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Wednesday, August 23, 2023

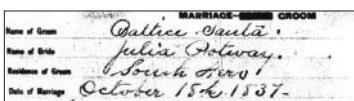
\$1



DO IT FOR THE ANIMALS

'For the Luv of Dogs' car show brought in \$1,200 for the Rutland Humane Society. See some of the amazing classic cars.

PG. 14



NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Michael Dwyer tells us how Santa came to Brandon and ended up off center.

PG. 2

STEP UP BRANDON

Claire Astone explains the important Restorative Justice work done by BRAVO in Brandon.

PG. 4



FOND REMEMBRANCES

Vicki Disorda shares her memories of a dear friend and celebrated Vermont writer, Yvonne Daley.

PG. 6

FUN IN THE SUN

'Slide out of Summer' at Estabrook Park wrapped up the 2023 summer season with fun in the sun.

PG. 3



YOUNG AND OLD came out to celebrate Pittsford on Pittsford Day at the Pittsford Rec Center. Vendors, activities, music, and food kept everyone entertained and happy. Here, kids test their balancing skills on the logroll. Photos by Lisa Wolcott

Pittsford Day shines in Vermont's 'Sunshine Village'

BY LISA WOLCOTT

PITTSFORD—It was chilly and overcast, but people still came out to celebrate the 'Sunshine Village' on Pittsford Day last Saturday.

There were multiple activities for young and old alike: log rolling, mini golf, bounce house, a magic show, a driving simulator,

and even a frying-pan throwing contest.

Music was provided by Resolution Band and Satin and Steel.

Pittsford First Response were on hand to offer up fried dough and French fries. The Pittsford Fire Department was also there to show off its amazing Boo Mobile and remind

(See Pittsford Day, Page 8)

Fred Putnam of Busy Bee Honey is a busy bee indeed

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—For some folks, a bee sting can cause a serious allergic reaction or even result in death. For most of us, though, it's just a painful reminder that we're someplace the bee would rather we were not. And so the buzzing of a bee in the vicinity, like the rattle of a rattlesnake, makes many people either freeze in fear or run in panic. Beekeepers in action, then, are a fascinating display of sangfroid in a situation that would send most

of us shrieking over hill and dale.

Fred Putnam of Brandon's Busy Bee Honey, however, goes about his business—managing colonies and collecting honey—as if walking among tens of thousands of bees were not the terrifying prospect it would be for the rest of us. When he invited me to come learn how bees are kept and honey is gathered, I immediately told him of my childhood trauma of being stung multiple

(See Busy Bee Honey, Page 21)

'Broom Art' showcases work by Kimble, Bull, Mayo

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON — The conantsquareGallery in Brandon has a compelling new show of abstract art by a group of prominent artists who make Brandon their home. Warren Kimble, Fran Bull, and Sandy Mayo have had long, successful careers and have known each other for years, but this marks the first occasion that the three of them have shown their work together.

The impetus for the show was the opening of the gallery in the downtown building that Mayo purchased two years ago from Charles Powell, Steven Zorn, and Brent Buehler, who had run the antiques shop Found Objects in the storefront there for years. The space that the shop had occupied was perfect for an art gallery. And with the Brandon Artists Guild and the Vermont Folk Art Gallery already drawing art lovers to Brandon, it seems like another gallery would enhance Brandon's reputation as an art hub in the area.

"I was reluctant to open a gallery," said Mayo in the minimalist, gray-walled space. "I enjoy studio work."

But the gallery is an opportunity for Mayo to present her own work and that of artists she knows and admires, like Kimble and Bull.

The inaugural show isn't simply an excuse to haul old work out of storage. Instead, the three came up with an approach that was meant

(See conantsquareGallery, Page 9)



CLOSE UP OF honeybees in an opened hive at one of Fred Putnam's apiaries. The raw, unfiltered honey is sold through Busy Bee Honey.

Photos by Steven Jupiter and Fred Putnam

Names lost in Vermont, Part 6: Battis Santa aka John Center

BY MICHAEL DWYER

“Battis Santa” and “Julia Potway” were married in South Hero, Vermont on October 19, 1838 by a Justice of the Peace. With no further information on the marriage record, their names, albeit garbled forms, pointed to their origin in Canada. As a starting point, their marriage outside the Catholic Church, would have resulted in their excommunication unless their marriage was later validated or “rehabilitated” by a priest. No further record was found. Julia’s surname was easier to reorient than Santa’s. She was baptized as Julie Lapoetrie at Varennes, across the St. Lawrence River, from Montreal, on March 31, 1817.

Wondering if Julie and her husband left Canada in the aftermath of the rebellions, I discovered that Julie’s uncle Barthélemy Lapotterie, a carriage-maker of Varennes, was arrested on February 18, 1838 for making a dinnertime toast to the health of rebel Louis-Joseph Papineau. Evidently, one of his neighbors denounced him. While freed 11 days after incarceration, Lapotterie’s arrest underscores the social tension within his village.

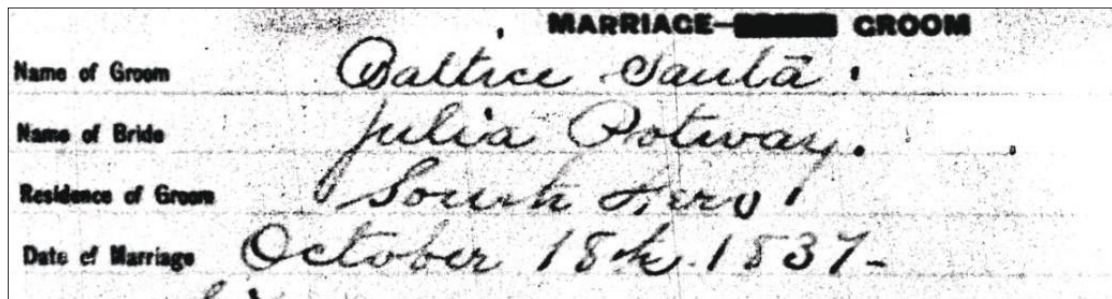
Jumping forward to the census of 1900, widow Julia Center, age 92 [really 82], lived with her son Adam Center. A telling statistic from the census: Julia had borne 13 children of whom only 6 were living. Having lived in many places, Julia spent her last days with married daughter Sophie Ploof in St. Regis Falls, New York, where she died in 1909. The Ploof family gravestone in St. Ann’s Cemetery with Julia’s name and dates looks fairly modern, rather than dating from the early 20th century.

Only through tracking Julia’s family through censuses from 1850 through 1880 did her husband’s true identity come into sharp relief. Battis Santa was born Jean-Baptiste Henri Pallerland/Payer dit St. Onge at La

Présentation, Québec, in July 1819. Only 19 at the time of his marriage, “Battis,” later known as John, would have needed his parents’ permission if married in the Catholic Church. Thus, the dit portion of his last name, St. Onge, was mangled to Santa and then Center.

In the first ten years of their marriage, John and Julia Center had at least six children born in northern Vermont, their births unrecorded. I can only speculate why they ended up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the time of the 1850 census alongside the family of Lewis “Laputra,” Julia’s brother. Their time west was short-lived because they were counted in New York State’s 1855 census in Granby, Oswego County before coming back to Vermont in 1860. Searching by last names alone can lead down false paths. Living in Grand Isle, the census-taker wrote John and Julia’s surname as Stone! Perhaps the recorder heard St. Onge and could not spell a French name.

More moves awaited this migrant family: John, Julia, and their two remaining children at home lived in Dickinson, New York, in 1870, nearby to their married children. John Center died sometime before 1900, probably in New York State, where vital records were not as well kept as Vermont during this time. One branch of John and Julia’s family established themselves in Brandon and surrounding towns. Some of the Center descendants may have figured out some earlier generations were named St. Onge, but it is a greater leap to learn their first ancestor to migrate from France to Canada was Jacques Payant dit Saint-Onge, a soldier, who chose to stay in New France (Quebec), where he married and plied his trade as a shoemaker. He was born in the village of Jonzac, within the Saintonge region of France—at last a dit name with a specific link to geography!



TOP: BATTIS “BATTICE” Santa’s marriage record in the Vermont Vital Records.

BOTTOM: ADAM CENTER’S off-center headstone in Pine Hill Cemetery. Not only is the name off center, but the year of death was also never engraved. Photos provided.

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Slide out of Summer 2023!

Kids frolicked and cavorted at Estabrook Park on Sunday, August 20 to send summer 2023 off with a bang. Pictured bottom right (l to r): Kas Singh, Patty Moore, and Dallas Ladd.

Photos by Harmony Van Eaton and Colleen Wright

BACK TO SCHOOL SALE!



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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

BRAVO comes to Brandon

BY CLAIRE ASTONE

Welcome to Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO). Let's talk for a bit about this unusual name for a town committee in Brandon and what actually happens within the workings of this group of volunteers.

What we do is something called Restorative Justice (RJ). If the words are understood individually, you might be amazed at how much you already know about these ideas.

Restorative: This is a word you may not use much but it is something almost all of us do. We restore or bring new life back to something of value or worth to us. How about that vintage car, the garden in spring, repairing a child's bike that's been forgotten all winter in the snow, new zipper in the old-but-still-good coat? Repairing fences comes to mind or that especially fun job of putting the fallen rocks back into something like a wall. What is it that kids say to a parent? Can you fix this for me? This is the idea of restoration and it is a part of our lives throughout the year. We do it because we believe in the value of the work necessary.

