

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

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\$1



## CONVERSATION WITH AN ARTIST

The Reporter's Sepi Alavi interviews local artist Colin Boyd.

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## SLOW THE SPREAD

Brandon's Tree Warden explains how to mitigate the spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

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PG. 10

## HARD TELLIN'

Dave Praamsma on the joys of local swimming holes.

PG. 8



## THEATER REVIEW

Otter Valley students had the audience in stitches in their performance of "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic."

PG. 14



PETE BREEN AND Tom Soderberg flank Skip Jennings in old time golf attire.  
Photos by George Fjeld

## Skip Jennings Founders Cup Golf Tournament held at Neshobe Golf Club

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Skip Jennings, 93 years old, led off the tournament with a beautiful drive right down the middle of the fairway on hole #1. He helped build the course in 1958 and

has been playing there ever since. Fifty-six teams of two partners each played 2 rounds of golf amid glorious weather. The golf course was in excellent shape, most notably the  
(See Skip Jennings Tournament, Page 9)

## Kathy Bertrand retires after 30 years at the Brandon Post Office

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Kathy Bertrand, Sudbury native, retired on Friday, May 31st from the Brandon Post Office, where she has worked for 30 years. Starting as a substitute in 1995, she finished as the regular carrier on the Birch Hill route. Many readers may remember her from the 15 years she worked at the Grand Union grocery store. When asked what she plans to do in her retirement, she replied, "Anything I want to do! I'm go-

ing to be a free spirit!" Postmaster Patty Brown said Kathy rarely missed a day and that her customers will miss her. Brown only remembered Bertrand getting mad once: "She was on vacation and I threw away a pile of junky rubber bands that she was saving. Boy, was she mad at me when she returned and found them missing." Bertrand was one of 12 women and 4 men who staff the post office. Her co-workers surprised her with balloons and flowers to celebrate.



KATHY BERTRAND

## Kaizen Fitness Arts, martial arts studio, opens in Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Growing up in New Hampshire, David Belanger was a big fan of Ip Man, a Chinese martial artist who taught the legendary Bruce Lee.

"I was fascinated by the idea that a smaller, weaker person could overtake someone larger and stronger," said Belanger, now 33.

But in the Lebanon, NH area where he lived, the only martial-arts studio offered only karate, though it focused more on exercise than on hand-to-hand sparring.

(See Kaizen Fitness Arts, Page 11)

DAVID BELANGER SITS on the mat in his new martial-arts studio in Brandon: Kaizen Fitness Arts. Belanger has been practicing jiu jitsu for 12 years and is now offering classes to the public.



# Conversation with an Artist: Colin C Boyd

BY SEPI ALAVI

Colin Boyd is an artist living and working in Middlebury, Vermont. He is a co-founder of Collar Works Gallery in Troy, NY. In his life he has been a high school teacher, studio art technician, and visiting lecturer in animation and sculpture at various colleges and universities. *(He is also a friend, so I'm probably going to make side commentary on his answers . . .)*

You can find his work at [www.colinboydart.com](http://www.colinboydart.com).

**1. What job would you have if you weren't an artist?**

Probably a mechanic, carpenter, model maker, or illustrator, or one of the many other things I try to do as an artist. *(He's currently refurbishing both a VW Beetle and a VW Van—bright orange. Smells like vinyl.)*

**2. What conversation would you like to have with any dead artist?**

Panamarenko. (1940–2019) Though I'd like the conversation to have been a serendipitous human encounter, no studio talk. I have a great respect for his work, in both its playfulness and complexity.

ties for invention and curiosity and challenges.

**5. Why live in Vermont?**

I arrived in VT ten years ago for a job. I really only started "living" here five years ago. I appreciate knowing the kind faces around town, but also being able to slink away for a while when I need to.

**6. What's your favorite smell?**

Balsam fir (natural), vinyl interior of old cars (human-made).

**7. What book(s) are you reading right now?**

I am currently reading *Blue Highways* (1982) by William Least Heat Moon. New to me, but was recommended as one of the greats in the lineages of books recounting road wandering, history seeking, and random human encounter.

**8. Are there any artists that you wish had a wider audience?**

Josh Chambers (1976–2021). Josh was an amazing playwright, director, and visual artist. I collaborated with him as a set designer on several stage plays and his original opera, *Speed Curses* (2011), a memoir staged as a baseball game in a defunct warehouse. However, his genius work may be forever lost.



COLIN C. BOYD at the site installation for *Elchliebe*, in Griffen, Austria's Künstlersymposium xyz.



HENRI VAN HERWEGEN, known by the pseudonym Panamarenko, poses for a photo in front of his work at the Panamarenko Exhibition at the Musee des Beaux Arts on January 18, 2006 in Brussels, Belgium.

**3. If you could collaborate/work with any living artist who would it be, and what sort of project would you like to undertake?**

Jason Brown, aka Firefly. Mixed-media stop-motion, converging landscapes and timescapes. I have been inspired and in awe of his work *WABANAVIA*, 2020. *(Jason Brown/Firefly, is a Native American artist of the Penobscot Nation, with Swedish roots, born and raised in ancient Wabanaki territory.)*

**4. Describe the experience that led you to become a sculptor?**

I went to art school with the idea that I would be a filmmaker. My professor and lifelong mentor, Daniel Buckingham sparked within me a great light in narratives and kinetics through sculpture. I consider sculpture to have limitless possibili-



WABANAVIA, 2022, STILL from multimedia experience by Jason Brown aka Firefly.

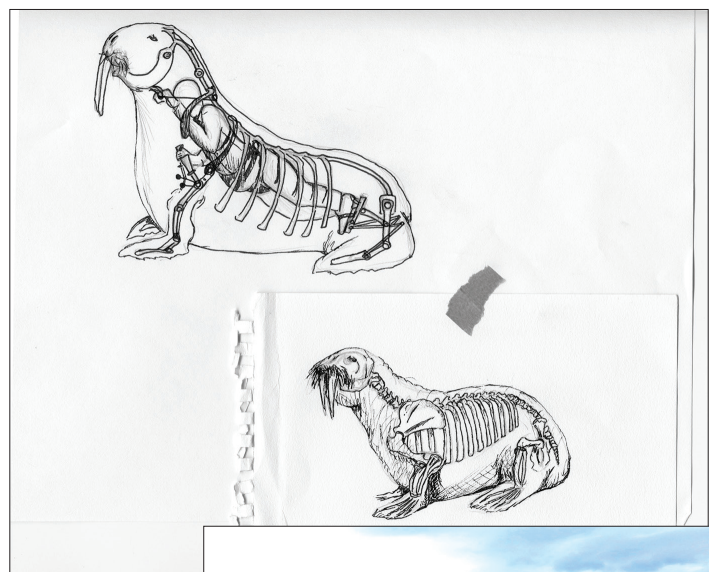
**9. What does your daily routine look like?**

Wake up to read or watch other people do things on the internet. Think about all the artwork I am not making while at work. Daydream,

daydream, daydream. End the day with house projects, garage projects, and studio time. Watch some fiction, listen to music, play word games, and go to bed.

**10. How you think about your work locally versus your national presence.**

I have not shown much at all in VT. My presence along the Hudson was more intertwined and active. Nationally and internationally have been sparse. In the action in NY, the opportunities to collaborate on projects, exhibitions, and events were amazing . . . still looking for that type of niche here. *(He's selling himself short; he's shown at a few places in Vermont, Austria, Massachusetts, and Minnesota, as well as the many showings he's had in New York.)*



CONCEPT DRAWINGS AND final form for *A Merman I Should Turn to Be* (2017) by Colin C Boyd. The walrus form is a mechanical puppet which the operator goes inside to become a merman.

I often go into work-trance while listening to Gustav Holst's *The Planets Suite*. It has inspired nearly all of my work to the on-going project *Galleon*, a multi-media project of writing, stop-motion film, ephemera, and sculpture.

**12. Is there a childhood object that you still have? (If not, is there one that you wish you still had?)**

A mastodon vertebrae, a fifteen thousand year old bone my grandfather had as a lab specimen. It is a talisman and inspiration for all of my work.

**13. What's your ideal dinner—food, company, & location?**

A kettle grill loaded with lump charcoal. Grilled meats and vegetables. Friends and family, and relaxing by the trees.



# Brandon Tree Warden warns of Emerald Ash Borers

It's been six years since the emerald ash borer (EAB) was first spotted in Vermont. The bugs' larvae eat through the inside of ash trees, disrupting their circulatory systems and killing them in as quickly as a few years. Different towns have adopted varying approaches to EAB management. So far, Brandon has been spared from EAB, but the infestation maps move closer every year.

*There is no reasonable way to eliminate EAB. And the means we have for prevention are largely devoted to Slowing the Spread.*

As we get outdoors more often and take advantage of the warmer weather, the EAB is also emerging. Early detection and slowing the spread of EAB is crucial to mitigating the impacts of this forest pest. Here are some important things to keep in mind as we work together to manage the health and resilience of our trees.

EAB flight season starts on June 1st and goes through September 30th. During this time of year, adult EAB will

be emerging from infested ash trees, logs, and firewood, and seeking new host trees and mates. Therefore, moving ash materials could spread EAB to currently uninfested areas.

During the flight season, there are more stringent recommendations for moving visibly infested ash materials.

There is no reasonable way to eliminate EAB. And the means we have for prevention are largely devoted to Slowing the Spread.

Our actions can drastically impact the rate of EAB spread in our forests and communities. It is important to follow Vermont's Slow the Spread Recommendations. This includes delaying harvesting and not moving untreated ash until after flight season (October 1st). Slowing the spread of EAB will allow us more time to prepare and respond to this threat, but we will all need to work together. If you are a landowner or someone who plans to deal

with ash materials, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR), as well as the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) have outlined the following options for treating different types of ash materials from infested areas.

## NEW EAB DETECTIONS

In 2024, we already have four new Vermont towns with confirmed EAB detections: Dorset, Newfane, Norwich, and Thetford. The EAB Infested Area Map (<https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>) shows the towns in which EAB infestations have been detected. The map also highlights the need for slowing the spread: a relatively large area remains unaffected, and visibly infested trees are still rare in Vermont.

## INFESTED AREAS

Because not all infestations have been observed and reported, you can use the EAB Infested Area Map to determine the likelihood that an area is infested. Although Brandon does not have a confirmed infestation, understanding the likelihood and severity of infestation in the area highlights the importance of slowing the spread.

## REPORT IT!

If you think you have found EAB or an infested ash tree, report it at [www.vtinvasives.org](http://www.vtinvasives.org)! Having more information about where EAB is around the state will help all of us in managing the pest. We appreciate your partnership in this effort.

*Neil Silins is  
Brandon's Tree Warden*



## Spotlight On Business CARR'S GIFTS



After 40 years of being a full-service florist and gift shop, in 2018 we sold the floral section and expanded our gift lines. 2024 is our 46th year of doing business in beautiful downtown Brandon. It's been a

wonderful experience and our interaction with so many people in the village makes it feel like one big family reunion every day! We couldn't have done it without great customers, and we appreciate you all!



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BRANDON REPORTER

## Opinion

## School districts across the area are grappling with the future

REP. PETER CONLON,  
CORNWALL  
SEN. RUTH HARDY,  
MIDDLEBURY

In the coming days and weeks, three school districts serving students from Addison County and beyond will revote budgets for the next school year. Since Town Meeting Day, when the budgets for Mount Abe, Slate Valley and Otter Valley union school districts were first defeated, the district school boards have made difficult, responsible decisions to cut staff, programs and investments, while keeping core teaching and learning alive and robust.

Meanwhile, those of us in the Legislature, tasked with funding locally approved school budgets, have heard the pleas of taxpayers and committed significant state dollars to reducing the local property tax impact of education spending increases statewide, driven by factors such as overall inflation, a 16 percent hike in health insurance costs, and a dramatic increase in student mental health and remedial education needs as federal dollars to support those students goes away.

These districts can't responsibly cut more. It is time to approve their budgets so school leaders can plan for the next school year and provide the vital programs and services that so many students need.

These three districts, like all the districts with unapproved budgets in Vermont, don't fit the picture the Governor has painted in the last six months. Their budget increases are reasonable given forces beyond their control, their per pupil spending is well below their neighboring school

districts, and their staff-to-student ratios are where they should be. The Governor continues to irresponsibly stress that school spending is out of control and school boards need to respond. These three districts already have. Over the past 10 years, they have closed underenrolled schools, consolidated grades and made important investments in their buildings when resources allowed.

For each of these districts, the newly proposed budgets have been significantly narrowed and would actually result in lower homestead tax rates than this year. Increased property tax rates come only after the common level of appraisal (CLA) is applied, which essentially adjusts appraised property values to reflect fair market values, with the goal of ensuring that all towns pay their fair share into the state Education Fund. When properties are under-valued, the tax rate increases. As towns complete reappraisals, the CLA impact will decrease.

The newly proposed Slate Valley School District budget proposes to spend only \$11,295 per pupil, a decrease from this year and significantly less than the statewide average. The equalized tax rate is actually 2.61% less than this year. After the CLA is applied, tax rates increase, but at a lower level than the statewide average. Similarly, the newly proposed Mount Abe budget lowers the homestead tax rate by 4.7 percent, with tax rate increases of 4 to 7 percent after the CLA adjustment, which is a similar range to previous year's (See *Schools grapple*, Page 21)



### Fly the friendly skies

THIS PAIR OF sandhill cranes seem to perform an aerial ballet as they come in for a landing.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

# Celebrate Vermont Days with free entrance to state parks and state historic sites

MONTPELIER, Vt. — As part of Vermont Days, the State of Vermont is offering free admission to Vermont State Parks and Vermont State Historic Sites on Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9, 2024.

