

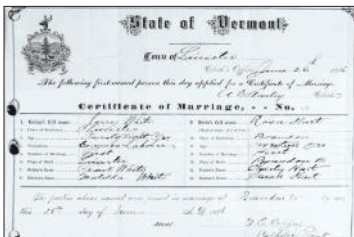
The *Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland • Lake Dunmore • Leicester • Whiting • Sudbury • Goshen*  
**REPORTER**

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 39

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

\$1



**NAMES LOST IN VERMONT**

Genealogist Michael Dwyer shows us what it means to have Hart (as a surname in Vermont).

PG. 2

**SELECTBOARD NEWS**

Pittsford Selectboard authorizes the purchase of a new police vehicle.

PG. 3

OVUU School Board discusses safety and mental health.

PG. 7



**REMEMBERING GOOD TIMES**

The daughter of former owners of the Brandon Inn hosts a trip down memory lane.

PG. 9



PG. 10

**REUNIONS**

Feelin' Groovy: Otter Valley class of 1968 holds its 55th reunion.

PG. 24



**Otter Valley brings it home on Homecoming Weekend**

OTTER VALLEY HAD a very successful Homecoming Weekend, winning 3 out of 4 games. Football, field hockey, and soccer all did OV proud. See pages 20 and 21 for more photos and details.

Photo above by Greg Babcock



**Nonprofit forms to rehab old Brandon High**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The massive building looms over downtown Brandon, perched up on Seminary Hill—named for the 1830s “seminary” that once stood across the (See Brandon High, Page 6)

**Heavy rains have heavy impact on hay and local farms**

BY LYN DESMARAIS

BRANDON—For folks who don’t know what haying is or wonder about those round white plastic rolls in fields or in barns or wonder about all those tires stacked on black plastic outside, let me elucidate. Anywhere in the world where animals cannot graze all year, animal owners, farmers, and ranchers have to preserve food for their animals. For many animals, that food comes in the form of hay. Here in Vermont, we “make hay while the sun shines.”

Hay is dried grasses. Animals use the fiber and energy from dried



grasses to sustain them. Dried grass also contains protein, the amount varying based on numerous factors. When making hay, farmers first cut the grasses. The next step is to (See Hay, Page 14)

**Brandon SB allocates ARPA funds**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Monday evening. As the first order of business, after the approval of the agenda and the previous meeting’s minutes, Town Manager Seth Hopkins offered his report, the full text of which is available in the Selectboard packet for 9/25/23 on the Town (See Brandon SB, Page 4)



# Names lost in Vermont, Part 8: Hart and Godfrey

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Unmasking one French-Canadian surname often leads to another through family associations. Take, for example, Jerry White [aka Remi Leblanc from Part 7] who married Rosa Hart in Leicester on June 28, 1886. Father Daniel E. Coffey of St. Mary's Catholic Church officiated the marriage. Six months later, Rosa's sister Julia Hart married Jerry Godfrey, a marriage once again recorded at St. Mary's. At first glance, I assumed these sisters were Irish because of my father's maternal ancestors, the Harts, who born in County Mayo, Ireland. This Hart family, however, was French-Canadian. They had lived in the United States since 1840,

their name recorded in Québec as Jolicoeur—a dit name meaning tender-hearted. Thus, the last syllable coeur translated as Hart. Beware though: the Jolicoeur dit name applies to several different families.

Jerry and Rosa's descendant,

Barry Whitney of Salisbury, through years of research, had already mapped these name transformations. But how could the rest follow this trail? A reference essential for 19th-century Vermont French-Canadian families are the repertoires published by the Vermont French-Canadian Society, now located in Essex. Two volumes consulted in this study are St. Mary (Brandon) and St. Monica (Forestdale) Baptisms from 1856 through 1948 and Central Vermont Catholic Marriages, various towns covered from 1857 through 1953. The advantage of consulting these sources is that, in most instances, the names of witnesses are listed in the marriage record, and with baptisms, the names of godparents are named. More than that, if the resident priest spoke French (and some Irish priests did), he would have recorded the proper French name and not the American version. We often see two versions of the same person:

*A rare surname, Georget[e]au, goes back to Claude Georgeteau, a soldier from Brittany, who first appears as a soldier in New France in 1717. In this instance, Jolicoeur, "tender-hearted" was the ironic nickname given to a soldier.*

Rosa Hart, born 3 July 1870, in

**State of Vermont**

Town of Leicester  
Clerk's Office June 26 1886

The following first-named person this day applied for a Certificate of Marriage.

A. Stanley Clerk

**Certificate of Marriage, - - No. 43**

1. Groom's full name.....	Jerry White	9. Bride's full name.....	Rosa Hart
2. Place of Residence.....	Leicester	(Maiden name, if a widow.)	
3. Age.....	Twenty eight yrs	10. Place of Residence.....	Brandon
4. Occupation.....	Common Laborer	11. Age.....	Twenty yrs
5. Number of Marriage.....	First	12. Number of Marriage.....	First
6. Place of Birth.....	Leicester	13. Place of Birth.....	Brandon Vt.
7. Father's Name.....	Paul White	14. Father's Name.....	Charles Hart
8. Mother's Name.....	Melida White	15. Mother's Name.....	Sarah Hart

The parties above named were joined in marriage at Brandon Vt. by me,  
this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June A. D. 1886

Attest\* J. E. Coffey  
Catholic Priest

\*Stating Official Station of Priest

[BE VERY PARTICULAR TO FILL ALL BLANKS.]

**MARRIAGE RECORD FROM the Town of Leicester bears the American versions of Jerry White's surname (Leblanc) and Rosa Hart's surname (Jolicoeur).**

Brandon vital records, and Rosalie Jolicoeur in St. Mary's baptismal register.

Rosa and Julia (Jolicoeur) Hart's parents, Charles (Jolicoeur) Hart and Sarah Magnan (dit Philipps) were married at St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville, New York in 1866. They moved back and forth between New York State and Vermont, undoubtedly following opportu-

nities for work. In 1900, Charles and Sarah Hart lived in Middlebury. Census data reports that Sarah had ten children, of whom eight were living.

Pushing back one generation to Charles's Québec-born parents, Charles (Jolicoeur) Hart (1817–1894), and Adeline Deslauriers (1823–1892), the trail of evidence can be confusing. They were married likely in the vicinity of Keeseville, New York, probably by 1839. Most records concur that Charles Jr. was born there. In a pattern similar to other French-Canadian families I have traced (See Edward Bird of Part 1), they touched down in

North Brookfield, Massachusetts, where they are found in the 1850 census:

Charles Hart, age 28, born Canada, laborer

Caroline [sic], age 25, born New York

Sarah J., age 12, born Massachusetts

Charles Jr., age 6, born “ [probably referring back to New York as birthplace]

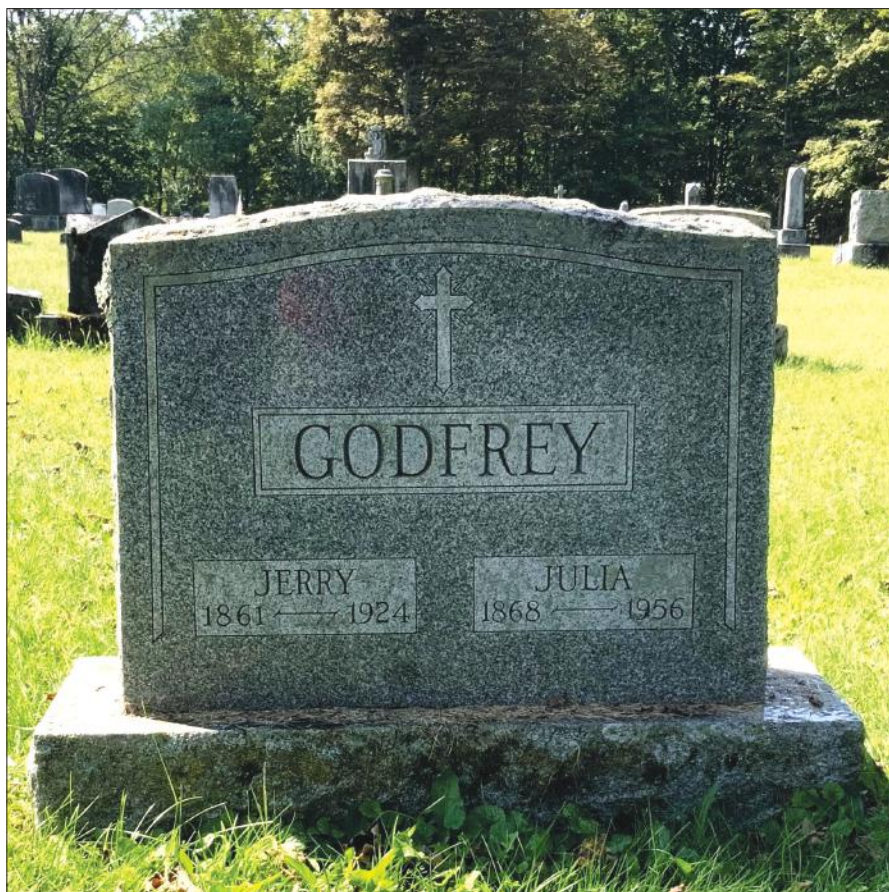
Yes, this is a wild variation of names and ages, but in all later census records, Adeline is consistently recorded as Caroline. Some fourteen years after their civil or Protestant marriage, Charles Hart and Adeline Delauriers had their marriage rehabilitated—blessed by a priest—at St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville on 8 December 1853. Alex Hart, brother of Charles, served as a witness. The marriage date has led some researchers to conclude, erroneously, that Adeline could not have been Charles Jr.'s mother because he was about twelve at the time of the Keeseville marriage. In 1860, the Hart family lived in Chesterfield, New York, with a big gap in ages between Charles Jr. and his nearest sibling. New York State's 1865 census in Chesterfield gives more details. Charles and Caroline Hart only had one marriage, with 12 children, of whom the eldest still living with them, Charles Jr., was born in Vermont! The eldest daughter Sarah had already married, and there were several other children who must have died in infancy. Charles Jr.'s marriage record confirms the name of Adeline as

his mother.

In yet one more twist in the name game, Charles Hart, husband of Adeline/Caroline, was baptized in Montréal on 14 November 1817 as Charles Georgetau, son of Jean Baptiste Georgetau dit Jolicoeur and Marguerite Blais. A rare surname, Georget[e]au, goes back to Claude Georgeteau, a soldier from Brittany, who first appears as a soldier in New France in 1717. In this instance, Jolicoeur, “tender-hearted” was the ironic nickname given to a soldier.

And to finish this episode, let us go to Julia Hart, sister of Rose, who married Jerry Godfrey. His case study provides us with another example of a changed first and last name. In church records, he is Desire Gadoury. One can understand why a man in Brandon might not want to be known as Desire, hence Jerry! His last name was anglicized to Godfrey. The Gadoury family followed a similar migration path from Québec to Black Brook, New York, and then to Brandon. Jerry's father certainly suffered from mangled versions of his name, Peter Gadre, in 1900, Tacom Gederee in 1880, Polhan Godare in 1870. The elder Gadoury was baptized as Pacôme [French version of St. Pachomius the Great] on Christmas Day 1825. Several generations separate him from his immigrant ancestor, George Gadoury, from the town of Luzerne in Normandy.

One never knows how many people in our community today can trace their ancestry back to these families.



**ERECTED LIKELY IN the last fifty years, the Godfrey stone in St. Mary's Cemetery attests to an Americanized version of the Gadoury name**

Photo by Michael Dwyer



# Pittsford Selectboard discusses police vehicles, speed limits, and assets

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 20. Board member Mark Winslow and Town Manager David Atherton were not present.

The meeting began with the Town Manager's report, which was delivered by Ann Reed, Assistant to the Town Manager, in Mr. Atherton's absence. Ms. Reed noted that the town's application for a Level 1 Municipal Energy Resilience Assessment had been approved. This free assessment of the town office will determine how the building can be made more energy efficient, thereby saving on energy costs.