Justice. Probably not a part of our everyday lives unless maybe you might be presiding over the courtroom, holding the gavel, in the justice system itself. But maybe there is a way to talk or think about justice that we might mostly be willing to agree to.

The first idea that comes to mind for many is the notion of fairness and perhaps that people get what they deserve. We may often think that something happened which was negative or even horrible and we want "justice" or fairness or to make

it right or better. It may also be about the notion that we want justice to be something that is available to all persons and situations. The idea that although we know people and situations are not perfect, there is a way or a means for things to be worked out in what ends up being fair to all parties. Perhaps even a resulting peace.

Some simple words with big ideas could find themselves here: integrity, goodness, a fair shake, impartiality, evenhandedness, honor, righteousness, doing the right thing are some examples.

Now let me try and connect these two very different words together with their meaning. Restorative justice (RJ), is what we try to bring to the community when someone has been arrested and often someone or something has been harmed. We work toward a sense of justice in that there is a fairness for all involved. An agreement of a final acceptance of outcomes. That the person harmed feels made whole again by the actions and behaviors of that very same individual that created the harm. This is what draws us to this work.

We are invested in this service as one in which we attempt to restore balance and a better reconciliation between the person harmed and the person who inflicted the harm. Not cars, not toys, not fences. We try to facilitate the restoration and justice into the room and between the parties so that the individuals and the community might remain safe and respectful and hopeful. We do this by asking that people tell their stories. What did they experience? How does the person harmed feel? Was fear cre-

(See BRAVO Brandon, Page 7)



All that glitters

THIS GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was in residence under the power line in Long Swamp. Golden-winged Warblers breed in tangled, shrubby habitats and often move into nearby woodland when the young have fledged. They spend winters in open woodlands and shade-coffee plantations of Central and South America.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Otter Valley 55th Reunion coming up

The O. V. U. H. S. Class of 1968 will hold a reunion at the Brandon Inn on Saturday evening, September 23rd. The festivities start at 5 and go until 10.

All classmates have been notified by email or postcard, but if you or someone you know hasn't received an invitation, or if you want more details, please contact

Diana Coleman at dianawcoleman@gmail.com or Jim Peck at jpeck206@gmail.com

Brandon United Methodist Church hosting fundraiser tag sale Sept. 2nd

The Brandon United Methodist Church is having a Fund-Raising Tag Sale Saturday September 2nd 9-1, 1 Franklin Street. Rain or Shine. Donations Welcome.

We will be accepting donations Sunday, August 27th, from 12:30-2 and Tuesday, August 29th, from 12-3. No clothing or upholstered furniture please.

Table space will be available for \$20. 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 or historic building, please contact Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzfm@hotmail.com) or (802) 282-7532 or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125. All Welcome.

Donations can be mailed to Brandon United Methodist Church, PO Box 55, Brandon, VT 05733.

The REPORTER

The Reporter is a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

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

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Letter to the Editor

Come to tell & hear stories about the Brandon Inn—the Mitroff years

I am the daughter of Al and Trudy Mitroff, who were innkeepers at The Brandon Inn from 1961 to 1983. I am hoping by this letter to find those of you (or someone you know) who worked for my parents at the Inn to invite you to an informal night of “Inn” storytelling at the Brandon Inn on Thursday, September 22nd, 2023, from 7 to 10 pm.

I will share a few stories that I remember, as well as share stories that my mother wrote about the goings-on at the Inn in letters sent to me when I was in college—weddings, skiers, permanent residents. The stories about guests and employees that she tells are funny, sad, silly, and serious; they give a wonderful glimpse into the “behind the scenes” insanity of innkeeping. I know there are even more stories out there from employees who

worked at the Inn—and we had a lot of you! Recently, after going through old payroll records, just within a 4-year timeframe (1968-1972), I counted 188 employees!

The new innkeeper, Sid Becar Varela, is excited about hearing these stories and will be joining me, along with nephew Scott Mitroff, who has stories as well. Both my brothers, Jack and Bill, have passed away (2020, 2021). I will be visiting Brandon and staying at the Brandon Inn from September 21 through 24. My OVUHS Class of 1968 is having its 55th Reunion at the Brandon Inn on Sept 23.

Please RSVP to my email or phone/text:

Mitroff.annmarie@gmail.com; 914-815-5872 cell (PDT)

And, if you have any questions or want to join by ZOOM,

please let me know by calling or an email.

We will have munchies and libations available.

Finally, in the spirit of my father, one of his poems is appropriate for the occasion:

*NOSTALGIA
Nostalgia is a wondrous thing
To catch, quite worth the try.
It pumps blood faster through
the heart,
And brings back days gone by.
'Tis here we find our past,
quite safe,
Its' pains and tears all gone,
And only pleasant memories
Their warmth still lingering
on.*

-A.P.M.
7/17/78

It would be nice to see you,
Ann-Marie Mitroff

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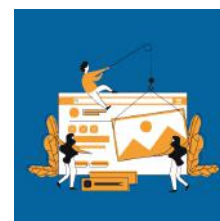
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Letters to the editor

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

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage

area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

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

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m. Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@brandonreporter.com

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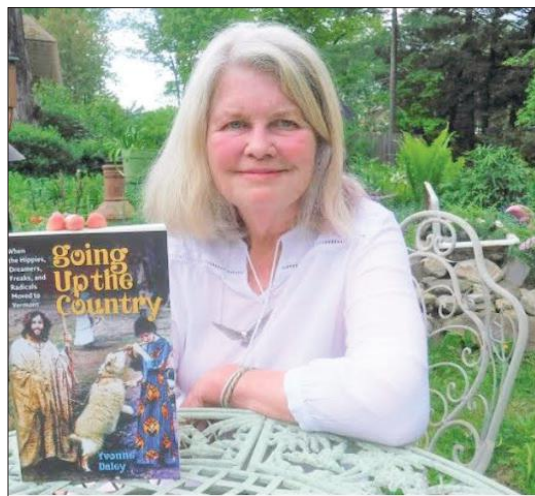
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In Honor of Freedom of Speech Angel Over Our Shoulder (Revisited)

BY VICKI DISORDA

BRANDON — One year ago this month, Yvonne Daley—author, mentor, and friend—passed away. When first moving to Vermont, Yvonne settled in Brandon. Before becoming a



YVONNE DALEY

reporter for the Rutland Herald and covering the news in town, Yvonne was a substitute teacher at Otter Valley. She knew Brandon and its people well. Much to her credit, Yvonne appreciated the characteristics of the people as well as the land.

Given this era of buzzwords and catch phrases that are all too frequently intended to impress rather than inform, native area residents may be feeling less than confident about projecting their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs, particularly working-class (or is it blue-collar?) citizens from the private sector who may not necessarily be hip to the latest trends nor care because their incomes are not reliant on words.

So, in honor of the people and class of folks I grew up with here in Brandon and our freedom of speech, I am re-sharing this article which was originally written and published last year in honor of Yvonne. One of my fondest examples of Vermont-speak was published in her book “Going Up the Country” and reads as follows:

The last comes from Dick McCormack, a folksinger, teacher, radio broadcaster, and longtime Vermont Senator.

McCormack’s family goes back several generations in Bethel, but his father couldn’t wait to get out of Vermont. As soon as possible, he moved to New York, where he worked as a teacher. “We were summer people. We would take turns at the Bethel house, a wonderful time with hiking and berrying and just being outside. One day a man came to pasture the hay. My mother and grandmother, all

of us, were out on the verandah with nothing to do. I’m wearing my seersucker and we’re all up there watching him work. He’s looking at us, these little fat kids and these ladies in their wide-brimmed hats and you know what he’s thinking, ‘They’re using me for their entertainment.’

All of the sudden, he yells out, ‘Move your arses, you old goddam bitches,’ and other swears and insults. ‘Salty isn’t he? Rustic,’ Mother says. ‘Let’s go inside, shall we?’

I loved it. I loved that freedom he had to say exactly what he was thinking with no regard for how we might react. That’s independence, the kind money can’t buy.”

Yvonne artfully captured the language I grew up with as a native Vermonter and skillfully spun tales of some of Brandon’s most legendary characters into the introduction of her book. As I read the antics of poet Mike Lewis and local plumber Ray Downs, set in LaDuke’s bar and restaurant, I wondered if my grandmother was there. Gram was employed at LaDuke’s, as well as at the Yankee Kitchen and Brandon Inn at different intervals throughout her working career. If they had met, what would Yvonne have penned about her?

Gram had a penchant for telling it like it is as well as any farmer in the land. The freedom to speak one’s mind and the saltiness of the language Dick McCormack admired so much was as likely and natural to hear from someone’s grandmother as it was any man in those days. Or should I say male-gendered person? It was truth telling at its core, and it was raw. Nobody minced words. This freedom of expression is why I love my grandmother’s spirit, Yvonne Daley, and Vermont so much. Even a child can sense the truth, no matter the language it is packaged in.

This freedom seems like it is about to disappear.

In lieu of raising cultural awareness and acceptance, we natives are expected to change, to bend, or to be silent. But thanks to persons like Yvonne, we will not break. No matter how one arranged vowels, syllables, the ad-

jectives used, or the consonants left out, Yvonne caught the truth and the spirit of the Vermonters she wrote about by striving as she always did... to understand. We as a nation and our leaders could stand to learn a lot from her. Most certainly, we could all use a little bit more truth these days...without fear of ridicule or chastisement.