"Vermont Days is a great way to explore Vermont, enjoy the warmer weather, and try something new this summer. We're offering free admission to Vermont State Parks and State Historic Sites all weekend long," said Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing Commis-

sioner Heather Pelham.

The Vermont State Park system turns 100 years old this year. Celebrate Vermont Days by visiting one of Vermont's 55 state parks.

"We want to hear from our loyal Vermont State Park fans about what parks mean to them, and we're eager to welcome new visitors who haven't typically visited state parks before," said State Parks Director Nate McKeen. McKeen also encourages people to join the anniversary celebration during Vermont

Days and beyond. "Share your parks stories, plan your next visit, explore our calendar of events, and purchase special edition 100th anniversary merchandise at the Vermont State Parks 100th Anniversary website."

In addition to free admission to Vermont State Parks and State Historic Sites, the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier will offer free admission on Saturday, June 8.

There will also be several family- (See *Vermont Days*, Page 5)

## The REPORTER

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## The Shoreham Strawberry Festival returns again, join us for outdoor fun

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 19, 2024, from 6 to 8 PM at the Gazebo on the Shoreham Town Green. As it has for decades, the Shoreham Congregational Church is proud to offer its famous Strawberry Shortcake with fresh Vermont strawberries, biscuits, and real whipped cream.

The Strawberry Festival will

be take-out only. This year we are offering two sizes. The regular generous portion of shortcake made with one biscuit costs \$7, while a smaller portion made with half a biscuit costs \$4. Bottled water will be available for an extra \$1. Patrons will follow one-way traffic through the lower floor of the church to pick up their shortcake, and bring it outside

to eat as they enjoy the music. Patrons should bring picnic blankets or lawn chairs to arrange for seating on the lawn near the gazebo.

Nick Thornblade will provide music on his accordion, supported by a free will offering.

Join us for a great evening of good music and good food!

# Letters to the Editor

## Walking Stick did an amazing job with 'Puffs'

We watched "Puffs" at Otter Valley last night. It was a great play because it had a lot of Hufflepuffs in it. As fans of Harry Potter know, Hufflepuffs are friendly, loyal people who aren't very smart. They were all especially funny when they did their emergency formations, in which they chanted "We are not a threat! Please be our friends!" All the actors were on point and where they needed to be the whole entire play.

The costumes were simple and clever. Lord Voldemort was quite funny when he couldn't find his shoes and complained about it throughout the play! It was very impressive because the actors each played multiple characters and the costumes helped you tell them apart.

The special effects were amazing. There was a scene where Dementors floated up from the background while the stage was nearly pitch black. It was actu-

ally mildly spooky! The stage did not change the whole time, but you felt like you were in different places.

Good job to Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre! We will save our souvenir Puffs-brand tissue and small yellow PUFFS flag forever.

*Leif Nelson, age 11  
(with help from Heather Nelson)  
Brandon*

## Mallory's Automotive to close temporarily on July 20

I would like to inform my customers and friends that Mallory's Automotive will again have to close down for health reasons. I will be having pancreas surgery on July 25. My plan is to work until July 20. I'll come back after I heal and run my shop to the best of my ability. Folks can still call for appointments, but we

will not schedule past July 20. My grandson will be working in the shop and helping me along before my surgery. My recovery time will be 6 to 8 weeks.

Thank you for all the calls, prayers, and support!

*Eric Mallory  
Forest Dale*

## Community Forums continued

# Protect nesting loons and chicks by enjoying them from a safe distance

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- Few birding experiences rival hearing the haunting call of the loon or seeing them glide by in protected coves on a lake. However, for the birds' protection, Vermont Fish and Wildlife is asking boaters and anglers to enjoy loons from a safe distance this summer.

"Loons were removed from Vermont's endangered species list in 2005, but they face continued threats from human disturbance during the breeding season and ingestion of fishing gear," said Rosalind Renfrew, wildlife biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

"Many areas where loons nest on Vermont's lakes are surrounded by signs reminding people to give loons the space they need, but not all nesting areas are marked. We're asking people to enjoy loons from a distance rather

than approaching them, whether you are in a boat or on shore."

Renfrew also reminds people to avoid using lead fishing tackle. Every year Vermont loons die from lead poisoning after swallowing fishing tackle. Lead sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less are prohibited in Vermont, but larger tackle still has the capacity to slough off lead into the environment over time. Renfrew also recommends anglers to be careful to not attract loons to their bait and lures, and especially to not leave any fishing line behind as it can entangle and kill loons.

Eric Hanson, biologist with the Vermont Loon Conservation Project and Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), asks anglers to reel in for a few minutes if loons are diving nearby. To give anglers a place to discard their lead tack-

le, VCE will be placing collection tubes for lead tackle and discarded fishing line at over 20 boat access areas beginning this summer. VCE coordinates the loon project in partnership with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Hanson and his colleagues monitor Vermont's loon population and have put out game cameras around loon nests to monitor the behavior of people around them. Hanson says most people are respectful of nesting loons and give them space, but people sometimes inadvertently harm loons without meaning to.

"Loon chicks can be difficult to see, so we ask motorboaters to note where loon families are and to avoid those areas," said Hanson. "We also ask that motorboaters obey 'no wake' laws within 200 feet of shorelines because

boat wakes can flood and destroy shoreline loon nests."

As Vermont's loon population continues to increase and canoeing and kayaking continues to become more popular, there is greater potential for people to come into conflict with loons. Hanson reminds boaters to avoid pursuing loons in a canoe or kayak, especially loons with young.

"Occasionally a loon will be curious and approach people, and if that happens, just enjoy it," said Hanson. "However, loons that are constantly swimming away from you are stressed and may abandon their young if they feel they are in danger."

Hanson also urges shoreline property owners to maintain appropriate habitat for loons, including shrubby and forested areas along shorelines, where loons can

nest. Having shrubs and trees instead of lawns along shorelines also improves water quality which is essential for healthy lakes, aquatic insects, fish eggs, fish, and loons.

Volunteers interested in monitoring loons for the Loon Conservation Project should contact Hanson at loon@vtcostudies.org. Volunteers can monitor lakes all summer long with a focus on lakes with loon pairs and nesting.

Volunteers can also survey one or two lakes on Loonwatch Day, being held on July 20 this year, between 8 and 9 a.m. The goal is to survey all lakes greater than 20 acres at the same time, which provides a population count and checks on small lakes that are surveyed less often during the rest of year.

# Vermont Days

*(Continued from Page 4)*

friendly events happening throughout the weekend.

Event details are as follows:

### FREE FISHING DAY

Saturday, June 8 Statewide

Vermont's Free Fishing Day allows both resident and nonresident anglers to go fishing in Vermont for the day without a license. While it will be free to fish across the entire state on June 8, and anglers without a license can fish on that day, anglers still need to follow the state fishing regulations. Learn more about Free Fishing Day.

Grand Isle Fishing Festival

Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Ed Weed Fish Culture Station, 14 Bell Hill Road, Grand Isle.

Designed for young anglers and families, this free event offers

basic fishing instruction, free fishing equipment to borrow, and the chance for kids to catch big trout in the hatchery pond. The day will be filled with a variety of activities from fish biology, fly casting, law digest and regulations, lure making, fish cleaning and more. Learn more about the festival.

### VERMONT HISTORY MUSEUM MONTPELIER

Saturday, June 8, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, at 109 State St, Montpelier, VT 05609

The Vermont History Museum in Montpelier will open on June 8, with admission by donation for residents and nonresidents. Visitors can experience various exhibits, including "Freedom & Unity," "A Stitch in Time," "Calvin Coolidge: Vermont's President," and "Fair-

banks Scales: Weighing the World," which tell the story of Vermont and the people who have lived here.

### VERMONT STATE PARKS CENTENNIAL

Enjoy free day use entry to all Vermont State Parks' day use areas. Explore the parks, make new memories, and share your park stories. Learn more about celebrating 100 years of Vermont State Parks at [www.vermontparksforever.org/100-years](http://www.vermontparksforever.org/100-years).

### LORIE DEHIMER CONCERT AT TOWNSHEND STATE PARK

Saturday, June 8, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at 2755 State Forest Rd, Townshend, VT 05353

65 Emerald Lake Lane, East Dorset, VT 05253, Emerald Lake State Park

Enjoy acoustic music from local performer Lorie DeHimer. The event is free.

### FLY A KITE AT VERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITES

Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

All Vermont State Historic Sites encourage visitors to BYOK- bring your own kite – and fly it at a State Historic Site. If you do not already have a kite, you can purchase one at sites with gift shops.

### MUSICAL STORYTELLING BY ELI ELKUS AT KNIGHT POINT STATE PARK

Saturday, June 8, 3:00–5:00 pm at Knight Point State Park, 44 Knights Point Rd, North Hero, VT 05474 – Meet at the shelter

This will be a free concert with park entry. Eli Elkus is a Musical Storyteller, SongCraftsman, and Folk Activist. He began sculpting his craft as a young troubadour fishin' for songs by the riversides and busking in the streets of New England. It was here the love of folk

music and storytelling found him, connecting with perfect strangers through meter, melody, and merit-making story and song. Music for the people, by the people. And so it goes. This performances draw upon a vast repertoire of original songs and stories from his travels and re-kindlings of Old Timey Americana, Folk & Blues songs dating back to the early 1900s. Recent works have been in cahoots with his partner in life and songcrafting Lara Wahl, including their first album together, Postcards From Heaven.

To request accessible accommodations for any of the events listed above, please contact Elle O'Casey (Chief Marketing Officer) at [ellocasey@vermont.gov](mailto:ellocasey@vermont.gov) or 802-760-9967.

For more information on Vermont Days, visit [www.vermont-days.com](http://www.vermont-days.com).

# Obituaries

## Eleanor Anne Holsman, 88, Ripton

RIPTON — Eleanor Anne (Wesslen) Holsman passed away on May 8, 2024, surrounded by love and support.

Born on September 3, 1935 in Ware, Massachusetts, Ellie was the second daughter born to Alfred and Annabelle (Goodrich) Wesslen.

Some of Ellie's earliest memories had to do with her small stature, including needing books put under her feet to keep them from dangling in elementary school. She also carried memories of war time with her, hating margarine until the day she died because one of her chores at home was squishing the color tablets into their margarine. VE and VJ Days were days of joy and hope for her, and she often told her family stories about those celebrations.

A graduate of Northfield School for Girls, Ellie worked vacations at the Ware Knitters textile mill, where her sister, mother, and father all worked as well. Later, she would attend college to become a primary-school teacher. From a young age, Ellie loved to travel, and traveled the world with her sister and friend Judy, including traveling to Egypt, all over Europe and the former Soviet Union, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine. She also taught and lived in Germany and was one of the first civilian Americans to pass through Checkpoint Charlie to enter East Germany. Later in her life, she returned to traveling with her sister, including trips to Italy and Russia.

Soon after returning to the United States, Ellie was teaching in a public school near Lenox, Massachusetts, where she met Wayne Holsman, and they became friends. A decision to co-buy and raise a basset hound named Justina Jane led to their romance and later marriage.

Over the next decade, they would live and teach in several private schools, then Wayne moved on to be minister of several church-



**ELEANOR A. HOLSMAN**

es and Ellie would teach in public schools in the area. In 1969, they welcomed their only child, Kristin.

One week after the Bicentennial of the United States in 1976, Ellie, Wayne, and Kristin moved to Brandon, Vermont. While the family only lived in Brandon for a year, the move to Vermont was permanent, and the family lived in Salisbury and Ripton from then on.

In late 1976, Ellie started serving as a substitute teacher for Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, and she would continue to serve the local community in the schools until less than a year before her death. Her dedication to the children in RNESU and local communities was complete, and she gave them her love and passion for decades and taught multiple generations of local families.

Besides her love of teaching and working with children, Ellie was a tireless advocate for civil rights and human dignity. Even in her late 80s, she attended political marches and events, and never shied from being open about her advocacy.

When not at school working with children, Ellie could most often be found in her gardens, very proud of her vegetables and flowers. Her daffodils will bloom in Ripton for decades to come.

Ellie's greatest joys came from her grandchildren. Amie, Ryan, Sam, and Ben gave her such joy,

and she was so proud of their accomplishments and of the amazing human beings they are. Meeting her great-grandchildren and getting to spend time with them was another level of joy for her. She was so interested in watching them come into their own identities, and was so proud of their strength and tenacity.

Ellie was predeceased by her parents, her sister Barbara, her husband John, her nephew Michael, her husband Wayne, and her beloved grandson Sam.

She is survived by her daughter Kristin and husband Paul, nephew Ed and family, grandchildren Amie and spouse Jen, Ryan and partner Kayla, Ben, 'adopted' grandchildren Linnea and Shane, great-granddaughter Sora, and great-grandsons Rowan and Shay. She also is survived by a wonderful group of friends from Leicester School and RNESU.

The family would like to thank Amy Curtis of Addison County Home Health for her love, support, and guidance, as well as the rest of the team at ACHH for their help over the last months. The family also would like to thank Project Independence for their love and support, as well as the outstanding palliative care team at Porter Hospital. Finally, the family would like to thank Lyndsay D'Avignon for her tireless support, love, and help over the last year.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to support literacy and a love of reading in children, or Project Independence in Middlebury, Vermont.

A celebration of Ellie's life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 15th at the Leicester Meeting House, with a reception immediately following at Otter Creek Academy/Leicester Central School.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home of Brandon.