The town had received a thank-you from the Lothrop PTO in appreciation for the use of the town's recreation area for a movie night.

Pittsford has received approval to extend the 25-mph speed-limit zone along Route 7 as it passes through the village. The new lower-limit zone will begin at Plains Road and extend to the top of the hill past the Mobil station. New signs will be installed shortly.

It is hoped that the extension of the 25-mph zone will increase safety along densely populated Route 7.

Dollar General has asked to reimburse the town for repairs to its culvert rather than trying to undertake the repairs itself in accordance with VTrans regulations.

Ms. Reed reminded the

Board of 3 grant opportunities from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns: a municipal planning grant, a bylaw modernization grant, and a grant for municipal park & ride lots. Vice-chair David Mills suggested further research to determine what conditions the grants would impose on the town.

During the public-comment segment of the meeting, there was a brief discussion of solar fields, which has been an ongoing issue in the town. One resident expressed concern about toxic chemicals from panels leaching into the ground. Board Chair Alicia Malay stated in response that she would not speak for the Board but "that's

why I personally have a problem with [solar arrays] going on farmland."

The Board then moved to a discussion of the purchase of a used Dodge Durango to replace a pickup truck that the Police Department feels has reached the end of its useful life as a police vehicle. Police Chief Mike (See Pittsford SB, Page 8)

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**Spotlight On Business**  
**MAE'S PLACE DINER**



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Erynn and Andrew Doaner started Mae's Place diner, a little gem of a restaurant, eight years ago. Situated in the heart of beautiful downtown Brandon, they serve breakfast & lunch daily 7am-2pm. Mae's serves great food with an essence of comfort, community & belonging while remaining



an anchor business in the village. The coffee is hot, the food delicious and we'll be here for years to come in our special all-American small town.

## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS AT THE BRANDON TOWN HALL

Sat., September 30: 7:30pm  
**Blues Without Borders Band**  
"Blues Without Borders" vocals by DebTier and the guitar stylings of Scotty Mac. The rhythm section consists of Jon Randel on keys, Mike "Uncle Joe" Burbank on bass and Dan "Freight Train of Rhythm" Whittemore on drums. Expect to hear covers of blues rock tunes, a few classics, and many new songs from some of today's hottest acts like Danielle Nicole or Beth Hart plus a bit of Blues Without Borders original music. This is a Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset, Fyles Brothers, Anonymous, Rowe Real Estate, Shirley Markland.

Fri., October 6: 7:30pm  
**Mamajamas Middlebury College's Co-ed a Capella Group**  
The Middlebury Mamajamas are Middlebury College's youngest gender inclusive a Cappella group. They woo audiences with a widely varied repertoire that includes artists ranging from Michael Jackson to Adele and everything in between. With a strong emphasis on musicality, fun and "steeze," you can find us

performing on campus, in town, on tour around New England and on YouTube. Tickets are Adults...\$8.00, Seniors & Students...\$6.00.

Sponsored by Ronald, Carolyn & Ricky Hayes, Hayes Pallets, Gourmet Provence, Fyles Brothers, Kathy & Bob Clark.

Sat., October 7: 7:00pm  
**"My Best Girl" (1927) Silent Movie**  
A spectacular romantic comedy which stars Mary Pickford and Charles "Buddy" Rogers ( who is her future real-life husband) in a big city department store, romance blossoms between a humble stock-room clerk and the store owner's son...who is already engaged! A sparkling "rich man-poor girl" romantic comedy. This is a Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset, Fyles Brothers, Inc., Jeanette Devino, Donna Malewicki.

Sun., October 8: 3-6pm & Mon., October 9: 6-8pm  
**Auditions for "Brandon Has Talent"**  
If you like to sing, dance, play an

instrument or have a special talent, all you need to do to be a member of the 9th Annual "Brandon Has Talent" Show is contact Dennis at denniswmarden@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 802-247-5420 to schedule a day and time to audition. You must provide your own music, preferably on a cell phone which can connect to a Bluetooth speaker.

Fri., October 27: 7:00pm  
**Chiller Theater, Silent Movie "The Cat and The Canary" (1927)**  
Enjoy another repeat performance for our annual Chiller Theatre thriller. Can a group of distant relatives survive the night in a haunted house to learn the secret of a madman's will?

Find out in the original Gothic Thriller from silent film director Paul Leni. This is a Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Pam & Steve Douglass.

Sat., October 28: 7:00pm  
**Michele Fay Band**  
The Michele Fay Band features original and Americana music that brings forth a comfortable groove of folk, swing and bluegrass-influenced songs that are woven seamlessly together. Their repertoire provides a mix of understated originals and well placed traditional covers, played and sung with relaxed polish, personality and taste. The songs are energetic, unpretentious, and appeal to a wide range of audiences. Tickets are...Adults, \$8... Seniors & Students, \$6.

Sponsored by Melly & Joe Flynn, Harold & Jean Somerset, Kathy & Bob Clark, Shirley Markland.





# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

website.

Highlights from the report included:

- \$70,000 in delinquent taxes and utility payments has been recovered by the Town since the previous Selectboard meeting.

- Demolition has been completed on the three Town-owned properties on Newton Road that were bought out as part of state and federal flood-mitigation programs.

- The wastewater plant project is slated to finish in winter of 2024. This project entailed upgrades to the processing of the wastewater itself and it is projected that the plant will need other structural upgrades in the coming years that were beyond the scope of the current work and funding.

- The Town is still seeking bids on the damage sustained to the chimney of the Town Hall during the tornado in July.

- The historic-preservation survey of non-downtown areas is underway. The goal is to identify properties and other features deserving of preservation.

- The Brandon Police Department has been awarded an \$18,000 grant to purchase an electric motorcycle. The grant was obtained through Senator Sanders's office.

Brandon will not be receiving a grant for the McConnell Road culvert in this application cycle. The project was ranked #21 on the grantor's list and only 17 projects were funded, leaving it in an advantageous position for the next cycle.

- The paving has been completed on the municipal parking lot behind the new Dunkin' Donuts. The grant that paid for the work is now closed.

- The paving on Arnold District Road will be completed in October.

Rec Department Director Bill Moore then presented his report, the full text of which is available on the Town website. Highlights included thanks to Arturo Mendiola for his work building frame for the Leaf People that are a hallmark of Harvest Fest (October 8 at Estabrook) and to McGee CDJR and Pockette Pest Control for their sponsorship of jerseys for the soccer teams.

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Frank Briscoe and Jeff Dordozzi presented a request to the Board for \$40,000 in ARPA funds to help them complete work on the old Brandon High School that will qualify them for \$71,000 in state tax reimbursements. Board member Tim Guiles asked what the public benefit of the project would be and Board member Heather Nelson asked whether the Town would be asked for continued support beyond this money. Briscoe and Dordozzi replied that the project would provide public spaces in addition to housing and that it was designed to be financially self-sufficient once completed.

The Board held off on a response to the request until it took up the topic of ARPA funding later in the meeting. Please see the article on the old Brandon High School in this issue of The Reporter for further details on the project.

The Board then announced that it was accepted letters of interest from community members who wanted to join this year's Budget Committee. The Committee will meet twice in November and twice in December to hammer out the budget that will be presented to voters at Town Meeting in March. Anyone interested should send a letter to the Town Manager. Members of the Committee

(See Brandon SB, Page 11)



## Not quite Woody Woodpecker, but a close cousin

**THIS BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** was seen at Moose Bog, east of Island Pond. This is one of four boreal species found there. Note the yellow spot just visible on the top of its head.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

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# REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

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## Community Forums New bear population based on 2022 data

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Vermont's black bear population is estimated at 7,000 to 8,500 based on 2022 data, the most recent available, according to

the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

"It is important to look at the 2022 population estimate as part of the typical cycles of

growth and decline in a bear population that is stable over the long term," said wildlife biologist and Black Bear Project (See Bear population, Page 6)

## Lecture on mapping of Revolutionary War artifacts at Mount Independence

Orwell, Vt. — On October 1, 2023, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation will host a lecture on recent geographic information systems (GIS) mapping of the locations of Revolutionary War-era ar-

tifacts excavated at Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell. The GIS mapping is part of the Mount Independence Collections Stewardship Project, funded in 2021 by an American Battlefield Protection

Program grant awarded to the State of Vermont.

Regional Historic Sites Administrator Elsa Gilbertson will provide a project overview and archaeologist Hutch McPhet- (See Mount Independence, Page 5)



# Another milestone for the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion Initiative

RUTLAND— In its quest to bring the Declaration of Inclusion to all 247 communities in Vermont, the Initiative has reached another milestone – 125 communities have adopted the declaration. Those communities represent more than 70% of the State’s population and gets the Initiative more than halfway to

its overall goal.

The Declaration of Inclusion Initiative is spearheaded by four individuals – Norm Cohen, Bob Harnish,

Barbara Noyes Pulling and Al Wakefield – all from the Rutland area. Harnish and Wakefield began the Initiative in 2020 to help bring the benefits of inclusion to

the attention of all of Vermont.

“For every community in the State, large or small, our objective is the same,” said Bob Harnish. “To raise awareness of the positive effects of diversity, to tell the world that Vermont welcomes all people, and to build a stronger economy and future for  
*(See Inclusion Initiative, Page 7)*

# Mount Independence

*(Continued from Page 4)*

ers of Northeast Archaeology Research Center will report on the GIS mapping. The lecture is free and open to the public on Sunday, October 1 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

Mount Independence State Historic Site is one of the nation’s most significant Revolutionary War archaeological sites. This National Historic Landmark is jointly owned and managed by the State of Vermont’s Division for Historic

Preservation and the Fort Ticonderoga Association. From July 1776 to July 1777, Mount Independence played a critical role in the effort to defend northern New York, New England, and the cause of American liberty from the British. After the war, the Mount faded from public consciousness, quickly becoming an archaeological site. Investigations by the State of Vermont began in 1965 with integrated surface and subsurface mapping, exploratory ex-

cavations, analyses of recovered artifacts, and geospatial mapping of the landward portion of the site. The Collections Stewardship Project continues the State’s ongoing efforts to ensure the preservation and interpretation of this accumulated data. The geospatial maps to be summarized in the lecture accurately record the locations of individual finds in detailed three-dimensional space, in effect mapping the activities of the people who lived and labored at

the site 244 years ago.

History and nature unite at Mount Independence with a one-of-a-kind experience recounting the gripping story of this significant Revolutionary War fortification and the lives of the soldiers who battled to survive the challenges of war and Mother Nature. Each year special events include guided nature and history hikes on the site’s trails, historical lectures, archaeological investigations,

Soldiers Atop the Mount living history weekend, and the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence. The site offers six miles of trails along the archaeological remains of the fortification, including the Baldwin Trail that meets outdoor trail standards for handicapped accessibility. Mount Independence is open from 10 am to 5 pm daily until October 15.

## Leicester News

### Property taxes are due soon; Games to raise money, and help the town

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds residents that 2023 property taxes are due by the end of the day, Wednesday, Nov. 15. Postmarks are not accepted as proof of payment.

To avoid taxes being delinquent, make sure payments are delivered on time.

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., Oct 14, at 1:00 pm. at the Senior Center. Refreshments are served and all are welcome. Funds raised help with the maintenance of the historical buildings at the Four Corners.

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# Bear population

(Continued from Page 4)

Leader Jaclyn Comeau. “The 7,000 to 8,500 bear estimate for 2022 is a five-year high. We will be watching closely in the coming few years to see if the population drops as we have seen it do before, after high years in previous cycles.”

Comeau stressed that the current population estimate is not a basis for changes to Vermont’s bear management at this time. She added that today’s robust bear population is the result of a decades-long research and conservation effort that includes land protection, regulated hunting and significant public education on proactive conflict prevention.

As recently as the early 1970s Vermont’s bears were found only in mountainous areas and the Northeast Kingdom, and

likely numbered between 1,500 and 3,500. Today they are found in every Vermont town except for communities on the Lake Champlain Islands. Since the mid-1990s the population has been relatively stable, fluctuating from 4,000 to 7,500 bears in consistent cycles of growth and decline. The population has seen steady growth since 2019.