Personally, I am blessed to have known Yvonne, not only as writing mentor, but as friend. While we natives have a unique way of telling-it-like-it-is that may be offensive to some, Yvonne crafted characters her readers could love and possibly even admire. This was done by taking the time to get to know the individuals who inhabited the land upon her arrival. Too bad Columbus didn’t have her as a friend.

Throughout her life and career, Yvonne carried herself in the spirit of love she identified as being a liberal, “as defined as a person who is tolerant, unprejudiced, open-minded and enlightened.” One needs to be specific these days.

Old timers and Vermont natives seem to have a penchant for speaking in a manner which might be downright hard to hear, particularly for those with delicate ears or who have never heard the language before. “That’s independence, the kind money can’t buy.” When my uncle died in February of 2021, it felt like a part of our culture—and our freedom—died with him. Thanks to Yvonne and other writers like her, the spirit and customs of those gone shall live on.

What a blessing it has been to our glorious state and to our town (and to me) that a young woman known as “Boston” came to settle here all those years ago “when the hippies, dreamers, freaks, and radicals moved to Vermont.” Yvonne will long be remembered as the angel over our shoulder whenever we communicate the only way we know how...freely. She will always be in the recesses of my mind as I sit and type, journal into notebooks and express myself exploring the gifts she taught so well.

Yvonne will live on because of the patient practice of understanding she believed in. Her work, this community, and the many lives she documented will be known for many generations to come. Yvonne, may you rest in peace knowing your calling has been fulfilled. God blessed us with an angel the moment you arrived. Namaste.



All the rage ‘back in the day’

BY GENE CHILDERS

What music were folks “kicking up their heels to” in the early 1900s? Well, ragtime was certainly popular. It was essentially a piano style that began in the U.S. with pianist Scott Joplin and became very popular here and abroad. The bouncy, happy, syncopated rhythm was a refreshing change from rhythms of the day. “Rags,” as the pieces were known, were quickly adopted by bands and orchestras. However, the hot, new music that really got people moving and grooving was what is referred today as traditional jazz or, as it is also called, Dixieland jazz. It began in New Orleans as a small-band style with some unique characteristics.

Popular music and dance styles in the 1800s were largely based on European popular, classical, or folk traditions. The Afro-Caribbean influences found in New Orleans mixed with the music of the church, European forms, blues, and ragtime and produced a whole new style of music and dance steps. What would eventually be called jazz first appeared around 1895 with trumpeter Buddy Bolden and his band. A special feature of this new American music was improvisation. Everyone in the band could take a turn showing off their skills. Jazz was essentially highly rhythmic music for dancing and parading. The instruments usu-

ally found in these bands included various combinations of trumpet, trombone, tuba, clarinet, saxophone, banjo, guitar, string bass, piano and drums. Most bands playing this style numbered 5 to 7 musicians. The “hot jazz” bands and players became stars: Kid Ory, Joe “King” Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Bessie Smith, and the list goes on. They were among the first popular music entertainment stars. Jazz was played in dance halls, parades, bars, night clubs, street corners, parks, and on riverboats. The “Original Dixieland Jass Band” recorded the first ever jazz record in 1917. The record was an instant hit and, as is often said, “The rest is history.” Traditional jazz is foundational to all jazz styles that would follow. The sensibilities of jazz, especially improvisation, influenced rhythm and blues and rock.

This Saturday, August 26, 2023 the “Onion River Jazz Band” will play at the Brandon Town Hall. This will be a fun evening of dancing, toe-tapping, good listening and laughs. There will be a “Second Line Parade” led by Emma Jeanne Hoops. Everything you need know to join in the parade and be a “second liner” will be provided and explained. All that’s required is a joyous spirit and fun-loving attitude. Come and “kick up your heels” to the music that was all the rage “back in the day.”

BRAVO Brandon

(Continued from Page 4)
 ated? Was there a dollar amount of damage that needs to be addressed? What might be of support to them and what outcomes do they wish to see come from this process of RJ?

We ask what happened with the respondent to create this situation. Are there other options or decisions that could have been chosen? Was there pressure or perceived need for this negative act to unfold? How does it feel to be here and listening to the impacts of your choices and behavior? What might make this situation better and how might you move forward? How have your choices impacted you and your family and your community?

This is some of the process facilitated by the committee persons (called a panel) as the main focus of the work to explore. To reach consensus and most importantly to facilitate the repair or restoration which might be put into place to contribute to healing and a sense of justice. This might be where you could think about the “sentence fitting

the crime.” Creating and completing significant tasks given back to create the just balance of things.

I hope this helps to provide a basis for your understanding of what happens when the involved parties meet with us. However, I need to be fair and state that often, the persons harmed do not wish to participate, which

Our goal is building relationships and helping to create trust and an understanding that a mistake does not need to take you out of your community, or define you, or destroy your future. People are precious, and who does not deserve a second chance?

is their choice. We do provide this process and options to the person affected. Sometimes they may choose to share what they would like to see happen or be learned. It may be an apology in writing and/or to know what was decided between the panel and the respondent. Last year, during a statewide

conference with RJ communities across Vermont, we were surprised that our experience of not having a victim in the room with the respondent is more often the case than not. We do not force or pressure people to attend. We do however explain that this is often an experience where their voice, anger and hurt can be shared and heard, but again, it’s each per-

son’s choice. We respect that.

The cases we get do come from our Brandon Chief of Police. He is able to speak with a State’s Attorney in Rutland County and has input into the course of the case. We are not offered felonies. Those automatically are sent to the court system. When we receive a case, we contact both parties and explain the process to them. The respondent must be willing to accept responsibility for RJ to occur. If this does not happen, the case automatically goes to the court system. We arrange schedules and a place of privacy to ensure confidentiality and move forward. Generally, it will take at least three sessions to get through the process. The story is created during the process and we document them as shared by the participants, the work which will be written as a contract and which requires completion by the respondent and proof of outcomes. These reparations are very dependent upon the age of the person who is sitting with us. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We have seen youth as young as 11 and over the past few years most of our cases have involved youth. With a successful completion and justice served, the case is considered closed and sealed. There is no court involvement. The debt is paid. Hope for the future has a path forward.

Here is how restoration may

be experienced in your world and in ours within BRAVO. You start with some ideas and perhaps some notion of how things might move ahead. A plan. But things almost never go as you planned. This is the challenge and the great joy you get to experience, when in spite of all odds, you have helped shape and complete the process at hand. You have made something whole again. And for us it might be an angry kid who doesn’t want to speak and has an attitude larger than any you can remember from your own adolescence. Or a person harmed, hurt, and experiencing a lack of trust. But there is a moment when it becomes clear, and you know that your training—being a good and fair listener, holding the group to being respectful even when it looks like it all may blow up, a sense of humor which helps almost everything, and a genuine

caring and integrity that has been displayed throughout—supports the process to a beautiful ending. Our goal is building relationships and helping to create trust and an understanding that a mistake does not need to take you out of your community, or define you, or destroy your future. People are precious, and who does not deserve a second chance?

Gratitude from BRAVO. To be a part of this community, to serve and support the process of reshaping lives and building peace in our community is our mission.

Please visit the new BRAVO website under the Committee section on the Town of Brandon website.

*Gratefully and respectfully submitted,
 Claire Astone
 Chair, BRAVO*

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Pittsford Day

(Continued from Page 1)
folks that it will be running its famous Haunted House for the 40th year this fall (October 20, 21, 27, 28).

Liz Alvarado, who is taking over for Jen Popp as Pittsford's Recreation and Economic Development Director, said she's excited to plan activities for everyone in the community, especially for children and seniors,

and to maintain the town's fantastic trail system.

"We like Pittsford largely because of the relationships we have made with our neighbors, the joy being outdoors brings, and the simple lifestyle," said Pittsford resident Yancy Hammond-Graf.

It's a sentiment a lot of people in town share.



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FRAN BULL STANDS before two of her new “broom” paintings that channel the gestural energy of the Abstract Expressionists of the 1950s. It was a departure for Bull, who felt “flummoxed” by the assignment of painting with brooms. Photos by Steven Jupiter

conantsquareGallery

(Continued from Page 1)

to stimulate their creativity and liberate them from their old habits: all the work in the show had to be painted with brooms. And why not? A broom is, in essence, a large brush.

The brooms could be big or small, but they had to be clearly brooms with stiff bristles and not

soft brushes. So, they used classic floor-sweeping brooms, handheld dustpan brooms, and all sizes in between. While the technique may sound gimmicky, the results are reminiscent of the Abstract Expressionist work that dominated the art world in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s.

Kimble is perhaps best known for the faux-folk art he popularized in the 80s and 90s: highly stylized animals and landscapes that are instantly recognizable as his. But the success of that work was both a blessing and a curse. It was financially lucrative but boxed him in as an artist.

“I wanted to loosen up,” he said. “I needed to get wild. I needed something to get me excited. It was a healthy thing for me.”

The work he produced for this show has a great deal in common with Jackson Pollock, a similarity Kimble readily acknowledges. Several of Kim-

ble’s works here use the drip technique that Pollock pioneered, covering the canvas in a veil of drips, drops, and splashes. As with any Pollock work, the key is in the control of the paint. Kimble takes care here not to present a wild mess but rather a coherent composition.

For example, in “Ode to J.P.,” the title of which is a direct reference to Jackson Pollock, Kimble creates a fabric of slender blue tendrils on a dark background, beginning and ending off the canvas, giving the illusion of infinite space.