## Susan Gertrude Delorm, 81, Brandon

BRANDON — Susan Gertrude Delorm, age 81, passed peacefully on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at her home in Brandon, with loved ones Diane and Renee. Susan was born in Leicester on April 15, 1943. She was the daughter of Marvin and Norma (Bird) Johnson. She grew up in



**SUSAN GERTRUDE DELORM**

Leicester, where she received her early education and was at the top of her class at Brandon High School. Susan had worked in assembly for Dowty Electronics (Nexus) for more than 30 years. She retired in 2008. She was an avid reader, enjoyed working in her flower garden and deeply loved animals. Surviving are daughters Elizabeth Vandusen of Middlebury, Katelyn Delorm of Rutland, and Diane Delorm of Brandon. Grandchildren Ross, Renee, Ian, Asaiah,

and Rebekah. She was predeceased by her sister Jane Severy. Utmost appreciation and thanks are expressed to Susan's granddaughter, Renee, for her unwavering care during her illness; also, Margaret and the entire Bayada Hospice team who were there for Susan in the

end. Special family friend Melissa and Susan's "extended kids" were a support network, and a stronghold for Diane during trying times. All of Susan's closest friends from Nexus are fondly remembered and hold a special place in the hearts of SueBob and NeeBob.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.



### CHRISTOPHER WETMORE

The family of Christopher Wetmore wish to thank everyone who sent a thoughtful card or a lovely bouquet or who stopped by for hugs and shared memories of our son.

Your loving care for us is greatly appreciated.





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# GARDENING CORNER TALKS CHESTNUT TREES

BY LYN DESMARAIS

Last Monday night we master gardener interns were treated to a lecture by Tom Estil, sponsored by the Rutland County chapter of Master Gardeners. What a treasure trove of information Tom has. Tom grew up in New Mexico and from childhood he wanted to work for NASA and be outside as much as possible. He also loves to share what he learns on this planet, and in space. Tom made his way

east to where he and his wife met married and raised a family in New Hampshire and Vermont. Their ties to Rutland run deep. After their kids scattered to colleges and Tom's wife sadly died young from

cancer, Tom accepted a job in California at NASA. On weekends he drove an electric train at a state park. While working there, he noticed that there was a fenced-off area. He discovered that they were growing American chestnuts. When Tom is in-

terested in anything, it appears that he takes a deep dive into the subject matter. He fell in love with chestnut trees and learned to raise them from seed.

As his children returned to the Vermont area, Tom returned to Vermont. He says he worked in the men's department at JCPenney at the mall and became a science teacher at Christ the King school in Rutland. He remains a teacher at Christ the King.

*"I want my students to get out into the field to see living things, to learn to raise plants from seeds and to nurture them."*

—Tom Estil

of native plant seeds which we gather, start indoors, and have the great fun of planting outdoors in Pine Hill Park. Pine Hill Park is located on Oak St. in Rutland, encompassing 325 acres of terrain. We have started a meadow filled with milkweed

to help the monarch's survival."

Tom has been traveling up and down Vermont and New Hampshire, offering schools baby chestnuts trees for their students to plant. He wants every school in both states ultimately to get this opportunity. He will tell you that these trees will all (eventually) succumb to the fungus that has killed the American chestnut, called the Chestnut blight. Tom is ever hopeful that perhaps a few will grow to adulthood and set seeds themselves. He told us the story of chestnut trees. Before the arrival of the Chestnut blight in the United States, the chestnut trees were valued for their resistance to rotting and were being harvested in great numbers for use by two new industries crisscrossing the United States: the railroad and the telegraph. A person who was running a botanical garden in New York and who was a prodigious collector of plants, shrubs, and trees (and there were many such persons all over the world), imported some chestnut trees from abroad. These chestnut trees carried with them the fungus that would destroy the rest of these majestic trees, an estimated 4-6

(See Gardening Corner, Page 9)



## The Taste of Summer in Vermont Delivered to your door!



The Stevens Farmstead in Sudbury, VT is offering a 10-week CSA/Prepared Meals subscription program. Sign up now to receive fresh local foods, professionally prepared! Vegetarian and gluten free options available. Deliveries begin June 26. We deliver to Brandon, Sudbury, Whiting, Salisbury, Middlebury, Leicester and Weybridge (on Rt 53).

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Please email [thestevensfarmstead@gmail.com](mailto:thestevensfarmstead@gmail.com) with questions or to sign up!

### Menu:

**JUNE 25:**

Chicken Broccoli Ranch Casserole with herb roast potato and chocolate espresso cream cheese brownies.  
Vegetarian: Broccoli Cheddar Quiche with herb roasted potato

**JULY 2:**

Wagyu Beef Taco Bowls with Margarita cupcakes  
Vegetarian: Taco Bowls with Avocado Pico De Gallo

**JULY 9:**

Ham and Potato Au Gratin with fresh greens and banana nutella turnovers  
Vegetarian: Caramelized onion and sweet pepper au gratin

**Plus seven more weeks!**



# Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

## Uncharted waters, an appreciation for the elusive summer swimming hole

I recently dusted off an old copy of "Travels with Charley" by John Steinbeck for a summer read. If you haven't heard of it, it's a bit of nonfiction about Steinbeck roaming the country in a pickup with his trusty dog to rediscover America. For reasons left unexplained, Steinbeck passes over his wife in favor of his poodle as a travel companion, which turns out to be a pretty suspenseful plot device for readers who wonder what will happen to him when he gets home.

At any rate, old Steinbeck's travel approach is to position himself in diners, churches, and parks in the hopes of meeting folks. The aim, of course, is to find that elusive "pulse of America." I don't mean to disparage this Pulitzer Prize-winning author's instincts, but reading this book 60 years later has me wondering if maybe Steinbeck may have missed one quintessential American pastime: the swimming hole.

I'm not talking about the lo-

cal pool or even a nice stretch of access on Lake Champlain, but those hard-to-find, off-the-record, off-the-beaten-path swimming holes. Locally known river stretches, ponds, or maybe even quarries that aren't typically found in your travel guides. The kind of place you might only learn about from your waitress.

Growing up in rural parts, it was certainly rivers that helped color my world, set the pace for my summers. It was on the rivers that we would drift for miles on inner tubes. It was a big day when we would come across abandoned old swing ropes - ancient-looking, grizzled things hung by strangers we put our full trust in. Unfortunately, I don't think we ever reckoned much about safety. One friend of mine would even take us water-skiing down the same riverways, navigating around all manner of flotsam and debris. It was half water-skiing, half minefield navigation. From the end of the

towline, I can still picture my buddy nonchalantly pointing out menacing logs to avoid as he steered his old speedboat. Parents were as inexplicably absent as Steinbeck's wife.

After being away from Vermont for a year's leave of absence in 2015, it was the swimming holes our family went in search of as we got re-acclimated to our state. Actually it was the local tire shop, not Steinbeck, that offered inspiration: "Tubes for sale!" the sign read. "I'll take seven!" I told the guy. Like Steinbeck, I suppose, there was a sense that we needed to reconnect and rediscover this land we'd been away from.

It had been a while since we'd tubed but in truth there is not much of a learning curve. River tubing, I was reminded, is the ultimate everyman sport: it requires absolutely no navigational skills, zero paddling. For the record, I don't think you can't overstate how little this sport asks of you. It is one

of the few completely padded water vessels that actually expects incompetence.

Seeing my home state through the "back door" as it were, was a treat unexpected. The landscape I witnessed from the roadside for so many years I was now seeing from a completely different perspective. Lovely green properties sloping down to the shoreline. Charmingly cockeyed riverside docks. Contemplative fishermen. I think I might have doled out a few apologies as I floated by, feeling a bit too intrusive. Ol' Steinbeck should have gotten off the main roads, I might have concluded.

Eventually we lost one tube due to some sharp rocks, but the conversation was good and the current was steady. The Vermont countryside, like Norman Rockwell portraits, slid past us in picturesque pages.

It was round about mile 2, I believe, that we reached a consensus in our family flotilla: more folks need to be redis-

covering their waterways! Why weren't there more people on these splendid rivers? It was pushing 90 degrees after all.

In hindsight the utterance was a classic "careful what you wish for" moment. Rounding the next bend, we quickly discovered we were not alone.

At this point in the story there seem to be multiple versions of events, but in one detail my family is unanimous: if there was a riverside sign that read "Clothing Optional" none of us saw it. If there was a second thing that all could agree on it was that inner tubes travel painfully slowly. I had sailed my fleet into uncharted waters and I had a poor exit strategy.

I suppose we were glad to be back again in our home state. Like Steinbeck we were happy to be rediscovering and sight-seeing the countryside and all. But how much sight-seeing you hope for remained the big question. And of course, like Steinbeck, that matter of what to tell your wife when you get home.

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## Leicester News

### Bingo is back! (For one day only...)

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., June 8, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center at the Leicester Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome. Funds raised are used to help maintain the historic buildings at the Four Corners.



# S — BSCRIBE

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## WE NEED U



# Gardening Corner



SKIP JENNINGS STRIPES one down the middle to open the Founders Cup tournament that bears his name.

## Skip Jennings Tournament

(Continued from Page 1)  
greens. Competitors commented about the greens, “they were lighting fast,” “the ball rolled true,” and “wow, there were some big breaks.” The first round played Saturday was better ball of the partners

while on Sunday the competition was a 2-man scramble. A “scramble” is when both players hit each shot and select the best one to use. It can result in some low scores. The winners were: Championship flight- Bradshaw Underhill and Rob-

ert Underhill, First flight- John Dula and Greg Wells, Second flight- Kobe Pinkham and Kyle Pinkham, Third flight- Greg Kaszuba and Jeff Shaefer, Fourth flight- Jerry Kennedy and Jack Sheehan.

(Continued from Page 7)

billion of them. The American chestnuts didn’t have a chance. They did not have any immunity to the fungus. The disease spread faster than wildfire.

What I love about Tom Estil is his optimism. He’s clearly a problem solver and a teacher. By engaging students early in these real-world situations, I hope that they become lifelong learners, curious about their world and I dearly hope some will attack and solve our difficult environmental problems.

In addition to the trees and the milkweed meadow, Tom identifies and propagates, whenever he can, native wildflowers and endangered plant species in the park for native pollinators. He also watches for and identifies mammals, reptiles, shrubs, and other flora and fauna in the park, and shares what he’s find-

ing with the public. He has been leaving information and photos of what he sees in the park, as he is there several times a week, on the board at the entrance to the park. Unfortunately, the sign has been vandalized several times and they may have to abandon it if he cannot find someone new to repair it.

In all it was an absolutely great evening and we all enjoyed it so much. All of the Rutland Chapter Master Gardener meetings are open to the public. They are held at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St, in Rutland, each month. Check them out.

Here are two additional articles about Tom Astil. I hope you enjoy them:

<https://taf.org/vt-nh-news/man-on-a-mission/>

<https://www.vermonthumanities.org/snapshot-return-of-the-american-chestnut/>



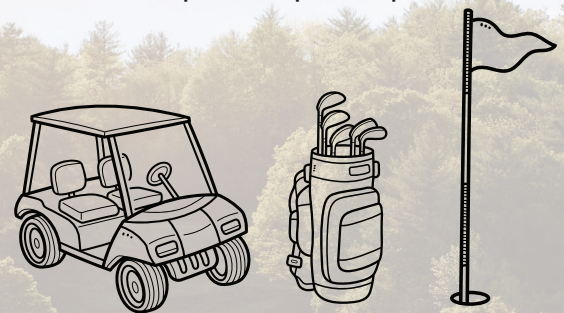
**The golf course is OPEN!**

Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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## Take out an ad to congratulate the Otter Valley Class of ‘24!

Whether you’re family, friend, or a supportive business, let this year’s seniors know you’re proud of them.

For \$20, you can have a personalized business-card size ad (128 character limit) in the June 19 graduation issue!

Please send your message to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com) with “grad ad” in the subject line.

Ads must be received by Friday, June 14.



You can pay by QR Code, or ask for an alternative method when you email your message!

**THE REPORTER**



STUDENT: Aiden Mazzabufi

GRADE: 6

SCHOOL: Lothrop

MEDIUM: Oil Pastel and Pencil

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



**Statement from Mr. Aucoin:**

Aiden and his class had been studying Pop Art when he created this piece. Aiden took an everyday consumer product, a soda can, and changed it by using bright and fun colors.

# MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



**KAIZEN FITNESS ARTS** is located at 32 Marble Street in Brandon, just before the intersection with Wheeler Road. Visit the website [www.kaizenfitnessarts.com](http://www.kaizenfitnessarts.com) for more details about schedules and classes.

## Kaizen Fitness Arts

(Continued from Page 1)

"I wanted to know if [the techniques] worked," said Belanger. One day on the way to work, he noticed a new studio that offered jiu jitsu, a different Japanese martial art whose focus is on neutralizing opponents rather than harming them. At the age of 21, he discovered his path.

"The goal of jiu jitsu is to control your opponent, not to damage them," he said. "You can force your opponent to submit without hurting them."

In that way, jiu jitsu differs from other popular martial arts such as kung fu, karate, and taekwondo, all of which emphasize kicks, punches, and strikes.

After 12 years of steady practice, and ascent through the jiu jitsu ranks, Belanger is now ready to share his knowledge with the folks in his new home: Brandon and the surrounding communities.

Belanger has recently opened Kaizen Fitness Arts at 32 Marble Street in Brandon (just before the intersection with Wheeler Road). Kaizen offers one-hour group classes. Currently, the classes are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5 a.m. (for those who want to get in a session before work), 12 p.m., and 5 p.m. On Saturdays, there's a 10 a.m. class as well. Kaizen charges \$20 per class or \$31/week for a membership that allows you to take as many classes as you wish. The first class is free for everyone, to give prospective students a chance to try it out before committing.

"I teach to the level of the group," said Belanger. The classes consist of warmups, technique, and sparring. "You can't overdo

the fundamentals." Belanger does not allow strikes or body blows. Again, the point of jiu jitsu is control and not harm. Kaizen does not currently offer kids' classes but those 13 and older are welcome to join the group classes.

