

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 36

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

\$1

Date of Marriage	Name of Groom and Bride	Number of Pch	Quotient of Groom
Mar. 23, 1891	William Thompson	1	1
Apr. 11	Wendell M. King	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1
Apr. 22	John R. Smith	1	1

NAMES LOST IN VERMONT
Genealogist Michael F. Dwyer traces the history of the White family of Brandon.

PG. 2



END OF AN ERA

Sam & Sharon Glaser of Brandon close their Middlebury antiques shop after 16 years.

PG. 3



PG. 10

READY TO CHEER?

OV High & Middle Schools release their fall '23 sports rosters.

PG. 9



NEW FEATURE

Another installment of Brandon Brain Busters. Test your synapses!

PG. 11

COOLING SHADE TREES

Brandon Tree Warden Neil Silins discusses his plan for Brandon's shade trees.

PG. 4



Nelson Richard "Dick" Kirby, 92 years old and still going strong

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- Dick Kirby met German-American master rocketeer Wernher von Braun in Maryland in the 1950s while welding on a stainless-steel gas tank for the Redstone rocket. Braun, after watching Kirby weld for a time, said "Good job, good job." 18-year-old Kirby became a welder after enlisting in the US Army during the Korean conflict. Kirby, living with his grandparents in Rochester, Vermont after graduating from high school in Lynn, Massachusetts, first applied to work for Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS, now part of Green Mountain Power) but was turned away. Safety Director Roy Chase said he was too young and perhaps he should join the service. Dick did and the army taught him to weld in Huntsville, Alabama, where he earned the difficult-to-obtain "High-pressure pipe certification."

Kirby was shipped to Japan on

a 17-day ocean voyage, then Korea to work in the motor pool for the 25th Infantry Division, "The Wolfhounds." He spent all his 13 months north of the 38th parallel in what is now North Korea. The motor pool was immediately behind the front lines as the trucks and artillery needed frequent repairs. Camped near Heartbreak Ridge, one night on guard duty he heard a mortar shell come in and land near him with metal hitting all around him. It was as black as night gets and his commander called out, "Kirby, are you okay?" and when Dick answered in the affirmative, the commander yelled "Get in here" calling him to the bunker nearby. Kirby couldn't see his way and walked toward the voices before falling into the bunker and on top of his

(See Dick Kirby, Page 21)

DICK KIRBY WITH his Lineman gear on at 92 years old, "It feels a lot heavier now"



RNESU SUPERINTENDENT KRISTIN Hubert (l) and OVUU School Board President Laurie Bertrand (r) stand next to the new mural of district logos at the RNESU offices in Brandon.

Back-to-school with RNESU Superintendent Kristin Hubert and OVUU School Board President Laurie Bertrand

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Every August, as summer winds down, people across the country begin their preparations for the return to

school. By the first week in September, teachers, parents, and kids will fall back into the chugging rhythm of the scholastic year. No (See Hubert & Bertrand, Page 8)

OV Principal Michael Ruppel begins his second year

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Michael Ruppel had big shoes to fill coming to Otter Valley last year. Jim Avery had been Principal for so long that an entire generation had never known OV without him. But in his first year, Ruppel wasted no time settling in and getting to know the Otter Valley community.

"I was able to do a lot of learning and get to know people," said Ruppel in his office at Otter Valley. "I learned what teachers and kids needed. You go from 'You don't know what you don't know' to 'You know what you don't know.' It's been incremental."

"It was a great year," he continued. "I learned that the staff cares deeply about students and that the student body has a lot to offer the world."

Having been Assistant Principal at Springfield (VT) High School, Ruppel was familiar with the needs and mindset of high-school students but wasn't as familiar with middle-school kids. And since OV is a joint (See Michael Ruppel, Page 11)



PRINCIPAL MICHAEL RUPPEL in his office at Otter Valley Union High School.

Names lost in Vermont, Part 7: Frank and Maggie White of Leicester

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

An obelisk with a broken cross at St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon attests to the fractured identities of the names inscribed on three of its faces. First, above the surname WHITE: John White, Died Feb. 27, 1888, age 21 years. A front-page headline in the Rutland Herald, "Horribly Mangled," described how this inexperienced railroad brakeman slipped between cars and met a grisly death. Rotating to the right from John's name: Merrill White, Died Jan. 17, 1896, age 41 yrs. Merrill, John's older brother, also died as the result of a railroad accident. More details below. On the back of the monument, evidently carved at a later time—the names and dates of the White brothers' parents: Frank White 1832–1894, and Maggie White, 1835–1898. Census records place Frank White, born in Canada, laborer/farmer, and Maggie/Matilde White, born in Canada, in Leicester, Vermont 1860 through 1880. Neither one could read or write. They had at least ten children, all born in Vermont. Birth records disclosed scant information about

the parents, sometimes not even mentioning the mother's name. Frank White, age 67, died in Leicester on December 8, 1894, age 67 [off five years from the gravestone birth year]. The death certificate had no information on his parents or the specific town of his birth. Nonetheless, I thought this would be an easy puzzle to solve because Frank White was undoubtedly born with the name Francois Leblanc [White is the literal English translation of Leblanc]. My efforts focused instead on identifying the maiden name of his wife, Maggie/Matilde. Her documentation trail left an assortment of possible surnames, starting with her death certificate which claimed "San Cuba, Canada" as her birthplace and father's name as Frank Shordu. Marriage and death records of Maggie's children variously recorded her maiden name as Shortwell, Shaddock, Shonto, Shurty, or sadly, "unknown." What these names seemed to have in common was their first syllable, SH, followed by a vowel. Having recognized similar patterns among muddled translations of French names,

I surmised her original French surname began with the letters Cour[t], meaning short.

An online family tree posted by a descendant averred that Frank and Maggie White were married on September 30, 1854, location not given. Hoping they were married in Vermont, I searched the statewide index for that year, hoping I would find the right match. Eureka! Francis Blanc married Matilda Cushman in Brandon! How could I prove they were the right couple? As recorded in Brandon records, one week earlier, Francis Cushman married Amelia Tatro. In November of the same year, Sophia Cushman married Newell Real. Were these three Cushans siblings? Yes! The trail led back to St. Cuthbert [rendered by Leicester town records as San Cuba], Québec, where baptismal records confirmed their relationship and true surname as Brisset dit Courchesne. A complicated journey to Shortwell, for sure. Also surprising is the distance that this trio traveled to get to Vermont. While many pre-Civil War French Canadian immigrants came from towns

134 Marriages Registered in the Town of Brandon, Vt.			
Date of Marriage	Name of Groom and Bride	Residence of Each	Occupation of Groom
Mar. 23, 1854	Wallace Grovermer Mendall Mary H.	Sudbury Vt. Charlestown Mass	
Sept. 14	Alan Philip Stewart Martha Ann.	Brandon Vt. "	
Sept. 22	Cushman Francis Tatro Amelia		
Sept. 30	Blanc Francis Cushman Matilda	Brandon Vt. Leicester Vt.	
Oct. 24	Dutton John	Leichen Vt.	

ENTRIES IN THE Marriage Records of Brandon.

along the Richelieu River and the Eastern Townships of Québec, St. Cuthbert is about fifty miles northeast of Montréal, making it an arduous trip to Vermont in the days before railroad connections.

Let's go back to Frank White. He was not married in the Catholic Church, nor were any of his and Maggie's children baptized as infants. According to the strict formula of the times, a priest would not have recognized the children as the product of a legitimate marriage. Had the children been baptized, the sacramental records would have revealed the names of godparents and thereby establish a web of family associations thus far missing. Four of Frank and Maggie's children were married by Protestant clergy or justices of the peace.

However, in the case of their son, Merrill, whose name is carved on the monument, something unusual happened. While it may look like he had no family of his own, under the name of Joseph Leblanc he married Ozila Lesperance in St. Pierre-de la Rivière du-Sud, Québec, on August 2, 1887. The

meticulous Catholic Church record discloses his parents



DETAIL OF OZILA Lesperance's memorial card.

as "Francois Xavier Leblanc and Marguerite Courchaine" of "Lyster" in the State of Vermont, thus proving that Merrill White and Joseph Leblanc were the same person. He brought his bride back to Leicester. Five of their children, alternating between Leblanc and White surnames, were baptized at St. Mary's Church in Brandon. Following Merrill's accident and death, The Middlebury Register and Addison County Journal reported that his widow collected \$2,000 from his life insurance policy [roughly \$73,000 in today's money]. With that money, Ozila returned to Québec with her children. She never remarried. At her death in 1933, her memorial prayer card, written entirely in French, describes her as the wife of Joseph Leblanc deceased.

Several of Frank White/Francois Xavier Leblanc's descendants claim to have identified his birthplace and parents. They have been ruled out because that person remained in Québec and married someone else. The quest therefore beckons me to discover the right Frank among an early community of French-Canadians in Brandon. Stay tuned for another chapter.



AN OBELISK IN St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon marking the graves of several members of the White family.

Photos provided.

After 16 years, Brandon's Sam & Sharon Glaser close The Barn Antiques

BY STEVEN JUPITER

MIDDLEBURY—If you ever needed an antique anvil, Sam Glaser was your man.

“God only knows how many anvils I’ve sold over the years,” Sam laughed, seated at his dining table in his home in Brandon. “There were 14 anvils in the shop when we bought the business, but they had such high prices, no one bought any. We lowered the price and sold them all. We’ve sold 9 anvils just this summer.”

And that approach to the antiques business—price things reasonably and keep the inventory moving—made The Barn Antiques successful enough to become a summer staple for the past 16 years. Every spring, Sam and Sharon Glaser (sometimes aided by their daughter, Shelby) threw open the doors to their bare-bones structure on Route 7 south of Middlebury and welcomed locals and tourists alike to browse through the dizzying range of antiques they’d gathered over the winter months: tools, furniture, glassware, jewelry, pottery, rugs, clothing... whatever had caught their eye during the buying season.

“Our shop presents like a ‘general store.’ We were never ‘fine’ antiques,” said Sharon. “We always had quality items, but at a price people could afford. And a lot of things people could actually use.” In fact, Sharon often taped images from magazines next to items to give customers a sense of how things could be repurposed in the home. A vintage metal chicken feeder could become an indoor herb garden, for example. The goal was always to convince customers that any item could find a place, and often a useful one, in their homes.

When the Glasers bought the business from a dealer named Jim Blanchette in 2007, the barn was packed to the rafters with inventory.

“The stuff on top was really good,” said Sam, making clear what he thought of the stuff beneath the top-shelf items. “There was 1,000 pounds of scrap iron. It took us a year and a half just to sort through everything and organize it all.”

And buying a retail business in 2007 presented its own challenges, as the Great Financial Crisis put an end to the freewheeling days of the early 00s. Belts

tightened, second-home owners scaled back, and the antiques business took a hit.

“Many old dealers were used to getting high prices,” said Sam. “We were new. All we wanted to do was sell. We started to thrive.”

But the business has changed, even for the Glasers. They’re closing the shop. September will be their last month and they’re hoping a 25%-off-everything sale will clear the barn before they officially shut down.

“It’s getting harder and harder to find good merchandise,” said Sharon. “This was just the right time.”

“Initially, only one of us needed to be in the shop,” said Sam. “Now, one person can’t handle the place alone and it’s harder to procure stuff.”

Finding salable merchandise is a job in itself. During the off season, Sharon works as a manager in guest services at Killington while Sam scours estate

sales, auctions, and antique fairs like Brimfield in Massachusetts.

“Old estates don’t really exist anymore,” he said. Dealers and pickers have combed through New England, cleaning out the attics and basements of seemingly every old house they could find. The amount of energy it now takes to keep

the barn filled with desirable pieces has reached a tipping point.

But they have no regrets.

The Glasers moved to Vermont from New Jersey just before the Financial Crisis, hoping to start a

new chapter in their lives.

“Shelby was out of high school,” said Sharon. “We were looking to move to Vermont. We made a couple of trips up here for our second act. We were looking to buy a business and what came up was the antique barn.”

“I wrote a check a week later,” laughed Sam.

Jim Blanchette, the previous owner, continued to run the shop for another season while the Glasers looked for a house. They ended up finding one in Brandon on Townwide Yard Sale Day. There was a “For Sale” sign in the yard and they bought the place, which is still their home.

Over the years, the shop brought them into contact with locals, tourists, second-home owners, and celebrities. They forged real friendships with customers and other dealers, and the barn became a place for people to congregate and chat.

“We came to Vermont knowing no one,” said Sam. “Now I feel I know everybody.”

By the way, there are still some anvils in the shop.

Dealers and pickers have combed through New England, cleaning out the attics and basements of seemingly every old house they could find. The amount of energy it now takes to keep the barn filled with desirable pieces has reached a tipping point.



SHARON (L) AND Sam (r) Glaser outside their antique shop—The Barn Antiques—on Route 7 in Middlebury. After 16 years, September will be the store’s last month. Photo by Steven Jupiter

Cobble Knoll Orchard
Apples available on the stand and pick-your-own
 Homemade Cider Donuts and Apple Pies daily
 Fresh Pressed Cider, Maple Syrup, Honey, Vermont artisan cheese, Jams, Pickles, Apple Butter, Pumpkins and Squash
Open Fridays—Mondays 9 AM - 5 PM through Oct. 30
 1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743
 Check availabilities at CobbleKnollOrchard.com, Facebook or Instagram.

Touch-a-TRUCK ~ At ~
Pittsford Village Farm
 42 Elm Street, Pittsford, Vt.

Saturday, Sept. 9th
 ~ RAIN DATE: SEPTEMBER 16 ~
 9am-10am: Horns-free hour
 (for children with special needs and sensitive ears)
 10am-1pm: Open with full displays and demonstrations.
 ~ Food ~ Play Area for Kids ~ More! ~ LOTS OF FUN!
PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG

BRANDON REPORTER

Tree Warden News

Plan for tree planting should help Brandon with climate change

Your trusty tree warden has submitted a draft Shade Tree Preservation Plan to the Town Manager and Selectboard for consideration. If passed, this plan will provide a framework for managing Brandon's Tree canopy.

In addition to, or part of, the shade tree preservation plan, Brandon should develop a set of criteria to help both the Highway Department and property owners to plant trees such that the canopy is able to thrive in a changing climate, so that the trees are planted in a "row," or placed to give a general appearance of "planned."

There is no question that when a property owner plants a tree on their own property, they can plant what and where they want. The following is going to be appended to the Shade Tree Preservation Plan. It will, hopefully, be required for town-planted trees and voluntary for property owners. The goal in this protocol is to plant trees so that the canopy remains as full as possible from year to year and the trees are more likely able to survive whatever nature throws our way.