In another piece, called “Passages,” Kimble plays at the intersection of abstraction and representation, allowing the Pollockesque drips to form shapes that suggest tunnels and roads.

“People don’t think of me as an abstract artist, but I am,” said Kimble. Not only does Kimble create abstract sculptures—assemblages—out of found objects, but he also sees his stylized folk forms as abstractions of reality.

Fran Bull began her long career among the artists who made Abstract Expressionism the hot new thing in the 50s. It’s work she knows well and which seems to come naturally to her, despite her years making representational work, ranging from photorealism to the exuberant exaggerations of her latest sculptures. In this show, she channels some of the gestural strength that was in vogue in the 1950s without devolving into kitsch. She recognizes as much (See *conantsquareGallery*, Page 24)



WARREN KIMBLE NEEDED to “loosen up” and embraced the project. Here, he embraces one of the brooms he used in making the work he showed at conantsquareGallery.

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Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?

are on page 16!

OUR CREATIVE KIDS



ARTISTS: Luna

AGE: 5 years old

SCHOOL: Home school

MEDIUM: Markers

TITLE: Stromae sings at the
"Tiny Desk Concert"



TANNER SIEMONS WON his first race since 2021.

At Devil's Bowl Hanson, English, Barrows, and more nab wins Masterson and Siemons Split Modified Doubles

WEST HAVEN – Josh Masterson and Tanner Siemons headlined a long list of winners Sunday night at New England's Fastest Dirt Track. The 14th event of the 2023 schedule was a massive card of racing that sported double features in every division besides the Mini Stocks, plus two Mohawk Valley Vintage Dirt Modified features that brought back great memories from Devil's Bowl's nearly 60-year history.

David Boisclair and Anthony Warren led the 30-car field to green in the first of two Sunoco Modified feature events. While Boisclair led the early going, 14th place starter Josh Masterson slowly worked through the field, using a pair of mid-race cautions to propel himself to victory lane. Masterson became the first repeat winner in the ultra-competitive class in 2023. Walter Hammond, Jr, Brent Warren, Marty Kelly, III and Frank Hoard, III completed the top five. The second feature saw Orford, Nh.'s Tanner Siemons check-in to the winners' circle for the first time since 2021. Siemons was followed by Warren, Hammond, Jr, Quenneville and Justin Comes.

The first O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman feature was won by Steve Miller of Vergennes. Miller charged from 6th place to his first win at 'The Bowl' this season over Justin Lilly, early leader Fred Little, points leader Randy Ryan and William Lussier, Jr. In the second feature, Gary English, Jr scored the win over Little, Alex Layn, Lussier, Jr and A.J. Munger.

Eric Shaw scored his first career win in the Novice division, using the top groove to power off the outside of the front row and scooting out to a comfortable lead. A series of late cautions forced Shaw to hold off a rim-riding Matt Wade, who was tailed at the line by Tyler Travis, Russ Farr and Ed Bell. Bell completed the night with a win in the second feature over Adam La-Fountain, Bobbi Hulst, Randy Edson and Wade.

Ray Hanson won the first Friend

Construction Mini Sprint feature over Logan Denis, Roger LaDuc, Kevin Smith and John Smith. Then in the second feature, Kevin Smith went from 5th to 1st to claim the win over John Smith, Denis, Gage Provencher and Hanson.

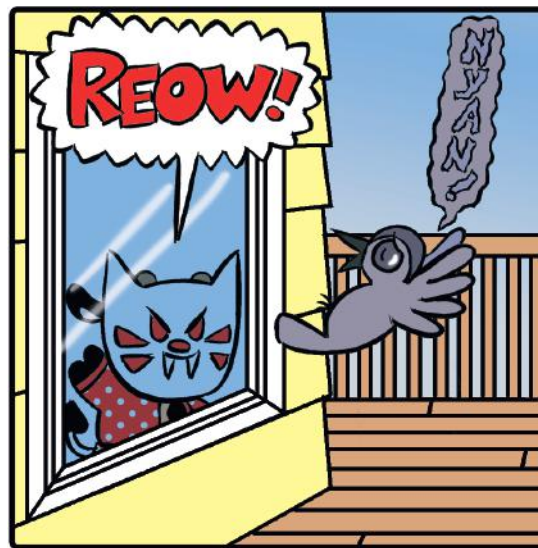
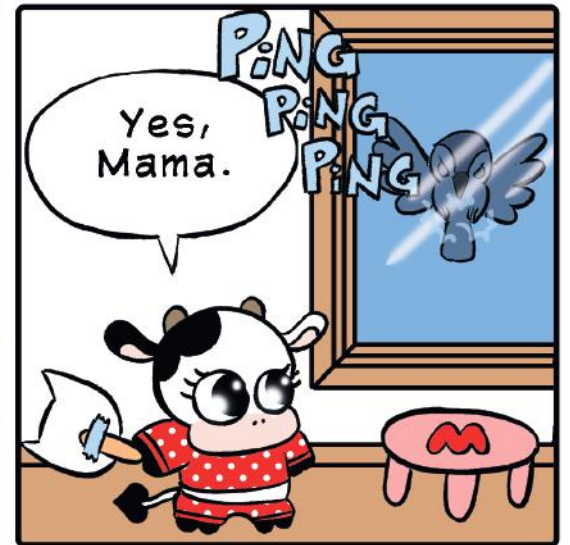
In full-fendered racing, Jake Barrows captured his second win of 2023 in the 15-lap Mini Stock race in impressive fashion, climbing from 14th starting spot to secure the win. Griff Mahoney was 2nd followed by Jakobee Alger, Craig Kirby and Brian Blake. The new, 9th State Crown Vic division enjoyed two 10-lap feature events. The first of which was won by Norm Morill over Rob Steele, Chad Merrill, Jackson Ducharme and newcomer Elisabeth Dupont. Steeled commanded the second feature, starting 3rd and passing Morill and Ducharme on his way to another victory in the class' first season. Morill was runner-up and Ducharme was 3rd.

The Mohawk Valley Vintage Dirt Modified Series ran two, 20-lap features with five different divisions racing together. Jack Miller captured the Modified feature, which ran simultaneously with the Sportsman and Late Models, won by Merv Blackwell and Matt Mosher, respectively. The Mystique and Antique features were won by Carl Cram and Don Briggs.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is back for with a "Win and You're In" Vermont 200 qualifier draw-race Saturday, August 26th, as Stove Depot presents a regular show for all other classes plus a 50-lap Five Star Roofing Enduro.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is located on Route 22A in West Haven, Vt., four miles north of U.S. Route 4, Exit 2, and just 20 minutes from Rutland, Vt. For more information, visit www.DevilsBowlSpeedway-VT.com or call (802) 265-3112. Devil's Bowl Speedway is on Facebook at facebook.com/Devils-BowlSpeedway, and on Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat at @Devils-BowlSpeed; follow the action using the #DevilsBowl hashtag.

MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin



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Calendar of events

August

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon.

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

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

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hazfm@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 benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

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

you in class!

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

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

Meditation Group at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Ukulele Group

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

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

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

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

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

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Thursday 24th

Bandwagon Summer Series: Bread & Puppet

The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents beloved Vermont institution Bread & Puppet, bringing their touring production to Putney on Thursday, August 24 at 6:00 pm.

The Bread and Puppet Theater celebrates their 60th anniversary with The Mother Dirt Circus!

Audiences will delight as Bread and Puppet draws on its distinctive iconography to call attention to the urgent issues of the day. Young and old will thrill to see stilt dancers and paper maché beasts of all sizes accompanied by the riotous Bread and Puppet Circus Brass Band. A colorful spectacle of protest and celebration performed under the Vermont summer sky.

Sourdough rye with aioli will be offered after the performance and The Bread and Puppet Press and Cheap Art Emporium will be open for your perusal.

BRANDON 2023 LI

August 26
Tom Van Sant
September 9
Doug Ross w/ Wade Davis
rock covers & originals



September

Wednesday 13th

FREE Square Dance Nights with Cast Off 8's

Mark your calendars for the fall startup of contemporary square dancing in Rutland County. Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club starts its fall season of classes on Sept 13. NOT your grade school square dancing, contemporary square dance is danced to a variety of music including pop, country music, Broadway, rock, Motown, and hip-hop. Casual dress, no special clothes. A great no-stress way to

*Goings on
around town*

get back out and socialize among friendly people. Singles as well as couples. Children 8 and up. First two classes are free, Wednesdays, September 13 and 20. Ice cream social on 9/27. Lothrop School, Pittsford, VT. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more info see Castoff8s.com or Facebook Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club. Contact Lauren at lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com

Sunday 17th

Cocktails for a Cause to benefit the Brandon Free Public Library Great Renovation

Join us from 5–8 pm at Café Provence for an evening of specialty cocktails, 'celebrity' servers, and merriment...all for a wonderful cause! Your ticket gets you one complimentary drink and light hors d'oeuvres. An additional cash bar will be available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ages 21 and up. Tickets at brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/

Calling Brandon Democrats - join us at 3pm!