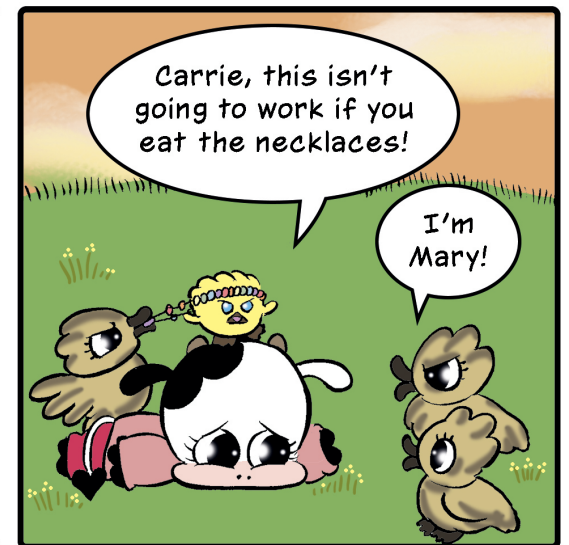
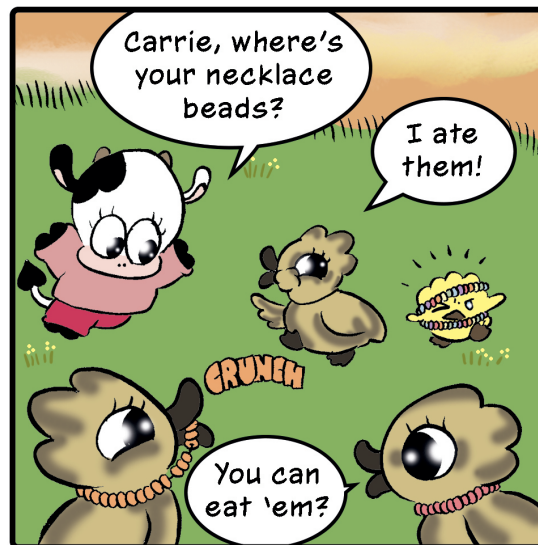
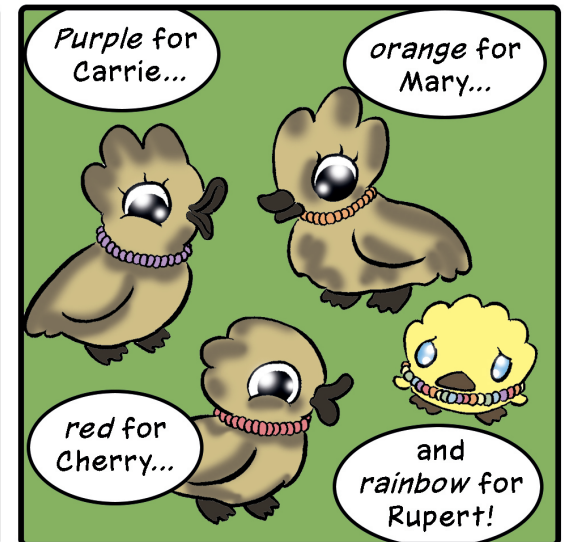
Belanger moved to Brandon last fall with his wife, Mariah, who grew up here and whose family still lives in town. Aside from a martial-arts club in Rutland, Belanger noticed that there weren't many offerings in the area. He started giving self-defense classes and realize there was interest in the surrounding communities for more. He opened Kaizen this spring and already has students from all over the area.

On a recent Friday, he and a student allowed this reporter to observe their warmup. The male student was in his 40s and said he'd begun the classes partially because he wanted to learn a martial art and partially because it was good cardio and he wanted to trim down a bit.

The warmups involved practicing movements that allow escape from an opponent's grip, including something called "the shrimp" that required the student to assume the shape of a shrimp as he propelled himself from one end of the mat to the other by wriggling on his sides.

"These movements are designed to help you avoid being pinned down by someone on top of you," said Belanger. He also went through a series of moves with his student to teach techniques for disarming someone coming at you with some kind of club or stick.

The traditional garb is called



a "gi" (pronounced "ghee") and consists of white pants and a white jacket held closed by a cloth belt. As in karate, the color of the belt indicates one's progress in the art. Beginners wear white belts and move up through blue, purple, brown, black, and coral. Belanger has been studying seriously for 12 years and is currently a purple belt. A coral belt, the highest rank, can take 40 to 50 years to attain.

It's not necessary to wear a gi, though Belanger advises wearing close-fitting clothes to class to avoid getting caught up in loose clothing as you practice.

The studio itself is large and comfortable but Belanger said he plans to convert the free-standing garage to additional studio space in the future and to offer other arts in addition to jiu jitsu.

There are nods around the studio to the Asian origins of jiu jitsu, but Belanger does not ask that students partake in any practices other than the martial art they came to study.

Anyone interested in signing up for a class can contact Belanger via his website [www.kaizenfitnessarts.com](http://www.kaizenfitnessarts.com) or by phone at (603) 252-0644.

Whether you're interested in fitness, self-defense, or just the fun of it, go down to Kaizen and put another shrimp on the mat.

### Artphibian Experience at Branbury State Park

Join New Music On The Point faculty and participants for their ecologically inspired contemporary music performance: a navigational sonic and multimedia Artphibian Experience in the woods and around Lake Dunmore at Branbury State Park.

Saturday, June 8 and Saturday, June 15 from 3-5PM. Free admission.

### A Dinner and Music Adventure on the shores of Lake Dunmore!

Join us for a gourmet dinner with a group of world class contemporary music creators at our rustic camp on Lake Dunmore. The unique music programs feature world class performers such as JACK Quartet, Tony Arnold, Living Earth Show and Bent Frequency Duo.

June 3, 4, 5, 6 and June 10, 11, 13, 14.

Seating is limited to four guests per night. Tickets available through Eventbrite.



To learn more about these events, visit: [Newmusiconthepoint.com](http://Newmusiconthepoint.com)

# Calendar of events

## June

### Mondays

#### Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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

### Tuesdays

#### Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

#### Friends Zone

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

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

All are welcome in.

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

#### Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Wednesdays

#### 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 reap 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 you 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 our email list. \$15/class

#### Brandon Senior Center Game Day

Come join us every Wednesday from noon – 3:00 p.m. Cards, darts, puzzles, board games, coloring.

### Thursdays

#### Ukulele Group

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

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

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

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

#### Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

#### Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

### Saturdays

#### Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

### 2024 Live at Kennebec

#### June 8

Breanna Elain, Singer/Songwriter

#### June 22

Romp, Fiddle-infused folk

#### July 13

Kevin Kareckas, Singer/Songwriter

#### July 27

Tom Van Sant, Rock Cover

#### August 10

Electrostatic Cats, small

#### August 24

Jim Shaw, Folk, old-time

#### September 14

Melissa Moorehouse, Singer

#### September 28

Bird Boombox, Alt. Folk

## Lions Club Community Chicken and Biscuit Dinner fundraiser

### June 15, 2024



The Brandon Forest Dale Lions Club is having a Community Chicken and Biscuit dinner on June 15th at the AMERICAN LEGION in Brandon at 6 pm. Pre-orders are suggested as we will have a limited number of dinners available. Takeout orders can be picked up between 4 and 6 pm. The sit-down meal starts at 6 pm. To pre-order please contact Connie at 802-349-9929 (text or call) or Fred at 247-6722 (calls only). The proceeds will benefit a local family in need.

## 45th Annual Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green

### July

The 45th Annual Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green is a free, family-friendly series of performances supported by community donations and volunteers. It will delight audiences during the week of July 7 through 13, 2024, under the big white tent on the Village Green, Middlebury, Vermont. "Brown Bag" family performances are presented from weekdays with evenmances from 7 until 9:45 pm and 7 until 9:45 pm Saturday. July 13, Ve

Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

**Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
Join us every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for picture book storytime. All ages welcome.

## Sundays

**Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal**  
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event! Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

## Friday 7th

**An Evening with Tim Jennings**

The Middletown Springs Public Library and the Friends of the Library invite you to An Evening with Tim Jennings at the 1780s Reuben Waite Barn, which has been generously donated by Green Mountain Timber Frames for this event.

Light refreshments will be served starting at 6:30 pm, with the main event starting promptly at 7 pm. This is an evening for adults of all ages interested in the art and craft of storytelling. Tim will share elements of the craft, how he got started, and a tale or two.

A \$15 suggested donation at the door benefits the town library. (BYOB). From 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Reuben Waite Barn, 430 West Street, Middletown Springs.

## Friday 7th Friday 28th

**West Coast Swing Dance Classes, “The Modern Swing”**

Fridays 5:15–6:15 pm, June 7, 14, 21, 28 (four classes) at The Gymnasium, 11 Cottage Street, Rutland. \$60. Pre-registration is required; email Karen at vtwestiebest@gmail.com. No partner required to take class.

In this class, students will learn the basic six count patterns to start, sometimes integrating an eight count pattern. Students will learn different six count patterns that will then be linked together. This format gives an appearance of a choreographed dance, but it is easier than it looks! West Coast Swing is a fun, social, versatile partner dance form, danced to a wide range of popular music, from blues to pop, slow swing and R&B. A cousin of traditional swing dances like the Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing is constantly evolving. Today, it combines swing connection and rhythms with independent movement inspired by influences from nearly every other dance style, as well as contemporary

## Yard Sale and Bike Safety at Pittsford Village Farm

Join Pittsford’s Town Wide Yard Sale and Bike Safety Day at Pittsford Village Farm!

Yard Sale is from 8 am to 2 pm, and free kids’ bike helmets will be given out from 10–11:30 am. Come by to find treasures and grab a new helmet! Pittsford Village Farm, 42 Elm Street.



music. It is a smooth, cool, laid-back dance that can be funky, groovy or lyrical, depending on the music and your personal style.

## Saturday 8th

**Artphibian Experience at Branbury State Park**

Join New Music On The Point faculty and participants for their ecologically inspired contemporary music performance. Enjoy a navigational sonic and multimedia Artphibian Experience in the woods and around Lake Dunmore at Branbury State Park. From 3–5 pm. Free admission.

**Bandwagon Summer Series: Bristol Lightning**

Chamber-grass band from the birthplace of country music! In 1927, the first country music records were cut in Bristol, TN/VA, by ordinary people with ordinary stories and the courage to create. Now, almost 100

years later, Bristol Lightning is born in the same town, celebrating the American stories of today. From Aaron Copland to American roots music, blues, bluegrass, and beyond, Bristol Lightning’s live shows take the audience on a high-energy adventure of bluegrass cello and mandolin, blues guitars, tap dance, and storytelling, weaving a powerful and poignant tapestry of the true creativity and resilience of the American spirit.

Bristol Lightning is the baby of cellist Dave Eggar. He’s a student of the great American composer Aaron Copland and the legendary cellist Yo Yo Ma. Eggar has performed, recorded, and arranged for artists across genres, including Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Coldplay,

Frank Ocean, John Legend, Lewis Capaldi, Tony Bennett, and Andrea Bocelli, to name a few. He is a Grammy-nominated composer, has scored multiple films, and regularly performs in the classical and American roots music worlds. Dave teamed up with two-time Grammy nominee Phil Faconti (who has worked with Norah Jones and

Foreigner) and Bristol locals Blake and Jamie Collins to form Bristol Lightning.

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

From 6–8 pm at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road, Putney. \$20–25.

## Friday 14th

**Pizza by the Pond—Blueberry Hill Inn**

Wood-fired pizza from our outside hearth accompanied by live music in the quintessential summer setting: at the edge of a pond, our 200 blueberry bushes, & lush mountains. We use Vermont flour and a slow dough process that results in an irresistible crust—topped with local meat, fresh produce, and sincere attention to detail.

Your ticket gets you an all-you-can-eat wood-fired pizza buffet and live music. Come early to swim at nearby Silver Lake or Sugar Hill Reservoir, hike, or bike the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center + Moosalamoo National Recreation Area trails right from our door. The pizza starts flowing at 5 pm, music from 6-8 pm. \$43 per person (age 12 and older) includes an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet, lemonade/iced tea, live music fees & all taxes and credit card fees. Add on options of salad and ice cream available too. Kids 7–11 \$23; kids 6 and under free! Events throughout the summer on random Thursday and Friday nights. Reservations open the Sunday before each event. [www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza](http://www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza)

## Great Brandon Auction July 5th

Our great indoor location at the Brandon Town Hall will be held for 9 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding AND Ebay-style “Buy It Now” format, so if you can’t wait, you can walk out the door with your treasures! The Auction, now in its 36th year, is open daily, starting the afternoon of Fri., July 5 and closing on Sat., July 13. See our website for exact hours. The Auction offers antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, surprises and treasures from attics and barns. Also lots of gift certificates to dozens of local businesses incl. restaurants, brew pubs, stores, massages, services and much more! Other donations include dressers, beds, tools, art, chairs, trunks, kitchen table sets, household and tools—even a parquet dance floor! Original artwork from many of Brandon’s famed artists. And our usual selection of interesting and eclectic items. Nine days to bid and buy!

Come on into Brandon starting July 5th to donate, bid and buy treasures and enjoy our beautiful revitalized downtown. Be sure to come back often to check your bids and see what new treats have been donated. Keep watch for pictures and news. For more info call 802-247-6401 or email [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org).



## Tuesday 18th

**Tuesday Concert Series: Hermit Hollow — Pittsford Village Farm**

Hermit Hollow kicks off our weekly FREE Tuesday Concert Series! Grab some dinner from the Rollin Rooster food truck and join us on the lawn! Hailing from various corners of Vermont’s Slate Valley, the Hermit Hollow String Band plays bluegrass and bluegrass-adjacent music with tight vocal harmonies and driving rhythms. HHSB is a two-time finalist for NYVT Media’s Best of the Lakes Region.