“Taking active steps to co-exist with bears is our responsibility as Vermonters,” said Comeau. “That means respecting these powerful animals as an important part of our native biodiversity, using proactive conflict prevention strategies like keeping human food out of bears’ reach, and relying on a scientifically regulated hunting season to keep the bear population in line with Vermont’s so-

cial carrying capacity.”

The department’s bear population model uses age and sex data from hunter harvests and non-hunting mortalities like vehicle strikes to estimate the population and account for model uncertainty. Because the model relies on annual data from hunters, it lags one year behind the current hunting season.

“Hunter harvest data are used by state fish and wildlife agencies to model bear populations nation-wide,” said biometrician and Research Program Manager Dr. Katherina Gieder. “We are confident in our bear population model estimates because they consistently match what other data indicate about the population trend over time. Model certainty has also increased in recent years, espe-



cially since making it mandatory for bear hunters to submit a tooth from their harvest to the department in 2018. It’s a

good example of how community science can directly inform wildlife conservation.”



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# Brandon High

(Continued from Page 1)

street—inviting locals and visitors alike to wonder about its history and current condition. A bit overgrown and rough, the old Brandon High School (BHS) has been the subject

of rampant speculation for years. What’s it like inside? What will be-

come of it? Who even owns it? The owner is Frank “Chip” Briscoe, Jr., an historic preservationist originally from Texas, whose roller-coaster relationship with the building goes back to the early 2000s,

work studio space. The challenges of the property sank in, and preservation-minded Briscoe ended up buying a 50% stake from them, and then the other 50%, leaving him the sole owner of this hulking brick behemoth that was decades removed from anything that could be called its heyday.

Briscoe labored for years to figure out how to restore the building but constantly ran up against the economic realities of a gigantic structure that needed to be repurposed as well as restored. An early partnership with the nonprofit NeighborWorks of Western Vermont seemed promising, but the costs of construction soon exceeded the nonprofit’s comfort zone. And then a favorable construction loan that was days away from closing fell through when Wall Street collapsed in 2008, ushering in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. No one wanted to touch the project.

Things deteriorated further when (See *Brandon High*, Page 23)



**BRANDON HIGH SCHOOL** as it looked in its early years. Built in 1916, it served the community until Otter Valley High School was built in 1961.

when sculptor friends of his bought it with the idea of creating a live/

work studio space.



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# OVUU School Board reviews safety, mental health, and funding

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—The OVUU board met on Tuesday, September 19 and immediately went into executive session to discuss labor relations. No action was taken. Following the executive session, there was a presentation on safety and mental health in our schools. Tyler Weiderman reviewed the district's policies on egress from buildings, option-based drills, and threat-assessment oversight. Visitors will have to show ID when entering school buildings during school hours. Emergency operations are defined for each building and are specific to each building. Fire drills and option-based drills were reviewed. Mr. Weiderman advised that through training, people are empowered to make decisions in the moment. As part of a lockdown, there will be an announcement of where the violent person is, to give people the option to barricade the doors or get out of the building. There

needs to be age-appropriate communication with the students—the practice is the same, but the delivery is different.

Marsh a Bruce and Taylor Lanpher presented on mental-health services. Ms. Bruce noted

that national data indicate that one in five children experiences signs of mental-health problems. At all OVUU schools, there is a layered system of support for school-based mental health services that begins with school-wide preventative systems of support that are teacher-driven. The second layer is targeted supplemental interventions and support that can include actions like small group interventions, peer counseling, or targeted social-skills training. The next layer of support would be intensive, individualized interventions. Ms. Bruce stated some of the reasons for mental-health programs is for increased school success and helping to develop decision-making and interpersonal skills. In order to reach those goals, it is known that it helps if a student can remain in an environment to learn to interact with peers and authority and follow rules. These are areas that could be addressed by mental-health services. Ms.

Lanpher can be engaged in level 3 and 4 support for children and can also be involved in a threat assessment to help the child get more connected to the school and provide clinical support. Ms. Bruce noted that communication is the most important thing and through contracts there is communication with the provider that is not a closed door. There is some information the clinician cannot share but there can be discussion about plans. Schools are in it together and there is a cooperative agreement with Rutland Mental Health that is funded through Medicaid dollars. If the district were to purchase all services, the cost would be double.

Kristin Hubert stated that Covid derailed the accountability system in Vermont and it is known that short- and long-term school closures had an impact. The Agency of Education is looking at school assessments and graduation rates and

has released a snapshot of the schools to determine if a school is doing what it needs to do. There are schools in this district that are flagged for marginalized students: Otter Creek Academy and Lothrop. Parents will be

invited to review what is happening in the improvement process. Deb Alexander will be providing assessment results to the Board in October and noted the district made a good amount of progress last year. Now that the district is hitting the ESSER cliff—a term to denote the point at which Covid-era ESSER funds will run out—it is not sure if some programs can continue. Ms. Hubert noted there was not a district in the state that did not get a checkmark. Most schools and districts did see improvements last year, but with the ESSER cliff there will be concerns. ESSER I,II, and APR ESSER are federal education funds set up during the pandemic and are set to expire in 2024.

Progress was made on OVUU board annual goals and priorities which will be continued at the second meeting in October. Superintendent Hubert advised that the district looks at the budget school by school and asks each principal to provide their

vision and priorities. The central office then comes together to talk about the district and what is to be prioritized. She noted it would be an important conversation to have post-merger and post-pandemic to know what students and families want to see out of their schools. Ms. Bertrand noted that the Board's vision is outlined in the Board's Ends policy and questioned if there is something within the goals that the Board wants to focus on. Mr. Thornton suggested hearing from the Superintendent as to what a one- and five-year plan would look like. Ms. Bertrand stated that at the second meeting in October, information on the prior task force will be reviewed and the superintendent will be asked to provide her one- and five-year plans. Ms. Hubert noted that most strategic plans are ten years with outcomes in the first and fifth years. This is what the administrators and she are trying to do this year and administratively there will be a 10-year plan. Ms. Bertrand noted the goals and priorities discussion will continue at the second meeting in October.

Full meeting minutes are available at <https://www.rnesu.org/page/district-information-school-boards-otter-valley-board-meetings-agendas-minutes>

# Inclusion Initiative

(Continued from Page 5)

Vermont by attracting people to live, work, and raise families here.”

Because of the disastrous flooding in some parts of the State this summer, the Initiative needed to pivot and wait for many communities to wrap up their emergency response measures.

“Many select boards have been very preoccupied since July,” said Al Wakefield. “When they are ready, we will be here to help them adopt the declaration, put it into practice, or get it on

the Town Meeting ballot.”

Besides being adopted by 125 communities, the Declaration of Inclusion also has wide support among organizations across the State. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Vermont Interfaith Action and various local diversity committees are among the supporters of the Declaration of Inclusion Initiative.

For more information about the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion, go to:

<https://vtdeclarationofinclusion.org/>



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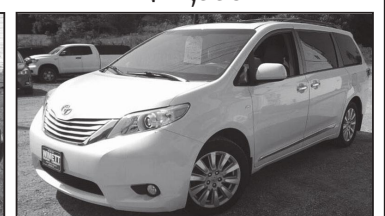
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# Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 3)

Warfle stated that the particular car it hoped to purchase from a dealership in New York would cost a total of \$42,844.32.

The Board expressed concern about the town's ability to pay for the vehicle, but Ms. Reed assured them that the

town had the funds to cover the cost without impacting any day-to-day functions. She also recommended that the town increase its allotment to the Police Department's vehicle fund from \$15,000 per year to \$20K or \$25K to make up for the fact that the town had not

been keeping up with the allotments in recent years and the fund now has a negative balance of -\$6,964.69 because of a purchase of a vehicle last year. With this fiscal year's \$15K allotment to the fund, there will be \$8035.31 available on June 30, 2024.

The Board approved the purchase of the Durango while agreeing that the annual allotment to the fund should be increased—an issue to be addressed in the proposed budget for the next fiscal year—and that there should be a hold on purchases of vehicle for the next 5 years. The Board also stipulated that the purchase of the Durango must not exceed \$43K.

The Board then discussed an enhanced energy plan, which would require the participation

of the Town Planning Commission. It was agreed that the Planning Commission would be invited to the next Board meeting in order to discuss updating the Town Plan to include an enhanced energy plan. The

*[Ms. Reed] also recommended that the town increase its allotment to the Police Department's vehicle fund from \$15,000 per year to \$20K or \$25K to make up for the fact that the town had not been keeping up with the allotments in recent years.*

Board stated that the town is up to the state's standards for solar development but the town plan needs explicit language on the subject.

The Board declined to move forward with a turnaround on Elm Street to allow trucks to back out more easily when they realize that they will not be able to cross the covered bridge over Otter Creek. Ms. Reed stated that the project would cost \$24,500 and would require 1,600 tons of gravel, rental of a compaction roller, and a week of labor.

In response to a prior request from the Board, the Town Manager's office had compiled a list of the town's capital assets, which Ms. Reed presented to the members. Until recently, the list had been kept by the town's outside auditor. Moving forward, the town will keep track of its fixed assets itself, said Ms. Reed.

The Board also discussed plans for Veterans Day on November 11. This year, the date falls on a Saturday, which raised the possibility that students from Lothrop would not participate as they have in the past, since the ceremony is part of the school day when the holiday falls on a weekday. The Board sought to clear up when the ceremony would be held and who would be in charge of executing it.

The Board's final piece of public business for the evening was the approval of orders and payroll totaling \$82,388.24, which included \$25K in ARPA funds for the Maclure Library, to be used for repairs.

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# Remembering the Mitroff Years at the Brandon Inn

BY JAMES PECK & ANN-MARIE MITROFF

Al and Trudy Mitroff owned and operated the Brandon Inn from 1961 to 1983. This past Friday evening, former employees of the Mitroffs' gathered to share stories in the Inn's main lounge. It was orchestrated by Ann-Marie Mitroff, Al and Trudy's daughter, who was visiting from California and staying in one of the Inn's third-floor suites.

Even the Inn's new owner, Isidro "Sid" Beccar Varela, couldn't resist sitting in to hear the nostalgic stories along with fifteen rapt attendees in person and four others on a Zoom connection. "It was a very interesting night. I was so glad to meet all these former employees and it gave me a lot of food for thought," said Beccar Varela.

Ann-Marie herself led the retrospective off by sharing old pictures and recapping the Inn's 137-year-old history as Brandon's preeminent

burned to the ground. The townspeople were devastated, but local Brandon businessmen stepped up to buy the property, build the current imposing four-story structure and name it briefly "Hotel Brandon." That moniker didn't last long before it became the Brandon Inn as we know it today.

In 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Mitroff bought the Inn from the Brandon Inn Company, a group of townspeople with stock ownership for the 51 years since 1910.

After Ann-Marie, former Mitroff employees - bartenders, cooks, bellhops, waitresses, desk clerks and others- took the stage and related their fond memories of working for Al and Trudy.

The first thing learned by Sid and the attendees was that no one ever addressed the owners by their first names - it was always respectfully "Mr. Mitroff" and "Mrs. Mitroff"!

The common themes of the night

little experience and was asked to sing to the patrons. Somehow, she pulled it off and "it was truly memorable, a great story I tell even today!"

Bill Clark told about his experience in 1981 as the head chef. "Mr. Mitroff had a very interesting personality. He was a throwback to a different era; He always wore a suit and tie. He wanted a new 'special menu' most days, so I had to use all my creativity."

Clark then then read the special menu for January 4, 1982, which included New England clam chowder, radish rosettes, filet of Beef Wellington for \$12.50, roast duckling for \$11.00, baked Christmas ham for \$8.50, green beans almondine, baked sweet potato" and on and on. It was a diner's delight!

Chuck Clarino, a longtime award-winning sports writer for the Rutland Herald, worked as a chef and a waiter.

reporter Charles Kuralt and chatting with him for two hours after the bar closed.