BRANDON SHADE TREE PLANTING PROTOCOL SELECTION

Trees selected for planting in Brandon should be selected from those suitable for one or two hardness zones warmer than Bran-

don's then-current climate.

In addition to aesthetics, trees should be selected to be suitable for their intended locations. Select for:

- (a) Salt tolerance,
- (b) Traffic and air pollution tolerant,
- (c) Growth pattern compatible with overhead structures located at the planting site.
- (d) Appropriate shade tolerance
- (e) Site drainage conditions
- (f) Available soil volume (roots need soil. Construction debris and concrete don't count).
- (g) Soil pH
- (h) Sun re-

The goal in this protocol is to plant trees so that the canopy remains as full as possible from year to year and the trees are more likely to survive whatever nature throws our way.

quirements

PLANTING

To the extent possible, trees shall be planted co-linear with trees in the vicinity of the planting location.

MULCHING

Trees shall be mulched to a depth of 2" except within a 4" diameter from the trunk, where no mulch shall be placed. "Volcano mulching", or the mounding of mulch against the tree, shall not be utilized.

PRUNING

New trees will generally require structural pruning at about 3 years.

As usual, your comments are welcome,

*Neil Silins
Brandon Tree Warden
brandontreewarden@gmail.com*



Philadelphia Story

THIS IS A Philadelphia vireo now migrating south and seen on Wildcat Rd. in Chittenden. Birds often receive names where they are first seen. This species nests in Canada and northern Vermont. Male sings to defend nesting territory. Their song goes up and down in three note sets, sounding like questions and answers!

Photo by Sue Wetmore

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

Postmaster, send address change to **The Reporter**,
58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753 • Phone: 802-388-4944
Email: news@brandonreporter.com, ads@brandonreporter.com

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT.
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55
The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur. SJ

Community Forums Second Annual Whoopie Pie Festival returns to Rutland on Sept. 16

Join us for another successful community event and Vermont's largest Whoopie Pie unveiling

Fifteen bakers from around the east will compete at the Second Annual Whoopie Pie Festival in Rutland, Vermont on Saturday, September 16, from 12-5 p.m. This year, the

Dream Maker Bakers Team will use their culinary skills to assemble a 700-lb whoopie pie! The first Whoopie Pie Festival in 2022 brought over 2,500 people to Rutland's historic

downtown. This year, the event has expanded, shutting down both Center Street and Merchants Row for the day. Beginning at noon, a portion of Mer-

(See Whoopie Pie Festival, Page 5)

Youth Opportunity Regional Forum takes place in Rutland Region

Residents throughout the Rutland Region are encouraged to attend the upcoming Youth Opportunity Regional Forum on September 12 from 5:30-7pm at The HubCoWorks in Downtown Rutland for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to discuss how we can improve opportunities for youth in our communities. Free pizza and desserts will be served.

The “Vermont Youth Opportunity Initiative” emerged through The Vermont Proposition Initiative which was coordinated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development in 2021

through input from thousands of Vermonters. A Youth Opportunity Advisory Group of statewide leaders and youth members has developed a statewide engagement process to hear from thousands of Vermonters and then review findings to make action recommendations to the Future of Vermont Action Team (a diverse group of 20 leaders convened and facilitated by VCRD to implement the ten elements of the Vermont Proposition).

VCRD Community Engagement and Policy Director and initiative lead Jenna Koloski says, “We are looking forward

to hearing input from people of all walks of life as we identify strategies to craft a narrative of hope, aspiration, equity, and potential for all youth around the state. This event is one in a series of statewide forums and interviews to seek input to identify concrete action that we can take today to help all youth realize their vision for the future.”

Additional forums will be taking place in regions throughout Vermont with the next one taking place in the Northeast Kingdom on September 19 at St. Johnsbury Academy. (See *Youth Opportunity*, Page 6)

Thank you for your help with the Brandon United Methodist Church Tag sale

Members & friends of the Brandon United Methodist Church extend our gratitude to all who donated to our fundraising Tag Sale on September 2nd. A special thank you to Joanne & Jeff Cathcart. Our endeavor would not have been a success without the generosity of the community that exists beyond the walls of our spiritual home. Thank you.

The Brandon United Methodist Church is home to the Food Shelf and Friend Zone. For more information or to 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 (vqueenofthee-

arth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125. All Welcome.

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

All donations specifically for the Food Shelf should be sent to Brandon Emergency Food Shelf, PO Box 345, Brandon, VT 05733.

Whoopie Pie Festival

(Continued from Page 4)

chants Row will transform into a grass-covered Green Street hosting family-friendly activities, plus face painting, a magician, and two performances by The Red Trouser Show.

Event attendees purchase tickets to sample whoopie pies from participating bakers and vote for “People’s Choice.” At 3:15 p.m. our panel of judges will determine “Overall Best” and “Most Creative.” Many bakers will sell other sweet treats, downtown retail merchants and restaurants will be open, and there will be food trucks.

The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) is excited to host the event again. “The Whoopie Pie Fest is an example of one of the many special reasons that make Rutland County a unique place to live,” CEDRR Executive Director Lyle Jepson said.

At 4 p.m. Dream Maker Bakers will unveil Vermont’s

largest whoopie pie. The team plans to break their 542-pound record whoopie pie, by reaching 700-pounds. “This is such an amazing experience for us as a team and we look forward to it each year. The making of Vermont’s largest whoopie pie is an extreme challenge,” said Megan Wagner, Owner of Dream Maker Bakers and Team Lead. “Lifting 200 pounds of cake and a pan out of a hot oven, followed by flipping a total weight of 300 pounds at 180 degrees to get the cake out of the pan onto a board, and finally placing the massive 150-pound layer atop 400 pounds of marshmallow filling. Months of planning and coordinating go into the single moment when the whoopie pie hangs suspended from a crane and we anxiously await the announcement of the weight. Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would become more known for a whoopie pie over our wedding cakes, but here we are.”

The Whoopie Pie Festival’s Premiere Sponsor is Heritage Family Credit Union (HFCU). “Heritage Family Credit Union is so happy to help bring this premiere event to the Rutland community; a fun day out for the whole family!” said HFCU CEO, Matt Levandowski. “We can’t wait to enjoy the sweet treats from the talented bakers.”

The day is also supported by The Bank of Bennington, Cape Air, Casella Construction, Casella Waste Systems, Catamount Radio, Come Alive Outside, Downtown Rutland Partnership, GE Aerospace, Killington Resort, Partners for Prevention, Rotary Club of Rutland, Rotary Club of Rutland South, Rutland City, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, VELCO, Vermont Public, WCAX-TV, Westminster Cracker, WMUD, and Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum.

For more information, visit rutlandwhoopiefest.com.

Letters to the Editor

More questions than answers about the electric bus program

The other day, I was reading in the 8/16 Reporter about the Brandon Selectboard meeting where it mentioned that the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union has announced that it is looking into purchasing electric school buses and will use Brandon to test out the program. Here are my sentiments on the subject as well as more than a few questions to the RNESU Board.

There are so many unknowns about electric vehicles, and we

hear daily about an incident/tragedy involved with their use, fires, etc. We especially don’t have the data on use of electric vehicles/buses in the northern states, like VT, where the weather can dip down into the very low temps.

What are the upfront costs of these electric buses? What about the additional cost of the charging stations, etc.? What about the cost of electricity, not only to charge these buses (See *Electric buses*, Page 6)

Conflict of interest brewing

At the last Selectboard meeting, member Brian Coolidge expressed concern about what he felt was a “conflict of interest” between the Rec. Department and a local nonprofit organization. Of particular note was the profit from the Brandon Carnival held at Estabrook Park, which was split with the 501(c)(3). This has me pondering the notion of “separation of church and state.”

“When the First Amendment was added to the Constitution,

there was little debate about the protections it provided for religious liberty.” However, “The phrase many Americans use to describe religious freedom, ‘separation of church and state,’ is not found in either the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. It comes from an 1802 letter by President Thomas Jefferson.” (Source: billofrightsinstitute.org)

“A proper reading of the First Amendment acknowledges that (See *Conflict*, Page 14)

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



Reap the rewards of membership for just \$20 today!

Take Good Care of Yourself

- fresh local and organic produce
- hormone free dairy products
- no artificial colors or preservatives - ever!
- lots of great tasting food that’s good for you

WASHINGTON STREET / MIDDLEBURY
OPEN DAILY 8-7
388-7276 / MIDDLEBURY.COOP

MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Obituaries

Mark Lane Bryant, 59, Albany, Ny.

ALBANY—Mark Lane Bryant, age 59 passed away Thursday August 31, 2023 at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

He was born in Proctor, Vt on March 23, 1964 the son of Richard and Joyce (Greeno) Bryant.

Mark grew up in Brandon and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School. He had worked in the Slate Business having worked for Chuck Smid Slate in Sudbury. He later had worked at McDonald's Restaurant in Brandon.

Mark loved his 4-wheeler and enjoyed NASCAR.

He is survived by his brother, Gary Bryant of Brandon; 2 sisters, Linda Otto of Brandon



MARK LANE BRYANT

and Vickie Bresette of Forest Dale. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and Great nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be

held on Saturday Sept. 9, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, 26 Franklin St. Brandon, VT.

Friends may call at the Funeral Home on Friday Sept. 8th from 6-8 PM

A private graveside service and Interment will take place at a late date in the family lot in the Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial Contributions to The Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

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.

Youth Opportunity

(Continued from Page 5)

rumns will be co-facilitated by youth members of the Advisory Group in partnership with Up For Learning, an organization with deep expertise in youth-adult collaboration and facilitation.

Online input forms are available to gather additional statewide input from education experts, business leaders, youth, parents, and community leaders over the period in which convenings are ongoing. VCRD will also conduct interviews with key youth opportunity, education, and workforce development stakeholders.

To learn more and stay up to date on progress of the Youth Opportunity Initiative, additional forums, and the Vermont Proposition, join the VCRD Partnership for the Future of Vermont mailing list and/or visit <https://www.futureofvermont.org/youth-opportunity-initiative>.

Vermont Council on Rural Development

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of the locally defined progress of Vermont's rural communities. VCRD is a dynamic partnership of fed-

eral, state, local, nonprofit and private partners. Actively non-partisan with an established reputation for community-based facilitation, VCRD is uniquely positioned to sponsor and coordinate collaborative efforts across governmental and organizational categories concerned with policy questions of rural import. The organization has successfully completed 88 community visits, resulting in locally defined projects like new childcare centers, wastewater infrastructure, and downtown redevelopments.

Electric buses

(Continued from Page 5)
electricity drawn to charge them? Will overhead or underground wiring or substations be required? I'm no electrician but I can't believe that Otter Valley, which was built in the early 1960s, has an upgraded electrical grid that will accommodate all the additional power required.

What about the towing fees because ... oops, the bus didn't have enough charge? What happens when there is a power outage and electricity is knocked out for days? Who is going to have the expertise to make repairs when needed? And the big question, what about the cost of replacing and disposing of batteries? According to a Google search, replacing a battery in an electric car can run from over "\$5,000 to more than \$16,000 and \$50,000 or more on a school bus. AND there isn't a system in place to deal with these decommissioned parts." I've read that "It is crucial to

keep electric car batteries, especially lithium-ion batteries, out of landfills because they are highly toxic and flammable." Does this sound environmentally friendly to you? Do we really want to be the guinea pigs for what could potentially be, by all accounts, a nightmare?

I've been advised that the cost of an electric bus can run around \$400,000.00 and that doesn't include the charging stations or electrical upgrades. I'm told that our diesel buses cost around \$130,000.00. So potentially we can own three diesel buses or one electric bus! 3 to 1 ... let's do the math ... let's use some common sense!

So then, from where do the additional funds for purchase come? I know that we'll be told that there are grants available, but we all know the consequences of obtaining a grant and then it disappears and the taxpayers are left to foot the bill to keep the program running. Or will we just send a \$400,000.00 bus to the graveyard?

What is the mileage like on these buses when traveling to sporting events, field trips, etc.? Will our students be sitting on the side of a cold, snowy road because we need to charge up a bus and there aren't any locations to do it? I doubt that all of the locations traveled will have the ability to charge an electric bus.

I haven't touched on parking. It is my understanding that currently, several (maybe as many as half) of the bus drivers bring their buses

home at night which frees up space at OV. If there is a transition to electric buses, each of them would need a parking space with a charging station at the school. More money spent to upgrade parking and less convenient for drivers to mention nothing of the difficulty we have in obtaining and keeping bus drivers. We also need to consider the bottleneck it would create when drivers pick up and return buses to their stations and the additional/wasted time it will take for bus routes all starting from one location.

Has the transportation supervisor or people that will be driving these vehicles been consulted on their thoughts regarding these buses? It seems to me that it is the people on the frontline that will need to deal with the concerns and problems of this unknown "experiment." They should be given the respect to allow their voices to be heard. Or are there a handful of people sitting behind a desk that have never been in the field, just trying to push their own agenda and "expensive" ideas down the throats of others?

Remember, this is not a wealthy community. We are average people trying to make a living and many of us are on fixed incomes. I

would hope that the school board would use their "common sense" and show some loyalty to the taxpayers they represent who voted them into their position. I, for one, don't wish to be a guinea pig to the tune of \$400,000.00 per bus... This is not Monopoly money, folks! So, what happens when it's determined that these electric school buses cannot handle the VT climate or elevations in our district and beyond? Will we get a "sorry taxpayers, too bad, guess it didn't work. Thanks for the outrageous amount of money"?

I ask the taxpayers to consider contacting the RNESU Board and attend their next board meeting on September 19th at 6 PM to let them know how you feel about this experiment. Also, you can check out their website (mesu.org) and click on the REACH OUT! button to submit your comments and concerns.

We need solidarity to let them know that we do not want to spend our hard-earned money frivolously. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Deb Miner
Leicester

I would hope that the school board would use their "common sense" and show some loyalty to the taxpayers they represent who voted them into their position.

ADVERTISE

SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

WITH US

BRANDON REPORTER

Notes from the Pulpit

Intention matters in 'Speaking your truth'

BY JOHN HARDMAN-ZIMMERMAN

It seems that speaking one's truth, regardless of what others think (or feel), has become for many people a virtue and a badge of freedom, a license to say whatever we want to say, however we want to say it, to whomever we want to say it. We might be quite proud of speaking "the truth," even if we have not done our research and confirmed the facts, or thoroughly thought through the issue with the help of reputable persons and sources. It may not even occur to us that we know only in part and may be mistaken.

Without a sense of responsibility before God, even sacred texts are ineffectual in safeguarding the integrity of truth-telling.