Tuesday Concerts are every Tuesday all summer long, from 6–8 pm.

## Summer Festival on-the-Green 7-13

VT. friendly programs Noon until 1 pm  
ing musical perfor-  
8:30 pm on Sunday  
Monday through  
ermont Jazz Ensem-

ble Street Dance: We shut down Main Street for you to boogie and jive!  
Events are held rain or shine. Free admission; donations welcomed. We recommend checking the Festival website for last-minute schedule changes.  
Info: <http://www.festivalonthegreen.org>

# 'Puffs,' a hilarious parody of the Harry Potter stories, delights the Otter Valley Stage

BY MITCHELL PEARL

BRANDON—This past weekend saw the season's last production from Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre Company. "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic" is an unauthorized parody of the Harry Potter book series by J. K. Rowling, but from the perspective of the Puffs—the name inspired by the Hogwarts house, Hufflepuff. The play is a laugh-a-minute original work by New York-based playwright Matt Cox. The show played in Off-Broadway theatres in New York City for three years and has become one of the most popular plays to be performed in high school theatre programs around the country.

The play starts with a Narrator, played strongly by Oliver Lavelle, addressing the audience and beginning to tell the Harry Potter story—a tale about a young, orphaned boy with a scar in the shape of a lightning bolt. But the Narrator quickly dismisses this story to introduce another orphan named Wayne (Bryce Connaughton) who lives with his uncle Davey (Baker LaRock) in New Mexico. One

tain school of magic." His uncle quickly tells him that his parents actually were wizards and rushes him to the train station. At the magic school students are sorted into different houses: "Braves," "Smarts," "Snakes," and "Puffs." Harry Potter fans will catch the references. The hat sorts Wayne in the "Puff" category.

Wayne makes friends with Oliver (Calvin Ladd), and eventually with Megan (Elyse Singh), though Megan believes that she was put into the Puff house mistakenly and that she should be with the Snakes. "Cedric" (Ian Miner) shows up and introduces himself as the group leader. The play follows the travails of these friends, and the other Puffs, who just happen to be at this certain school of magic at the same time as a certain well-known boy wizard—Harry Potter. Playwright Matt Cox said that the idea came to him that "it would've been really terrible to be another student at that particular magic school whenever Harry was there . . . every year something bad would happen all because of Potter."

And bad things indeed do happen, testing the friendship and the mettle of the young wizards.

After successfully fighting a dragon, Cedric dies in the final challenge of the school's tournament. The Dark Lord (also played by Ian Miner) holds the friends captive, and Wayne is killed in the final battle as "Voldy" mistakes him for Harry. Harry Potter (played by Kaylee Maloy) is just wonderfully annoying throughout the play.

But this play is not Harry Potter's story. After Wayne dies, he awakens to find the headmaster (Brendan McLaughlin), who had also died. Wayne complains to the headmaster that his life was useless. The headmaster

counters that Wayne was indeed the hero in his own story. Wayne finally accepts his fate—he is,



THE DARK LORD, "Mr. Voldy", also played by Ian Miner (after Cedric dies in the school's final tournament challenge).



THE DARK LORD and his followers hold the friends captive.

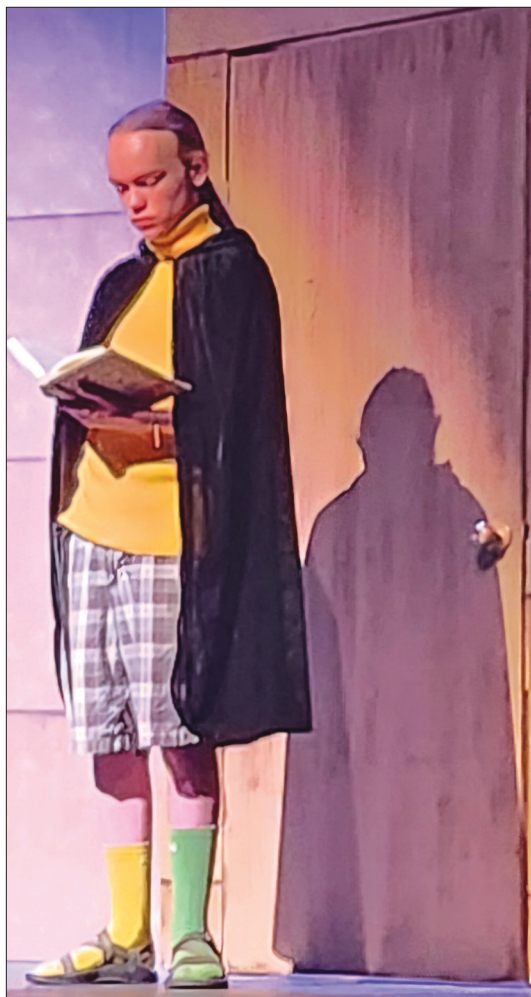
after all, just a "side character" in the Harry Potter saga. The Narrator informs the audience that Harry killed Mr. Voldy and was once again hailed as the hero of the school. But the play is not over. The Narrator takes us to the future, nineteen years after the battle.

Megan and Oliver are now grown up and married. In a train station, they panic looking for their son, who is wandering around. The boy is revealed to be the Narrator, now twelve years old and named Wayne. Wayne is being sent off to wizard school, and his parents tell him that while the school may be scary and dangerous, he is named after one of the bravest students ever, and he gets on the train. Oliver asks Megan what house she thinks Wayne will be placed in and she tells him, "I have a pretty good idea." Wayne is seen in the sorting ceremony where a hat is placed on his head. We hear the result, and Wayne smiles.

Otter Valley Theatre Director

Jeffery Hull has wanted to produce "Puffs" since he first found out about it. It has a smaller cast than some of the larger Walking Stick Theatre productions, featuring just 17 upper class student actors, and several additional students handling the backstage

and technical aspects. In addition to the very strong leads, more than forty different supporting parts were played by the ensemble of Dillon Ladd, Baker LaRock, Alysya Raymond, Chloe Mol, and Chloe Dere- (See 'Puffs', Page 20)



THE NARRATOR, PLAYED by Oliver Lavelle. Photos by Mitchell Pearl

day, an owl drops a letter in Wayne's living room telling him that he has been invited to "a cer-



CEDRIC (IAN MINER) fights a dragon, played by Chloe Mol.

# Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week was another photo from Phil Marks' collection. It's an unusual angle on the Brandon Inn. Now this section of the Inn is home to the Neshobe Café. But 50 or so years ago, it was

home to The Frock Shop. And not the whole space either, just the counter and ordering area of the Neshobe Café. This tiny dress shop was owned and operated by spinster Mary Elizabeth Tier-

nan. This historic photo, however, was taken around 1900, when Mary Elizabeth was possibly just a baby. I don't know what was in that northwest corner of the Brandon Inn at that point. Any thoughts?



THE UNUSUAL ANGLE on the Brandon Inn now, and circa 1900.



Your mystery for next week!

## REAL ESTATE



### It's Time to Build!

Wonderful views of the mountains and beautiful rolling farmland from this 2.09 acre building lot on a nice country lane just south of Brandon village. You'll have country quiet, yet only minutes away from all the amenities that downtown Brandon has to

offer. New survey available and awaiting final approval of the wastewater permit. **\$85,000**

Scenic and serene country location for this 0.51 acre lot. Ready to go with town water and sewer and electricity at the street. Located just north of town, this is lot no. 8 on the newly named Jupiter Lane off of Steinberg Rd. Lot no. 9 at 0.50 acres is also available. **\$45,000**



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

## Fern Lake Opportunity



**FERN LAKE:** Nestled on a serene 0.71 A lot, delightful lakefront, yr-rd. home offers 150' of lake frontage, stunning views & tranquil surroundings. A cozy 2-BR, 1-B home w/1,080 sqft. of comfortable living space, perfect for a small family or just seeking a peaceful retreat. Property features a spacious LR w/ firpl., a well-appointed kit., & a charming outdoor deck overlooking the lake. Lakefront living at its finest with abundant natural beauty all around. **\$560,000.**



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

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

# Mim's Photos



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

## Recognized



Brian Fillioe, meanwhile, recognizes himself on the left in this photo from the 1980s. He notes that at the time he was chair of the Brandon selectboard.

Standing next to Mr. Fillioe is Pete Peiffer, who owned Brandon Body Works together with Terry Peiffer [second from right]. The photo was taken at Body Works, where local high school students had been training to run all the way from Canada to Brandon, while on the other side of the border Canadian students were training to do the same, even getting to meet senior Canadian officials in the process. Mr. Fillioe explains, "The event was organized by Myles Caskie, who married our Town Manager at the time, Pam Jones Caskie. Myles was a Canadian resident and thought it would be a great idea to get the two countries' kids involved in a cross-border event. There was a celebration of the ending of the run at the park bandstand. It was a run to celebrate a historic year, and a state employee who was involved in the project was on hand to give a speech and handed out several awards."



Michelle Rawls also recognized Mr. Fillioe, as well as the young woman in the center, holding an award: she is Wendy Hession. Kurt Kimball, Dolores Furnari, Sue Wetmore, and Bud Coolidge all recognized Mr. Fillioe as well.



Dolores Furnari couldn't help but recognize herself in this photo. She explained that she is pictured at the Country Owl Studio, stenciling a floor cloth.

Dawn Bailey also could not help but recognize Ms. Furnari, writing: "The gorgeous lady who is showing her painted cat floor cloth is my mother, Dolores Furnari, who has a studio in Brandon called The Country Owl. She was also our Town lister for 29 years before retiring. She is still teaching at her home."

Sue Wetmore, Bud Coolidge, and Brian Fillioe recognized Ms. Furnari as well. Ms. Wetmore pointed out that Ms. Furnari was a founding member of the Brandon Artists Guild, and Mr. Fillioe noted that, in addition to her many public roles, Ms. Furnari is the mother-in-law of Brandon's current selectboard member, Doug Bailey.



Bud Coolidge identified this photo of local teacher Jane Coolidge and her students. He notes that the photo was taken in Brandon's Ayrshire Building.

Ray Miro thought he recognized among these faces Mike Miller, Michael Smith, and George Hornbeck.



Kurt Kimball, Dolores Furnari, Dawn Bailey, and Bud Coolidge helped us identify the man on the right in this photo from last week. He is none other than Brandon's former Chief of Police, Joseph Arduca, who led the force from 1986 to 2001.

Brian Fillioe explained that this is a photo of a swearing-in ceremony in which the force's Officer Baker [center] received his pins. He believes the woman pictured is Officer Baker's wife, and that the photo is from the mid '80s to 1990.



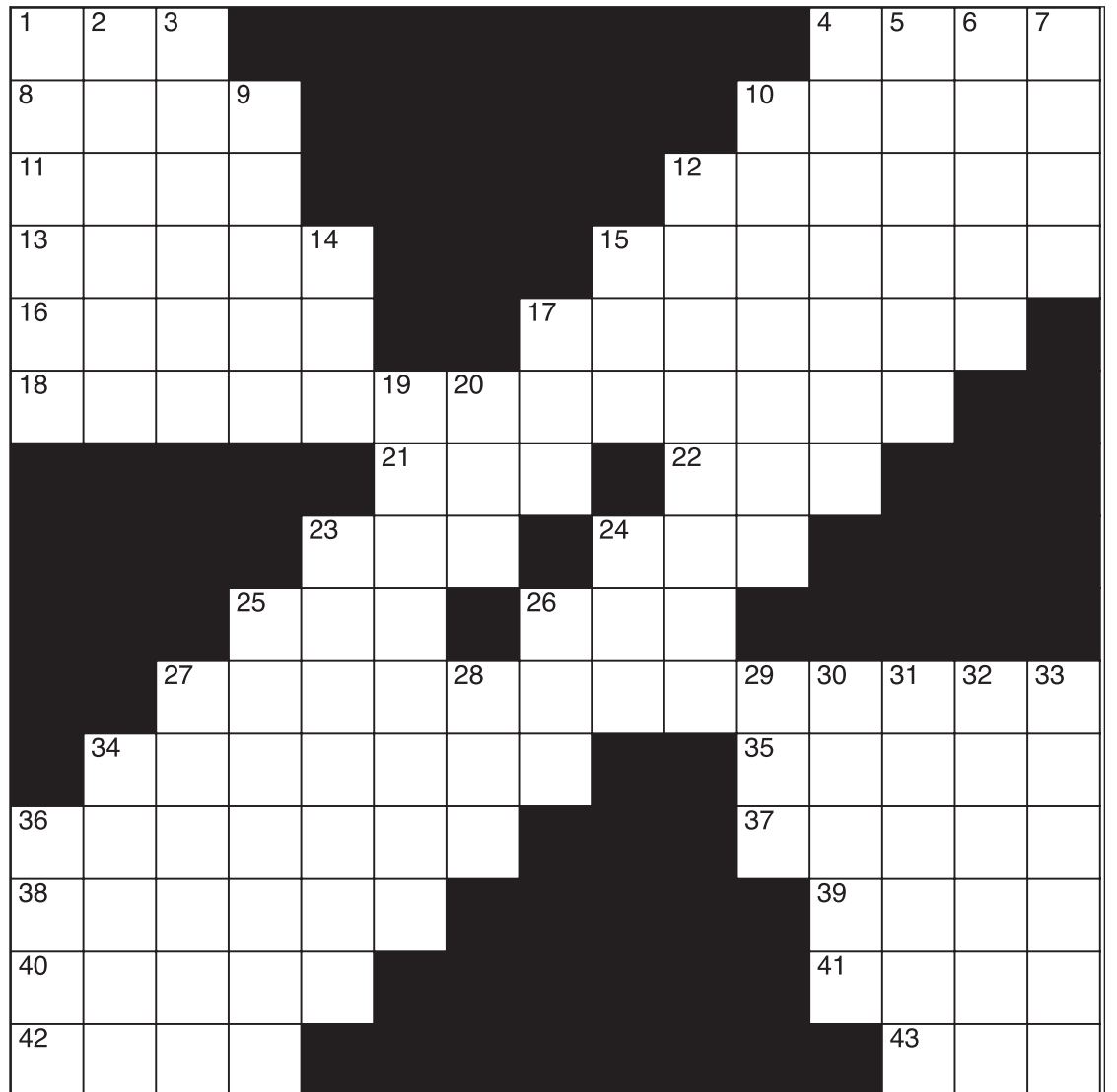
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Baby's dining accessory
4. Something free
8. Ancient Egyptian deity
10. Set-like mathematical categories
11. Top-quality
12. Expansive
13. Seizure
15. People with congenital absence of pigment
16. Gains
17. Mocked online
18. Clint's son
21. Body part
22. Humor
23. Code number
24. Your physique
25. Family of regulator genes
26. LA football player (abbr.)
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Charity
35. Bluish greens
36. Examined closely
37. A type of equation
38. Stretched uncomfortably
39. Indian religious god
40. Clocks
41. Slowly leak through
42. Witnesses
43. Midway between south and southeast