Chuck LaPorte's sister Claire Pate got her very first job at the Inn in 1972, as did many Brandon kids. Ann-Marie showed a list of employees from the 60s and 70s and the attendees recognized many names. You, dear Reader, may be

on the list or know a friend or relative who was!

Claire got her first job as a "Kelly Girl" typing menus and doing whatever she was asked. "I owe my career to Mr. Mitroff, because it set me up for a long career in Washington, D. C."

One good story told by Chuck (See Mitroff years, Page 15)



**ANN-MARIE MITROFF (RIGHT) and Isidro "Sid" Beccar Varela (left) stand in the lobby of the Brandon Inn. Ms. Mitroff's parents, Al and Trudy, owned the Inn from 1961 to 1983. Mr. Varela is the current owner. Ms. Mitroff and Mr. Varela hosted an evening of reminiscences at the Inn this past weekend.**

destination for travelers. Everyone learned that the Inn was originally built as the one-story Neshobe Tavern by Jacob Simonds in 1786. (The Inn's bar is now called the Jacob Simonds Pub. His grave is in the Congregational Church Cemetery very near the Inn.)

It remained a popular tavern/inn until 1848, when it was rebuilt as the three-story Brandon House by Francis June.

In 1890, the Brandon House

were employees getting hired into really great first jobs, being given an opportunity to learn how to work and enjoying a challenging but fun environment and a camaraderie amongst the staff.

There was real affection for the Inn expressed—everyone experienced more than just a job and it became part of an education they valued.

Colleen Patrick was a holiday bartender back in the 70s. She had

"Mr. Mitroff was very nice to me as was Mrs. Mitroff," said Clarino. "They were great people and those were wonderful years." Chuck lived on River Street and walked across the frozen Neshobe River in the winter to the Inn.

Chuck LaPorte was hired by Mr. Mitroff as a part-time bartender in 1973-74, taking over for Steve Carr who was also in attendance. Chuck related a number of stories including his encounter with CBS



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# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Zavier Rem  
GRADE: 1  
SCHOOL: Neshobe  
TITLE: Untitled  
MEDIUM: Tempera paint, ink,  
and colored pencil on paper  
TEACHER: John Brodowski



**STATEMENT FROM ZAVIER:**

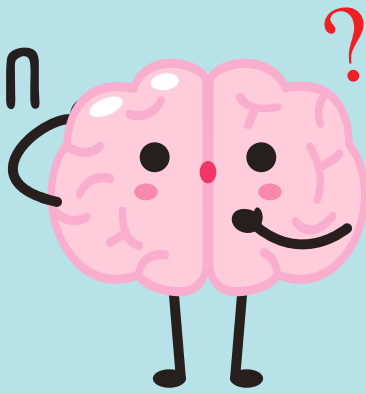
The person in this picture was going on a walk and they found a cat. They were walking more and they found a dragon. On their way back they found an "x" mark. Under the "x" there is treasure.

**STATEMENT FROM MR. B:**

Every year the first graders do this project, and it is always fun to see what they make. We start by brushing primary-colored tempera paint onto a very wet piece of paper. After the paint dries, we add lines, shapes, and details with ink and colored pencils. Zavier followed these steps to create this amazing and one-of-a-kind picture! Zavier is hard working, creative, and careful with his artwork. We thank him for sharing his creativity with us!



# Brandon Brain Buster

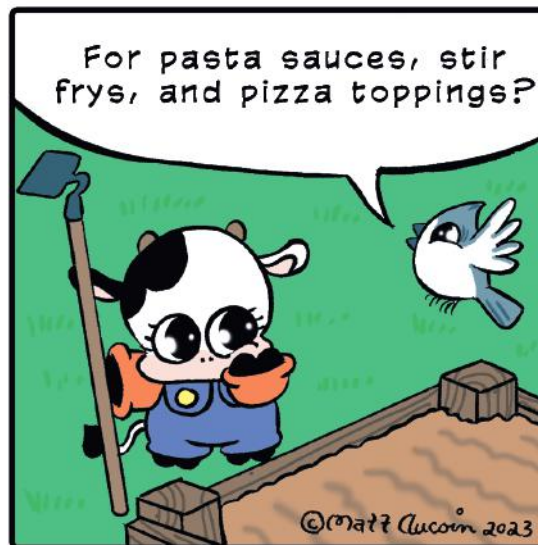


If all the whole numbers from 1 to 100, inclusive, are multiplied together and the result of this multiplication is called K, now many zeroes are at the end of K + 70?

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 5
- D) 6
- E) 8

Answer on pg.21

## MAPLE COW™ by Matt Aucoin



## Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 4)

will be announced at the Selectboard's meetings in October. Mr. Guiles reminded the room that these budget meetings are public and membership in the Committee is not required for attendance.

The Board approved a letter of support for Yossi Schorr, who is seeking to convert the Compass Center at the old Brandon Training School into 19 affordable and moderate-income residential units that will include a variety of sizes. The letter will be used by Mr. Schorr to secure financing and grants for the project. A diagram of the proposed layout is available in the Selectboard packet for 9/25/23 on the Town website.

The Board also approved tax stabilization for MT Associates LLC, the owners of the lot encompassing the new Dunkin' Donuts, gas station, and car wash on Conant Square. The agreement will freeze for 10 years MT's municipal tax liability based on the property's current appraised value of \$280,000. MT has invested over \$3 million into the property and qualifies for the stabilization under the Town's policy. Moreover, the original purchase of the municipal lot from MT contained a clause guaranteeing the stabilization.

Mr. Hopkins emphasized that there had been three instances at Monday's meeting of significant investment in Brandon: the rehabilitation of Brandon High School, the repurposing

of the Compass Center, and the investment by MT Associates. Mr. Hopkins noted that these investments were evidence that Brandon continues to be an attractive place to live and work."

The bulk of the meeting, however, was devoted to a discussion of the allocation of the Town's remaining ARPA funds. Of the original \$1.1-million grant, \$569,624 remained undesignated at the beginning of Monday's meeting. At a previous meeting, Board Chair Tracy Wyman had expressed a desire to designate the remaining funds and had asked the other Board members to come to this meeting with projects they'd like to see funding with the remaining ARPA money.

Heather Nelson made four proposals:

- Repair the roof of the Town Hall
- Repair and/or repurpose the tennis court at Estabrook Park
- Consider the possibility of funding the request for the old Brandon High School
- Saving and investing some portion of the remaining funds for future use

Brian Coolidge made three proposals:

- Construct a new town salt shed
- Repair town sidewalks
- Repair Town Farm Road
- Tim Guiles made three proposals:

- Give \$60K to the Brandon Energy Committee to spearhead the development of a town-owned solar facility

- Repair the roof of the Town Hall

- Use ARPA funds to match the grant for the municipal parking lot behind Dunkin' Donuts

Tracy Wyman made three proposals:

- Construct a new town salt shed
- Repair town sidewalks
- Complete more paving (asphalt) projects

Cecil Reniche-Smith made four proposals:

- Repair town sidewalks (particularly on Pearl and Carver Streets)
- \$60K to the Brandon Energy Committee for a solar facility
- Put funds toward the matching grant for the Union Street sidewalk project
- Replace old sewer lines

The Board then discussed the individual proposals.

Mr. Wyman was not in favor of the grant to the Energy Committee, believing that it was premature to give money to a project that still had not been the subject of a meeting among all the stakeholders (school district, fire district, town, developer). Jim Emerson of the Energy Committee explained

that the money would be used to initiate the project and bring the stakeholders to the table. If the project failed to gain traction, the money would be returned to the town. Ultimately, the Board approved \$60,000 to the Energy Committee in a 3-2 vote, with Mr. Wyman and Mr. Coolidge voting against.

There was consensus on the importance of repairing the town's sidewalks, especially since there are several stretches where those with mobility issues are severely impeded. The Board ultimately decided to designate \$175K for sidewalk projects to be prioritized by the Town Highway Foreman rather than specified by the Board.

The Board also approved \$50,000 to be used as the Town's match for the grant that paid for the paving of the municipal lot behind the Dunkin' Donuts.

The Board approved \$30K to be used to resurface the tennis court at Estabrook Park and make it suitable for additional uses such as skateboarding and pickleball.

The Board declined to designate \$40K to the Brandon High School project. Mr. Guiles and Ms. Reniche-Smith voted

in favor. Mr. Wyman and Mr. Coolidge voted against. And Ms. Nelson abstained, wanting additional information before making a decision.

The Board declined to designate \$150K for the roof of the Town Hall. Mr. Guiles had made the motion and was the only vote in favor. Other Board members wanted to get more recent information about costs before committing any money.

The Board then voted unanimously to hold off on designating the remaining ARPA money.

Altogether, the Board designated \$315K of the remaining ARPA funds, leaving \$254,624 to be designated. ARPA guidelines stipulate that all funds must be designated by December 2024.

The Board's final bit of business for the evening was to approve a corrected payroll roster (to correct erroneous pay rate for two town employees and change the employment status of a third) and to approve a warrant in the amount of \$216,689.63, which included \$120,000 in expenses to be reimbursed by FEMA.



# 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](http://www.aikidovermont.org) for more information, including fees.

## Proctor Fall Festival celebration is on Sept. 30

Join us on September 30, 2023 from 11:00 am–3:00 pm at Main Street Park

**12:00** Baking contest judging  
recipe required/ must include cheddar cheese

**12:30** Tom Joyce Magic show  
"Christmastime Anytime"

**2:00** Hula Hoop Show  
Music • Pony rides • Photo booth •  
Library pies • Fireman's BBQ • Pumpkin  
decorating • Goats • Bounce house • Over  
20 vendors

**Fireworks at dusk at the ball fields on  
Elm Street**



### 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](http://www.gmttc.com).

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily 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 11 am–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](mailto:ceastman88@gmail.com)

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

### Wednesday 27th

#### Ice Cream Social with Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club

There's still time to join the Fall Class with Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club. Join us tonight for ice cream social and dancing. \$7 per dancer. 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. Cast-off8s.com or Facebook/Instagram Cast Off 8s. lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com

From 6:30 pm–8:00 pm at the Lothrop Elementary School, 3447 U.S. 7, Pittsford.

## Thursday 28th

### Tiny Humans, Big Emotions: Dad Guild Workshop with Alyssa Campbell

How do you respond to the emotional child beyond behavior charts and positive discipline? How do you build comfort in experiencing a feeling and learn how to express in a prosocial manner? How do you foster children's coping strategies to last a lifetime, moving away from temporary coping mechanisms? When is it time to problem solve Now, how do we do this in everyday life with children as we bring our biases and social programming to the table?

We know that emotional development is at the cornerstone of learning, that children need to process emotions before they are ready to absorb content, but there hasn't been a "how to" guide for building this development, until now. We work with folks to dive into the Collaborative Emotion Processing (CEP) method as well as the Phases of Emotion Processing in order to build the adult's mindful practices alongside their toolbox for responding to emotional expressions to emotional intelligence. We cannot expect children to engage in social relationships without supporting their emotional development. In a world where social/emotional learning is heavily focused on the social aspects, we are collaborating with folks to help children develop the emotional intelligence and sensory regulation to have the confidence, communication, and processes to navigate their complex world and build resiliency.

Alyssa Blask Campbell is the CEO of Seed & Sew, an organization that provides tools for parents, teachers, and caregivers to raise emotionally intelligent humans. Seed & Sew has a community of 300K+ folks, a global podcast, the S.E.E.D. Certification® professional development program with virtual expert coaching from disciplines such as OTs, SLPs, and Psychologists, and online parenting courses. Alyssa has a master's degree in early childhood education, is a leading expert in emotional development traveling the world speaking on the topic, and is a mom to two. Her first book, *Tiny Humans, Big Emotions*, is co-authored with Lauren Stauble and publishes on October 10, 2023 with HarperCollins.

From 7:00– 8:30 pm at the Robert Miller Community Center. 130 Gosse Court, Burlington  
Free.

## Friday 29th

### Community Health Day

Join SVCOA and the Rutland Free Clinic at Godnick Adult Center on Friday, September 29th from 1 pm to 3 pm for our Free Community Health Day. Receive free health screenings, consultations, and more!