Speaking the truth is paramount. Healthy persons and loving relationships depend on it; unified and just societies depend on it. Given the extent of self-deception and duplicity in every tier of society, one wonders if truth-telling is much of a guiding principle anymore in our personal, social and civic lives. Even taking an oath over a sacred text matters little when it comes to the selfish pursuit of money and power and attempts to justify it. Without a sense of responsibility before God, even sacred texts are ineffectual in safeguarding the integrity of truth-telling. It is crucial to our mutual well-

being that we speak the truth. It also matters how we speak it. Presently in society, there is no shortage of people speaking their truth in tones and language that make it difficult to listen. If we want to be heard, if we want credibility, we need to "speak the truth in love," the Christ-ethic admonishes. "In love," that is, with humility, with respect, non-defensively, non-aggressively, and with an open mind and open heart to what others have to say in reply. Then, even if we are mistaken or short-sighted, the deeper message can get through - that your sacred dignity as a person has been honored and that together we can ferret out the fuller truth.

I hope I have spoken some truth in love. What do you think?

Pastor Hardman-Zimmerman is pastor at the United Methodist Church of Brandon



(L TO R): Ethan Nelson, Wendy Fjeld, and Walter Stone, aka The Local Talent, at Green Park in downtown Brandon, where they performed on Saturday. Photo by George Fjeld

'The Local Talent' rocks out in Red Clover's Beer Garden

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON-Summer arrived and with it a lovely opportunity to get out and enjoy music, friends, and beer. Saturday, September 2nd saw The Local Talent playing 2 sets in the park. A great number of Brandonites were out as well as some from away. One visitor was heard to say, "I want to move to Brandon, every time I come here, there's some-

thing great going on." Wendy Fjeld played with her son-in-law Ethan Nelson and local Walter Stone, to the great enjoyment of the crowd. Wendy drew a large Fjeld Family contingent with 26 members present, including the matriarch, Lois Fjeld Torrey. Red Clover's beer and cider flowed freely and the kids had a grand time playing.

Visit our website



Hours
Thu-Sat 10-5

www.vermontcamera.com

If you love classic film cameras you need to pay us a visit.
Leica, Zeiss, Rolleiflex, Nikon, Voigtlander
and many others.

3200 US RT 7, Pittsford
(802) 483-9357 vew@vermontcamera.com Jim & Liz McRae

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

Whalen Open | Sept 8-10

5 person scramble • \$1600 per team includes skins, food, Golf/Cart • 2 carts per team • 2022 Teams are in with application and payment • All other will go on waitlist until application due date • Scores on Friday to flight teams • Gross Skins and gross prizes only • Flight 1 & 2 Blue tees, all other flights get white • Ladies green tees • Closest to pin all par 3's

APPLICATIONS AND MONEY DUE AUG 31 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Register your team online, then pay via check or cash in the pro shop.

WE ARE HIRING! Part-Time Line Cook

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

Outdoor Grill and Waitress

We are seeking a skilled and enthusiastic individual to join our team as an Outdoor Grill and Waitress at Neshobe Golf Club. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing excellent food service at our outdoor grill station, ensuring a positive and memorable dining experience for our valued members and guests. This seasonal position will start on August 10 and continue until the end of the golf season (exact date to be determined).

The golf course is OPEN!
Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

New England Woodcraft is always looking for new talent willing to learn new skills and bring the organization forward for generations to come!

Interested in building and growing your career?

Call (802-247-8211), email (tray@newoodcraft.com) or stop by to see what opportunities we have for you!

Sizzling Summer Sales!

30% off many bushes, shrubs and perennials including apple trees, roses, clematis, lilacs, peonies and more

- Mums are here! 3 for \$25
- Hanging baskets
- Farm fresh local sweet corn picked daily



Open daily 10-5
Sundays 12-5
Closed Tuesdays

Home and Garden

2473 Franklin Street (Rt. 7 South) • Brandon
802-247-0062 • Cell 324-0613
Tim and Mary Shields, owners

A 44-Year Middlebury Tradition of Trusted & Caring Dental Excellence!

\$0 Cleanings!

For most insured patients. Call for details.

Further Heightened Sterilization Standards



Middlebury DENTAL GROUP

1330 Exchange Street, Suite 107
• Middlebury •

802-388-3553

MiddleburyDentalVT.com

Welcome Before & After Work or School!

BRANDON REPORTER

Back-to-school 2023-24

Hubert & Bertrand

(Continued from Page 1)

matter how successful we are, though, we can't prepare for everything, and each year brings unexpected challenges. I sat with RNESU Superintendent Kristin Hubert and OVUU School Board President Laurie Bertrand for a conversation about past experience and what they're hoping for the coming year.

"We're going to be focusing on equity, accountability, and transparency," said Hubert. "We need to make sure that all schools have what they need, and we need to make sure that we're accountable to families and the Board. We need to communicate honestly with stakeholders. We train our teachers to put learning targets on the board, but as administrators we're not trained to do that ourselves. We need to do a better job communicating our goals."

Last year was Hubert's fifth in the district but her first as Superintendent. Before her promotion to the top spot at RNESU, Hubert was Curriculum Director for the district.

"I was a little insulated in that position," said Hubert. "I worked mostly at the district office and knew people who were in my lane. Last year, as Superintendent, I got to know the kids, the parents, and the Boards. I really became aware of the experiences of the students and parents."

Along those lines, Hubert undertook a "listening tour," visiting schools to talk with students about their experiences. The theme of the tour was "Heroes & Villains," a way to ask students what was working (heroes) and not working (villains) in their school lives.

"The heroes and villains didn't have to be people," said Hubert. "And at OV, we got responses like 'The library is my hero,' because it was, for that student, a place where they could do their own thing on their own time. A 'villain' was the lunchroom. It's a socially challenging place for a lot of students. No one villainized any teachers, which was good news."

"The kids were brutally honest and the big thing that students kept saying, at every level, is that they crave more agency," said Hubert. "They want more control over their own experience. They told us they felt they had very little freedom. There's a student government that has no real authority. Kids need to have more voice.

And we as adults don't circle back and ask them how the solutions we implement are working."

Many students at OV also asked for a recalibration of the balance between homework and extracurriculars.

"A lot of students balance a lot of things," said Hubert. "In any given moment, one teacher might accommodate a particular student who's involved in sports, for example, but if that student isn't getting support from all their teachers, it's still hard. We've discussed offering a class on time management."

A major issue this past year was communication between school administrators and parents. In particular, an incident at Neshobe Elementary School raised a lot of hackles when a number of parents

felt that the community hadn't been promptly and adequately warned by Principal Vicki Wells about safety threats at school.

"There's a difference between intent and impact," said Hubert about the situation. "Principal Wells never intended harm. But there was a general

perception of non-transparency and non-communication. Over the summer we put tremendous effort into safety and communication. We have a new Director of Safe Schools and a new section on safety on our website."

"Act 29 created very clear expectations for teachers and leaders with respect to safety. If guidelines aren't followed, the ball falls into my court. And our first monthly community forum, in September, will be on safety," added Hubert.

The OVUU School Board experienced pushback last year when Board member Brett Scarborough posted anti-trans material on his personal social-media accounts. It became the subject of heated debate at Board meetings. Scarborough defended his right to his personal views but apologized for the conflict they caused for the Board. He subsequently made his accounts private.

"We don't have control over members' social media," said

OVUU School Board President Laurie Bertrand. "People were upset and asked to remove him, but we can't remove members from the Board based on their social media posts. You're a voter. You need to look at who's running and make sure they reflect your values."

"We want the community to know that we're there for all students. What matters is that they feel valued and get what they need for life after high school," added Bertrand.

"I have yet to meet a Board member who doesn't want what's best for the kids," said Hubert. "We're there for the kids."

Regarding requests last year from Board member Kevin Thornton to allocate \$200,000 for vocational and technical education, Bertrand cautioned that it would've been improper to do so at the time.

"We have to be careful not to tick off the tech centers—Stafford and Hannaford," Bertrand said. "We can't start taking their students. We have to be methodical about it."

Both Hubert and Bertrand also warned that RNESU's Esser Fund (COVID relief) money will run out this year and hard

choices will have to be made about staffing.

"We're well staffed this year," said Hubert. "Except for bus drivers. Everyone is struggling to find enough drivers. But when the Esser money runs out, we will have to ask which staff we need to prioritize. The Esser money was millions of dollars. We won't be able to keep funding all the positions that were created during the pandemic."

"We don't want to lose any programming," added Bertrand. "But we also don't want to hit pocket-books too hard."

As for overall objectives, Hubert and Bertrand were on the same page:

"We want to focus on success after graduation," said Bertrand. "I want kids to feel they got the best we could give them."

"We want kids to look back fondly and see adults who believed in them," said Hubert.

"We want the community to know that we're there for all students. What matters is that they feel valued and get what they need for life after high school."

—OVUU School Board President Laurie Bertrand

Sports

Otter Valley Fall 2023 Sports Rosters

High School Girls' Soccer Fall 2023

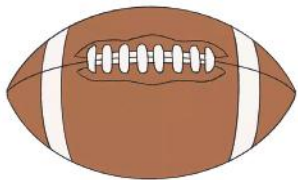
- #3 Sierra Cormany, grade 12
- #4 Allie Charbonneau, grade 9
- #5 Mallee Richardson, grade 11
- #6 Jazalynn Madrigal, grade 10
- #8 Randi Lancour, grade 11
- #10 Tegan Boynton, grade 8
- #12 Laura Allen, grade 11
- #14 Lana Karnai, grade 9
- #15 Emma Stanley, grade 10
- #18 Michelle Hendee, grade 9
- #19 Linnea Faulkner, grade 12
- #20 Olivia Quinn, grade 9
- #22 Savanna Cook, grade 11
- #28 Katelyn Greeno, grade 9
- Bella Cassell, grade 9

Head Coach: Tammi Blanchard
Assistant Coach: Michael Stark

High School Field Hockey Fall 2023

- #1 Sophia Parker, grade 9
- #2 Breanna Bovey, grade 10
- #3 Ella Otto, grade 9
- #4 Tayah Cram, grade 9
- #8 Leann Thomas, grade 10
- #10 Elizabeth Atherton, grade 12
- #11 Matelin LaPorte, grade 11
- #12 Charlotte Newton, grade 11
- #13 Hannah Desabrais, grade 10
- #14 Marissa Dick, grade 10
- #15 Michaela Hobbs, grade 10
- #16 Lily Morgan, grade 12
- #21 Mariterese Pearsons, grade 9
- #22 Alexis Beaulieu, grade 10

Manager: Aubriana Marchinowski, grade 10
Head Coach: Jodie Keith



Middle School Boys' Soccer Fall 2023

- Payton Crowley, grade 8
- Benjamin Gleason, grade 8
- William Kilpeck, grade 8
- Russell Maranville, grade 8
- Bronson Raymond, grade 8
- Gavin Steen, grade 8
- Tyrell Vaughn, grade 8
- Ayden Wingfield, grade 8
- Hunter Barnhardt, grade 7
- Otto Feldman, grade 7
- Tucker Cram, grade 7
- Max Lavalle, grade 7
- Ezra Satz, grade 7
- Terrybruce Sheltra, grade 7
- Andrew Sweeney, grade 7
- Anthony Zaccheus, grade 7

Head Coach: Raymond Miro

Middle School Field Hockey Fall 2023

- Isabella Bovey, grade 8
- Amelia Gibbs, grade 7
- Olivia Gibbs, grade 7
- Aleah Romano, grade 7
- Audrey Carrier, grade 7
- Hilary Desabrais, grade 7
- Sophiale Duby, grade 7
- Maci Gatchet, grade 7
- Isabelle Guevin, grade 7
- Cloe Hutchins, grade 7
- Lydia Keith, grade 7
- Sofia Kerr, grade 7
- Georgia LaPorte, grade 7
- Sienna Many, grade 7
- Kalina Snow, grade 7
- Savana Williams, grade 7
- Jazmine Cram, grade 6
- Jadyn Devino, grade 6
- Lani Heitmann, grade 6
- Payton Loven, grade 6
- Sage Parker, grade 6
- Ava Sumner, grade 6

Head Coach: Alia Dick
Assistant Coach: Meghan Hallett

High School Football Fall 2023

- #1 Gavin Disorda, grade 12
- #2 Mason Bushee, grade 12
- #3 Robert Gilbert, grade 10
- #4 Robert Hutchins, grade 11
- #5 Dominick Waite, grade 10
- #7 Marek Heitmann, grade 9
- #8 Chase Razanoski, grade 10
- #10 Noah Drew, grade 12
- #15 Keegan Reid, grade 9
- #17 Max Potter, grade 9
- #19 Tucker Maranville, grade 11
- #20 Chase Cram, grade 12
- #24 Zachary Dragon, grade 10
- #28 Cody Mulcahy, grade 12
- #31 Ethan Dukette, grade 10
- #33 Noel Pearsons, grade 11
- #40 Jaydon Connors, grade 10
- #42 Mark Jackson, grade 11
- #43 Drake Felkl, grade 10
- #44 Isaac Whitney, grade 11
- #50 Derek Li, grade 12
- #51 Ayden Larocque, grade 9
- #54 Ryan Li, grade 10
- #56 Hunter Kehoe, grade 10
- #58 Kyle Pockett, grade 11
- #63 Luciano Falco, grade 12
- #70 Austin Mallory, grade 10
- #74 David Bertrand, grade 9
- #78 Colin Carroccia, grade 10
- #79 Derrick Walton, grade 10

Manager: Lauren Palmer, grade 11
Head Coach: Jordan Tolar
Defensive Coordinator: Ken Stanley
Assistants: Marc Dudsak, Bill Rose, Tom Hobbs, Tristan Congleton



High School Golf Fall 2023

- Addison Boynton, grade 11
- Lucas Politano, grade 11
- Rowen Steen, grade 11
- Jacob Tripp, grade 11
- Jackson Howe, grade 10

Head Coach: Greg Hughes
Assistant: Kristen Shaeffer



Cheerleading Fall 2023 (Middle & High School)

- Brookelyn Kimball, grade 12
- LaJay O'Connor, grade 12
- Noelle Seigle, grade 10
- Leah Chapin, grade 8
- Charlie Lewis, grade 7

Head coach: Kassidy Buley
Assistant coach: Zoe Elliot

Middle School Girls' Soccer Fall 2023

- Maya Crowe, grade 8
- Emma Derby, grade 8
- Addyson Fleming, grade 8
- Eugenia Guyette, grade 8
- Clover Hobbs, grade 8
- Callie LaRock, grade 8
- Karis Lee, grade 8
- Mackenzie McNolty, grade 8
- Hayden Moulton, grade 8
- Iyla Spensley, grade 8
- Addison Erickson, grade 7
- Jasmine Gilmore, grade 7
- Brooklynn Hill, grade 7
- Lucy Howe, grade 7
- Jaelyn Martin, grade 7

Head Coach: Sandra Chicoine



Cross-Country (Middle & High School)

- Isaiah Bagley, grade 12
- Clara Cifone, grade 12
- Dillon Ladd, grade 12
- Baker LaRock, grade 12
- Elisha Bagley, grade 11
- Luke Calvin, grade 11
- Sara Loyzelle, grade 11
- Chloe Mol, grade 10
- Jonathan Johnson, grade 9
- Jackson Rawls, grade 9
- Cooper Rubright, grade 9
- Caledonia Gibbs, grade 8
- Kiran Singh, grade 7
- Ryan Willey, grade 7

Head coach: Cameron Perta

High School Boys' Soccer Fall 2023

- #1 Owen Thomas, grade 12
- #2 Isaiah Wood, grade 12
- #3 Logan Letourneau, grade 11
- #4 Brody Lathrop, grade 10
- #6 Max Derby, grade 12
- #7 Connor Denis, grade 10
- #8 Benjamin McGuigan, grade 10
- #9 Aiden Decker, grade 12
- #10 Drew Pelkey, grade 11
- #11 Timothy Baron, grade 10
- #13 Tanner Biondi, grade 9
- #15 Luke Calvin, grade 11
- #16 Jonathan Johnson, grade 9
- #20 Dylan Curtis, grade 9
- #21 Jacob Warrell, grade 10
- #27 Jason Hartwell, grade 10
- #32 Hayden Martin, grade 12

Head Coach: Brian Thomas
Assistant Coach: Adam Calvin

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTISTS: Levi Mather
AGE: 8th grade
SCHOOL: OV Middle School
MEDIUM: Wrapped wire
TITLE: The guitarist
TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz



Michael Ruppel

(Continued from Page 1)
high school/middle school, he knew had some work to do.