## CLUES DOWN

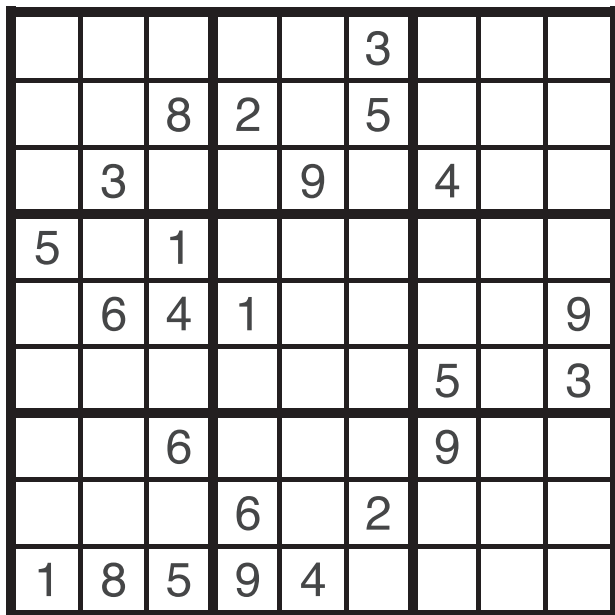
1. Nestlings
2. Induces vomiting
3. A place to eat
4. Partner in the air
5. Offered one's take
6. Nobel-winning French biologist
7. Farm animals
9. Prevent from growing
10. Sensationalist periodical
12. Soft-bodied beetle
14. Very fast airplane
15. Imaginative creation
17. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
19. Evoked a response
20. French river
23. Shiny yellow minerals
24. Make illegal
25. U.S. military branch
26. River in France and Belgium
27. A woman of refinement
28. Male child
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Mediterranean dietary staple
33. Sneak out
34. Radioactivity unit
36. Performs on stage



# Sudoku

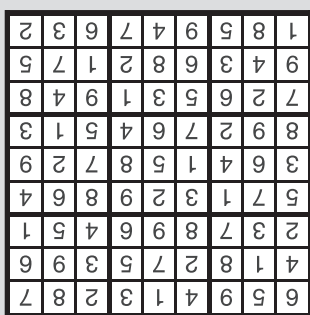
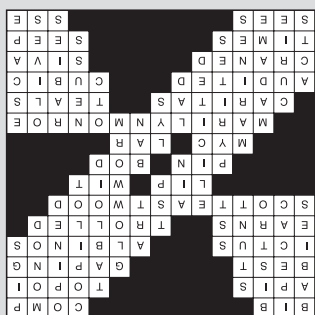
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

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



Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



## Let Us Help You Find Homes for Your Kittens and Puppies!

The Rutland County Humane Society's "Spay the Mom" program is simple and free. If you're a Rutland County resident, you can bring any mom cat or dog and all her kittens or puppies to us at no charge. In exchange, the Humane Society will "Spay the Mom" and return her to you at no cost. After being spayed and neutered, the kittens and puppies will be adopted into loving new homes. Please help spread the word if you know of a female cat or dog with kittens or puppies! For more information, please call the RCHS shelter at 802.483.6700.

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



### MEET MOO - 3 MONTHS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PITBULL MIX. WHITE.

Meet Moo! He has extraordinary amount of love to give. We believe that Moo is partially deaf. This unique challenge does not deter his spirit! It instead highlights his resilience and ability to connect with the people around him. Moo is a very sweet boy who absolutely adores people! His sweet personality shines through with each interaction he has, whether it be with people or dogs. Moo was surrendered to us on April 12th with his siblings and mom! His siblings have since been adopted. We know that Moo likes his K9 friends but, we have no known history on how he will do with children or cats. If this handsome boy sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.

### MEET TWISTER - 8 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. GREY.

Meet Twister! He is the epitome of sweetness wrapped in a shy demeanor. This handsome boy may take a little time to warm up but, once he trusts you, he will shower you with affection that is sure to sweep you off your feet! Twister enjoys being petted; however, he is not the biggest fan of being picked up or held. Twister was surrendered to us on May 17th because there were allergies in the home. We do know that he likes the company of his feline friends! We also know that he does well with children.



**RUTLAND COUNTY  
HUMANE SOCIETY**

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



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

# OFF THE SHELF



## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



### New DVDs!

#### **Dune: Part Two (Rated PG,-13)**

Paul Atreides learns more from the Fremen and begins to accept his destiny as the Lisan al-Gaib while seeking revenge on those who killed his family.

#### **Marmalade (Not Rated)**

Recently incarcerated Baron strikes up a friendship with cellmate Otis, a man with a well-versed history of prison breaks. As the pair hatch an escape plan together, Baron recalls the story of how he met Marmalade, the love of his life, and their Bonnie-and-Clyde-style scheme to rob a bank in order to care for his sick mother and give the couple the life they've always dreamed of.

#### **A Strange Way of Life (Rated R)**

After twenty-five years, Silva rides a horse across the desert to visit his friend Sheriff Jake. They celebrate the meeting, but the next morning Jake tells him that the reason for his trip is not to go down the memory lane of their friendship. Stars Pedro Pascal and Ethan Hawke.

Sasquatch Sunset (Rated R): In the North American wilderness, a family of Sasquatch embark on an epic, hilarious & poignant journey over the course of a year.

#### **Bob Marley: One Love (Rated PG-13)**

A celebration of the life and music of the icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Marley's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music.

#### **Uncropped (Not Rated)**

The stories behind 40 years of iconic images of New York and celebrities, from Alfred Hitchcock to Muhammad Ali, recounted by photojournalist James Hamilton.

#### **The Three Musketeers - Part One: D'Artagnan (Not Rated)**

After being left for dead, D'Artagnan arrives in Paris searching for his attackers, which leads him to a real war for the future of France. Allied with Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, three musketeers of the King, D'Artagnan faces the dark machinations of the Cardinal of Richelieu and finds himself in danger when he falls for Constance Bonacieux, the Queen's confidante.

#### **Lost Angel: The Genius of Judee Sill (Not Rated)**

The never-before-told story of folk-rock icon Judee Sill who over two years went from living in a

### DID YOU KNOW?

We have a summer game-a-thon for tweens and teens starting June 18th. Details can be found on our website or Facebook.

car to appearing on the cover of Rolling Stone. The documentary charts her troubled adolescence through her meteoric rise in the music world and her early tragic death. Features Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Graham Nash, Fleet Foxes, David Geffen, and more.

### New in kids' books

#### **Who Would Win? By Jerry Pollata**

Several books from the series including: "Falcon Vs Hawk", "Lobster Vs Crab", "Hyena Vs Honeybadger" and more.

#### **On a Summer Night by Deborah Hopkinson (Jpic)**

Something awakens a young child on a hot summer and they journey to the kitchen and then outside to see who else might be up.

# Brandon Police Report

## May 27

- Responded to a residence on Forest Dale Road for a report of kids throwing rocks at a house. The home had sustained damage from the rocks.

- Assisted with directing traffic during the road closure for the Memorial Day Parade.

- Responded to the area of Triangle Court for a domestic disturbance involving Triangle Court parties that were refusing to leave a residence. The individuals later left without issue.

- Investigated the larceny of a vehicle from an apartment complex on Mulchay Drive. The operator was located on Corn Hill Road in Pittsford by an officer with the Pittsford Police Department (PPD), who subsequently took the woman into custody. It was determined that the driver had an outstanding warrant for her arrest for multiple criminal offenses and was later lodged at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility on \$15,000 bail. The suspect was also issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 6/22/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

- Conducted a search warrant at the Brandon Police Department (BPD) on a vehicle suspected of containing illegal narcotics. Investigation ongoing.

- Responded to the spare parking lot of Cedar Knowles on Mulchay Drive for a report of two men yelling at each other. The men left prior to the arrival of the officer.

## May 28

- Responded to River Street for a report of two dead chickens that the complainant reported had been shot by her neighbors. The responding officer inspected the wounds on the chickens but did not find any indication that they had been shot. The complainant was advised about her options regarding the matter.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for failure to use care when entering the roadway. Warning issued.

- Responded to a residence regarding an out of control child with autism who was being assaultive toward his mother. Brandon Area Rescue responded to assist, but the child's mother decided that her son should not be transported to the hospital.

- Conducted a welfare check on Forest Dale Road. The person of interest was located and found to be okay.

- Received a request from school officials for a welfare check on a

teenage student who had made a comment earlier at OVUHS/MS about wanting to commit self-harm. The juvenile was located by the responding officer, and it was determined that she was okay, had only made the comment in jest to some friends, and that she had no intention of committing self-harm. The parent of the student was contacted as well and advised of the incident.

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

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a moving violation. Warning issued.

## May 29

- Assisted with traffic control at Miller & Ketchum Funeral Home on Franklin Street for a funeral procession.

- Took fingerprints for government employment.

- Responded to OVUHS for a report of a female student who was having a mental health crisis and had been throwing chairs around a classroom, striking some of the staff. The situation was de-escalated and the student was escorted to an office to await the arrival of her parent to take her home.

- Took fingerprints for teacher licensing.

- Received a complaint regarding a female student who may have been committing a lewd sexual act in a classroom at the OVUHS. The matter is under investigation.

- Received a late reported call regarding a woman who was seen trying to break into cars on Barlow Avenue during the early morning hours.

- Took fingerprints for school employment.

- Took fingerprints for a school chaperone.

- Assisted the Rutland City Police (RCP) in attempting to locate a vehicle on Wood Lane that was involved in an active investigation by that agency. The vehicle was not located.

- Responded to Barlow Avenue for a report of a burglary in which a witness observed a woman burglarizing a residence. Upon arrival, officers observed the suspect in the area and ordered her to stop. The suspect fled but was quickly apprehended. The woman was placed under arrest, processed, and lodged at the Marble Valley Correctional Center on \$500 cash bail. The suspect was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for ar-

(See Police report, Page 19)



### This little piggie was off with the birds

THIS CHARMING PIGGIE by Sarah Johnston is titled "Two Chicks Chatting" and was created for the Brandon Artists Guild's upcoming auction to mark the Guild's 25th anniversary. There will be a preview of 50+ pigs created for the auction on Friday, June 7 at the Guild's gallery on Center Street in Brandon.

# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)  
raignment on 5/30/2024 at 12:30 p.m. for the crimes of Unlawful Trespass, Resisting Arrest, Possession of Cocaine (Crack), and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol (Brandon Municipal Ordinance). It was also later determined that the suspect was the same individual attempting to break into vehicles in the Barlow Avenue area during the early morning hours.

• Responded to Country Club Road for a report of what was described as rapid gunfire or possibly a car backfiring. The area was checked, but nothing suspicious was located.

## May 30

• Opened an ongoing investigation into an embezzlement complaint from the Neshobe Cafe on Park Street.

• Assisted in resolving a custody dispute at the BPD.

• Received a report of a broken-down tractor trailer unit on McConnell Road at a dangerous turn in the roadway. An officer proceeded to the scene; however, no tractor trailer was located.

• Responded to Brookdale Street for a report of several abandoned animals in one of the trailers in the trailer park, with numerous flies inside the residence. Upon arrival, the investigating officers discovered an overwhelming odor of ammonia and decay coming from the trailer. Using breathing equipment (SCBA) from the Brandon Fire Department, one of the investigating officers entered the building and located evidence of deceased and living animals inside. A search warrant was obtained for the premises and a further search of the trailer was conducted. Several live cats were located inside along with several dead cats and a kitten. A representative from the Rutland County Animal Shelter and the Brandon Animal Control Officer assisted in catching the cats that remained inside the home. The remains of the deceased animals were collected so that necropsies could be performed. The cats that were found alive in the trailer were transported to the Rutland County Humane Society for medical treatment. The male and female owners of the trailer were issued citations to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 7/15/2024 at 10:00 a.m. on the charge of Cruelty to Animals.

• Attempted to locate an individual on Quenneville Drive who was wanted on numerous criminal charges. The subject was not located at the residence.

• Assisted the PPD with a motor vehicle stop on Route 7 in which

drugs were believed to be in the vehicle.

• Assisted the PPD with a single-vehicle rollover at the Brandon/Pittsford town line on Route 7.

• Conducted a motor vehicle stop in the parking lot of the BPD for a vehicle that failed to display registration plate(s). Upon stopping the vehicle, the officer observed that the driver appeared to be intoxicated and subsequently screened him. The operator was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol-First Offense. The driver was processed and then later released on a citation to appear for arraignment in the Rutland County Superior Court on 6/17/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

## May 31

• Received a complaint from a concerned parent regarding messages her 18-year-old daughter was getting from a 40-year-old man. The complainant was advised of her options on how to deal with the issue.