Through a partnership with several area community resources, attendees will receive free health screenings and information.

FREE Stay Steadi Screenings  
FREE Health Screenings  
FREE Self-Advocacy Resources  
FREE For anyone over 65 WITHOUT a Medicare Part D plan, flu/shingles, pneumonia, and tetanus vaccinations.

Anyone under the age of 18- 64 CAN ALSO RECEIVE VACCINATIONS free of charge.



## Goings on around town

# Rutland County Audubon 2023 fall bird walks, Tuesdays

Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland County Audubon Society for weekly slow-paced (3 to 4 miles, 3 to 4 hour) bird & wildflower walks in the Poultney area, on the trails of the SVT system, Tuesdays at 7:30 am. All levels of birding experience are welcome. Bring water and a snack (and insect repellent if you use it), binoculars, cameras, or field guides, if you have them. The walks are at a slow pace with lots of opportunities for observing & photographing. Fall migration is in progress, so we may see many birds heading north and stopping over to rest, drink or eat.

Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jptilley50@gmail.com (preferred method), or 802-598-2583, evenings 7 to 8 pm. There is no need to register or reserve a spot. The tentative schedule is below

(check the RCAS (<https://www.rutlandcounty-audubon.org/events>) or SVT (<https://slatevalleytrails.org/calendar>) websites for any changes).

### Tuesday, October 3 Endless Brook

Meet at the Endless Brook trailhead (Endless Brook Rd, on left, 0.9 miles in from VT Rte 30). 3 miles, 3 hours, Easy to Moderate terrain (250 ft elevation gain).

### Tuesday, October 10 Castleton University Trails

Meet at the D&H trail crossing on



South St, Castleton. Visitor parking is behind the Stafford Academic Center in the Stafford lot (#39 on the campus map <https://castleton.s3.amazonaws.com/files/resources/map-accessible-parking-3.pdf>). Easy terrain, 2.6 miles.

### The Chaffee Art Center, NEW EXHIBIT "Then and Now"

The Chaffee Art Center, Your Center for Creativity, invites the community to the opening reception of our new Exhibit "Then & Now" from 5pm to 7pm.

Stop by and enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles while you explore the galleries full of art and history. There will be a special feature of the Exhibit that will showcase the stories of people and businesses that have contributed so much for their communities, Vermont and beyond:

Ann Clark Ltd.  
Giancola Family of Companies  
PegTV (30th Anniversary)  
Vermont County Store

Chaffee artist members' works will be on display and for sale throughout the first and second floors, as well as in the Gallery Shoppe that is filled with handmade treasures and gift ideas for any occasion.

Be sure to browse the rest of the mansion and take in the 1890's architecture. There is no charge to attend. A donation would be appreciated. This exhibit will be on display until

October 28th.

As we celebrate 62 years as an art center in the Rutland Community, we also invite you to join as an artist, single or family member to help the Chaffee to continue to inspire and cultivate creativity, while positively impacting the vitality of our community through the arts.

Plan to visit the Chaffee to experience the beauty of the 1890's Queen Anne Victorian Mansion and the wonderful works of art throughout, plus our Gallery Shoppe...now with old-fashioned candy! Enjoy a hot cup of coffee, tea or cocoa while you browse, or plan to meet a friend and cozy up in one of our many seating areas. Free Wi-Fi available.

While here, picture your next event, bridal shower, wedding, birthday, meeting, or retreat being held in our beautiful mansion, fondly known by its first owners as Sunny Gables. Hours: Wednesday through Friday Noon to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 3pm. Private appointments available by request.

Check out [www.chaffeeartcenter.org](http://www.chaffeeartcenter.org) and the Chaffee Art Center Instagram and Facebook pages for updates on events, classes and more. Call 802.775.0356,

[info@chaffeeartcenter.org](mailto:info@chaffeeartcenter.org), or stop in to the Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, VT.

## Saturday 30th

### Barn Quilts Informational Meeting

Quilters and non-quilters alike are invited to a free information session about barn quilts Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock.

There's been a quiet but colorful phenomenon growing nationwide – barn quilts on houses, garages, chicken coops, barns, and other outbuildings. Did you know that there are over 600 barn quilts all around Vermont? The information session will include speakers from Franklin County where there are over 500 barn quilts, the Chelsea Arts Collective, Barn Quilts Therapy, and the Green Mountain Quilters Guild. Learn how they got started, how they spread the word, and also the practical aspects of creating barn quilts that survive Vermont winters. While there is no charge for this information session, advance registration is suggested. Call or email GMQG president Marianne Kotch at (802) 476-4185 or [mkotch731@gmail.com](mailto:mkotch731@gmail.com) to reserve your seat – and bring a friend!

# October

## Friday 6th

OLLI Lecture: Former Governor Jim Douglas will present "Vermont, Small State With A Big Influence." Program at the Godnick Center, Rutland, 1:30. Preregister at [learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland](http://learn.uvm.edu/olli/rutland), or call 802-656-5817. \$8.00 for non-members.

## Saturday 7th

### Sharing Creative Talents at the Brandon United Methodist Church

Please join us for "Sharing Creative Talents," a two day exhibition of drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture, writing and music. It will be held Saturday from 11:00 am–3:00 pm with coffee, refreshments and readings at noon and Sunday from 12:30–2:30.

1 Franklin St.  
Brandon, VT 05733



# Hay

(Continued from Page 1)

ate those grasses to get them to dry thoroughly. There is a machine for this called a Tedder. The Tedder has spiked tines on it. It takes the lovely, neat rows of cut grasses and throws them around and fluffs it all up. Now the hay is “tedded.”

Once dry, these grasses are collected and stored. Farmers use a tractor-drawn rake. It makes windrows, an ancient word for anything raked into rows and dried by the wind. If you have a crew, raking can immediately precede baling. Baling is the gathering and pressing of the dried grasses into tight bundles. When I was young, baling was done by a simple machine that dropped bales on the ground tied up with rope called baling twine. Bales varied greatly in weight because a lot of them still had moisture in them. You’d hoist them onto a wagon or cart and stack them in the barn. Today, much of the lifting has been mechanized. Ejection balers threw the bales into the wagon. Quite dangerous at times for the people stacking inside the wagon! Round balers and huge square balers came next producing bales of 1,000 pounds or more. These require some sort of front-end loader and trucks to transport them. Some balers have computers and injectors able to sense moisture content and add preservatives if the hay is too moist.

So, what do we do when it rains and floods and then rains again? There are two ways I know (I’m sure there are others, as farm-

ers are always innovating) to still preserve grass under wetter conditions. Freshly cut grass generally contains more than 70% moisture by weight. Instead of drying it to less than 22% moisture (hay), you can cut grass and dry it out to 40-65% moisture. This product is called haylage or baleage. The first method uses a silage chopper to cut the fields, then to dump the grasses in cement bunkers, roll over it with a tractor, to pack it in tightly, then it’s covered with plastic and tires. More recently farmers are mowing the hay, tedding it if necessary, baling and wrapping the bales in plastic individually. By wrapping it in plastic it ferments but won’t spoil. Haylage requires some different equipment, either a baler with a wrapper or stand-alone wrapping machines. While haying usually requires 3-5 sunny, dry days in a row, haylage can be done in 2-3 dry-ish days. It’s not just rain that’s a problem; it’s also heavy dew and high humidity that affect grasses drying out.

Drought years are tough because so little grows and pastures are poor or nonexistent. Really wet years are tough because nothing dries and you’re trying to bring in forage between rainstorms. Pastures may be great, but animals can get all sorts of foot issues from mud and wet conditions.

How has this extremely wet summer impacted our farmers?

Joseph Tisbert, President of Vermont Farm Bureau and co-owner of Valley Dream Farm in

Cambridge, Vermont said he “has never seen a year like this in his 32 years of farming here in Vermont. I haven’t had three weeks of dry weather since May. I owe a huge thank you to my neighbor who cut hay for me then and we got in 3,000 bales. Since May I’ve only brought in another 1,000 bales. Normally I make 12,000 bales a year. My fields, which are never wet, are saturated. In places, the sod won’t hold my tractor up and I’m slipping and making ruts where I never have made ruts before. I sell all my hay. I’m on the Vermont state list of hay sources. All I have right now is first-cut hay.” Joe anticipates a large hit to his own hay sales income and to that of other sellers across the state because production is so low.

Here in Brandon, we have also faced constant rain since June, historic flooding in July, then more rain throughout July, August and now September.

Wendy and Stephen Cijka of High Pond Goat Farm have 24 dairy goats. Their goats consume about 1,000 bales of hay annually. These bales are 40/50 second cut. They buy their hay and expect a price increase from scarcity. But they have a local source and aren’t worried about getting what they need. “We are at a higher elevation so our land drains well. We haven’t had problems with the wet summer. However, our goats don’t like to be wet or have wet feet and so have spent most of their time in their barn this summer, even though they can come and go as they please. We were worried about our well going dry in June. All this rain has recharged our well nicely.”

Jamie Hamilton of Hamilton cattle company cuts his own hay for his grass-fed beef.

“I have 250 Red Devons and Angus,” said Hamilton. “Both breeds, originally from the U.K. are hardy and raised on grass.”

But Jamie has to feed them in winter.

“I need 1,200 to 1,400 round bales of about 1,000 pounds each for my cattle for the winter. I’ve cut about 70% of my first cut this year and then



**JAMIE HAMILTON OF the Hamilton Cattle Company.**

wasn’t able to cut any more, except a tiny bit on fields that didn’t flood. Because of the flooding much of my farmland was rendered useless for the remainder of the season. I normally get three cuts in. I’m worried about the quality of my hay this year. Quite a few of my fields flooded in July and I’m worried about toxicity in the hay. The floodwaters have all sorts of contamination. So, I’ll be testing my hay this autumn. If the hay is toxic, then it’s inedible for my cattle. I may be able to sell some of it at a huge discount for mulch hay, but that won’t come close to paying for the good quality replacement feed for my cows. I normally produce more hay than I need so I’m able to sell hay as well as grass-fed beef. This year I will lose money from hay sales and may also have additional costs of buying non-contaminated hay.”

Amy Menard and Steve Dombrowski, who raise yaks at Cedar Rail Farm in Brandon, hire out the haying done on their fields and have made the switch from haying to haylage.

“We make baleage from our own hay fields. We pay a per-bale price to a local person who cuts, bales, and wraps our own hay for us. How much hay we use in any given winter depends on our herd size, and fall and spring pasture conditions, so it varies. In general, we plan to have enough baleage on hand to be able to feed our animals for 220 days each year. We have 15 yaks to overwinter. We’ve never had our hay tested to determine its protein content. Our yaks will need to eat the equivalent of 14 pounds of dry material per animal per day. So, we estimate they consume 20 pounds per day of baleage. They

seem to prefer baleage over dry hay which is good considering that our summers are getting wetter.

We have sufficient baleage from the prior year. We don’t know if the price will increase but it may because of fuel costs and wrapping-plastic costs. This year will be the latest we have ever hayed. We will only make a ‘first cut’ of hay, and the baleage we will produce will likely be in the poorest condition in terms of feed of any we have ever made. Making baleage is a more forgiving process than making dry hay. But this year there has been even too much rain to make baleage: we haven’t had enough drying days for the fields themselves, along with soil conditions dry enough to support the weight of equipment needed without substantial damage to the fields and/or the equipment.

This year’s wet conditions, while challenging, are better than drought or apocalyptic fires experienced elsewhere in the country. No storms in our immediate area created property loss or damage for us. The pastures regenerated well after grazing. Local springs and running-water sources in pastures will have ample water in them over the course of the winter.”

One farmer described haying this year with a single word: “terrible.” He had 300 acres of fields with first-cut hay still to do as of a week ago. Let’s hope this promised run of 10 dry days actually holds up and our farmers can at least make haylage.