“OV needs to see itself as two schools,” he said. “We need to develop the middle-school model. Working with those kids is the most fun part of the job for me. I even love middle-school lunch. There’s great energy. Those kids are fun to be around.”

In addition to taking over for a long-term incumbent, Ruppel had the added challenge of steering OV through the post-pandemic transition to in-school learning.

“The pandemic led to loss of community in schools. Things got disrupted,” he said. “It takes time to rebuild. The emphasis moving forward is on rebuilding our community. We have a group of teachers working as a ‘fun committee.’ We’re going to have more school-wide assemblies and advisory groups.”

As if to drive home the point, Ruppel was wearing a baseball jersey with the OV logo on the front and the word “community” on the back.

And as for the nuts-and-bolts work of educating kids, Ruppel said, “I’m a big believer that students need their curriculum to honor them.”

One way to get kids to feel seen and heard is to engage them with issues that affect them directly.

“Maybe kids will go out and investigate problems in their own community and offer solutions,” Ruppel added.

Vocational/technical education will also play a larger role at OV in the coming years.

“Vermont has a robust CTE (‘career technical education’) system,” said Ruppel. “Stafford and Hannaford have a lot of great programs, but starting on that path in the junior or senior year may be too late. Tech

Ed teacher Devon Karpak has designed a ‘career prep pathway’ where kids can start taking extra career-prep classes at the end of eighth grade. But we don’t want to close off any pathways. We’re not replacing academics; we’re supplementing them. We’re on pace to accept applications to this program this spring and to start the program next fall.”

Ruppel also noted that OV now has a full-time work-based learning coordinator to help kids with career-focused education.

Another subject that got a fair amount of attention in Ruppel’s first year is the tension surrounding racial and LGBTQ+ issues at OV, with many kids saying that they don’t feel safe at school.

“It’s impossible for the polarization in the country not to play out in schools,” said Ruppel. “But we’re all here to go to school. We all have commonalities. We have Professional Development for our staff in that area. And we’re trying to ramp up our response when racial or gender harassment occurs. We want to provide education as well as discipline. We want to teach, not just punish.”

Given the incidents at Neshobe last year, and even the “prank” that sent local law enforcement scrambling to OV, safety is at the forefront of many kids’ and parents’ minds.

“There’s a big districtwide push regarding safety,” replied Ruppel. “We’re always trying to work on emergency procedures. We’re committed to transparency.”

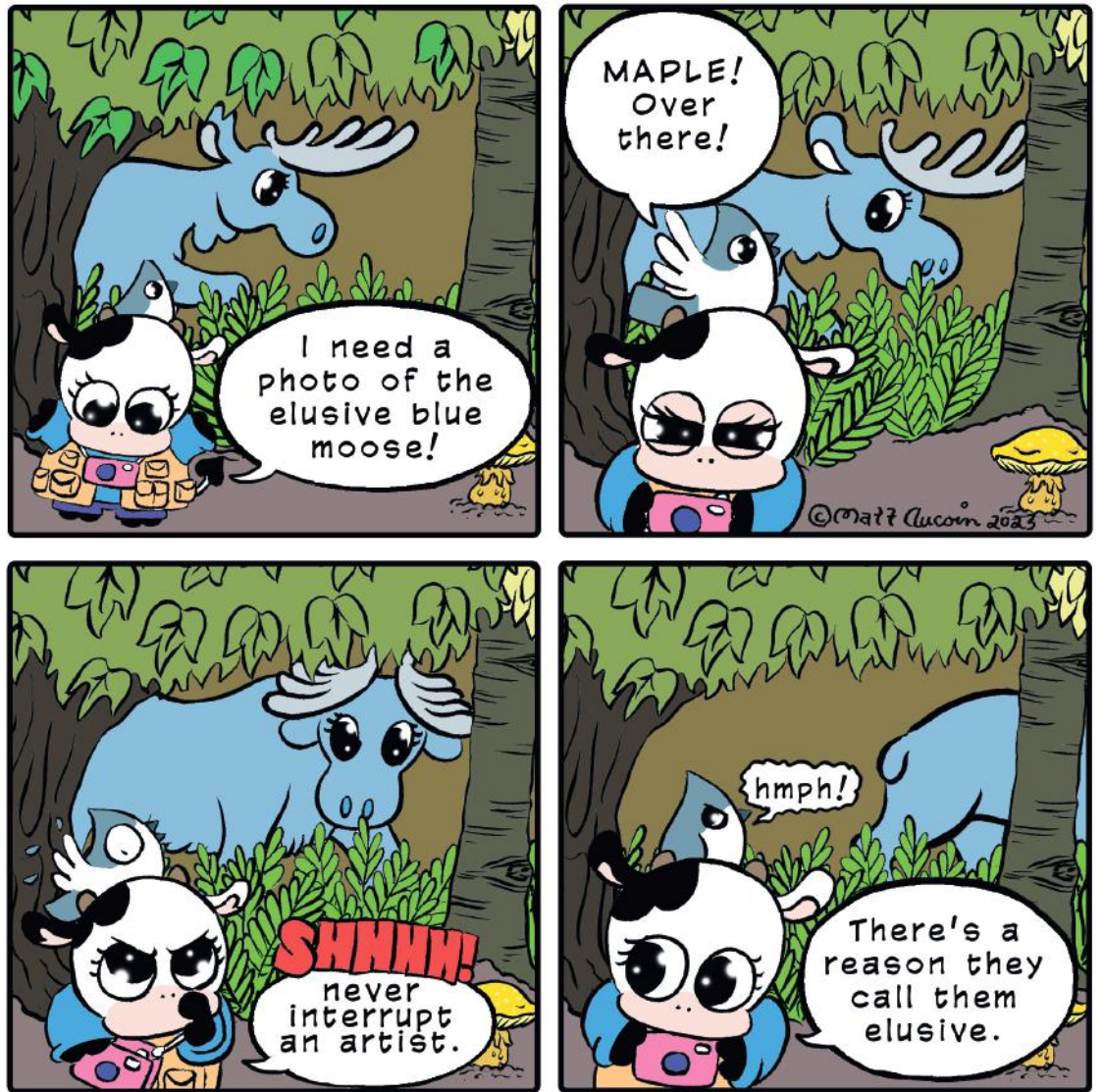
Echoing Superintendent Hubert, Ruppel talked about the desire to make all OV kids feel like they have a place at school:

“We’re working hard to ensure that every kid feels a sense of belonging here.”

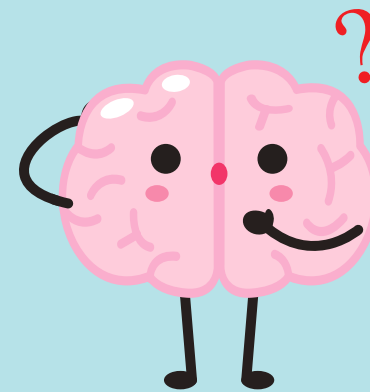
“We’re trying to ramp up our response when racial or gender harassment occurs. We want to provide education as well as discipline. We want to teach, not just punish.”

—Michael Ruppel

MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin



Brandon Brain Buster



There are exactly 5 children—Alice, Bobby, Chrissie, Dillard, and Emma—on a playground that has only the following pieces of equipment: a slide, a swing set with two swings, and a sandbox. The children are free to play with whichever piece of equipment they choose, but they must comply with the following conditions:

If Dillard is using the sandbox, Bobby must be using the swing set.

If either Chrissie or Emma uses the swing set, the other must do so at the same time as well.

If Alice is using the slide, Dillard must be using the sandbox.

More than one child may use each piece of equipment at the same time, except for the slide, which can accommodate only one child at a time.

Each child must be using a piece of equipment at all times

and no equipment can sit idle at any time, though one of the two swings may be left empty.

Given these conditions, each of the following must be true EXCEPT?

A) If Alice uses the slide, then there must be exactly three children in the sandbox.

B) If Emma uses the slide, then Chrissie must use the sandbox.

C) If Bobby is using the sandbox and Chrissie is using the slide, then Dillard must be using the swings.

D) If Chrissie and Emma are using the swings, then Alice cannot use the slide.

E) If Dillard uses the swing, then Bobby cannot use the sandbox.

Answer on page 19...

Mim's Photos
Like all things vintage?
are on page 16!



SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com

Calendar of events

September

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

Friends Zone

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

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

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

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

Drop-In Tech Help at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Ping Pong

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Ukulele Group

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

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

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

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

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

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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



Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Friday 8th

The International Sustainable Comedy Music & Variety Showcase

Advance: \$14 (+fees) // Day of Show: \$17 (+fees)
Doors: 7:00pm // Show: 7:30pm
BYOB

The Underground Presents: A Randy Lopez Production The International Sustainable Comedy Music & Variety Showcase - For a Safe and Securer Society

Step right up and join us for an evening of open mics, melodies, and entertainment that will leave you craving more! This variety show promises to set the stage ablaze with a fusion of talent, humor, and all types of artistic prowess!

Srandall Slopez:

Srandall Slopez is a comedian and musician from Inland Empire, California, and a newcomer to Vermont.

Sofia Bonelli:

Sofia Bonelli is a comedian and musician.

Rachi Farrow:

Rachi Farrow is a multimedia Randolph staple, who describes herself as an "Artist".

David Cron

(pro-



nounced 'crone', like 'bone'): David Cron is a singer/song-writer with deep Americana roots tempered by a Rock-N-Roll lifestyle. His music lands somewhere between insightful reflections and downright silliness.

AUDUBON WEST MONITORING WALK

Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area. No experience necessary. Go the entire 4



Friday 8th Saturday 9th

Rutland Free Library September Book Sales

September Friends of the 1Rutland Free Library Book Sale. It's at 10 Court Street, Rutland, VT 05701 802-773-1860.

Fri., Sept. 8 (10 -4) and Sat., Sept. 9 (10 -2)

Public Always Welcome

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books.

Goings on around town

All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.

Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects.

www.rutland.free.org

Saturday 9th

Vermont Golden Honey Festival

Part craft fair, part food festival, all small town fun!

From 10:00 am–4:00 pm at the Golden Stage Inn, 399 Depot Street, Cavendish VT

You'll find big-time fun at this small-town festival. Local beekeepers, crafters, artists and food vendors join together on the spacious lawn of Golden Stage Inn in Proctorsville to showcase their products, especially those featuring honey

or the honeybee. Kids activities. Free admission. Co-hosted with Goodman's American Pie of Ludlow VT. Come check out their Honey Apple pizza (a food truck special!) baked in their on-site beehive oven pizza truck!

Central Vermont Flood Relief Benefit Concert

Musical lineup includes: Guagua (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065116826177>), the Ray Vega Quintet (<https://rayvegamusic.com/>), Dwight+Nicole (<https://www.dwightandnicole.com/>) and The Dave Keller Band (<https://www.davekeller.com/>).

Fundraising goal: Concert is a fundraiser to support the Montpelier Strong Recovery Fund and the Barre Community Relief Fund. Goal is to raise over \$50,000 to benefit countless small businesses, and residents, across Barre and Montpelier.

The Central Vermont Flood Recovery Benefit Concert is a collaboration between and is presented by: the Cities of Montpelier and Barre, Montpelier Alive, Barre Area Development, The Barre Partnership, Firefly Productions, and Singularity Booking.

From 3:00 pm–7:00 pm at the State House Lawn, \$35.00.

Bandwagon Summer Series:

Balla Kouyaté & Mike Block Band

Balla Kouyaté and Mike Block have been collaborating for over a decade, bonding over their shared interest in music from across the world, and their commitment to innovating on their instruments.

Balla Kouyate, a balafon player and singer coming out of the Djeli tradition of Mali, was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the NEA. Mike Block is an American cellist/

singer/composer, and a Grammy Award-winning musician with the Silkroad Ensemble originally trained in Western Classical music. They have teamed up with friends

from America and West Africa to create an exciting fusion of musical styles in a 6-piece band that features Sekou Dembele (djembe/vocals), Idrissa Kone (talking drum/calabash/percussion/vocals), Luke Okerlund (electric guitar) and Mike Rivard (bass/sintir).

From 5:00P–7:00 pm
Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road, Putney

\$20.00 – \$25.00

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 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

NXT Rockumentary Film Series:

Gimme Shelter (1970)

The landmark documentary about the tragically ill-fated Rolling Stones free concert at Altamont Speedway on December 6, 1969.

Only four months earlier, Woodstock defined the Love Generation; now it lay in ruins on a desolate racetrack six miles outside of San Francisco.

Equal parts essential and chilling, Gimme Shelter provides a spine-tingling look at how the Rolling Stones' music paralleled the end of the counterculture movement.

Co-presented with Next Chapter Records.

Wed at 7:00–8:30pm
Next Stage Arts Project
15 Kimball Hill
Putney
\$10.00

Friday 15th

Artist Talk at the Brandon Artists Guild

Liza Myers, a painter and sculptor will share her art career at the Brandon Artists Guild.