• Received a "Be On Lookout" from the Vermont State Police Dispatch-Rutland regarding an erratic operator passing unsafely and speeding on Route 7 heading southbound into Brandon. An officer located the vehicle and conducted a vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road and Paint Works Road. Upon stopping the vehicle, the investigating officer detected signs that the operator was impaired, at which point he was screened roadside. The driver was placed under arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. He was later processed and then issued a citation to appear at the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 6/17/2024.

• Received a complaint about individuals in a camper that had parked in the parking lot of Cat-tails Restaurant on Grove Street. The subjects were located and issued a verbal trespass notice per request of the property owner.

• Vehicle stop on Park Street for speeding and failing to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

• Responded to a disabled boat trailer that was creating a traffic hazard on Conant Square at Pearl Street. Officers assisted with traffic while the boat and trailer were removed.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street near Miller and Ketcham Funeral Home for driving while using a cell phone. Warning issued.

• Responded to a disturbance call on Maple Street in which some people were yelling inside a residence. The parties were separated as no crime had occurred. It was determined that the issue was mental health related.

• Received a complaint of an RV creating a road hazard due to where it was parked on Center Street. Contact was made with the owners, who were asked to move the vehicle to a safer parking location behind Dunkin' Donuts.

• Responded to the area of Town Farm Road and Richmond Road for a report of an SUV doing "donuts" in the area and kicking up rocks onto area lawns. The responding officer did not locate the vehicle but was able to follow the tire tracks to the area of Quenneville Drive, where similar "donut" patterns were observed.

• Assisted RCP with a vehicle of interest located by RCP detectives at the Hannaford Supermarket on Supermarket Drive in Brandon.

• Vehicle stop on Prospect Street for failure to display license plate. Warning issued.

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

## June 1

• Vehicle stop on High Street.

• Attended Kindness Day at the Neshobe Elementary School with K9 Guinness.

• Received a 911 hang-up call from a residence on New Road. It was later determined that the call was accidental by the homeowner.

• Responded to the area of Grove Street for a young child throwing sticks at cars as they passed. The child was located and brought back to his parent.

• Responded to a burglary alarm activation at the Otterside Animal Hospital. The building was checked and appeared to be secure.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display license plates. During the course of the stop, it was determined that the driver of the car had a civilly suspended driver's license. It was also determined that one of the occupants of the vehicle was found to be in possession of cocaine. The suspect was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 7/15/2024.

• Received a report of a truck hitting a telephone pole on Marshall Phillips Road with unknown injuries. Crash under investigation with criminal charges likely resulting.

• Vehicle stop on Country Club Road on a vehicle that had an expired registration. Upon investigation, the officer determined that the occupant of the vehicle was in possession of cocaine and was placed under arrest. The vehicle was subsequently seized and brought back to the BPD, where a search warrant was applied for and granted. The suspect was later released on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 7/29/2024. Further criminal charges may be added regarding the search of the vehicle.

## June 2

• Received a report of an abandoned vehicle on North Street near Conway Terrace. The vehicle was located and towed from the scene.

• Issued a woman a notice against trespass from a property on Brookdale Street.

• Conducted traffic enforcement on Center Street. One ticket issued for texting while driving.

• Vehicle stop on Center Street for failing to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

• Responded to the area of North Street regarding a report of a suspicious vehicle loitering in the area with several individuals inside. The vehicle was located and the subjects indicated that they were waiting for acquaintances coming from a nearby residence. No criminal activity was observed.


• Spoke with an individual regarding an abandoned vehicle that had been left on Conway Terrace.

• Conducted traffic enforcement on Basin Road for complaints of speeding vehicles. No activity observed.

• Issued two individuals a notice against trespass from a residence on Spellman Way.

• Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Steinberg Road for an expired registration. Warning issued.

• Conducted a business property watch on Union Street at the Union Street Grocery.



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

**you're getting good feedback, don't count your chickens just yet.**

**to an estranged friend or family member. Instead, wait things out a little longer.**

**LEO July 23-Aug. 23**  
Leo, if you haven't been doing so already, it is important to set aside some savings so that you'll have a safety net in the future. It's essential that you are not just living for today.

**CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
It is time to disconnect from all of the gadgets and feeds that are constantly drawing your attention, Capricorn. Enjoy a technological detox and reconnect with friends.

**ARIES March 21-April 20**  
Aries, you may have to shuffle your schedule a bit this week to accommodate some interesting ideas that you have come up with on the fly. It's a good thing you're adaptable.

**VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22**  
Virgo, get together with your significant other or another partner and figure out how to divide the workload that has been bogging you down. It's alright to admit that you need help.

**AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
Aquarius, you are a major force to reckon with when you pair your creative visions with solid, grounded plans. Things will start falling into place soon enough.

**TAURUS April 21-May 21**  
Taurus, think about where you want to go in the upcoming weeks, because you have some pretty influential supporters who can help propel you in that very direction.

**LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23**  
Libra, if you think about it, you have been procrastinating a bit more than usual. It might be because your tasks are not interesting you much. That could mean finding new hobbies.

**PISCES Feb. 19-March 20**  
This week you get a free pass to put yourself first and foremost for a change, Pisces. Go to the head of the line, because it's all about you for the next few days.

**GEMINI May 22-June 21**  
Gemini, you may be involved in a few different projects right now, but often you start things and do not finish them, which can be frustrating to others. Do not take on any additional tasks.

**SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22**  
Scorpio, get essential tasks out of the way early this week, because it's likely you will not be enthusiastic about mundane jobs later on. Save plenty of time for fun and entertaining.

**CANCER June 22-July 22**  
You have some high hopes regarding something that has been taking up your time for quite a while, Cancer. Although

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

June 7 Orhan Pamuk, novelist, Nobel-laureate (72)

June 8 Frank Lloyd Wright, architect (d)

June 9 Jackie Wilson, singer (d)

June 10 Howlin' Wolf, singer (d)

June 11 Jacques Cousteau, explorer/filmmaker(d)

June 12 Anne Frank, dairist (d)

June 13 Dorothy L. Sayers, mystery writer (d)

# Yard Sale?



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## At Devil's Bowl

# Quenneville impresses in second win of the '24 season

WEST HAVEN, Vt. — Vince Quenneville, Jr., won his second Sunoco Sportsman Modified Feature of 2024 on Saturday, June 1, defeating Randy Ryan and Brent Warren.

Pat Miner led the field to green and led the first seven laps, before AJ Munger assumed control on the outside lane from lap eight until lap 11 when Brent Warren took over. At the same time, Quenneville, who won back on May 11, was already up to 3rd from 14th. He took the lead from Warren on lap 14 and led the rest of the way, winning by 2.89 seconds over Ryan, Warren, Travis Green and Tanner Siemons.

Alex Layn won the O'Reilly Limited Sportsman Feature, besting Cody O'Brien and last week's winner, Scott Towslee. Fred Little and John Gosselin completed the top-five. Don Williams led the first five laps before giving way to Adam Lafountain. O'Brien passed Lafountain on lap 14, leading until 16 when Layn slipped by, going on to win his first of 2024.


The Hoosier Racing Tire Novice Feature was won by Logan Denis. Matt Cram and Matt Wade joined him on the podium. Denis clawed from 9th to take the lead on lap 15 from Cram. Nick Austin-Neil's hopes for a three-peat were ended

by his 4th place run. Bobbi Hulst continued her consistency, running 5th.

Ray Hanson conquered the in-field track where the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint Feature was held. Destin St. Clair turned in his best run of the year in 2nd. Tommy Kasuba, Chris Pierce and Alex Reed completed the top-five.

Jeremy Brownell earned a big win also on the little track, driving from 7th to win the 15-lap Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stock Feature. Mark Mahoney was 2nd, Jake Mallory, Richard Fleury and Chris Sumner rounded out the top-five.

# Restaurant *guide*



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THE PUFFS CELEBRATE.

## 'Puffs'

(Continued from Page 14)

pentginy. Multiple parts were also played by Mariska Harding, Emil Dardizzo, Jordan Bertrand, Sophie Moore, and Dani Polli. The ensemble skillfully navigated the many character, costume, and prop changes, while seamlessly integrating with the many

technical aspects of the production: sound effects, magic, and lighting.

While the play “never goes more than a minute without a laugh,” it ends with heart. And—whether or not you are a fan of Harry Potter—the quality of the Otter Valley production speaks

well to the hard work, skill, and collaboration of so many young actors, the production crew, and the staff and volunteers who support them. One cannot help but to leave a production like this feeling hopeful and uplifted.



## Franklin's

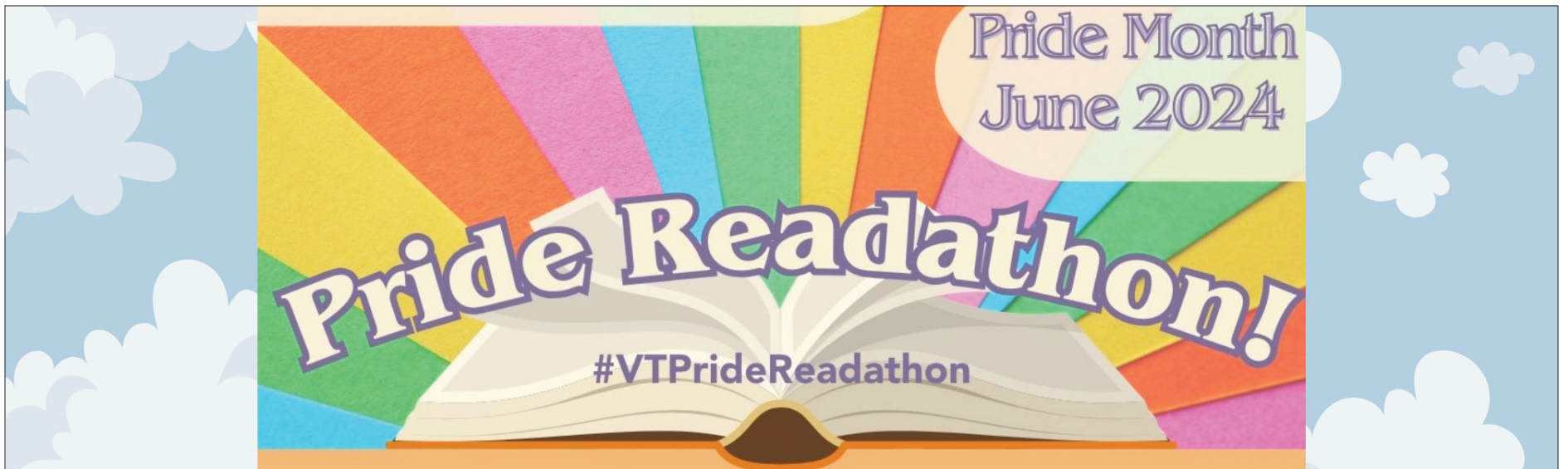
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## Join Vermont Independent Bookstores as they hold a Pride Readathon in June to benefit Camp Outright

The Bookstore in Brandon has teamed up with thirteen other independent bookstores across Vermont for the second annual Pride Readathon to raise money for Camp Outright. Outright Vermont is the state's only queer youth service organization and statewide advocacy center; Camp Outright is their residential summer program. Funds raised during the Readathon ensure that no camper is turned away due to financial need.

Each bookstore is encouraging booksellers, customers, and members of the public to join

in the readathon. Participants will pledge to read a certain number of LGBTQ+ books during the month of June, seeking donations toward their goal. Others may opt to make a flat donation to the cause. An anonymous donor has provided matching funds up to \$25,000. The goal is to elevate queer authors and queer stories during Pride month and year-round, because representation matters and everyone deserves to see themselves in the stories they love.

Claire Benedict of Bear Pond Books in Montpelier, who

hosted last year's Readathon, said "We had so much fun last year with the Pride Readathon. We're really looking forward to year two of promoting LGBTQ+ voices and supporting Outright Vermont."

Dana Kaplan, executive director of Outright Vermont says "It's pretty special for Outright to participate in the Readathon hosted by Vermont's independent bookstores because it provides a great opportunity to spotlight books that hold significance in queer culture and the journey of self-discovery. We have to see ourselves to be-

lieve ourselves! We're grateful and excited to be part of this, looking forward to delving into our summer reads along with everyone else."

The 2024 Pride Readathon independent bookstore participants are:

"Bartleby's Books" in Wilmington

"Bear Pond Books" in Montpelier

"Bennington Bookshop"

"The Bookstore" in Brandon

"Bridgeside Books" in Waterbury

"Everyone's Books" in Brattleboro

"Galaxy Booksho" in Hardwick

"Norwich Bookstore"

"Phoenix Books" in Essex, Burlington, and Rutland

"The Vermont Book Shop" in Middlebury

"Village Square Booksellers" in Bellows Falls

"Yankee Bookshop" in Woodstock.

For more information, please visit Outright Vermont's Pride Readathon page at

<https://give.outrightvt.org/Pride2024>

## Schools grapple

(Continued from Page 4)

approved budgets. The most recent budget proposed for Otter Valley showed per pupil spending \$1,000 less than the state average and an equalized property tax rate increase of 3.7 percent.

These three districts have been among the most careful districts in the state when it comes to spending their taxpayer dollars and responding to the demands of their voters. It is time to approve their budgets.

Meanwhile, the Legislature has taken concrete steps to address the high cost of education in Vermont. In addition to committing \$70 million to lower local tax rates, we passed bills allowing districts in regions

around the state to more easily join forces and lower the cost of services such as busing, food service, and expensive special education programs. The Legislature has also laid the groundwork for a return of state aid for school construction projects, which hasn't existed since 2008. It has also proposed – pending the bill being signed by Gov. Scott – a Commission on the Future of Public Education, which will study short-term cost-containment strategies, as well as dig into the deeper causes of high costs, with a goal of providing the Legislature with proposals for difficult future changes to our public education system statewide.