The Agency of Agriculture has a feed finder website’. Here’s the link if you need to buy hay for your animals: <https://cloud.agriculture.vermont.gov/FeedFinder/FindHay.aspx>



**THIS SUMMER’S HEAVY rains greatly affected the hay harvest for many farmers in the area.**  
Photo by Lyn Desmarais



# Vermont expects federal money to provide broadband, strings attached

BY FRED THYS/VTDIGGER

Hunting camps in remote areas. Off-the-grid houses. Summer camps out in the woods. Locations like these would have to get broadband service if Vermont taps a huge source of federal funding.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board recently released a draft proposal that would determine how the state would spend \$229 million in new federal funding to expand high-speed internet access. However, the money from the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program comes with a catch: It requires that every unserved address in Vermont be covered by high-speed broadband.

The federal government defines unserved locations as those that get less than 25 megabits-per-second download and 3 megabits-per-second upload speeds.

Until this new pot of federal money became available, Vermont's goal had been to get all E911 addresses on the electric grid connected to internet service providing at least 100 megabits-per-second for uploads and downloads, according to Ellie de Villiers, president of the Vermont Communications Union District Association. The federal plan aims to cover more locations — just how many is not yet clear.

“Some of the challenge is that we’re now going to have to include some of these locations that we haven’t had to consider before,” de Villiers said. “These are locations that tend to be extremely remote, and the cost to get to them is really high.”

De Villiers said the communications union districts are trying to figure out how to make this work under the new federal rules. Neither de Villiers nor other broadband officials could provide an estimate of how many off-grid sites would need to be included under the federal guidelines.

“It doesn’t make sense to spend \$50,000 or \$100,000 to get to the one address that someone lives in here two weeks during hunting season,” said de Villiers.

The state is counting on private telecommunications providers to upgrade all the homes that already have cable. For the largely rural regions of the state without access to high-speed internet, Vermont is relying on a strategy of allowing municipalities to band together into communications union districts to build out fiber optic service.

Vermont will prioritize affordability, according to Lucy Rogers, rural broadband technical assistance specialist at the Vermont Community Broadband Board. She said affordability includes the cost of a monthly internet plan but also factors in how much revenue providers would be willing to reinvest to make service more affordable and how building in one area might affect affordability in adjacent areas.

“It’s easy to make the internet affordable in densely populated areas,” said Rogers, a former state representative.

Other criteria for how the broadband board proposes to award contracts include how efficiently they would use the federal funds;

whether they would meet fair labor standards; whether projects reflect community will and community input; whether they would be built in coordination with local government and regional planning commissions; whether they would promote equitable workforce development; and whether they would build climate-resilient infrastructure.

Vermont expects to get the federal money next year, according to Rogers. Under the federal guidelines, Vermont and every other state must complete deploying broadband by 2028.

“Of course, we’re going to try to get everybody connected as quick as possible, but we don’t control the timeline for when the federal government gives us funds,” said Robert Fish, deputy director of the broadband board.

In a sense, this new influx of federal money could delay when Vermont provides fast internet to everyone.

“In a lot of ways, the earlier federal funds that came through the coronavirus, through CARES and ARPA, were much more flexible,” said Robert Vitzke, executive director of the Vermont Communications Union District Association, referring to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. “The state was able to put them directly in use.”

Vitzke called the earlier federal funds a “perfect match” between the federal funding coming in and the program that the state had created.

# Mitroff years

(Continued from Page 9)

and Claire was the time Mr. Mitroff hired the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and had a raffle for the winner to conduct the orchestra. Their father, Phil LaPorte, won and was in

his glory conducting one evening.

Ann-Marie then read several excerpts from letters she received from her mother, Mrs. Trudy Mitroff, while at college. These described the multitude of crises that

had occurred, sometimes in succession— candles burning low causing the table decorations to catch on fire; a birthday party for a 90-year-old mother who had one troublemaker son physically starting a fight with his other brothers in a formal dining room; permanent residents keeping track of wasps they killed in their room (20-40-80).

Attendees laughed and nodded their heads, —showing agreement of similar experiences. Many people mentioned they loved the music of regular accordionist Danny Notte with the chef who played the classical violin and especially Mr. Mitroff with a glass of rosé singing throughout the dining room.

The evening went on over two hours and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the memories!

For those interested, Ann-Marie filmed the event so you can contact her through The Reporter if you’d like to get a copy.



ANN-MARIE MITROFF (SEATED center, beneath the screen) leads a trip down memory lane for former employees of the Brandon Inn, which was once owned by her parents, Al and Trudy.

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## REAL ESTATE

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**Fern Lake Building Lot** (Left): 123.54 feet frontage at North end of Fern Lake. 1.02 Acre wooded lake lot. Mountain views to South. Soil work indicates standard in-ground system is possible. Level lake road access from Route 53. Close to Brandon/Middlebury for shopping, theater, groceries & dining. \$149,900.



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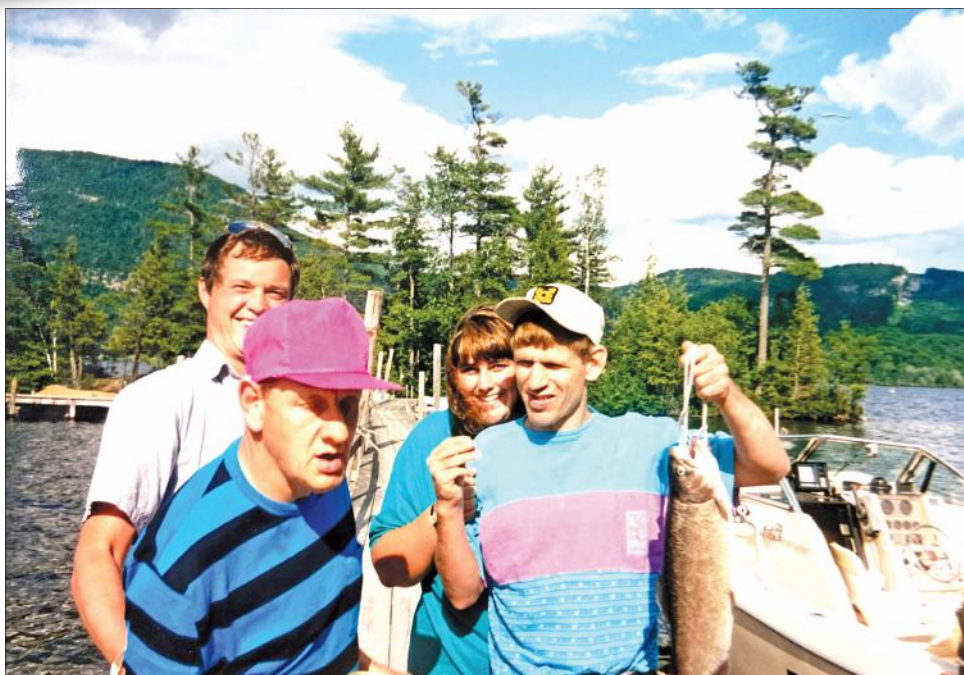
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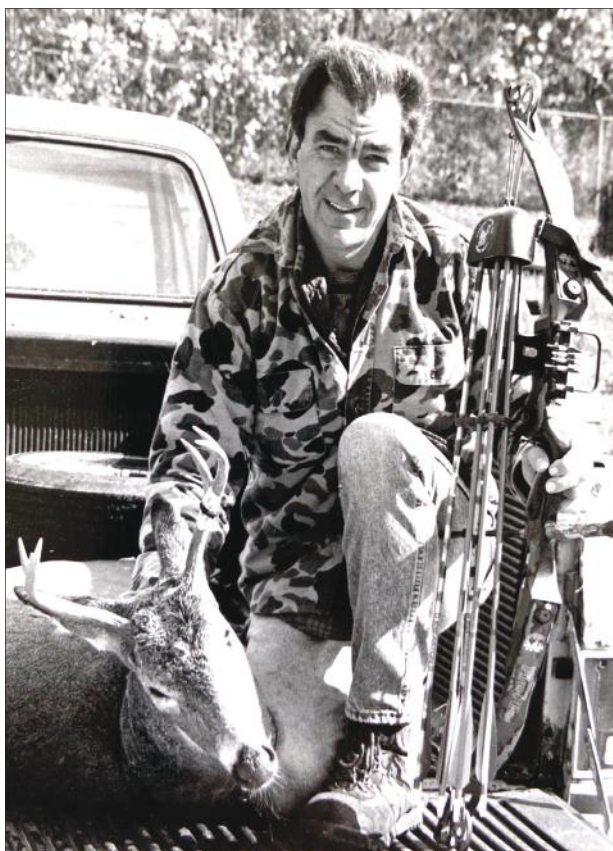


# Mim's Photos

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



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



## Recognized



Terry Ferson of Brandon recognizes the 3rd girl from the right as Leah "Rusin" Larock. Leah was originally from Pittsford. She married Eric Larock and they lived for a while in Brandon, and then moved to Colorado.



Terry also recognizes the guy in all white as Danny Adams who lived in Brandon at the time. Danny graduated in 1969 from Otter Valley. He was the goalie for the boys' soccer team. This is most likely a photo from 1970 of Danny, who was the goalie for an adult soccer league. Danny now lives in Pittsford.



Danielle Woodbury indentified her family from left to right, her cousin Ronnie Alger, her cousin Choppo Aines, and her grandfather Clifford Aines.

Grace Aines of Brandon let us know the man on the far right is her Dad, Clifford Aines. The person in the middle is David "Choppo" Aines, her nephew and her Dad's grandson. The person on the left is Ron Alger, also her nephew and her Dad's grandson. All three folks were from the Brandon area. Clifford and Ron are now deceased; "Choppo" now lives in Pittsford.



# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between east and southeast
4. At right angles to a ship's length
9. William Penn's business partner
14. \_\_\_ de plume
15. Accomplished soccer coach
16. Bone cavities
17. \_\_\_ juris: independent
18. Popular Philly sandwich
20. Northern Ireland county
22. Performing artist
23. S S S
24. Lacks flavor
28. Commercials
29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
30. Qatar's capital
31. Indigenous peoples of Alberta
33. Popular footwear
37. Indicates position
38. Anglican cathedral
39. Aircraft part
41. Before
42. Blood group
43. Secretory organ
44. Fencing swords
46. The small projection of a mammary gland
49. Technological advancement
50. Male parent
51. Dissociable
55. More cold
58. Cape Verde Islands capital
59. Blood disorder
60. Creative
64. Sun up in New York
65. Made angry
66. Relieves
67. Brooklyn hoopster
68. Seasonsings
69. Movable barriers

## CLUES DOWN

1. Occur as a result of
2. Spiritual essences
3. Representative
4. Entering
5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
6. Midway between northeast and east
7. Consumed
8. Tablelands
9. Kids' craft accessory
10. Not known
11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
12. A major division of geological time
13. Wild ox
19. Shock treatment
21. Turner and Lasso are two
24. Genus of flowering plants
25. Relating to ductless glands
26. Stock certificate
27. Satisfies
31. Places to enjoy a rest
32. Edward \_\_\_, author and writer
34. "\_\_\_ but goodie"
35. One hundredth of a liter
36. Shabbiness
40. TV personality Roker
41. Triangular upper part of a building
45. Speed at which you move
47. Offend
48. A reference point to shoot at
52. Forays
53. Biblical city
54. Blatted
56. Northern sea duck
57. Shabby (slang)
59. Allege
60. Tax collector
61. Whereabouts unknown
62. Chinese philosophical principle
63. Indicates equal

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

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# Sudoku

Here's how a sudoku puzzle works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number must appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out where to fill in the missing numbers by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers that are filled in, the easier it gets to solve.

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

Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

## Tips from RCHS about Avoiding Wildlife When Driving

With fall arriving, more wildlife is moving about, especially at night and the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) has a few tips. It's important to be particularly alert when driving, especially at night. Slow down in wildlife areas such as near ponds, rivers, farms, and woods. Pay attention to both sides of the road for animals that might be ready to step out in front of your car. Look for the animal's reflective eyes which are often visible from a distance. Motorcyclists are especially at risk of a collision with a larger animal such as a moose or deer. However, large deer and moose can damage a car greatly and cause serious injuries. Because animals often travel in groups, if you see one on the road slow down to avoid others who may be following. Your car is not recognized by animals as a predator and even if they see it they may run out in front of you. If you hit a deer or moose, pull off to the side of the road and put on your flashers. Don't approach the animal. Report the collision to the state wildlife agency or police. For more information please contact RCHS at 802.483.6700.