Her art is themed with nature, painting the architecture of tangled nests and their inhabitants. Liza's imagery weaves a strong thread of global interconnectedness. Please join us on between 7pm-8:30pm, light refreshments will be served.

Saturday 16th Sunday 17th

Vermont Spartan North American Championship Weekend 2023 - Sprint, Beast, Ultra & Kids

Spartan Race will push you beyond your limits. We challenge you to break out of your comfort zone, test your mental grit, and accomplish something difficult. Join us and become UNBREAKABLE.

Spartan Race is the world's leading obstacle race series. Each race is designed to test endurance, strength, agility, and mental toughness. On the course you will overcome obstacles, push your limits, and find out what you're made of. Get off the couch and come do something different with your weekend - we bet you'll feel pretty damn good about your decision.

Distances available:

- Spartan Sprint (5K, 20 obstacles)
- Spartan Beast (21K, 30 obstacles)
- Spartan Ultra (50K, 60 obstacles)
- Spartan Kids (various options for kids ages 4-14)

*Minimum age to participate in Sprint, Super and Beast is 14 years old on the day of the event. Minimum age to participate in Ultra is 18 years old on the day of the event.

Each Registrant Receives:

- Spartan Headband with your bib number
- Chip Timing and individual race time
- Professional Photos

Each Finisher Earns:

- Badass Finisher Medal + a Trifecta Medal Wedge Piece
- Finisher T-Shirt
- Non-Alcoholic Finisher Beverage
- Bragging Rights for Life

From 6:00 am–Sun at 1:00 pm, at Killington Ski Resort
\$25.99 - \$189.00

Sunday 17th

Hymn Sing and Concert Sunday, Pittsford Congregational Church

Starting at 3 pm Alastair Stout, Minister of Music at Grace Congregational Church, will offer a hymn sing of your favorite hymns on our colorful Estey organ. The hymns will be interspersed with organ music by Charpentier, Bach, and Boellmann and a piano set of folk songs from Orkney and Shetland by Peter Maxwell Davies and Alastair Stout.

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.

BRANDON 2023 LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK

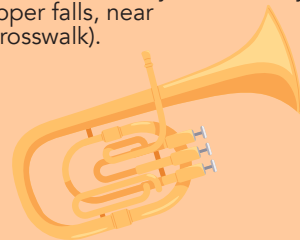
September 9

Doug Ross w/ Wade Davis
rock covers & originals

September 23

Wyatt Waterman, eclectic
blend of keyboard music

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



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.

RUTLAND MARSH - SEPTEMBER 16



mile loop or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble Street at 8 am.

All are welcome! More info: birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org

Conflict

(Continued from Page 5)

the government and the church were intended to be two distinct institutions.” (Source: firstliberty.org)

Religion is defined as “a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance”. “501(c)(3) organizations are non-profit groups with a dedicated mission. Most people are familiar with them as churches and charities, but they also include private foundations.” (Source: investopedia.com) Mission is defined as “a strongly felt aim, ambition, or calling” ... fundamentally, a religion. Therefore, logic dictates that government and 501(c)(3)s ought to be two distinct institutions as well.

By maintaining this distinction, we uphold the values of democracy and equality.

Early American Baptist clergyman Isaac Backus argued, “Reli-

gious matters are to be separated from the jurisdiction of the state not because they are beneath the interests of the state, but, quite to the contrary, because they are too high and holy and thus are beyond the competence of the state.” (Source: baptistnews.com)

Choosing which specific 501(c)(3) mission the town will support might imply that our leaders are somehow divinely guided.

“Government decisions should be based on reason, evidence and the common good of all citizens,” not specific interest groups, and provide “a path for policies and legislation to be formulated through a rational and democratic process, driven by the needs and objectives of the entire population. This strengthens the foundation of good governance and encourages leaders to make informed choices that benefit our nation.” (Source: baptistnews.com)

“The beginning of the First

Amendment reads: ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.’ This is called the Establishment Clause.” — “The Establishment Clause keeps the government from establishing an official religion or supporting a specific religion.” (Source: billofrightsinstitute.org) Or in this case, a specific 501(c)(3).

Subsequent to Brian’s concern, it was “noted that the relationship [between the Rec Department and the nonprofit Brandon Area Toy Project] was in the process of being formalized with a memorandum of understanding.” (Source: brandonreporter.com) That certainly sounds official to me.

“America’s Founders did not intend to create a society where all were forced to worship the God of one particular religion.” (Source: firstliberty.org) Nor should we collectively be forced to support the mission of any specific 501(c)(3). This is setting a dangerous precedent for the town of Brandon.

Thomas Jefferson insisted, “Erecting a wall of separation” — “is absolutely essential in a free society.” This “allows for a diverse and harmonious society where individuals are free to practice their faith and beliefs without fear, and where governance should be guided by reason, fairness and the best interests of the people. Embracing

the separation is vital for the wellbeing of our communities and the flourishing of democratic values in our world.” (Source: baptistnews.com)

“Several members of the Board agreed that the Town should have a more formal policy regarding financial cooperation between the Town and nonprofits”. (Source: brandonreporter.com) In keeping with the spirit of the First Amendment, of two distinct institutions, the policy ought to be one of “separation of town and 501(c)(3).”

A town policy of separation would foster more separate sources of authority and provide more individual local leadership opportunities. It will safeguard the autonomy and integrity of town management.

“In the 1984 case of Lynch v. Donnelly, the Court created the “Endorsement Test”: government cannot endorse (support or publicly approve) or even appear to endorse any one religion.” (Source: billofrightsinstitute.org) At the very least, there ought to be an “Endorsement Test” in Brandon for 501(c)(3)s.

Additionally, “As long as they operate to support their mission,” — “The 501(c)(3) status offers a myriad of benefits to the designated organizations and the people they serve. For starters, 501(c)(3) organizations are exempt from paying federal income

and unemployment taxes, and patrons who donate to them are allowed to claim a tax deduction for their contributions.” (Source: investopedia.com) In addition to the “myriad” tax exemptions, specific 501(c)(3)s are then allocated revenue by the town?

Today, the Establishment Clause is “understood to protect Americans against any law, policy, or regulation from any level of government (or government official) that could lead to an establishment of religion.” Some may think that the town can then “extend to religious groups the same courtesies it does to other community organizations. For example, if a town allows the Boy Scouts to make use of public land (and split the profit), then it should allow access to religious groups on the same terms.” Can a church use Estabrook Park on the same terms? If so, how will the town leaders decide which religion to endorse?

This is a slippery slope.

Local government is to make policies that meet our community’s expectation. (Ref: billofrightsinstitute.org) Let the Brandon Selectboard know your expectation. The next scheduled meeting is September 11, 2023.

Vicki Disorda
Brandon

INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

DIGITAL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD

Here at the *Addy Indy* we have always seen it as our job to help connect your business with its clients.

As times change and technology evolves, pairing digital services with your print advertising campaigns is the best way to quickly & efficiently connect with the community.

Independent Digital Marketing can help you better reach our region with:



ONLINE ADVERTISING



DIGITAL DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT



WEB DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT US TODAY TO GET STARTED!

802-388-4944

digital@addisonindependent.com

addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing



Ray of Light

BEAUTIFUL VERMONT SKY after a recent storm.

Photo by Sepi Alavi

REAL ESTATE



NEW EMPLOYEES OUTSIDE Otter Valley Union High school at New Employee Academy 2023.

Welcome our new RNESU employees

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is excited to introduce 49 new employees who will be working throughout the district in all capacities. Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to our schools:

AT BARSTOW:

Olivia Bowen - Elementary Teacher

Mary Hitchcock - Teacher: PreK/EEE

Samantha Raymond- Paraeducator

Deborah Poljacik- Paraeducator

AT LOTHROP:

Jonathan Davis - Custodian
Natalie Gilliard - Teacher: Special Services

Erica Williams Harryman - Principal

AT NESHOBÉ:

John Aprilliano - Intervention Specialist

Carol Buzby - L/T Teacher: Elementary

Brittney Clodgo - Paraeducator

Anna Cook - Teacher: Elementary

Elizabeth Corey - Teacher: Grade 4

Thomas Darling - Teacher: Elementary

Leah Davis - Teacher: Grade 2

Bianca Madrigal- Paraeducator

Jamie Mahoney - Teacher: Special Services

Georgianna Nop - Teacher: Elementary

AT OTTER CREEK ACADEMY:

Jasmyn Carapezza - Paraeducator

Heather Dazzi - Paraeducator

AT OTTER VALLEY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL:

Alexandria Brace - Teacher: Special Services

Zachary Brooks - Teacher: HS Social Studies

Erin Cameron - Teacher: Special Services

Courtney Currier - Teacher: Special Services

Joel Jones - Associate Principal

Emerson Doty - Teacher: HS Language Arts

Crystal Eastman - Floating Substitute

Jeremy Everett - Teacher: HS Science

William Gunger - Teacher: HS Social Studies

Cassandra Hayes - Teacher: Special Services

Debra Karpak - L/T Teacher: Health

Larissa McDonough - Social Emotional Learning Professional

Mary Richards - Teacher: HS ELA

Katie St. Raymond - Teacher: HS Alternative Learning

Christina Sweet - Teacher: MS Health

Katie Walleth - School Counselor

Cameron Wescott - Teacher: Choral/Vocal Music

RNESU – DISTRICT WIDE:

Stacey Farrington - Home School Coordinator

Laura Jakubowski - Assistant Director of Finance

Aili Jones - School Psychologist

Taylor Lanpher - School Based Mental Health Coordinator

George Smith- Bus Driver

Megan Sheldrick-Paraeducator



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. Freshly painted outside, a newer roof; a very well maintained property. Ready for you to move in and enjoy and a great location for a home business! The large carriage barn still has the original horse stalls and spacious loft. \$370,000



802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com

Dunmore & Fern Lake



DUNMORE CONDO – 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. Come take a look. \$212,000.



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. \$149,900.



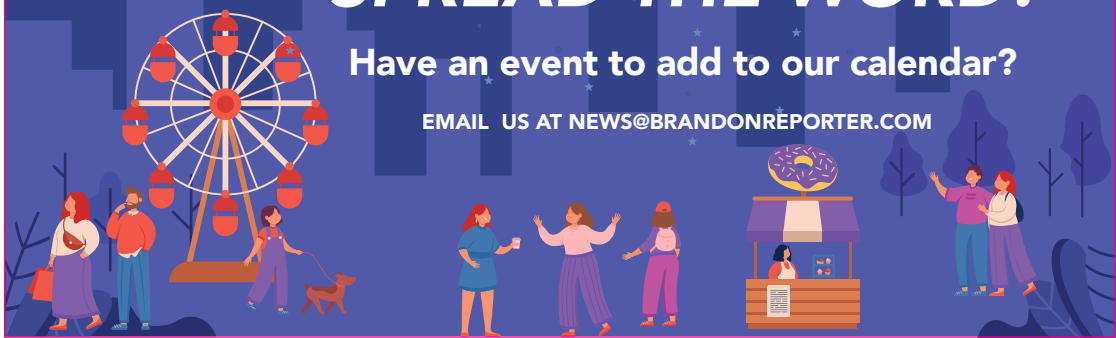
WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

SPREAD THE WORD!

Have an event to add to our calendar?

EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM



Make the dream of home ownership a reality. We can help. Contact us today or apply online. Beth Buckman | Community Lender | NMLS #41062

National Bank of Middlebury
Serving Vermont Communities Since 1831

Member EOE FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
nbmvt.com • 1-877-508-8455
Bank NMLS #403372



Mim's Photos

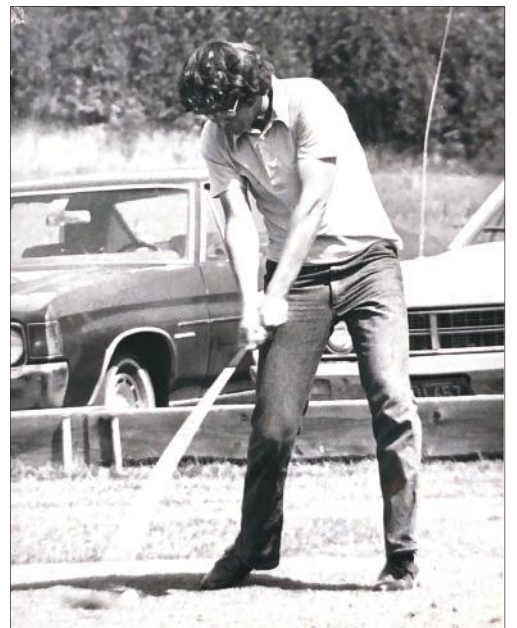
Can you identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives? Let us know!



Recognized



Bob Read of Brandon recognizes some folks in this photo of the OVUHS soccer team during a game most likely from the fall of 1993. Bob Read was one year ahead of these guys at OVUHS: Kid on far left (in the background) is Mike Martin; in front, on the left is Jeff Wade; jumping in the air is Mark Moffet (Betty Moffet's son); and on the far left (in the background) is Matt Candon



Sanford Rouse of Neshobe House called to recognize this golfer as Robert Clark of Brandon.