Please consider becoming involved in the Brandon Town Democratic Committee. We welcome all levels of participation! In Vermont, town committees are the foundation of the Vermont Democratic Party organization. These committees do the organizing that allows the party to connect with voters across the state and build social infrastructure in our towns and counties. This enables people with similar values to work together to build a better, stronger Vermont. On September 17, the Brandon Democratic Party will have its reorganizational meeting to select a chair and other officers. This meeting is an opportunity for people to become official members of the Brandon Democratic Party. Through this committee you will have input on decision-making and become informed of events within the Democratic Party at the local, county, and state level. In recent years, Brandon has been largely voting Democratic - over the last six sessions, Brandon has been represented

by Democrats in the VT House of Representatives. However, our local town committee has not experienced an increase in the number of people who are actively involved. We would like to change

that and welcome more folks to get involved. Participation could be purely social or as an officer on the Committee - this is up to you. We are planning an informal get-together at the Red Clover Ale Co. for September 17 at 3pm. This will be an opportunity for newcomers, long-time residents, and all of us in between to get acquainted and to learn about what's going on in the local Democratic Party. Let's continue to strive for a Vermont that works for all of us. We hope to see you there!

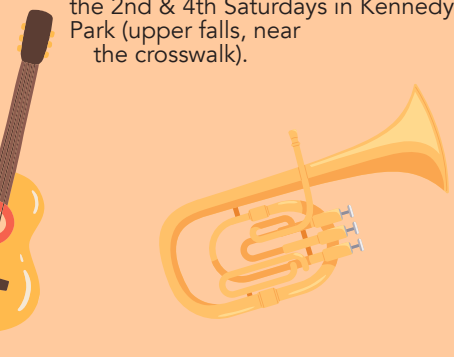
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Clark at 802-247-3935 or Stephanie Jerome at 802-683-8209.

LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK

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).



Silent film classic 'The Freshman' on Saturday, Sept. 9 at Town Hall in Brandon, Vt.

BRANDON—What happens when a first-year student's dreams of college collide with the realities of campus life?

The result is Harold Lloyd in 'The Freshman' (1925), one of the most popular comedies of the silent film era. Filled with classic scenes and a great story, 'The Freshman' endures as one of Lloyd's most crowd-pleasing movies.

See for yourself with a screening of 'The Freshman' (1925) on Sept. 9; kick-off time is 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt.

All are welcome to this family-friendly movie. Admission is free, with free-will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

The screening, the latest in the venue's silent film series, will feature live accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating music for silent films.

"Put the whole experience back together, and you can see why people first fell in love with the movies," Rapsis said.

'The Freshman,' the most successful film of Lloyd's career, was an enormous box office smash. Its release sparked a craze for college films that lasted well beyond the 1920s, and even a popular hit song, the collegiate fox trot "Freshie."

The story follows Lloyd, small town newbie, to Tate College, where he hopes to achieve fame as Big Man on Campus. Instead, his quest to win popularity becomes a humiliating college-wide joke, with Harold getting tricked by upperclassmen into hosting the school's annual "Fall Frolic" at his own expense.

Realizing he's an outcast, Lloyd decides he can make his mark on the college football team, where he holds the lowly position of water-boy and serves as tackling dummy. On the day of the Big Game, can the bespectacled "freshie" somehow save the day and bring gridiron glory to dear old Tate?

For football fans, the film's climactic game sequence was shot on the field at the actual Rose Bowl in 1924. The crowd scenes were shot at halftime at California Memorial Stadium during the November 1924 "Big Game" between UC Berkeley and Stanford University. Other exterior scenes were filmed near the USC campus in Los Angeles.

Beyond its comic appeal, 'The Freshman' today has acquired an additional layer of interest in its depiction of college life in the 1920s—a time of raccoon coats, ukeleles, and many other long-gone



fads and fashions.

"It was long before television, the Internet, cellphones, or Facebook," said Rapsis. "To us today, it looks like college on another planet, which I think adds to the appeal of a film like 'The Freshman.'"

"But at its core, 'The Freshman' is still a great story about people, and that's why it remains such an entertaining experience today, especially when shown as Lloyd intended it," Rapsis said.

In 1990, 'The Freshman' was selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant," named in only the second year of voting and one of the first 50 films to receive such an honor.

Lloyd, along with Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, is recognized as one of the silent screen's three great clowns. Lloyd's character, a young go-getter ready to struggle to win the day, proved hugely popular in the 1920s. While Chaplin and Keaton were always critical favorites, Lloyd's films reigned as the top-grossing comedies throughout the period.

Despite the passage of time, audiences continue to respond just as strongly as when the films were new, with features such as 'The Freshman' embraced as timeless achievements from the golden era of silent film comedy.

Critics review 'The Freshman':

"Regarded as the quintessential Harold Lloyd vehicle."

—TV Guide

"Gag for gag, Lloyd was the funniest screen comic of his time. Passionately recommended."

—Dave Kehr, Chicago Reader

The screening of 'The Freshman' is sponsored by local residents Frank Mazza and Linda Zaragoza; Kathy and Wayne Rausenberger; and Edward Loedding and Dorothy Leysath.

Upcoming programs in the Brandon Town Hall's silent film series include:

- Saturday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.: 'My Best Girl' (1927) starring Mary Pickford, Charles 'Buddy' Rogers. In a big city department store, romance blossoms between a humble stockroom clerk and the store owner's son—who is already engaged! A sparkling "rich man, poor girl" romantic comedy from 1927 starring screen icon Mary Pickford and Charles 'Buddy Rogers,' her future real-life husband. Sponsored by Harold and Jean Somerset; Fyles Brothers, Inc.; and Jeanette Devino.

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

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

Head back to school with 'The Freshman' (1925), to be shown with live music by Jeff Rapsis on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt.

Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations. For more info, visit www.brandon-townhall.com.

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

'For the Luv of Dogs' car show raised funds for the Rutland Humane Society

BY NATE MCKAY

BRANDON—Thanks to the amazing efforts of Colleen Wright, Brandon kicked off its first annual car show!

On Saturday afternoon, under threatening skies, the first "For the Luv of Dogs" car show was held at Estabrook field in Brandon as a fundraiser for the Rutland County Humane Society. This wonderful event raised approximately \$1,200 for the pets in need. Almost 50 cars and trucks of various vintages and makes made their way to the show field. While old friends gathered near their vehicles and reminisced about old times, new friendships were made while comparing vehicles and experiences. The Brandon Fire Department barbecue sold grilled foods, fries, and cold drinks.

The DJ played tunes and karaoke, and took requests. Vendors sold their snacks and wares, and people enjoyed their time at the show. The trophies that were awarded at 4:30 were met with great anticipation.

Some of the entrants included: '31 Ford Roadster, '29 Ford A truck, & '29 Ford AA truck, owned by Steve Dombrowski '37 Chevy Coupe, owned by Roger Mitchell (voted Best Hot Rod) '82 Ford Mustang GT 5.0, owned by Steve Baccei '59 Ford Edsel, owned by Craig Pickett '19 Ford Mustang GT 5.0 Convertible, owned by Shaun Ketcham '65 GT 350, owned by Nate McKay '73 VW Bug, owned by Tracee

Pockett '36 Ford truck model 51, owned by Nancy Jones '68 Dodge Coronet/73 Ford Mach 1 mustang, owned by Kevin Birchmore '70 Chevy Nova, owned by David Anthony '66 Chevy II SS, owned by Dennis Bartell '36 Dodge Custom, owned by Charlie Nassau (voted Fan's Choice) '59 Chevy El Camino /custom built motorcycle (voted Best Motorcycle), owned by Jason Marechaux '36 Chevy pickup, owned by John Weiner '17 Subaru WRX, owned by Kendrick Evans '54 Corvette, owned by Nate Natoli '77 Ford F150, owned by Clin-



ton Snyder (voted Best Truck) '35 Hudson Terraplane, owned by Allen Ladd '64 Buick Riviera, owned by

Vinny Messina '68 GMC C1500/64 Chevy Impala, owned by Jon and Rob Deering

Colleen Wright and Bill Moore credit the success of this first show to the help of many volunteers and thank all the participants and fans for showing up.

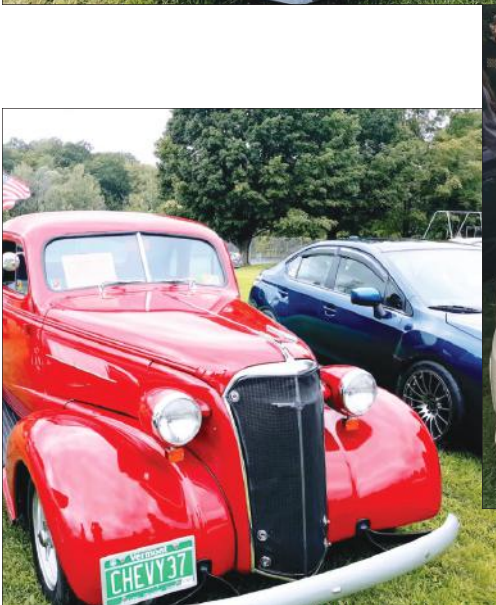
The money went to a good cause and brought our community out for another day of fun in Brandon. Be sure to spread the word and keep an eye out for next year's show, it promises to be even bigger and better.



SHANNON BERTRAND ACCEPTS a check for \$1,200 from Jeff Ladd (l) and Bill Moore (r) on behalf of the Rutland Humane Society at the For the Luv of Dogs car show at Estabrook Park on Saturday, August 19.