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



**MEET MOWGLI - 2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. SHEPHERD/HUSKY MIX. BLACK/GREY.** This silly pup is looking for his next adventure! He came to RCHS on June 12 as a stray from Rutland. He has a bubbly personality and is always up to make new friends. He will need an active family who likes to hike and spend time outside. He is a sweet boy who is excited to meet his new family. If you are interested in meeting him, please stop by Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-4 pm.

### MEET HOBBS - 13 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK.

Hobbes is as sweet as can be. She has lots of love to give and is ready for her next adventure! Hobbes is a very social cat who loves affection. You can often find her rubbing her head against the cage hoping to get some pets. She is a very sweet girl who just wants a couch to sleep on, so make some room! She was surrendered to RCHS on August 3 because her previous owner was unable to care for her. If Hobbes sounds like your type of cat, please stop by to visit with her. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11-4.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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# OFF THE SHELF

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The following Large Print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker

**Blessing of the Lost Girls by J.A. Jance, donated in memory of John Trimmer**

Driven by compulsion, a man calling himself Charles Milton prowls the rodeo circuit, hunting young women. For years, he has been meticulous in his methods, leaving no evidence of his crimes. Indigenous women have become his target of choice, knowing law enforcement's history of ignoring their disappearances. When the cold case of a missing rodeo star Rosa Rios is reopened, Dan Pardee, a field officer with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Task Force, is determined to bring justice to Rosa's family. Joanna Brady's daughter Jennifer is also taking a personal interest in this case, having known Rosa from her own amateur rodeo days. Now a criminal justice major, she's unofficially joining the investigation. As it becomes clearer that Rosa was just one victim of a serial killer, both Jennifer and Dan know they're running out of time to catch an elusive predator who's proven capable of getting away with murder.

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**Wildflower Falls by Denise Hunter, donated in memory of Yvonne Churchill**

When her mother's death leaves Charlotte Simpson bereft, she hopes the Robinson clan will accept her as one of their own and help fill the void. But a startling discovery dashes her hopes and leaves her wondering if she will ever know the father she's always longed for. Horse trainer Gunner Dawson has experienced profound loss and intends to avoid it. So, he lives on the move without forming close bonds or putting down roots. When Charlotte hires him to work with her horses and help expand her ranch, he commits to staying for a few months. But he doesn't count on getting caught up in Charlotte's search for her biological father. Or on falling in love—with Riverbend Gap or with Charlotte. This time, he's not sure if he'll be able to move on—or if he even wants to.

**The Heirloom by Beverly Lewis, donated in memory of Matilda E. Whittaker**

In this prequel to *The Shunning*, 19-year-old Clara Bender is no longer needed to help run her widowed father's household after he remarries. Marriage seems like her best hope of moving out, but there are few young men in her tiny Indiana Amish community. When she comes across letters from her mother's aunt Ella Mae Zook, she sets off to visit Lancaster County's Hickory Hollow to decide where her future lies. Ella Mae is not quite ready to move from the farmhouse where she and her recently deceased husband spent over fifty happy years, but her children are eager to resettle her, making Clara's visit seem like an answer to a prayer. The two women form a warm bond while restoring an heirloom wedding quilt and sharing their lives, with Ella Mae confiding about a tragedy from her courting years. Eventually, Ella Mae suggests Clara stay for the summer, allowing Ella Mae more time with her and giving Clara an opportunity to meet the area's eligible young men. But when the unexpected happens, will Clara find where her heart truly belongs?

## Investigation into threat hoax is ongoing, but presumed safe

September 18

• Brandon Police Department (BPD) is investigating a hoax where the suspect impersonated an employee and threatened to shoot up the Hannaford Supermarket in Brandon. The incident is considered a hoax at this time, but the matter is still under active investigation.

• Vehicle stop on North Street for defective taillight. Warning issued.

September 19

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

• Business property watch at Dunkin' Donuts on Conant Square.

• Vehicle stop on Park Street for driving at night without headlights on. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to signal turn. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

September 20

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

• BPD responded to Conant Square in front of the Dunkin' Donuts for a minor two-car, rear-end motor-vehicle crash with no reported injuries. Minor damage to the vehicles involved. The cause of the crash appeared to be inattention on the part of one of the drivers who did not see traffic stopped ahead in the roadway. The responding officer aided one of the drivers in changing a damaged tire. Both vehicles were able to leave the scene without further incident.

• BPD received a report of vandalism to a mailbox on Cobb Hill Road.

• Traffic stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

• BPD assisted an individual on High Pond Road with a reported stolen debit card. It was determined that the card had not yet arrived in the mail and the complainant was advised to contact his bank. No police action taken.

• A resident of North Birch Hill Road called BPD to report that someone had broken into her house after she found the garage door open and observed someone walking around inside. While en route to the residence, BPD was informed that the complainant had called back to

## Brandon Police Report

say that the individual inside the house turned out to be a family member and not an intruder.

• Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective taillight.

September 21

• BPD responded to Neshobe Elementary School for a complaint of vandalism.

• A citizen reported to BPD suspicious activity on his bank account. He believed someone may have tried to use his identity to open up a line of credit. Investigation underway.

• Officers responded to a minor motor-vehicle crash on Center Street. Incident documented for insurance purposes.

• Traffic stop on McConnell Road for defective equipment. Warning issued.

• Traffic stop on Forest Dale Road. Warning issued. Vehicle was towed by Thunder Towing for defective brakes and lack of insurance.

September 22

• BPD was notified by Vermont State Police (VSP) in New Haven of a crime that was believed to have occurred in Brandon. Further investigation will be done to determine whether the suspected crime actually occurred in Brandon.

• BPD received a report of a man in a tan car who was slumped over the wheel near the intersection of Arnold District Road and Grove Street. The vehicle was not located by responding officers.

• BPD received a report of four gunshots in the vicinity of Grove Street and Farr Way. Upon arrival, officers were unable to determine the source of the noise, which had ceased.

• A lost cell phone was found on Franklin Street and handed in to BPD.

• BPD received a complaint about a domestic disturbance that occurred two years ago at a residence on North Street. Officers were unable to find probable cause that a crime had occurred.

• Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence on Mount Pleasant Drive. A man was trying to gain entry (See Police report, Page 19)

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# Police report

(Continued from Page 18) into the residence. Upon BPD's arrival, both parties were separated and the man agreed to leave for the night. No criminal charges were filed.

## September 23

- Officers responded to a residence on Steinberg Road for reports of a domestic disturbance. Upon investigation, it was alleged that Chelsea Konarski, 22, had thrown a pot of boiling water at a man in the residence with whom she had been arguing. Konarski was also alleged to have grabbed a puppy by the collar and thrown it into a doorway. Konarski claimed to be acting in self-defense. She was arrested for Second Degree Aggravated Assault, Violation of Conditions of Release, and Cruelty to Animals. She was processed at BPD and was subsequently lodged at Marble Valley Correctional Facility.

She was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division at 12:30 p.m. on September 25, 2023 for arraignment.

- Directed patrol on Grove Street. No violations noted.
- BPD received a call concerned a dog that was attacked by two other dogs on Park Street. Matter was referred to the Animal Control Officer.
- An officer conducting traffic enforcement on Park Street was approached by a citizen who informed him of two people who appeared to be intoxicated in a car on the street. The officer located the vehicle but found no one inside.
- Officers spoke with a married couple at BPD who were having a dispute in the parking lot. The couple was separated for the evening and the male was given a courtesy ride to a residence out of town.
- A Visa gift card that was

found on Center Street was turned in at BPD.

- Officers were dispatched to the Junction Store and Deli on Forest Dale Road for a call concerning two suspicious men who were hanging around the parking lot after hours. The officers located one man who was determined to have pulled over to make a phone call. No criminal activity was noted.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.

## September 24

- Traffic enforcement in the area of Florence Road and the Brandon line.
- BPD responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle on Birch Hill Road. Officers determined that the car had not been stolen and suspected that the owner had left it after a tire had gone flat.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street

for drinking from an open container.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- BPD responded to a dispute between two neighbors on Triangle Circle. The dispute involved grass clippings and the parties were advised to keep debris off of each other's property.
- An officer suspected that a vehicle traveling on Maple Street was being operated by a driver with a criminally suspended license. After confirma-

tion from Dispatch, the vehicle was stopped. The driver was identified as Austin J. Wedge, 23, of Brandon. A citation was issued to appear at Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division on 11/20/23 to answer the charge of Criminal DLS.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Conant Square and Prospect Street for a red-light violation. Ticket issued.
- BPD received a complaint of a hit-and-run vehicle crash on Forest Dale Road.

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Have an event to add to our calendar?  
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## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

necessarily have to explain yourself, it's helpful if you do.

**LEO July 23–Aug. 23**  
Leo, if someone already has made up their mind about something, it's unlikely that you will be able to change their way of thinking in one day. Keep at it if it means that much to you.

**TAURUS April 21–May 21**  
There are just a few obstacles that you need to get past before it is smooth sailing for a bit, Taurus. Use these roadblocks as learning opportunities as you go along.

**GEMINI May 22–June 21**  
Gemini, when someone approaches you saying they have a good deal for you, there are certain questions you should ask before moving ahead. It's important to get all the facts.

**CANCER June 22–July 22**  
Others might start asking questions about your whereabouts if you take too many days off from your job, Cancer. While you don't

good graces. Try not to play favorites in this instance.

**CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20**  
No one knows which side of you they will get during an interaction, Capricorn. That can make business or family interactions challenging. Try to be more open.

**AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18**  
Aquarius, you have been managing a lot of extra tasks and could be feeling the added stress from the work. Tune out for a few days to rest yourself and restore your mind to calm.

**PISCES Feb. 19–March 20**  
Pisces, you want to be everyone's friend and go along with any plan that comes your way, but you might have to be a little bit more firm in your choices moving forward.

**LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23**  
Libra, money is a major driving force behind a lot of decisions, but it shouldn't be the only one. You may be taking on too much if you are working yourself to the point of exhaustion.

**SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22**  
Scorpio, you continue to roll with the punches, despite things not going your way just yet. Don't worry, your break is out there. The timing is just off for now.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21**  
Sagittarius, you might be the topic of conversation this week, as others are all figuring out what they can do to be in your

🔮 🔮 🔮 🔮 🔮 🔮 🔮

# Restaurant guide

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# Otter Valley Homecoming



## Homecoming Kings & Queens!

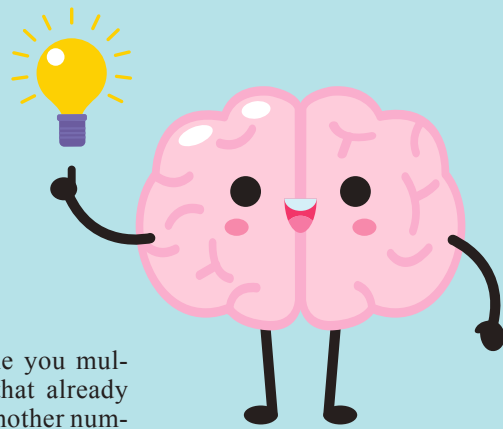
OTTER VALLEY HAD a great homecoming weekend! OV Football won 20 – 14 over Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax; OV Field Hockey won 7 – 2 over Springfield; Boys' Soccer won 2 – 0 over Woodstock Union; and Girls' Soccer fell short 0 – 6 against Fair Haven. All in all, a fantastic weekend, capped by a Homecoming Dance on Saturday night. Go Otters!

Photos by Greg Babcock, Jonna Keith, and Steven Jupiter.





# Brandon Brain Buster Answered



## Answer: A) 1

First, there's no way we'd ask you to multiply a hundred numbers together, so you ought to assume there's a shortcut to this. And indeed there is.

