy the magic. Enjoy all your hard work: so beautiful, so satisfying. At least until tomorrow morning, when you'll be at it again: weeding, watering, planting, staking, and mulching. Let's not even discuss harvesting



VT's combined fire/EMS stations find ambulance calls and costs soaring

BY KEVIN O'CONNOR/
VT DIGGER

When Steven Locke took his current job, it seemed like a mouthful to

say he was chief of the South Burlington Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. But the 30-year veteran firefighter knows

the addition of ambulances brings more than just a longer name.

South Burlington reported 74 fires in 2022, according to city records. But its EMS requests totaled 3,154 in the same period — up 16% from the year before.

That's a challenge when the resulting \$950,000 in ambulance insurance reimbursements covered only about 20% of the department's \$4.2 million annual budget.

"The increased reliance on the 911 system for pre-hospital medical services is putting a tremendous strain on our existing services," Locke wrote in South Burlington's most recent annual report. "This is

a significant challenge that will tax our services for years to come."

The South Burlington chief is not alone. Locke, a board officer for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, worked previously in Burlington and Hartford, two of the six other Vermont municipalities with 5,000 or more people that run combined municipal fire and EMS departments. All report similar spikes in ambulance calls and costs — sparked in large part, they say, by people who don't want to wait in a doctor's office or emergency room.

In Vermont's biggest city, the Burlington Fire Department recorded 116 fires and 2,931 calls about

everything from false alarms to cats in trees in 2022, statistics show. But those combined numbers were less than half of its 6,817 EMS requests, up almost 25% from the year before.

For its work, Burlington collected about \$1.5 million through ambulance billing — leaving taxpayers to pick up the remaining 90% of its nearly \$14 million combined fire and EMS budget.

"The aforementioned significant increase in call volume creates challenges, which are often not seen in the public eye," Deputy Fire Chief Derek Libby wrote in Burlington's most recent annual report.

In the Windsor County town of Hartford — known for its village of White River Junction — 70% of its 2,637 calls the past year were for EMS, compared with 2% for fires and 28% for everything else. Hartford collected \$625,000 in insurance reimbursements, leaving taxpayers to pick up the remaining 80% of its \$3.5 million budget.

"We've seen a progressive increase in demand and costs," said Hartford Fire Chief Scott Cooney, who has worked for the town for 27 years. "EMS is a guaranteed way for someone to gain access to the medical system. Unfortunately, it is the most expensive way. The offsetting revenue doesn't nearly cover it."

In Brattleboro, municipal leaders are considering whether to join the ranks of other Vermont communities with combined fire/EMS stations. A review of records of (See Ambulance costs, Page 22)

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VT

Seeking applicants for the full-time position of Recreation Director and Economic Development Director

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Ambulance costs

(Continued from Page 22)

the seven largest such facilities — which, in addition to Burlington, Hartford and South Burlington, include Barre City, Montpelier, Springfield and Williston — show rising ambulance demand is causing a growing set of challenges.

“Brattleboro definitely has got its work cut out,” said Barre City Fire Chief Keith Cushman, whose own department responded to 17 fires and 1,752 EMS calls in 2022 — up 16% in a year. “Staffing, hours of training, delays to the supply chain ... it just continues to trend upward. There are so many moving parts to an EMS system. I don’t know if I’d want to try to build one now.”

“Very much a demand but no money to be made”

Take staff turnover. The Burlington department has hired a dozen new employees in the past year and has yet to fill its vacant head EMS position. Leaders say it’s difficult to recruit and retain candidates for jobs that require specialized training in both firefighting and emergency medical care.

“We must be prepared in all facets of personal interactions and mental health crises,” Battalion Chief Troy Ruggles wrote in Burlington’s most recent annual report. “A firefighter who arrives unprepared at an emergency can be faced with life-or-death situations and will find himself or herself under extreme stress to perform.”

Williston, with 35 fires and 1,417 EMS calls in the past year, recently hired nine additional employees (a \$785,000 annual expense) after staffers responding to a 2021 emergency could not find on-call replacements, leaving their station empty for almost an hour.

Springfield has been similarly stretched, with 37 fires and 2,420 EMS calls in the past year.

“We struggle with our staffing being inadequate to cover the growing number of calls,” recently retired Fire Chief Russ Thompson wrote in Springfield’s most recent annual report. “I don’t see the trend of higher emergency call volume slowing.”

Combined stations also report steeper costs and slower delivery of

equipment. Barre City, for example, recently ordered a new \$337,000 ambulance to replace a 15-year-old backup vehicle.

“That’s a \$100,000 price increase over just a year or two,” Barre City’s Cushman said. “The cost of everything is skyrocketing.”

Burlington, Hartford and South Burlington also have ordered ambulances for as much as \$432,259 each, only to learn they won’t arrive for up to three years because of nationwide supply chain issues. As a result, all anticipate the final price will ultimately increase.

“We’ve built in \$20,000 for contingencies,” Cushman said. “In the meantime, we’ve got our fingers crossed that our 2008 ambulance makes it.”

Unlike for fires, combined stations can bill public and private insurance for EMS calls. But none have found that the resulting payments cover rising budgets.

“Most of the patients we transport rely on Medicare or Medicaid, but the federal government reimburses at a very low rate,” South Burlington’s Locke said. “That, by and large, is the driving factor on why there’s very much a demand but no money to be made.”

Departments, in fact, annually have to decide how much to write off in unpaid ambulance bills. Hartford, for example, just logged a \$138,499 loss from unpaid ambulance bills, up from \$90,000 to \$100,000 in years past.