Photos by Nate McKay, Kate McKay, and Colleen Wright





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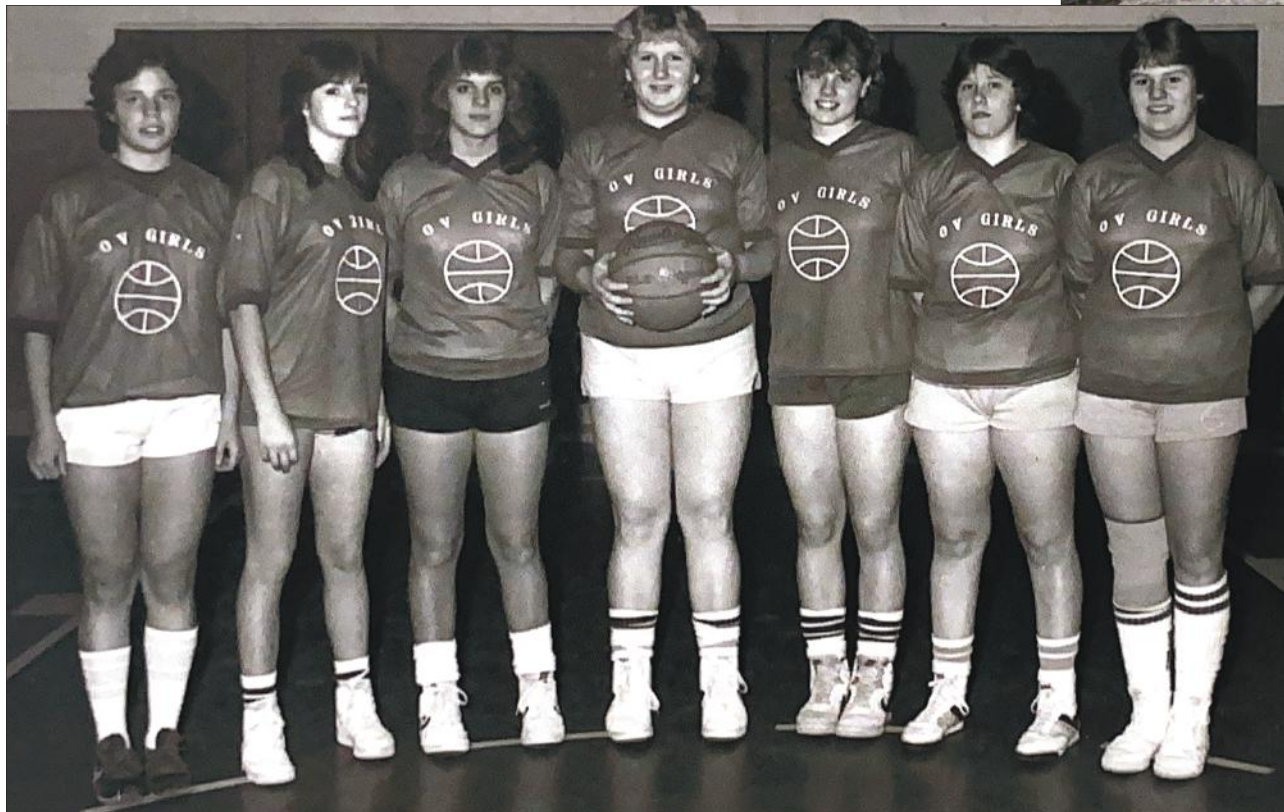
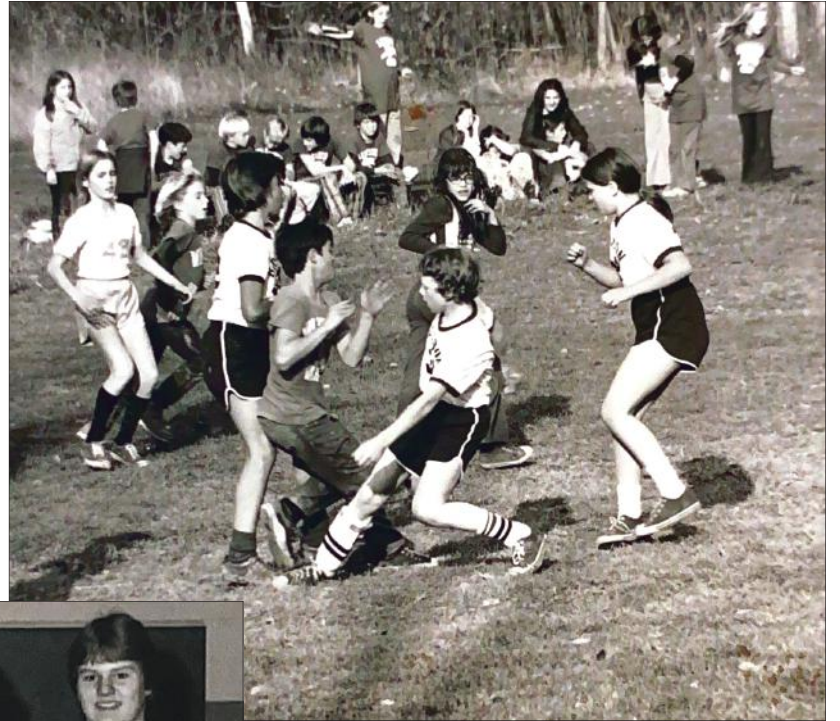


Mim's Photos

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

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these photos.

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OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Junior Graphic Novels

The Witch Boy by Molly Ostertag

In thirteen-year-old Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Anyone who dares cross those lines is exiled. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted... and he's still fascinated by witchery, no matter how forbidden it might be. When a mysterious danger threatens the other boys, Aster knows he can help— as a witch. It will take the encouragement of a new friend, the non-magical and non-conforming Charlie, to convince Aster to try practicing his skills. And it will require even more courage to save his family... and be truly himself. Also available are the sequels *The Hidden Witch* and *Midwinter Witch*.

Ghost Book by Remy Lai

July Chen sees ghosts. But her dad insists ghosts aren't real. So, she pretends they don't exist, which is incredibly difficult now as it's Hungry Ghost month, when the Gates of the Underworld open and dangerous ghosts run amok in the living world. When July saves a boy ghost from being devoured by a Hungry Ghost, he becomes her first-ever friend. Except William is not a ghost. He's a wandering soul wavering between life and death. As the new friends embark on an adventure to return William to his body,

they unearth a ghastly truth—for William to live, July must die.

Picture Books

Summer is for Cousins by Rajani LaRocca

Ravi can't wait to spend summer vacation at the lake house with his family—especially his cousins! Summer vacation is for days at the beach, long hikes, paddleboarding, and—of course—ice cream. Ravi and his oldest cousin, Dhruv, had the same favorite flavor last year, but everything feels different now. Dhruv's much taller and his voice is deeper. Ravi's worried that Dhruv won't be interested in spending time with him, the little cousin. The ice cream shop doesn't even have their favorite flavor this year. But on the last night of vacation, the cousins decide to make dinner, and Ravi's in charge of dessert. He only has one special thing in mind!

Rosie Runs by Marika Majjala

Racing dog Rosie dreams of forests, meadows, hares, and freedom. Trapped at the racetrack, she sprints in endless circles— until one day, Rosie makes a fearless beeline to the enormous world beyond the track. Scared and a little excited, too, Rosie runs through shadowy forests, a circus, a bustling train station, and even takes a quick dip alongside a ferry. She keeps running through small towns and whirling cities, observing the gentle moments of pass-



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ersby. Readers will find peace in a private look at a man watering his plants, or a jolt of happiness at a long-snouted dog wearing a cap on a train as they see the world through Rosie's eyes.

YA Graphic Novels

Stars in Their Eyes by Jessica Walton

Maisie is on her way to Fancon! She's looking forward to meeting her idol, Kara Bufano, the action hero from her favorite TV show who has a lower-leg amputation, just like Maisie. But when Maisie and her mom arrive at the convention center, she is stopped in her tracks by Ollie, a cute volunteer working the show. They are kind, charming, and geek out about nerd culture just as much as Maisie does. And as the day wears on, Maisie notices feelings for Ollie that she's never had before. Is this what it feels like to fall in love?

Gasoline is not an FDA approved bong cleaner

August 14

- Vehicle reported hit in the parking lot of Hannaford, some time after the fact. Case number generated for insurance report.

- A resident of Union Street reported that his neighbor had set off fireworks the previous week and that the debris had fallen on his roof but did not cause any damage. The complainant was advised that if any damage had occurred, it would not have been a criminal matter but a civil one instead. He was also advised to contact the police if the neighbor set off fireworks again to determine whether the proper permits had been obtained and whether enforcement action need be taken.

- Officers responded to the area of River Street regarding a property dispute between two neighbors. The subjects were advised that the property dispute was a civil matter and that they should hire a surveyor to determine the exact boundaries of their properties. The parties were also told to avoid any further contact with one another to avoid any further issues.

- Brandon Police Department (BPD) responded to the intersection of Newton Road and Town Farm Road for a report of a two-vehicle collision involving a car and an ATV, which left the scene of the accident. The investigating officers quickly located the driver of the ATV nearby at his residence. Michael Laporte, 62, of Brandon was issued a citation for leaving the scene of an accident. Mr. Laporte was cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on September 25, 2023, at 10 am for arraignment on the aforementioned charge.

- Officers conducted a welfare check on a juvenile living on Furnace Road, at the request of a family member. The young girl was located and determined to be safe and sound.

August 15

- BPD responded to a domestic disturbance at an apartment in Conant Square. A male left the apartment prior to the arrival of the officers. The female complainant was advised of her options and was offered services. At that time, it was determined that no crime had been committed between the two parties.

- A vehicle crossed over the center line on Champlain Street and nearly struck an officer in

Brandon Police Report

a head-on collision. The officer avoided the collision and proceeded to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle. The operator was found to be an elderly driver. The operator was picked up from the scene by a family member and issued a ticket. A request for retesting was filed with the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles for the operator.