E-mail ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080



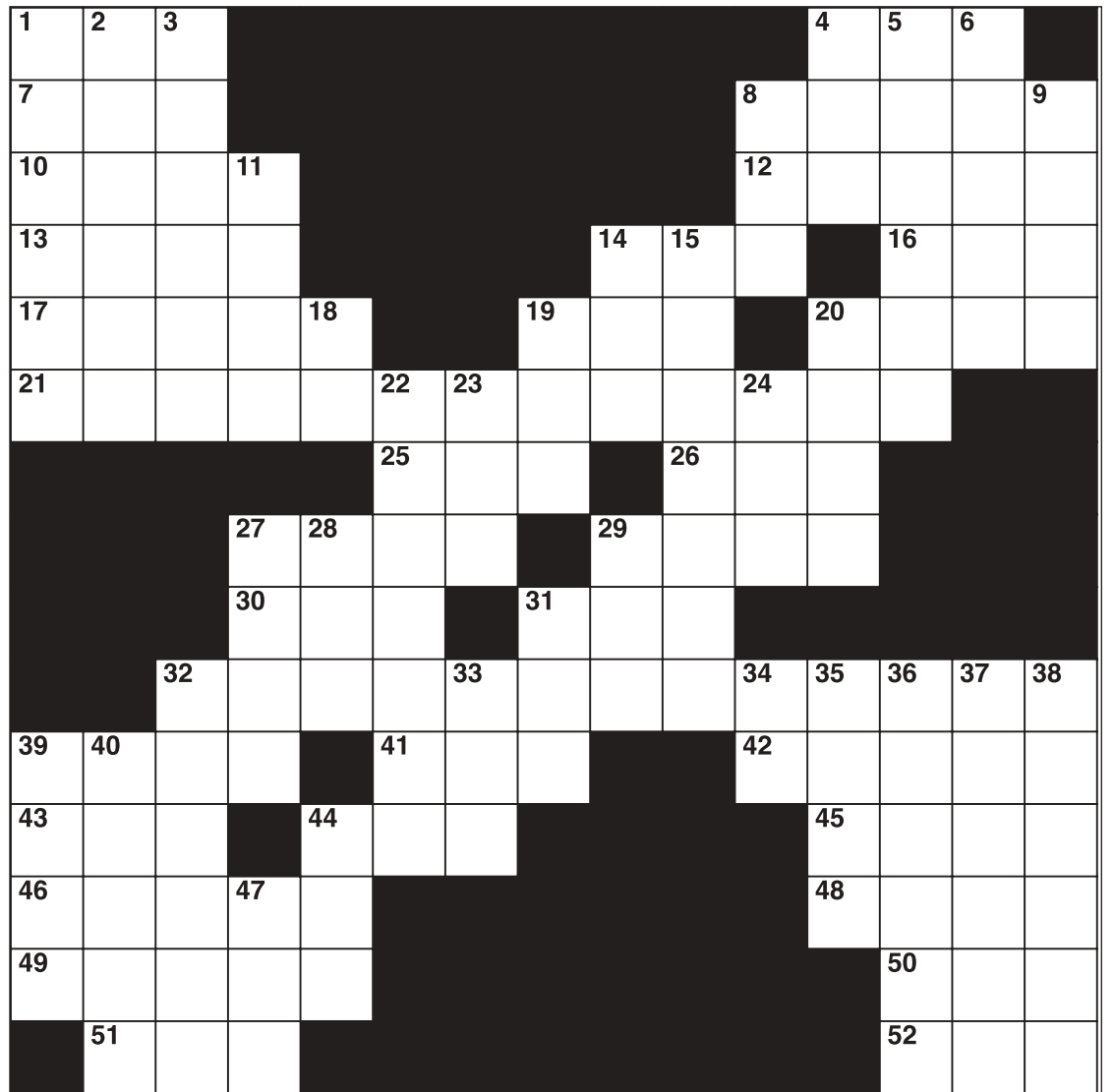
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Second sight
4. Standard electrode potential
7. Type of gibbon
8. John Joseph __: American industrialist
10. Manning and Whitney are two
12. Abrupt
13. Baroque musical instrument
14. Post-burning residue
16. When you hope to arrive
17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
19. Sun up in New York
20. Employee stock ownership plan
21. Where people live
25. Method to record an electrogram
26. Angry
27. No longer living
29. Simple
30. Swiss river
31. Portion of a play
32. It's under the tree
39. Wood sorrels
41. No (Scottish)
42. Dialect of English
43. Former Steelers' QB
44. Popular beer
45. It can make you sick
46. Tropical tree and fruit
48. Company officer
49. Contact lens term
50. Your consciousness of your own identity
51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
52. Piece of turf

CLUES DOWN

1. Number of players on each side in a football game
2. Containing salt
3. Reasoning or knowledge: a __
4. Car mechanics group
5. Leave a place
6. Southern Colombian capital
8. Old English letter
9. Tide
11. Walk heavily
14. Chemical compound (abbr.)
15. Artificial openings
18. Luteinizing hormone
19. Unit of energy
20. Circular movement of water
22. A way of holding
23. Popular book of words (abbr.)
24. States' group
27. Dashes
28. Body part
29. Electronic countermeasures
31. Consumed
32. Small bird
33. Unhappy
34. Football's big game (abbr.)
35. Valued object offered in good faith
36. Wild goats
37. Precede in place
38. Small edible fish
39. Notice of death
40. Body cavity of a metazoan
44. Partner to cheese
47. Not around

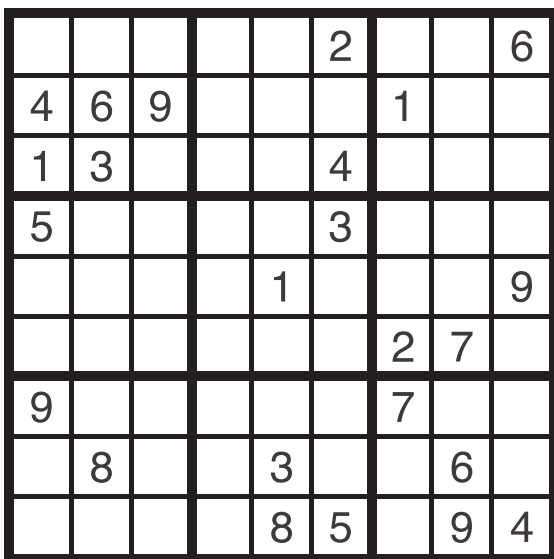


SPONSOR THE RCHS AD FOR \$275 A MONTH CONTACT GEORGE@BRANDONREPORTER.COM OR CALL 802 236-4662

Sudoku

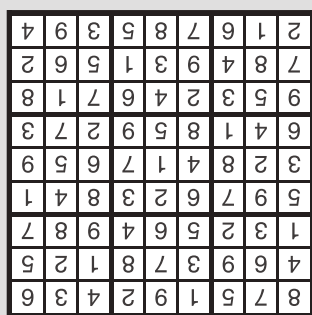
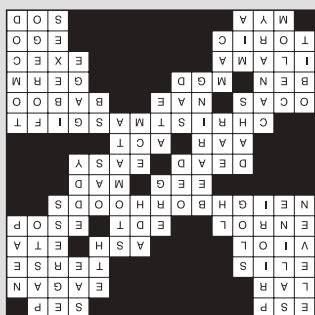
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number must appear

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



The Truth About Declawing Your Cat

There are many myths about declawing cats, and the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) wants you to know the truth. Declawing a cat is a surgery that is performed to amputate the last digit of the toe, including the nail bed on each front toe. The surgery can pose several risks for the cat, the first being anesthesia or postoperative complications such as excessive bleeding, infection, and pain. Cats claws are a vital part of their arsenal for both offense and defense. They use them to capture prey, settle disputes, or escape from other animals or people. As part of their daily routine, they instinctively pull their claws on anything that offers resistance. Cats will do this to mark their territory, exercise their muscles for hunting, relieve stress, and help care for the nails themselves. Declawing a cat can lead to biting since their defense mechanism has been taken away. Declawing a cat should never be done to try and solve a behavior issue. There are a variety of alternatives you can use to manage the natural scratching behavior of your cat like keeping nails trimmed, providing scratching posts, adding appealing structures for the cat to use, using deterrents like double-sided tape to protect furnishings, and covering the claws with soft temporary pads. If you have any questions or need behavioral help with your kitty, please reach out to your veterinarian for more information.

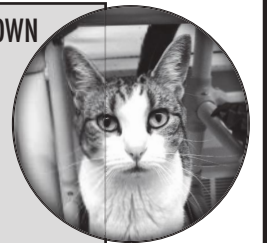
I COULD BE THE NEW FRIEND YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



MEET BLU - 1 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. SIBERIAN HUSKY. Blu got her name because of her sparkling blue eyes! She's a beauty! And such a sweetheart. She loves to give kisses and hang out with her favorite people. She loves to go for walks but needs a little work on leash manners. She's a smart gal so she'll learn quickly. She's a high energy dog (what Husky isn't?!) so she'll need lots of exercise and playtime to keep her happy. She has a great personality and has gotten rave reviews from the staff. She likes her Husky friends. If you don't know anything about Siberian Huskies please do your research so you'll know to expect. She's really come out of her shell and is looking forward to meeting her new family.

MEET MAIZY - 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN

TIGER WITH WHITE. The first thing you might notice about Maizy is her beautiful markings. She is an extremely pretty cat. Maizy is currently living in the Community Cat Room and she is doing well with her feline friends. She is a unique cat with a lot of love to give. She is nervous when it comes to meeting new people and needs time to acclimate. She will hide in her carrier and poke her head out, and then when she feels comfortable, she will make her way out. So, she will need someone who is patient with her, and she would do best in a quiet home. Also, an important thing to note is that when she wants attention, she will come to you. Otherwise, she might get a tad grumpy. If she seems like your kind of cat please stop in and meet her!



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

802-483-6700 • WWW.RCHSVT.ORG
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Large Print, donated by Brenda Whittaker

The Bone Hacker by Kathy Reichs, donated in memory of Ann Livak

Called in to examine a person struck by lightning, Temperance Brennan traces an unusual tattoo to its source and is soon embroiled in a much larger case. Young male tourists have been disappearing on the islands of Turks and Caicos. Now, tantalizing leads have emerged and only Tempe can unravel them. The victims seem to have nothing in common—other than the odd places where their bodies turn up, and the fact that none seems likely to have been involved in criminal activity. Disturbingly, she discovers evidence that what's at stake may actually have global significance and it isn't long before Tempe herself becomes a target.

What Harms You by Lisa Black, donated in memory of Meryl Sawyer

Within hours of Dr. Ellie Carr's arrival as an instructor at the prestigious Locard Institute, a colleague is found dead on the floor of a supply closet. Her death appears to be an accident—but Ellie and her new supervisor suspect a more sinister explanation. A young woman attending a professional training program then disappears, only to be found

in a gruesome tableau. Other than their link to the Institute, there seems to be no connection between the two deaths. Ellie is determined to find the bizarre link between the violent and diverse deaths.

At the Coffee Shop of Curiosities by Heather Webber, donated in memory of Doris S. Whittaker

When Ava Harrison receives a letter containing an unusual job listing one month after the sudden death of her ex-boyfriend, she thinks she's being haunted. The listing - a job as a caretaker for a peculiar old man and his cat in Driftwood, Alabama - is the perfect chance to start a new life. On the surface, Maggie Mae Brightwell is a bundle of energy as she runs Maggie's, Driftwood's coffee-and-curiosity shop, where there's magic to be found in pairing the old with the new. But lurking under her cheerful exterior is a painful truth - keeping busy is the best way to distract herself from the loss of her mama and her worries about her aging father. Ava and Maggie soon find they're kindred spirits, as they're both haunted by regret. Both must learn to let go of the past to move on—because sometimes the waves of change bring you to the place where you most belong.

North of Nowhere by Allison Brennan, donated



in memory of Madelyn C. Neumann

After five years in hiding from their murderous father, Kristen and Ryan McIntyre have arrived at the day they've been dreading: Boyd McIntyre, head of a Los Angeles crime family, has tracked them to a small Montana town. They barely escape in a small plane piloted by their godfather, Tony. When a bullet hits the gas tank, he manages to crash land in the middle of the Montana wilderness. The siblings hike deep into the woods, desperately seeking safety—unaware of the severity of the approaching storm. When Boyd's sister Ruby, who cut off contact in order to help keep her niece and nephew safe, gets the call that the plane has gone down with the kids inside, she drops everything to save them. As the storm builds, Ruby isn't the only person looking for them. Tony's employer is searching for them. But there is a greater threat to the siblings out there. More volatile than the blizzard, and more dangerous than the family they ran from. Whoever finds them first could determine if they live or die.

Previously featured, Liar by Fern Michaels, was donated in memory of Zola B. Sawyer.

Is it even illegal to scream by yourself in an empty field?

Brandon Police Report

August 28

- Traffic stop on Conant Square for stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- Police provided guidance to a family residing on McConnell Road regarding custody issues.
- Traffic stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain lane of travel. Cheyenne Ford, 21, of North Chittenden, VT was charged with driving with a criminally suspended license. Ford is cited to appear in Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division on 10/09/23 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the charge.
- Traffic stop on Grove Street for equipment violation. Warning issued.

August 29

- Burlington Police requested assistance from Brandon Police Department (BPD) in locating and serving with a citation a suspect who was reported to be residing in Brandon. The suspect was located on Arnold District Road and issued a citation for Violation of Conditions of Release.
- Officer responded to the area of Center Street in front of the Brandon Town Offices for a report of a tractor-trailer unit that was disabled and blocking the flow of traffic. The responding officer and the Town of Brandon Animal Control Officer directed traffic around the truck until the driver was able to get his vehicle back underway.
- Directed traffic enforcement on Franklin Street.
- Directed traffic enforcement on Country Club Road and Park Street Extension.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective taillight. Warning issued.
- While on patrol, officers discovered pieces of furniture on fire on Syndicate Road. Officers were able to extinguish most of the fire and Pittsford Fire Department was able to extinguish the rest.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for driving without headlights. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Officers responded to McConnell Road for a report of 3 loose horses. The horses were located and returned to their stable.

August 30

- Officers responded to Mulcahy Drive for a report of a woman screaming in a field and shining a flashlight. Complainant believed the woman to be intoxicated. The woman was not located when officers arrived.
- Directed speed enforcement on Grove Street. All vehicles within speed limit. No stops conducted.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

August 31

- BPD responded to 911 hang-up call at Otter Valley Union High School. Call was determined to be accidental.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop at intersection of Lovers Lane and Wheeler Road for stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- Property watch conducted at the quarry off of Grove Street.
- BPD responded to Pine Hill Cemetery on Grove Street for a report of some type of "carcass" in the roadway. The remains were determined to be those of a deceased fox and were removed from the road.

September 1

- Officers responded to the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street for a 911 hang-up call. The call was later determined to have been caused by issues with the store's phone system.
- Two individuals trespassed at the Brandon Inn. The incident was caught on surveillance tape and an investigation is underway.
- BPD responded to the parking lot of Cattails Restaurant on Route 7 for a report of a pontoon boat that had been left on the property. A check of the boat ID number indicated that it had not been stolen. Further investigation is underway.
- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for failure to signal turn. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Country Club Road and Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop of Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- BPD responded to Steinberg Road for a report of domestic disturbance. Upon investigation, Chelsea Konarski, 22, was arrested for Domestic Assault. Konarski was processed at BPD and later released on court conditions. She was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court—Criminal Division at 12:30 p.m. on 9/05/23 for arraignment.
- BPD received a complaint of gunshots and/or fireworks in the vicinity of High Pond Road. The complainant indicated that the shots/fireworks had stopped. The complainant was advised to contact BPD should the noise begin again.

(See Police report, Page 19)

BENEFIT FOR THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

Reading The Green

GOLF SCRAMBLE

October 7th
Neshobe Golf Course

Enjoy a great day on the golf course with fun opportunities for prizes, 50/50 tickets, mulligans, raffle and auction—all to benefit the library.

Don't miss this event!