For now, we need to let our school districts get ready for summer programs, the return of students in the fall, and the activities that bring school and broader communities together for sports, plays, concerts and exhibitions. It is time to support our students and schools and vote yes on the upcoming budgets for Mount Abe, Otter Valley and Slate Valley. Thank you.

*Peter Conlon is the chair of the House Education Committee. Ruth Hardy is chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee. Both have served many years as school board chairs.*

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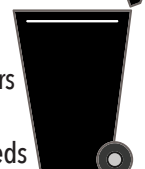
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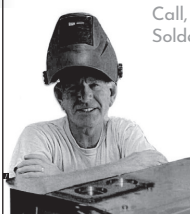
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# Classic 'Thief of Bagdad' to screen Saturday, June 8 at Brandon Town Hall

Adventure/fantasy starring Douglas Fairbanks presented with live music in celebration of film's 100th anniversary

BRANDON—It ranks among the first Hollywood epics to show the full potential for movies to depict entire worlds of fantasy. It was also one of the top grossing films of 1924.

It was 'The Thief of Bagdad,' a celebrated triumph for actor/director Douglas Fairbanks that stands as one of greatest achievements of cinema's silent era.

It's a film filled with images of flying carpets, exotic cities, underwater palaces, winged horses, fire-breathing dragons, and more!

See it for yourself with live music on Saturday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. All are welcome to this family-friendly event.

Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

This 100th anniversary screening of 'The Thief of Bagdad' will be accompanied with live music by Jeff Rapsis.

Douglas Fairbanks, star of 'The Thief of Bagdad,' was the Harrison Ford of his time—a pioneering action hero who was among the first to entertain movie audiences with thrilling adventures.

'The Thief of Bagdad' stands among his best work. It's a timeless fable on a grand scale, boasting a great story, spectacular sets, and magical special effects.

A bare-chested Fairbanks plays a crafty street-smart rogue who can easily steal anything his heart desires—except the love of a beautiful princess, daughter of the powerful Caliph of Bagdad.

To win her hand, he must not only change his ways, but also show his worthiness over many other highly placed suitors.

In making the film, Fairbanks spared no expense for what some critics still regard as the most lavish fantasy movie ever made, a show-stopping adaptation of the traditional "A Thousand and One Nights" Arabian legend.

The result is an epic in which a flying carpet is just one of many eye-popping sights designed to astound movie audiences.

Fairbanks, swaggering through massive marketplace sets and cavernous throne rooms as an incorrigible pickpocket, scales towering walls (with the help of a magic rope) and leads merry chases through crowded bazaars in his pursuit of loot.

The jaunty opening is a preamble to the film's spectacular second half, in which the repentant thief embarks on an odyssey through caverns of fire, underwater palaces, and even outer space.

Special effects range from a giant smoke-belching dragon to a magical flying horse, and still glow with

a timeless sense of wonder from the early days of movies.

William Cameron Menzies's sets were among the largest ever created for a motion picture. Especially noteworthy is his design for a mythical Bagdad, a unique combination of Art Deco and Islamic elements—a dream city inspired by illustrations from story books.

Fairbanks, among the most popular stars of the 1920s, was the inspiration for the character of George Valentin in the Oscar-winning Best Picture 'The Artist' (2011).

Fairbanks was known for films that used the then-new medium of motion pictures to transport audiences to historical time periods for grand adventures and athletic stunts.

He's often referred to as "Douglas Fairbanks Sr." to avoid confusion with his son, the actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

A century after its premiere, 'The Thief of Bagdad' remains highly regarded. In 1996, the film was selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

Live music for 'The Thief of Bagdad' will be provided by silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis, who uses a digital synthesizer to create a traditional full orchestra "movie score" sound.

"Seeing a Fairbanks picture in a theater with live music and an audience is a classic movie experience," Rapsis said.

Rapsis emphasized the unique value of seeing early cinema as it was originally presented.

"These films were designed for the big screen, live music, and large audiences. If you put it all together again, you get a sense of why people first fell in love with the movies," Rapsis said.

The screening of 'The Thief of Bagdad' is sponsored by Kathy and Wayne Rausenberger, Donna Malewicki, Jean and Harold Somerset, Donald and Dolores Furnari, Gary and Nancy Meffe, and Pam and Steve Douglass.

Other films in this year's Brandon Town Hall silent film series include:

- Saturday, July 20, 2024, 7 p.m.: "The Cameraman" (1928) starring Buster Keaton. In 'The Cameraman,' Keaton tries to impress the gal of his dreams by working as a newsreel photographer. Can he get a break and get the girl? Classic visual comedy with Keaton at the peak of his creative powers; set in NYC and includes 1920s shots of Midtown Manhattan and the old Yankee Stadium.

- Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, 7



p.m.: "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" (1921) starring Rudolph Valentino. Sweeping drama of a divided family with members caught up on opposite sides during World War I. Breakthrough film for Rudolph Valentino, introducing the sultry tango and launching him to stardom. The real deal! Shown both in honor of the 110th anniversary of World War I's outbreak and the anniversary of Valentino's untimely death in 1926.

- Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Speedy" (1928) starring Harold Lloyd. Harold's final silent feature is a tribute to New York City, baseball, and the idea that nice guys can indeed finish first, highlighted by one of the most exciting races to the finish in all silent cinema. Complete with an extended cameo from none other than Babe Ruth!

- Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Phantom of the Opera" (1925) starring Lon Chaney. Long before Andrew Lloyd Webber created the hit stage musical, this silent film adaptation starring Lon Chaney put 'Phantom' firmly in the pantheon of both horror and romance. Just in time for Halloween!

- Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Barbed Wire" (1927) starring Pola Negri, Clive Brook. During World War I, the French government commandeers a family farm for use as a camp for German POWs, setting the local population at each other. Intense drama about forbidden love and the human condition, with a special holiday twist.

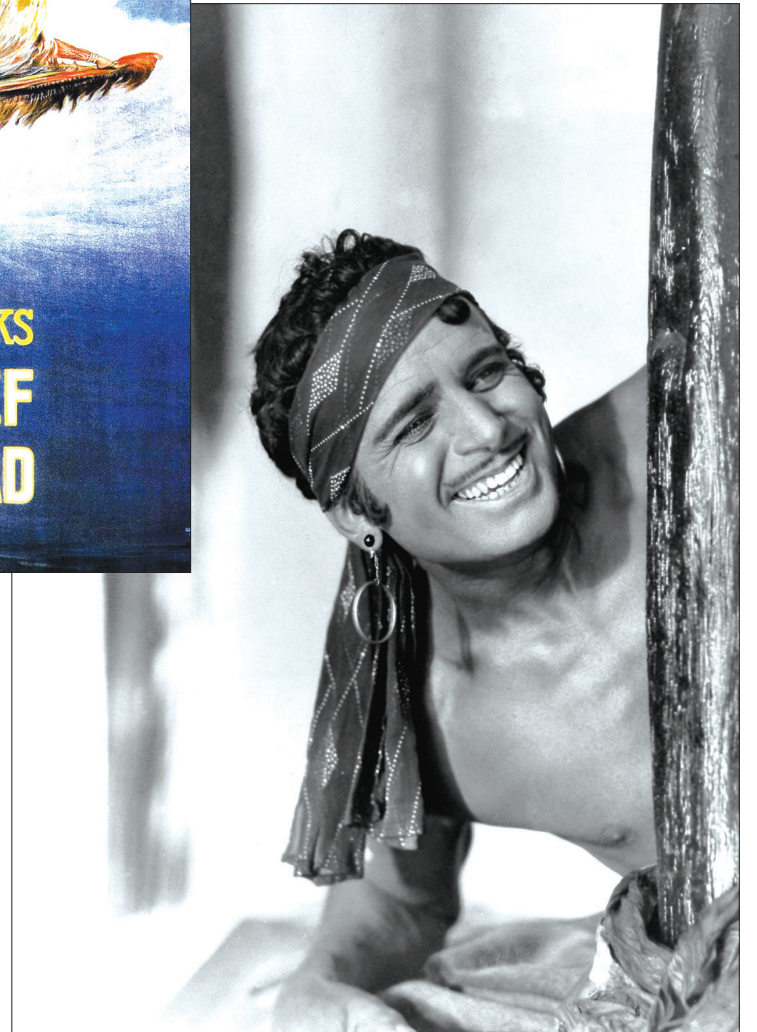
See Douglas Fairbanks Sr. in the 'The Thief of Bagdad' (1924) with live music on Saturday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and

Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free

will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

For information, visit [www.brandontownhall.com](http://www.brandontownhall.com).

For more about the music, visit [www.jeffrapsis.com](http://www.jeffrapsis.com).



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# Understanding how our school district is organized

## SUPERVISORY UNION V. SCHOOL DISTRICT

### SUPERVISORY UNION (SU)

- An entity that oversees and administers Vermont's public schools
- Contain two or more school districts
- Responsibilities to their school districts include:
  - o Development of curriculum
  - o Providing special education
  - o Administering school meals
  - o Financial administration
  - o Data management
- They are the Local Education Agency so they receive and administer federal funds (such as COVID-19 relief funds)
- Led by a Superintendent. They also usually have:
  - o Business manager
  - o Data manager
  - o Curriculum coordinator
  - o Special education director
  - o Facilities manager
- Governed by a Supervisory Union Board
- **Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU)** is a supervisory union

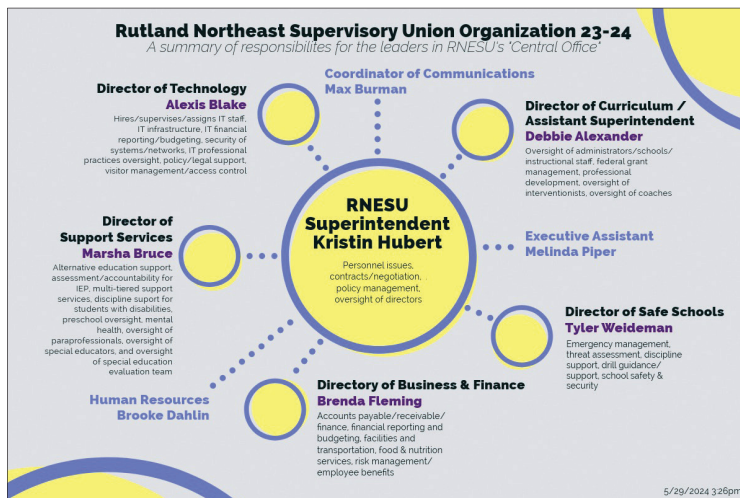
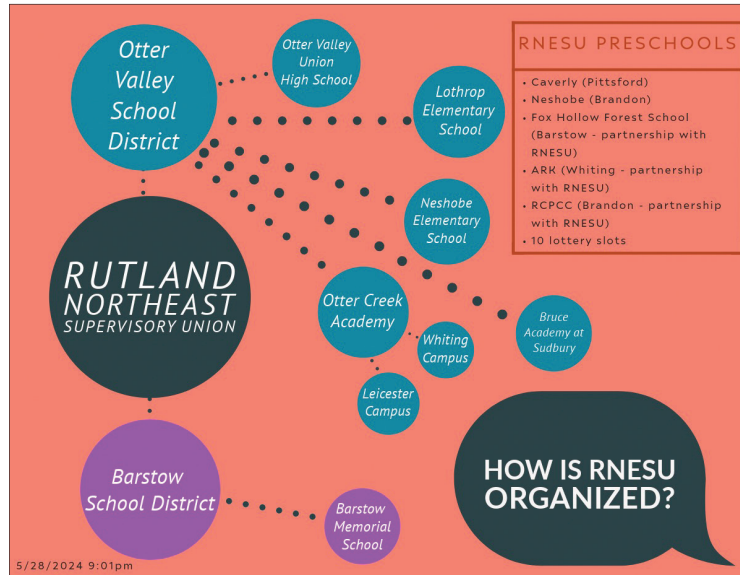
### SCHOOL DISTRICT (SD)

- An entity responsible for operating one or more public schools, or paying tuition for students in their district.
- Governed by a school board
- Some SDs cover a single town, and some cover multiple towns
- Responsibilities include:
  - o **SET THE BUDGET FOR THEIR SD**
  - o Set district policies
  - o Maintain school buildings and grounds
  - o Manage SD's finances
  - o SD's get support from SU's
- **Otter Valley Unified Union School District includes:**
  - o Otter Valley Union High School
  - o Lothrop Elementary School
  - o Neshobe Elementary School
  - o Otter Creek Academy
  - o Bruce Academy at Sudbury School
- **Barstow Unified Union School District includes**
  - o Barstow Memorial School

*Otter Valley Unified Union School District: Brandon, Pittsford, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Goshen, Florence, Forestdale, and tuition students*

*Barstow Unified Union School District: Chittenden, Mendon, and tuition students*

5/28/2024 10:11pm



In anticipation of the revote on the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) budget on Tuesday, June 11, the OVUU board has provided these charts to clarify the organizational structure of the district.

OVUU is putting forward its third proposed budget this budget season. This proposal will represent a decrease of \$439,001 (1.6%) from the original proposal that was rejected in March. It cuts \$285,501 from OVUU's payments to RNESU, \$117,102 for a Dean of Students at Neshobe, \$7,300 for the OV Nordic ski team, \$9,098 for a Middle School late bus run, and \$20,000 for professional development for OVUU school board members. The total amount proposed in the latest budget is \$26,808,222.

Please find time to vote on Tuesday.



# Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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