- An employee at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street called to report that there was a possibly intoxicated male inside the store who had almost fallen over. The responding officer determined that the man was simply not feeling well. A ride was arranged to bring the man home.

- Directed speed enforcement was conducted on Union Street. Two vehicles were stopped for speeding.

- BPD responded to a report of domestic disturbance at an apartment on Conant Square. BPD had been dispatched the residence on two prior occasions in less than 24 hours. The male in the residence was subsequently served with a Temporary Relief from Abuse Order and forced to leave the apartment. The multiple incidents are under active investigation to determine if any criminal charges are warranted.

- BPD responded to reports of an individual following and threatening another individual on River Street. The caller was advised of the option to apply for a no-stalking order.

- Officers were approached in Conant Square by a concerned citizen who had said that she observed a male pull down his pants and expose himself on Grove Street in the area between the Jiffy Mart and the flower shop. Officers were unable to locate the man.

- BPD received a call regarding a suspicious female at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street who was asking to purchase 50 cents in gas "to clean her bong." The woman then attempted to enter the store at closing time but left after finding the door locked.

August 16

- James Dugard, 46, was issued a citation by the Rutland City Police Department for (See Police report, Page 19)

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

violating an abuse-prevention order that had occurred in Brandon. Dugard was cited to appear before the Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division, on August 17, 2023 at 12:30 pm for arraignment on the violation.

- A Brandon resident reported a fraud/bad check incident that had occurred in the state of Florida. The complainant was advised to contact the appropriate agency in Florida.

- A two-vehicle crash occurred on Mill Lane, off of Center Street. No one was injured but the crash resulted in a reportable amount of damage to both vehicles.

- Vehicle stop for a right-of-red violation on Union Street. Warning issued.

- Officers assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with an intoxicated male on River Street who had fallen at his residence and sustained some injuries. The individual was subsequently transported to Porter Hospital for treatment.

August 17

- BPD responded to the municipal parking lot behind Café Provence on Center Street for a complaint of an abandoned car that had been left there for more than a month. Officers were unable to contact the owner and the car was towed from the premises.

- Directed traffic enforcement conducted on Route 7. No violations noted.

August 18

- Officers conducted a directed speed enforcement on Union Street. No violations noted.

- BPD responded to an apartment on Mulcahy Drive for a 911 call reporting what sounded like a loud “pop!” in the area. The complainant was contacted but was not cooperative. The area was searched but nothing out of the ordinary was detected.

- BPD responded to a residence on Fox Road for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined that there was no emergency at the residence and that the call was the result of an issue with the land line.

- A restraining order was served at a residence on Brookdale Street.

- Officers conducted a motor-vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Franklin and Park Streets for a cell-phone violation. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a turn-signal violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for speeding and failure to obey a stop sign. Two tickets issued along with two written warnings.

August 19

- Property check at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.

- Property check at the Walgreen on Union Street.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for expired registration. Warning issued.

- BPD took a report of a stolen vehicle in Leicester. Incident forwarded to the Vermont State Police-New Haven Barracks.

- Officers conducted foot patrol at a car show at Estabrook

Park.

- BPD was contacted by a resident of Forest Dale Road requesting assistance with their 7-year-old son who would not listen to him and was throwing a temper tantrum. The complainant was advised that this was not a criminal matter and was given information on parenting support groups.

- An incident of vandalism was reported inside a residence on Steinberg Road. Case under investigation.

- Officers conducted a traffic stop for a violation that occurred on Grove Street, resulting in the arrest of Brian Sheldon of Cornwall, VT for Driving Under the Influence.

August 20

- BPD responded to a residence on Basin Road after a male caller reported that his girlfriend attempted to harm herself. Upon the officer’s arrival, it was found that the woman had caused bodily injury to the man. Elizabeth Renee Smith, 32, of Ware, Massachusetts, was arrested and charged with the offense of Domestic

Assault. Smith was cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court, Criminal Division on August 21, 2023, to answer the above charge.

- While on the way back from dropping a prisoner off at the correctional center in Rutland, officers from BPD stopped to assist Rutland City Police with a burglary in which the suspect had just fled the scene.

- BPD responded to the intersection of North Street and Middle Road for a report of a single-vehicle motorcycle crash with injuries. It was later determined by the investigating officers that speed was a factor in the cause of the crash.

- Directed traffic enforcement on Franklin Street. Warning issued to operator who failed to yield to a pedestrian.

- Police responded to a complaint of illegal burning on Mulcahy Drive. Officers determined that the smoke was simply the result of someone grilling their dinner.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

stand you, Cancer. But that may be a good thing. You can focus on explaining your position and maybe make a few friends along the way.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Leo, you tend to be attracted to things that tempt fate or may even be considered forbidden. When others want you to walk the straight and narrow for a bit, it could be tough.

ARIES March 21-April 20
Aries, you may want to move your relationship in a different direction, but your partner is resistant. This could be a conflict, or something that opens up a dialogue.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
Taurus, you might feel like doing all you can to make a problem go away, and think that acting immediately is the way to go. But ponder a few options beforehand.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
Gemini, a professional opportunity that seems to have many positive financial outcomes actually could have a down side to it. It's best if you do your research before acting.

CANCER June 22-July 22
You may think that others do not under-

with you this week, but you're content to have ample space and do your own thing, Sagittarius. Let your views be heard on this situation.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Capricorn, you may want to tell a loved one what they want to hear right now to make a difficult situation go away. However, that only postpones the inevitable tough talk.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You have been feeling like it is time to break away from your regular routine, Aquarius. It could be because there has been added stress on your shoulders. A vacation may be needed.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
There are some limits to doing all of the work on your own, Pisces. First off, you may lack the time and the expertise. Bring on helpers this week if anyone is available.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
Aug. 24 Jorge Luis Borges, author (d)
Aug. 25 Althea Gibson, athlete (d)
Aug. 26 Melissa McCarthy, actor (53)
Aug. 27 Man Ray, artist (d)
Aug. 28 Ai Weiwei, artist (66)
Aug. 29 Dinah Washington, singer (d)
Aug. 30 Nancy Wake, WWII resistance leader (d)

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WE NEED U



BEER LOVERS FROM near and far gathered in Tunbridge for NanoFest, a celebration of craft beers. Brandon's own Red Clover brought its award-winning offerings to the event.

Photos by George Fjeld

Restaurant guide

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Vermont NanoFest 2023 gathers small brewers

BY GEORGE FJELD

TUNBRIDGE—Thirteen of Vermont's smallest breweries, including Brandon's own Red Clover Ale Company, gathered at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds last Saturday to celebrate their hand-crafted beers. Red Clover's Pete Brooks said, "Because we are so small, we can't do many festivals and keep our taproom supplied. But we always make sure we can go to NanoFest. It is such a well-run event and has a special place in our hearts for sure."

"This is our seventh NanoFest," said Organizer Anne Linehan from Brocklebank Craft Brewing. "Smaller breweries, it can be hard to get a foothold. To get attention

S'mores False Dawn (cask-aged stout made with S'more ingredients) from Upper Pass Beer Company, Cool Guy cucumber pilsner from Brocklebank Brewing, Strawberry Shortcake Sour Ale from Whirligig Brewing, and Rad, a grapefruit radler from Good Measure Brewing. These are unique beers not found in the beer aisle at your favorite beverage center.

"Because we are so small, we can't do many festivals and keep our taproom supplied. But we always make sure we can go to NanoFest. It is such a well-run event and has a special place in our hearts for sure."

—Pete Brooks
 Co-owner of Red Clover

All the participants brew on systems of 5 barrels or fewer but produce some of the most flavorful and original beers found. The beers are not widely distributed but can be as good as or better than the larger breweries' products. This gathering was an opportunity

to taste many different offerings of similar styles as well as some truly different beers. By serving beer in sizes from 3, 6, 9, to 12 ounces, attendees could sample a wide variety of beers without consuming too much. This is a premium event for beer lovers from all over the northeast; tickets went on sale last June and sold out quickly.

Outside space was plentiful for the beer lovers and their families. There was ample space outside the beer hall to set up chairs, pop-up shelters, and sample the diverse offerings from the food trucks. Kids had tons of room to run around and play. Musical entertainment was provided, with reggae, Celtic, and folk all represented.

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with, you know, some of the big names out there. So, this is a good chance for people to learn about some of the little breweries that are out there. We love getting brewers from all over Vermont together to celebrate beer."

By "out there," she means from Bennington (Farm Road Brewing) to Jericho (Lucy & Howe Brewing Company) to St. Johnsbury (Whirligig Brewing). The NanoFest started 8 years ago with only 3 breweries.

The beer selection was all over as well: many variations of IPAs, lagers, pilsners, and stouts. A few examples are



Busy Bee Honey

(Continued from Page 1)

times by bees that lived beneath my bedroom window. But Putnam's calm demeanor, his declaration that his bees were especially docile at that moment, and his reassurance that we'd be suited up all persuaded me to give it a try and perhaps even overcome my bee-related PTSD.

Plus, he corrected me: I was likely stung by wasps or hornets, not honeybees.

And he would absolutely know the difference. Putnam has been working with bees since 2014, after a 37-year career with the Forest Service. A farm kid from New Hampshire, he'd planned on buying land with maple trees and sugaring, as his family had done. But when it proved difficult to find suitable land, his brother-in-law suggested beekeeping. He took some classes, bought some colonies, and had a successful first year. He was hooked.