To sponsor a hole or donate a raffle item, please email Chris Naylor: nchrisvt@gmail.com



\$500 per team of 4, \$125 per individual. Includes greens fees, cart, and dinner. Sign up today!
brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/



The event is brought to you by the Brandon Library Community Volunteers and all proceeds will benefit The Great Library Renovation.

Open at the Town Hall: Tues. & Wed. 10am–7pm, Thurs. & Fri. 10am–6pm, Saturday 10am–4pm

THIS AD IS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

September 2

- BPD assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad at a residence on Ballantine Road in trying to make contact with an individual to relay important medical information to the resident. It was later determined that the individual was already at the hospital.

- BPD received a walk-in complaint regarding a “suspicious key” that had been left in the trunk of a vehicle that was parked at the Brandon Inn.

- BPD assisted Castleton Police with attempting to locate an individual residing in Brandon on Mulcahy Drive who had been involved in a vehicle crash in Castleton. No contact was made with the individual at the address.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding and failure to signal turn. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Conant Square and West Seminary Street for failure to maintain travel lane and failure to signal turn. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Park Street and Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

- Vehicle complaint on Route 7 in which a vehicle had almost driven off the roadway several times as well as almost hit oncoming vehicles. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle in question.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for a motor vehicle that was failing to maintain travel lane and was

swerving. As a result of further investigation, Michael Chisamore, 34, of Pittsford, VT was arrested for DUI #1. Chisamore was released on a citation to appear before Rutland Superior Court—Criminal Division on 9/18/23 at 12:30 p.m. for arraignment.

September 3

- Property watch conducted at Heritage Federal Credit Union on Franklin Street

- Property watch conducted at Union Street Grocery

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Forest Dale Road and North Road for a stop-sign violation. Warning issued.

- Directed traffic enforcement at the intersection of Country Club Road and Park Street Extension for complaints of vehicles doing “burn-outs.” No violations were observed.

- BPD assisted Brandon Fire Department with a call on Forest Dale Road.

- Vehicle stop was conducted on Town Line Drive for failure to maintain travel lanes. Warning issued.

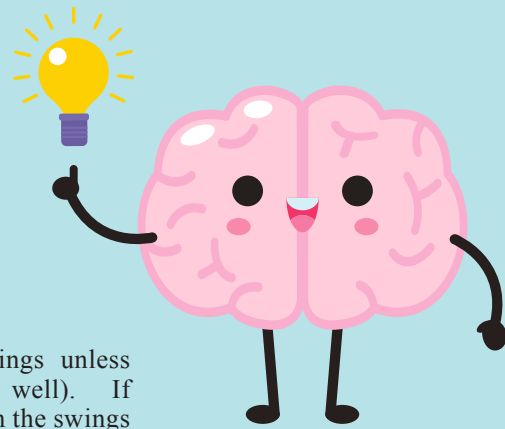
- Vehicle stop for following too closely on Franklin Street. Warning issued.

- BPD responded to Greg’s Tires on Franklin Street for a suspicious male on the premises. Officers were unable to locate the man.

- Vehicle stop for speeding on Grove Street. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop for failure to signal turn on Nickerson Road. Warning issued.

Brandon Brain Buster Answered



Answer: (C)

We can go through the choices to see they must all be true except (e).

A) If Alice is using the slide, then Dillard must be using the sandbox. And if Dillard is using the sandbox, then Bobby must be using the swing set. Since Chrissie and Emma must use the swings at the same time, neither one must be using the swings (since Bobby is taking up one of the two swings). And since only one person at a time can use the slide, both Chrissie and Emma must therefore be in the sandbox with Dillard. Therefore, there must be at least three children in the sandbox. (a) must therefore be true.

B) If Emma is using the slide, then we know that Chrissie cannot be on the swings (since Chrissie can-

not use the swings unless Emma does as well). If Chrissie is not on the swings and the slide is occupied (in this case by Emma), then Chrissie must be using the sandbox. (b) must therefore be true.

C) If Bobby is using the sandbox, we know that Dillard cannot also be using the sandbox, since Bobby must use the swings if Dillard is in the sandbox. And if Chrissie is occupying the slide (which can accommodate only one child at a time), then Dillard must be on the swings. (c) must therefore be true.

D) If Chrissie and Emma are using the swings, then no one else can use the swings. And if Alice were to use the slide, both Bobby and Dillard would be forced into the sandbox together. But the rules state that if Dil-

lard uses the sandbox, Bob by must use the swings. But Bobby cannot use the swings if they’re occupied by Chrissie and Emma. Therefore, Bobby and Dillard cannot be in the sandbox together. One of them must be using the slide. Therefore, Alice cannot use the slide (and must be in the sandbox). Therefore, (d) must be true.

E) If Dillard is using the swings, Bobby can be in the sandbox (Alice could be on the swings and either Emma or Chrissie would be on the slide with the other in the sandbox). Therefore, (e) does NOT have to be true.

(C) is therefore the answer, since we were asked to find the choice that does NOT have to be true.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, a goal you have been working toward is nearing completion. Take time to reflect on all it took to make the goal come to fruition.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, try to get away on a vacation, even if it's just a weekend jaunt. There's never been a time you could use a little getaway more than right now. Push this into the priority zone.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, it is time to get more movement into your daily activities. Don't you want to be in the best possible health? Incorporate more exercise gradually with activities you enjoy.

CANCER June 22-July 22

A partnership will get even stronger this week, Cancer. It could be a relationship

with a spouse or even a business partner. You'll benefit from this added strength.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

You may take immense pleasure from doing mundane chores this week, Leo. Washing windows, organizing the garage, sorting through unused clothes ... these are all things to keep busy.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Your chart lands you in the sector of romance, creativity and passion this week, Virgo. Embrace all of these elements in your life to the fullest.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, even though you have been a veritable social butterfly lately, you may need to rest your wings for a little bit this week. Slow down and stick closer to home.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, people might be quick to call you mysterious this week, but you just might be an open book. Share as much as you desire with others.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, define what you consider valuable, then do everything in your means to pursue those things. Setting goals can help.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, get ready to take center stage these next few days and bask in the limelight. Everyone seemingly wants to get a piece of you and you might be pulled in different directions.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You are coming off of a season of easy living, Aquarius. But don't expect the apple cart to be upset. The times of smooth sailing have only just begun.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

It's all about team spirit right now, Pisces. Don't do anything alone for the next several days. You need people in your corner cheering you and others on.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 7 Leslie Jones, comedian (56)

Sept. 8 Patsy Cline, singer (d)

Sept. 9 Leo Tolstoy, author (d)

Sept. 10 Colin Firth, actor (63)

Sept. 11 Taraji P. Henson, actor (53)

Sept. 12 Jesse Owens, Olympic gold medalist (d)

Sept. 13 Michael Johnson, Olympic gold medalist (56)

Gagnon Lumber



Native Vermont Lumber

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

Hemlock Framing Stock • Pine Shiplap Siding
Pine Tongue & Groove • Custom Cut Timbers

89 Stevens Road Pittsford, VT | 802-483-6550
Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com

We do Trees!

Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing
Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood

Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals



Black Bear
Tree, Land & Forest

Thad Poremksi
(802)
345-2815

At Devil's Bowl

Roselli Locks Down Vermont 200 Starting Spot at Devil's Bowl

Kilburn wins Limited feature, Towslee takes qualifying berth

WEST HAVEN— Two drivers can sleep easy on Saturday night, after racing their way into Sunday's Fabian Earth Moving Vermont 200 at Devil's Bowl Speedway. Dom Roselli and Scott Towslee earned qualifying berths into the biggest race of the year, and Roselli, Bob Kilburn, Rob Steele earned feature wins at the Saturday event, which was presented by the Community College of Vermont.

Lockport, N.Y.'s Dom Roselli earned his qualifying spot in the 30-lap CCV "Win & You're In" main event for the Sunoco Sportsman Modified division. Roselli, who is a regular competitor at the Orange County Fair Speedway in Middletown, N.Y., drew the outside pole starting spot and ran away from the field at the drop of the green flag. The race went non-stop without a caution flag, which meant Roselli was forced to navigate heavy lapped traffic.

Roselli was bounced around in three-wide action with a pair of backmarkers at the halfway mark, but he was able to quickly regroup and resume his dominance. Roselli's first Devil's Bowl win backed up his third-place finish in the "Prelude to the 200" event held in August, and he automatically becomes a pre-race favorite for Sunday's \$10,000-to-win event.

Devil's Bowl championship contenders Justin Comes and Tim LaDuc were strong all race and finished second and third, respectively. Former Vermont 200 winner Demetrios Drellos finished fourth with Tanner Warner fifth. Alex Bell, Brian Whittemore, Walter J. Hammond, Josh Masterson, and Neil Stratton completed the top 10 in order. Qualifying heat wins went to Tanner Siemons, Bell, Ron Proctor, and Roselli, and Brian Calabrese won the last-chance consolation race. Thirty-nine cars attempted to qualify for 30 starting positions.

Fair Haven, Vt.'s Bob Kilburn dominated the 40-lap "Win & You're In" feature race for the O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman division, leading every step of the way. Kilburn

faced the field on eight restarts, but he was never challenged at any of them. The popular 67-year-old, known by fans as "Santa Bob" received a massive ovation as he climbed out of his car in victory lane, but he declined the guaranteed starting spot in Sunday's Vermont 200.

That put Manchester, Vt., youngster Scott Towslee in the catbird seat, as he scored the runner-up finish and accepted the Vermont 200 starting position. Towslee started eighth on the field and survived several close calls on his way through traffic.

Hunter Nutter finished third ahead of a hard-charging William Lussier Jr., who started last on the 20-car field. The recently married Katrina (Bean) LeClaire rounded out the top five, followed by Alex Layn, Justin Lilly, Jason Quenneville, Randy Ryan, and William Duprey. Qualifying heat wins went to Anthony Ryan and Quenneville.

Ronnie Alger was a popular first-time winner in the Mini Stock division. The longtime Orwell, Vt., racer took the lead late in the 20-lap feature and survived a green-white-checker restart in the final two laps to hold on for his landmark victory. Early leader Damian Olden held on for the runner-up finish in a wild scramble at the end, outlasting Brian Blake, Chase Allen, and Craig Kirby. Levi Cram, Olden, and Adam Mahoney won the qualifiers, and Fair Haven, Vt.'s Tom Severance won the 8-lap "B" Feature.

Orwell, Vt.'s Ray Hanson won the first of three 10-lap segments for the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint division. The second and third segments of the cumulatively scored race will be held on Sunday. Hanson and John Carleton won the qualifying heats.

The Hoosier Daddy Racing Novice Sportsman division ran a pair of qualifying heats and the Tom's Auto Reconditioning "Dash for Cash" to set the field for Sunday's feature. Monkton, Vt.'s Pat Miner will try for the weekend Triple Crown, sweeping his heat and \$100-to-win Dash; Derrick Counter won the other heat.



DOM ROSELLI RECEIVES a trophy at Devil's Bowl Speedway in West Haven

PHOTOS PROVIDED



BOB KILBURN RECEIVES a trophy at Devil's Bowl Speedway in West Haven.

The 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic class also ran a 15-lap main event, with Bomoseen, Vt.'s Rob Steele capturing his fourth win of the year in a close finish with Shawn Moquin. Former Mini Stock champion Moquin was in his first Crown Vic start and put together a good run. Norman Morrill finished third ahead of Mike Whalen and Jackson Ducharme. Moquin won the lone qualifier.

Racing starts at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 3. All Sportsman Modified qualifying and the 200-lap, \$10,000-to-win Fabian Earth Moving Vermont 200 will take place on Sunday, along with action for the Sprint Cars of New England, Novice Sportsman, and 500cc Mini Sprints.

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.DevilsBowlSpeedwayVT.com or call (802) 265-3112. Devil's Bowl Speedway is on Facebook at facebook.com/DevilsBowlSpeedway, and on Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat at @DevilsBowlSpeed; follow the action using the #DevilsBowl hashtag.

S **B** **S** **C** **R** **I** **B** **E** **to THE BRANDON REPORTER WE NEED U**
 Annual subscription for just \$45 brandonreporter.com

Dick Kirby

(Continued from Page 1)
commander. Dick describes his service as “not a pleasure.” I personally cannot imagine. According to Kirby, word in the ranks of soldiers at the time was that General Eisenhower was a “glory hound, always

urging his troops forward and never falling back.”

After his Korean service, he finished up his Army time in the rocket lab in Maryland, where he met von Braun. Upon returning to his parents’ house in Lynn, Massachusetts, he got

a job with the Boston-Maine Railroad. He started out driving steam locomotive as his grandfather did before him (on the White River Railroad, the Peavine run from Rochester to Bethel) but was quickly moved to a diesel locomotive. However, driving a diesel just didn’t do it for young Dick, so he returned to his grandparents’ place in Rochester, Vermont, and reapplied at CVPS, where he was quickly hired. Assigned to Brandon, Kirby moved here and found housing with Mrs. Memoe, mother of Chuck Memoe, another local legend. Dick and teenage Chuck would play basketball in the yard on Franklin Street.