Brattleboro is temporarily co-“Pushed our fragile system ... to the point of crisis”

In Brattleboro, former Town Manager Octavian “Yoshi” Manale painted a different picture a year ago when he projected a municipal EMS takeover would reap “\$500,000 to \$700,000 net gain in revenue,” just before the selectboard approved a transition plan with little notice or public debate.

An independent feasibility study conducted after Manale abruptly resigned eight weeks later not only debunked the former Brattleboro manager’s figures, but also found the town’s former provider, the private nonprofit Rescue Inc., was the

most economical choice for maintaining current local coverage.

In comparison, the study determined that a proposed Brattleboro Fire Department takeover would increase costs and bolster the town’s understaffed system of crisis response.

Brattleboro leaders still have not shared any of the facts or figures that caused them to drop Rescue Inc. But the agenda for Tuesday’s selectboard meeting reports they plan to reveal estimated first-year start-up costs for a combined fire/EMS department that total \$1.3 million to \$1.9 million.

In comparison, Brattleboro had signed a \$285,600 annual contact with Rescue Inc. before the selectboard dropped the nearly 60-year agreement last year.

Nationally, ambulance operating costs jumped 22% between 2017 and 2020, according to a recent FAIR Health study of 36 billion claim records, while average Medicare reimbursement increased by just 5%.

“Years of inadequate reimbursement for services rendered, unreliable levels of local, state and federal support, and the pressure of the global pandemic have pushed our fragile system and those who serve our communities to the point of crisis,” the Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee wrote in a recent report to the state Legislature.

Of Vermont’s 28 cities and towns with 5,000 or more people, 13 run their own ambulances through their fire departments or, in the case of six communities, separate municipal facilities. None report making a profit, with taxpayers subsidizing as much as two-thirds of standalone EMS spending after insurance collection, according to a VTDigger survey.

“The department is concerned with our ability to meet the service demands of our community,” Locke wrote in South Burlington’s most recent annual report. “There does not appear to be any reduction of the medical call frequency on the horizon.”

Middlebury College’s 38th Summer Carillon Series begins July 7

Middlebury, VT—On the evening of Friday, July 7, the air around Middlebury will ring with the beauty of the College Chapel carillon bells, and a new season of the most public of performances will begin. The Middlebury College Carillon Summer Concert Series, an annual treat for visitors to campus and the surrounding community, will continue almost weekly on Fridays through August 18, ending with a performance for the Language Schools Commencement. Performed by internationally renowned carillonists, these six concerts will include music that runs the gamut from classical and folk songs to pop and Broadway.

This is the 38th year of the summer series, which has been directed since its inception by George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur for both Middlebury College and Norwich University. Mr. Matthew has taught generations of students at both schools the art of the carillon. In

2023 Carillon Series Schedule
July 7 at 6:00 PM: Sydney Nguyen, Assistant Carillonneur Wellesley College

July 14 at 6:00 PM: Sergei Gratchev, Instructor, Belgian Carillon School and Middlebury College Summer School

(no concert July 21)
July 28 at 6:00 PM: Simone Browne, Assistant Carillonneur, The Riverside Church, NYC

August 4 at 6:00 PM: Amy Heebner ’93, City Carillonneur, Albany, NY

August 11 at 6:00 PM: Charles Semowich, Carillonneur, The Riverside Church, NYC

August 18 at 3:00 PM:*
George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur, Middlebury College and Norwich University (*Please note early start time, as a prelude to Language Schools Commencement.)

About Middlebury’s CarillonA carillon is a musical instrument



GEORGE MATTHEW, JR., long-time Carillonneur of Middlebury College and Norwich University.
Photo provided.

fact, Middlebury alumna Amy Heebner ’93, who is now the city carillonneur in Albany, NY, has been coming “home” to play in the series for several years.

In March of 2020, as Middlebury’s campus was shuttered by COVID-19, Mr. Matthew championed the power of this far-reaching instrument. “On March 20th all our students left campus and I played Bach for hours, punctuating it every 10 minutes with the college alma mater, as if to say, ‘we ain’t beat yet and we want you back.’”

This summer’s Carillon Series performances are free and open to the public and can be enjoyed on the chapel steps or on the surrounding lawns. Audiences are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Picnics are optional!

whose sound is produced by at least 23 cast bronze, cup-shaped bells. The carillonneur plays by striking a keyboard with black and white keys and foot pedals connected by wires to the bells.

The Middlebury Carillon is housed in the Middlebury Chapel tower, which is a 75-step climb ending in a rustic ladder to reach the belfry—a challenge for intrepid musicians. It was established initially as a chime of eleven bells in 1918. (A chime is a similar instrument made up of fewer than 23 bells.) In 1985 the instrument was enlarged to a full carillon of 48 bells as a gift from then Chairman of the Board of Trustees Allan Dragone ’50 and his wife Jane Dragone. The summer series began in 1986 and has continued ever since.



Vermont Turkey Brood Survey starts July 1

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is seeking the public's help with monitoring wild turkeys.

Since 2007, the department has run an annual online survey in August for reporting turkey broods. Beginning in 2021, the survey was expanded to include the month of July. The use of "citizen scientists" in

this way facilitates the department's ability to collect important turkey population and productivity data from all corners of the state.

If you see a flock of turkeys in Vermont during July and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and report

your observations, including where and when you observed the turkeys with the number of adult and young turkeys you observed. The value of the data collected improves when more people participate.

"Information gathered from this survey helps us monitor long-term trends in the productivity of Vermont's wild turkey

population," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's turkey biologist Chris Bernier. "It also helps us assess the impacts of spring weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys which is an important consideration in the management of turkeys."

"We monitor and manage wild turkey numbers annually in order to maintain a healthy,

abundant and sustainable population of these iconic and ecologically significant birds throughout the state," added Bernier.

"Please help us scientifically manage the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during July and August."

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