So, on a warm, overcast day, we rode out to Sudbury to visit some of Putnam's bees in a beautiful meadow tucked away on a farm.

"The farmer asked me to put some bees here," said Putnam. "The bees pollinate the crops. And it's a nice, protected location for the bees."

There were 12 stacks of red and blue boxes at this site, all secured with metal straps and surrounded by an electric fence to deter bears.

"Nylon straps don't work," said Putnam. "Bears can tear right through them." He even had to raise the height of the fencing when it became apparent to him that a bear could jump over it. Humans aren't the only creatures with a fondness for honey.

When it comes to natural sweeteners, maple syrup gets all the glory in Vermont. It's literally the official state flavor. But honey is at least as delicious and as hard to produce. And as with maple syrup, so much of a season's yield depends on factors humans cannot control.

Bees need nectar to produce honey and the amount of available nectar varies with temperature and

rainfall.

"When we had that frost in May, it killed off most of the sources that the bees normally feed on," said Putnam. "They had to find other sources of nectar. They travel up to three miles to find food, so I can't say for sure what they were eating, but the honey they made was darker than usual and had a deeper flavor." Having tasted that batch, which Putnam named "Late Summer Amber Wildflower," I can attest that this is true. The honey had a rich flavor, like the darkest maple syrup.

When resources are scarce, bees get protective of their honey, which serves as their main source of carbohydrates (pollen is the main source of their protein). When conditions have been favorable and they have plenty of honey, they generally just go about their business.

"They're really docile right now. This is the calmest I've seen them in a while," said Putnam. He handed me a beekeeper's jacket with a full hood, which I gladly donned, along with a pair of latex gloves. Even with these precautions, I was hesitant at first to approach the hives.

"Walk behind them," advised Putnam. "All the activity is in the front of a hive, so if you're behind them, you won't seem like a threat."

While bees collected at the entrances to the hives, there were very few flying around.

"Bees use the sun as a guide when they fly, so on an overcast day like today, you're not going to see a lot of them flying out to forage," Putnam explained.

As we learned as kids, bees do indeed dance for their colonies to communicate about food sources. The movements of the dance relate the location and distance of the food to the position of the sun and the intensity of the dance indicates the desirability of the source. So, a really nice clump of buckwheat (a favorite food, according to Putnam), might elicit a frenzied dance, like a little kid getting animated when explaining to his friends where there



TOP: FRED PUTNAM of Busy Bee Honey (l) got Steven Jupiter (r) all suited up at one of his apiaries.

RIGHT: QUEEN BEES ready to be introduced to new colonies.



was ice cream to be had.

At one point, a single guard bee decided it wanted a closer look at me and began buzzing around my head. Although fully covered, I tensed up—old triggers die hard. But the bee apparently deemed me uninteresting and flew off. As time wore on, I became less and less nervous and allowed myself to get closer to the hives for a better look, especially when Putnam began to open them up to conduct the business of the day: determining whether the colonies had good relationships with their queens.

Each colony has a queen, whose job is to lay eggs and keep the colony viable. Each egg develops into either a male drone or a female worker. The females tend to the eggs, forage for nectar and pollen, and produce wax and honey. In short, the females do all the things we tend to associate with honeybees. The males exist solely to mate with the queens (though not necessarily with the queens of their own colonies). Only eggs that are fertilized develop into females. Unfertilized eggs become males. Since more females than males are necessary for the success of a colony, queens need to mate often to keep up the supply of fertilized eggs.

But sometimes a queen needs to be replaced, either because she has died or because her colony is dissatisfied with her egg production. A queen who doesn't produce enough eggs will be killed and "superseded" by a new queen, which can be made from any fertilized egg if the

larva is fed a consistent diet of "royal jelly" by the worker bees. A new queen can also be introduced into the colony by the beekeeper, who then needs to track whether she has been accepted by the colony. A queen that is not accepted will be killed.

This all sounds quite harsh, but the bees accept their fates for the survival of the colony, each of which should be seen as a "super-organism," according to Putnam. The individual bees that make up the colony live solely to ensure the survival of the colony as a whole.

Putnam tipped each hive forward slightly to feel how heavy it was. A heavy hive is a good sign, as it's likely to contain a good amount of honey. I tipped some of the hives as well and felt the difference.

When Putnam opened the hives to check on the activity within, he used a smoke gun to disperse the bees so he could pull out the wooden frames and check whether there were eggs and honey, both signs of a properly functioning colony.

Each frame was covered with the iconic hexagonal cells. Some cells were topped with wax to seal off the honey for later use. Some cells had clearly visible white specks at the bottom: eggs. This colony clearly had a functioning queen.

Honey is made from evaporated nectar, a process hastened by worker bees fanning the nectar with their wings in the hive. The goal is to

concentrate the sugars in the nectar, in much the same way that boiling concentrates the sugars in maple sap.

Putnam used a device called a refractometer to test the moisture content of the honey. Ideal moisture content is below 18.5%. When honey contains a higher percentage of water than that, it becomes a fertile ground for yeasts and other microorganisms that can cause honey to spoil. A moisture content below 18.5% ensures that the honey will "self-preserve," as Putnam put it.

"Honey is hydrophilic," Putnam said, "which means it attracts moisture from the air. Always keep your honey covered."

The honey in the combs that Putnam pulled had a moisture content of 18.1%, on the higher end but still acceptable. It was ready to be harvested, so he set the frame inside a box to be extracted at home. Unlike maple sap, honey doesn't need to be processed. In fact, Putnam doesn't heat or filter the honey he sells.

It was hard not to be impressed by the singular purpose of these bee colonies, which have to adapt to constantly shifting conditions with the seasons. A bee colony's population peaks in summer and dwindles in fall, shrinking from (See *Busy Bee Honey*, Page 23)



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Busy Bee Honey

(Continued from Page 21)

around 60,000 to 8,000, as the colony prepares for the winter, during which time it will live off of honey stores. As winter nears, bees die off and are not replaced. The remaining bees huddle together and shiver to keep the temperature of the hive warm enough for their survival.

It was also hard not to be impressed by Putnam's knowledge and composure.

"Beekeepers like to talk about bees," he joked.

But it's a tough job. Theft of honey by bears, failure of a colony to "requeen," increased use of pesticides, infestation by Varroa mites—a constant source of concern for any beekeeper—all of it can devastate a colony.

In fact, one of Putnam's colonies at this site appeared to have lost its queen and failed to produce a new one. So, Putnam slipped a new queen into the hive in a little cage sealed with sugar paste. The bees in the colony will sense the new queen's pheromones and eat through the paste to get to her. When she's finally released from the cage, the colony will decide whether to accept her, in which case she will mate and produce



FRED PUTNAM CHECKS a frame for eggs and honey to see whether the colony is in good shape.

eggs, or to kill her, in which case the colony will remain queenless and potentially collapse.

Despite having been stung hundreds of times—"It still hurts like h---," he said—Putnam remains committed to these little critters. You can sense the respect he has for them and the pride he takes in the quality of his honey, which he sells at local markets and online, with customers as far away as Hawaii

("Hawaiian honey isn't good," Putnam laughed).

It's not a job for the faint of heart but for Fred Putnam it remains a passion.

Visit Busy Bee Honey online at busybeehoneyvermont.com.

And while I'm proud of myself for remaining calm in the presence of so many stingers, I'll just enjoy the honey and leave the bees to the experts like Fred Putnam.

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conantsquareGallery

(Continued from Page 9)
in her artist statement, which references giants of that era, such as Franz Kline and Robert Motherwell, who created work with big, black forms much as Bull does in some work here.

Bull used her brooms, which were mostly handheld, to create forceful blocks of color. In several works, isolated patches of bright color vibrate against darker backgrounds, creating an enjoyable tension that evokes a feeling of claustrophobia and release. In a work titled "Blue Broom," a small field of bright orange is surrounded by a large sea of blue and it's impossible to discern whether the orange floats on the surface of the blue, escaping it, or is captured by it and rendered immobile.

"I wanted to let the broom be a broom and not contort it to be a brush," said Bull. "I felt completely flummoxed at first. But I put the canvases on the ground and it was almost like I swept the floor and you saw the marks."

Of the three artists, Mayo had the most experience making purely abstract work, as the genre is what she's known for. The

work she produced for this show has a softer quality than that of her gallerymates. It's somewhat impressionistic, evoking something familiar without depicting it directly.

In "Rain and Water," Mayo uses blue and white paint to suggest the movement of flowing water. "Current" evokes lightning and electricity while still remaining steadfastly abstract. In "Incoming Storm," she was inspired by the water rushing over the falls next to the gallery building on Conant Square (in which she also makes her home) during the heavy rains in July.

"I realize now that in the process of creating [these works], alone in my studio as well as being in dialogue with Fran and Warren, I fell into a whole new art experience," wrote Mayo.

"We need to bring the viewer in," Mayo continued. "This is a cross between a museum and a gallery. The work is for sale, but I don't think about who's going to buy it."

The conantsquareGallery is open from 3 to 5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 5 to 7 on Fridays. It's open to the public. "Broom Art" runs through October 31.



LEFT: WARREN KIMBLE stands next to "Ode to J.P.," an homage to Jackson Pollock, who pioneered the drip technique that Kimble employed here.

ABOVE: SANDY MAYO next to "Incoming Storm," which was inspired by the heavy rains Vermont experienced in July.

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