The shortcut is to remember that the result of a multiplication (called the "product") will end in some number of zeroes if at least one of the numbers you multiplied already ended in zero OR if at least one of the numbers ended in 5 and at least one other is even (because  $5 \times 2 = 10$ ). For example:

- $3 \times 7 \times 10 = 210$
- $4 \times 7 \times 20 = 560$
- $12 \times 15 = 180$
- $22 \times 25 = 550$

And every time you multiply a number that already ends in zero by another number that ends in zero, you add the number of zeroes at the ends of those numbers to determine how many zeroes the product will end in. For example:

- $10 \times 10 = 100$
- $10 \times 100 = 1,000$
- $100 \times 100 = 10,000$
- $30 \times 40,000 = 1,200,000$

So, if you think about multiplying all the whole numbers from 1 to 100, you realize that there are going to be a lot of numbers in there that already end in zero (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100) and a lot of numbers that are even or end in 5. So K, which was the product

of 1 through 100, will end with many, many zeros. You don't need to even know how many. You just need to realize that if you add 70 to a number that already ends with two or more zeroes, the result will end in 70, which means that the result will end with just one zero. For example:

- $100 + 70 = 170$
- $2,000 + 70 = 2,070$
- $30,000 + 70 = 30,070$
- $430,000 + 70 = 430,070$

The answer is (A): 1

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# Brandon High

(Continued from Page 6)

a town-wide property reappraisal raised the value of the building and the tax liability increased 1,600%. Briscoe ended up losing the school. He became friendly with the new owner and eventually rebought the place in 2017. His preservationist's heart just couldn't let go. Meanwhile, the building sank further and further into disrepair.

Finally, though, there seems to be a viable, albeit ambitious, plan in the works to bring the building back from the brink.

"I've been associated with this building for about 20 years," Briscoe said recently in the cavernous former classroom that currently acts as an office/meeting area. "I'm very excited by what's going on with it now."

Briscoe has partnered with Jeff Dordozzi, an experienced, local builder who is a principal in Living Structure, which describes itself as an "autonomous architecture collective dedicated to empowering people and communities to directly participate in creating their built environments." The idea behind the partnership is to turn the old Brandon High School into a combination of residential and community spaces that will help fulfill several needs in the local area: affordable housing for middle-income people,

envisioning Brandon High School) that will undertake the rehabilitation of the building with the goal of establishing a co-housing community and eventually purchasing the building from Briscoe. reBHS is composed of community members and the other partners in Living Structure: Joy Marcotte, Beth Weeden, and Jill Pariseault. reBHS has also brought on Allen Pierce, an architect who teaches at Temple University in Philadelphia. At a recent planning session at the high school, about a dozen people showed up to have pizza and brainstorm next steps, with Mr. Pierce on Zoom.

To make the project financially feasible, some of the physical work will need to be done by members of reBHS. But the members of the group seem ready to roll up their sleeves:

"I've met so many people fascinated with the building and who want to see something done with it," said Dan Brett, a local artist who shows at the Brandon Artists Guild (BAG). "Now we have a chance to make that a reality."

Kevin Booth, who works in the science departments at Middlebury College, said, "The sense of style these people bring to it...If you've seen the work they've done, you know what they'll do here will have class and refinement." Living Structure helped Booth with his own house.

"I can see how it can have a huge positive impact on the community," said David Martin, a Brandon resident and one of the founding members of BAG.

"The physical world is something we're constantly involved with," added Paul Marr Hilliard. "I'm just fascinated by this building."

Dordozzi himself can wax poetic about the building, remarking on its "spiritual aspect," calling it "a remarkable masterpiece," and wishing that "kids today could learn in rooms like these."

The building was put up in 1916, designed by architect Elmer Bailey as one of the earliest "modern" high schools in the country. As America shifted out of the 19th-century, there was a concurrent shift in education, with an emphasis on science (BHS had a dedicated school science lab) and physical education (BHS had the largest gymnasium in Vermont when it opened).

The building today is almost literally a shell of its former self. Water damage, vandalism, and deferred maintenance required that al-

most all the walls be stripped down to the studs. But the place is still undeniably intriguing. The two curved stairwells between the main floors and the wide main corridors still retain something poignant, evoking the memory of all the students who passed through between 1916 and 1961. While the poor condition of the building has been an enticing mystery to some, it also gave rise to rumors of squatters and drug use and caused others in the community to doubt Briscoe's vision.

But Briscoe and Dordozzi have set their sights on 2024 as the year when big changes will come to BHS. They need to get certain work in the building completed by July of 2024 in order to take advantage of state tax credits that will end up providing significant funds for further renovations. The most important of this work is to bring the building up to code and to restore the façade.

Bringing the building up to code, including accessibility issues, is necessary to obtain a certificate of occupancy, and the work on the façade is seen as a morale booster and a way to show the community that positive change is underway. The exterior work will respect the historical importance of the building but will also provide a fresh face for a new chapter in the building's history.

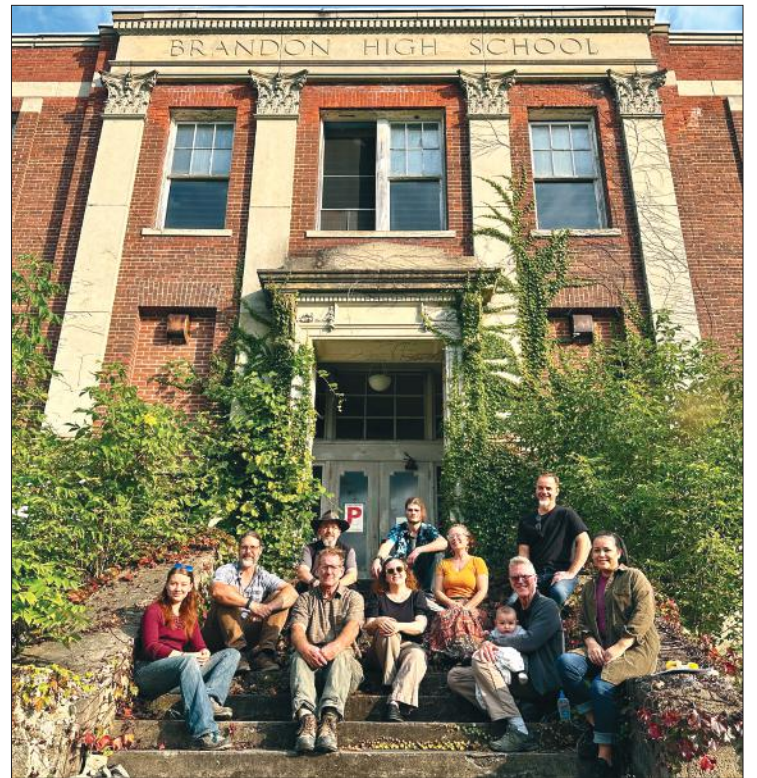
Half of the expansive main floor will eventually contain public spaces that can be used for events, performances (on a recent night, the strains of a vintage electric organ filled the air), and exhibitions. The rest of that floor, plus the second floor, will be used for rental units on a co-housing model, which means that the tenants will have their private space but the kitchen will be shared. The basement level, which has direct exterior access, will include studio spaces, workshops, perhaps even a café.

"It's not going to be the kind of place where you come home and just shut your door," said Dordozzi. reBHS sees its mission as creating a community, a "live/work/cultural hub." The goal is to avoid the purely money-driven gentrification of many such projects and instead turn BHS into a "cultural artifact."

reBHS is still in its early phases and the group is actively seeking funding and new members interested in helping bring this vision to fruition. A request for ARPA funds at the last meeting of the Brandon Selectboard was not successful but was not rejected outright, either. It was clear that Briscoe and Dordozzi had piqued the interest of some of the Board members.

After all the years of speculation, it looks like there may finally be a light at the end of the hallway, so to speak.

Anyone interested in learning



**THE REBHS CREW on the front steps of the old High School. L to R: Beth Weeden, Dan Brett, Dan Martin (behind), Jeff Dordozzi (front), Joy Marcotte, Jameson Pariseault, Jill Pariseault, Frank Briscoe (holding son Franco), Paul Marr Hilliard (back), and Julie Briscoe.**

Photo by Steven Jupiter

more about reBHS, becoming a School should contact Joy Marcotte member, or simply sharing memories of their time at Brandon High at joymarcotte@gmail.com.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZING CAUCUS

There will be a caucus of the Democratic Party of the Town of Brandon to select members and officers of the Town Committee and members of the County Committee at the Stephen A. Douglas House at 6 pm on Thursday, September 28, 2023

**If you have any questions, please contact Bob Clark, chair of the Brandon Democratic Party at 802-247-3935.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT OVUUSD is seeking to fill the following School Board vacant seats:

- 1 – Brandon Representative
- 1 – Pittsford Representative

The appointed school board members for these seats must be a resident of the respective town and would serve through to the next election in March 2024.

Interested parties should send a letter identifying the seat they wish to be considered for and outlining why they would be a good addition to the Board to Melinda Piper at mpiper@rnesu.org by no later than Thursday, September 28, 2023.

The Board intends to take action at the following OVUU School Board meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the OVUHS Library.



public space for the community, and the rehabilitation of an important, historic building in dire need of restoration.

Though Dordozzi comes to the project with years of experience, he recognizes and even embraces the challenges.

"It's a difficult building from a financial perspective," he said. "There's a lot of non-monetizable space. A lot of solutions being offered are not solutions."

The solution that Briscoe and Dordozzi are proposing is to create a nonprofit called reBHS (re-





1968 OV GRADS. Seated left to right: Chuck LaPorte, Ann-Marie Mitroff, Linda Waters Dolan, Sharleen Warner Torsnes, Benny Wisell, Frank Mazza. Middle: James Peck, Jayne Wacome Hart, Barbara Wilbur Ladabouche,

Florence Dutton Hemingway, Mary Ellen Gilligan Grace, Diana Whittemore Coleman, Debbie Wetmore Hadeka, Christine Comeau McPhee, Danny Douglas, Bud Snow, Craig Johnson. Back: Paul Desforges (partially hidden),

Betsy Churchill Eugair, Pam Mulcahy Ketcham, Roger Foley, Pat Brennan, Joyce Hier Errecart (partially hidden), Bobby Crosby, Greg Whitehorne (partially hidden), and Coach Chuck Memoe. Photo by Audrey Crossman Peck

## Otter Valley 55th reunion, class of '68 remembers the 60s

BY JAMES PECK

BRANDON-The Otter Valley Class of 1968 celebrated its 55th reunion this past Saturday evening at the Brandon Inn. 26 classmates and 15 of their spouses attended and had a very enjoyable night of cocktails, dinner, and dancing while reminiscing about their days at OV. The class of 1968 was only the second class to compete all six years from 7th Grade to Senior Year at Otter Valley.

Coach Chuck Memoe, a favorite

mentor and teacher to many in the class, made a special appearance and gave the class his sage advice to “take each day at a time and enjoy the journey.”

The class has held six previous reunions over the years, the latest being the 50th at the Neshobe Golf Club in 2018. This year, the reunion committee members met via Zoom to plan the festivities. Spearheaded by dedicated organizers Diana Whittemore Coleman, Debbie Wetmore Hadeka, Linda Waters Dolan, Ann-Marie Mitroff, Jayne

Wacome Hart, Chuck LaPorte, Patty Lee Jaquith, and James Peck, there was even a trivia contest with 10 questions about OV and the year 1968.

What was the full name of the band director? Answer: Napoleon Ianni.

How much was a meal token? Answer: 35 cents.

How much was a postage stamp? Answer: 5 cents.

Who was the US President? Answer: Lyndon Baines Johnson

A lighting of candles, reading of

names, and moment of silence was held for the 27 classmates who have passed.

The evening was completed by dancing to music from the 60s. Believe it or not, these septuagenarians can still cut a rug and there was dancing to “Mony Mony,” “Hanky Panky,” “Wooly Bully,” “Love Shack,” “Old Time Rock n’ Roll,” and many other catchy tunes.

All classmates thoroughly enjoyed the evening festivities and their trip down Memory Lane!

# Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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