Shortly after moving to Brandon, Dick met his future wife,

Debbie Short, who was selling popcorn in the movie theater here in Brandon. Married in 1955, they lived in Manchester and then Brandon, where Dick built them a house on VT 73 between Brandon and Forstdale. They had 3 girls and 1 boy: Robin, Carrie, Suzanne, and Scott. Kirby built a larger house next door and lived there for decades. He had a fine welding shop in his garage and Debbie raised goats behind the house. He enjoyed feeding the goats and would get them hay every 2 weeks. Dick would do odd jobs welding as well as making many fine lamps and

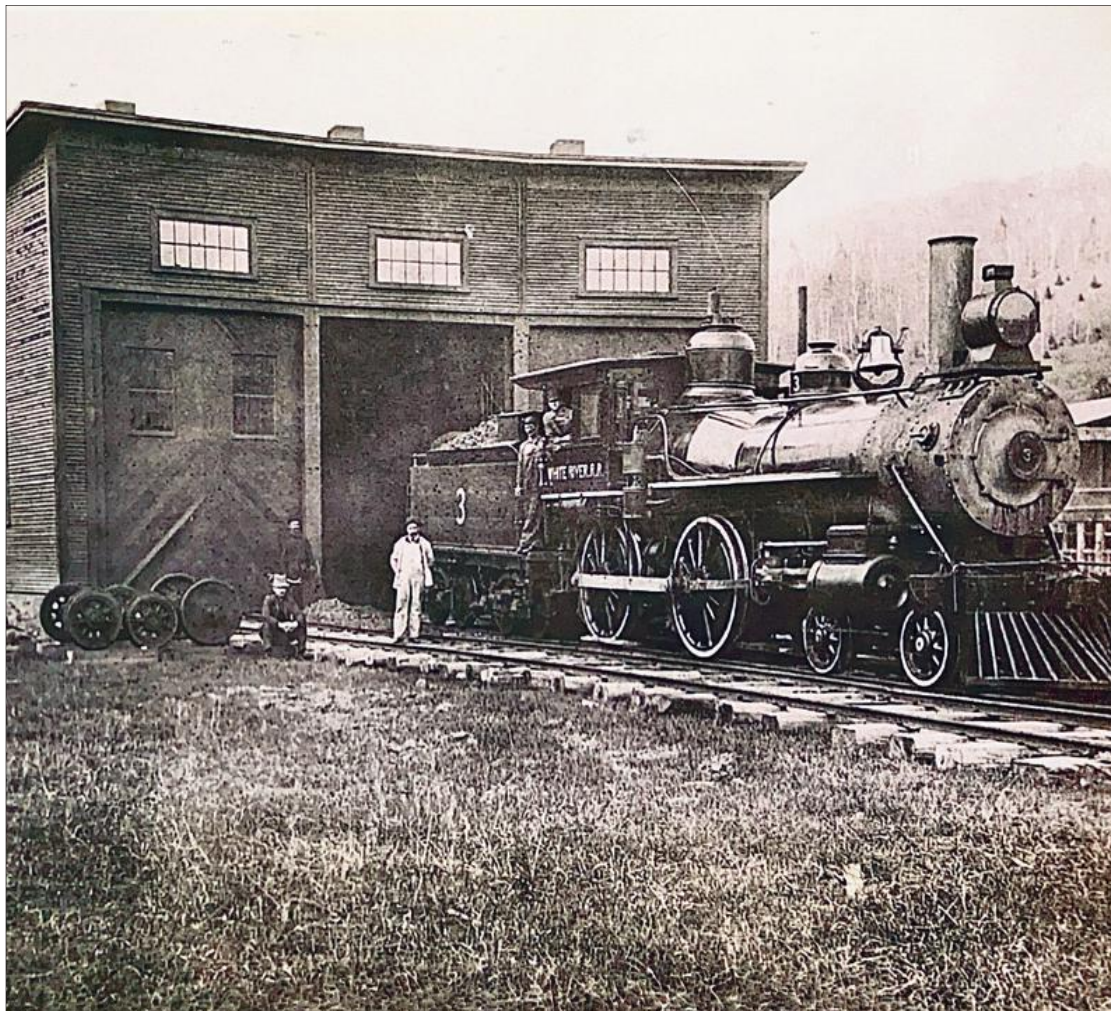
weathervanes. Many were true works of art and he showed and sold them in the Brandon Artists Guild.

Kirby’s work as a lineman kept him quite busy. Routine repairs and maintenance were interspersed with repairing power poles and transformers damaged by automobile accidents and storms. Being on call meant going out at night in below-zero temperatures to fix a line in Ripton as well as fixing power outages at the Brandon Training School, home to 650+ residents. He recalls complaining to Joan from Thomas An-

(See Dick Kirby, Page 24)



TRAIN LAMP IS a silhouette of the steam locomotive driven by Kirby’s grandfather.



DICK’S GRANDFATHER WITH his steam locomotive in Rochester, Vermont.

Restaurant guide

Robert's

Café Provence

From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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

Want a reservation? Please book through the website <https://cafeprovencet.com> or call (802) 247-9997

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

Franklin's
FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

Full Menu 7 days a week
Eat In or Take Out
Available for Parties

Prime Rib Every
Friday & Saturday
from 4–9 p.m.

25 North Street, Proctor 📞 **802-459-3320**

Ad design included in pricing
Call 802 236-4662, or email
george@brandonreporter.com
for more information

Business & Service Directory

Ad design included in price. Call The Reporter today at 802-247-8080 or email ads@brandonreporter.com
Get your business noticed!
ONLY \$10/week!

Accounting

LAURIE L. BERTRAND
 Certified Public Accountant

*Bookkeeping & Payroll Services
 Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation*

Experience You Can Count On
 4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only
 465-8362 • fax 465-8438



Accounting

Sharon L. Stearns, CPA, PLLC
 Accounting, Tax & Consulting Services

Individuals, Small Business & Non Profits	Bookkeeping Payroll Quickbooks	Tax Planning & Tax Return Preparation
---	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------

P. O. Box 22, 900 Pearl Street, Brandon, VT 05733
 sharon@stearns CPA.com • www.stearns CPA.com
 (802) 247-8300 • By Appt. Only

Auto Body Shop

Certified Collision Experts

I-CAR
 Certified Technicians

All Makes and Models Working with all Insurance companies

(802) 388-9961
 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
 2196 Rt 7 South, Middlebury
 stonecdjr.com



Auto Repair

Hometown Service from Your Hometown Dealers!

Factory-Trained Technicians Servicing all makes and models

G Stone Motors
 36 Boardman St., Middlebury
 (802) 388-6718
 gstonemotors.com

Stone
 Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
 2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury
 (802) 388-9961
 stonecdjr.com



Auto Sales and Leasing

G STONE MOTORS, INC.
 NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS



Jason R. "Bubba" Kerr
 Sales Consultant

We will take anything in trade!

Bus: 802-388-6718
 Fax: 802-388-7980
 jason@gstonemotors.com
 www.gstonemotors.com

36 BOARDMAN ST | P.O. Box 527 MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753



Beauty Salons

Delilah's Hair Studio, LLC

Full Service Hair Care for Men, Women and Kids.

Cuts • Color • Highlighting • Tanning
 Manicures • Artificial Nails • Lashes
 Skin Treatments with Kim
 from Brunswick Medical Aesthetics

Welcoming Zoe Elliott. Now accepting walk-ins.
 802-247-3345 • 25 Center St., Brandon VT 05733




Excavating

1963 — Celebrating 60 Years — 2023

Markowski
 Excavating, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
 Dozers. Excavators. Heavy Hauling.
 Top Soil. Gravel. Sand.


P.O. Box 69 Florence, VT 05744
 Phone: (802) 483-6469 Fax: (802) 483-6978

Flooring

Wales Floors, Inc.

For a free estimate call 802-877-8323

Fully insured
 Custom & non-toxic finishes
 Installation, refinishing & restoration of residential and commercial wood floors



Hair Salon

SHEILA'S
 HAIR STYLING



Cuts • Colors • Wash & Sets
 Men - Women - Children
 Accepting New Clients • Walk-Ins Welcome
 Weds-Sat 10-6 • Evenings by appointment

3 Franklin St. | Brandon, VT | 802-247-6829

Massage

Charlotte Bishop
 MASSAGE THERAPY

Certified Massage Therapist Since 1993
 Therapeutic Massage: Swedish/Esalen
 Soft Tissue Release • Cupping •
 VT Registered
 (802) 247-8106



Residential Care Homes

Wintergreen
 Residential Care Home
 Level III • ERC Care • State Licensed

Keep Your Loved Ones Close to Home

Please call for info 802-247-5987
 3 Union Street
 and 360 New Road
 Brandon, VT

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

- 24 Hour Personal Care
- Home Cooked Meals
- Private Rooms
- RN Overviewed
- Exceptional Staff
- Medication Management
- Daily Activities
- Transportation & Hospice Care Provided

Restoration

Disaster Recovery, Inc.

24/7 Emergency Services Covering Vermont
 www.DisasterRecoveryInc.com

- Water Damage Drying/Clean Up
- Mold Remediation
- Carpet Cleaning & Deodorization
- Smoke and Sewage Cleaning

Service **877-765-6340**
 Fully insured & certified



Storage Containers

STORAGE CONTAINERS
 Rentals & Sales

Delivered To Your Location
 Safe & Secure • Water Tight
 Great for Seasonal Storage,
 Renovation Projects
 or Job Sites

ANAKI
 483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



USDA designates State as Natural Disaster Area for July flooding

Berlin, Vt.— U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has approved Governor Phil Scott's request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation in response to July's historic flooding, which impacted thousands of acres of Vermont farmland. This comes on the heels of a widespread frost event in May, and is the second disaster declaration, emphasizing the difficult growing season that Vermont's farmers have faced this year.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating all 14 Vermont counties as primary natural disaster areas," Secretary Vilsack wrote to Governor Scott.

"Alongside many of their neighbors, our farmers have been greatly impacted by the floods this summer, threatening their livelihoods and our food system," said Governor Scott. "I'm grateful to Secretary Vilsack for this second disaster declaration, which will help farmers recover and find a path forward through the many challenges they've faced this year."

This Secretarial disaster designation from USDA makes farm operators across Vermont eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans.

"I want to thank Secretary Vilsack for this second declara-

tion," said Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts. "With over \$16 million in farmer-reported flood related damage and losses, and severe impacts from frost this May, our farming community has faced a one-two punch this year that some may not survive. This designation can provide a lifeline to these important farm and food businesses with resources until next year's growing season."

Information about USDA's disaster assistance programs is available at www.farmers.gov/recover. Producers interested in these programs are encouraged to contact their local USDA service center. To find the nearest service center, go to the "Find your Local Service Center" tool at www.farmers.gov.

Classifieds

SEEKING WORK

ODD JOBS PROPERTY: - clean up, junk removal, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, we do other jobs too! 802-999-2194 - John.

YARD SALE

MT. PLEASANT, 11 NORTH -

Conant Drive, Brandon. Sunday, September 10, 9am-3pm. Something for everyone. Free stuff. No early birds.

HOMESHARE

SUDBURY; SEEKING FEMALE - to share home with an avid reader in her 60s. Enjoys volunteering and classical music. \$500/mo. plus sharing companionship

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

The Brandon Development Review Board will hold Public Hearings on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Brandon Town Hall Ground Floor Meeting Room and via Zoom (P.C. or telephone) to consider the following applications:

Application #6256: from T-Mobile Northeast to dismantle and remove the existing cellular telecommunications equipment from the Brandon Congregational Church Inc. at 1 Carver St. (Parcel 22-51-75), located in the Central Business District. This requires DRB review per Sections 901, 903, and 908 of the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO).

Application #6267 from John & Theresa Rowe, located at 1069 Carver St. (Parcel 10-2-21) in the Rural Development zone. The Owners request removal of existing detached garage and construct a detached 30' x 30' garage with a setback waiver request from property lines, per BLUO Section 1016.

Application #6268 from the Otter Valley Unified Union School District's high school facility at 2957 Franklin St. (Parcel 10-2-43.04) in the Rural Development zone. The project requests installation of a detached modular classroom structure on the western side of the existing main building; a Conditional Use per BLUO Section 304(c).

Application #6269 from Jesse Bilodeau (Owner), d.b.a. BRN Franklin LLC, located at 18 Franklin St. (Parcel 23-51-42) in the Neighborhood Residential Zone. Owners request a variance of BLUO Section 304(h) to convert an existing commercial space with residential accommodations and two other dwelling units to a multi-family structure with five dwelling units.

These Hearings will be conducted in-person, following recommended Covid prevention measures.

Remote (Zoom) Participation is also available and log-in Instructions will be posted in Town and Post Offices as well as on DRB page at www.TownofBrandon.com

Concise copies of these applications will be posted on the DRB page and a complete copy is available for review in Town Office, 49 Center St. Interested Parties are to be registered or logged in and present testimony, or have submitted written testimony to the Town by 7:10 pm of the Hearing date, or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION SUDBURY COUNTRY SCHOOL

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is seeking interested Contractors for renovations to the main entrance at Sudbury Country School.

The scope of improvements for this contract is available online at: <https://www.rnesu.org/page/public-bids>

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9/15/23 | Bids due at 12:00pm RNEU, 49 Court Drive, Brandon, VT 05733 OR by email: bfleming@rnesu.org |
| 9/18/23 | Contract awarded, fund obligated |
| 9/19/23 | Project begins |
| 12/15/23 | Work Completed & all obligations paid |

This project is funded with federal funds and Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage applies, Contractors are required to provide a bid bond & construction bond of 100% of the bid.

Yard Sale?

Advertise it in the Reporter!
Call 247-8080 for details.

FINALLY SUMMER WEATHER SALE!



2018 KIA SEDONA
SX Limited, V6, Loaded, 91k miles
\$24,995



2018 VW ATLAS
Premium, AWD, Leather, Third row, 119k miles
\$24,995



2020 BUICK ENCORE
Preferred, AWD, Auto, Loaded 47k miles
\$22,995



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO
Crew, 4X4, LT, Z71, Only 10k miles!
\$43,995



2015 TOYOTA TACOMA
DB, 4X4, SR5, Auto, Loaded 110k miles
\$24,995

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS
We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester
Michael Jackman, 51 Years Experience
David Wimett, 38 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 10 Years Experience
802-465-4688
2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com

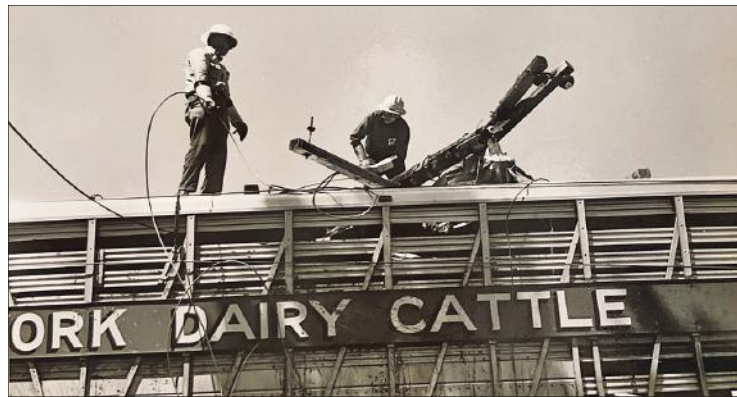


Dick Kirby

(Continued from Page 21)
swering Service about always waking him up!

Kirby spent 38 years as a lineman for the utility company, climbing poles, and stretching and mending wire. He was a superintendent for a time but didn't like the office work and cut in pay, so he returned to being a first-class lineman. Lineman got paid for overtime

and being on call which made the pay greater. Dick retired 30 years ago and has spent a lot of time welding and goat tending since. He volunteers at the Brandon Artists Guild and meets with "the fellows" in Kennedy Park at 3 p.m. daily for a coffee. He and his wife Debbie celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on Sept 2nd.



ABOVE: DICK KIRBY and Gordie Ketcham on a cattle truck that hit a pole in Shoreham.

UPPER RIGHT: ORANGE CVPS truck from the 1960s with (LtoR) Larry Fales, Hazen Spaulding, and Dick Kirby.

RIGHT: DICK KIRBY in the BAG



Addison County's Hometown Dealer



WWW.GSTONEMOTORS.COM



36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-6718
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-9961
stonecdjr.com

