

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



**ABUNDANCE OF OPERA**

How two local opera companies, Barn Opera and the Opera Company of Middlebury, have survived thanks to a devoted following.

PG. 2



**2024 GRADUATES**

See inside for photos of the OVUHS senior class.

PG. 16



**WISE WORDS**

OV class of 2024 valedictorian, Max Derby, reflects on reaching a major life milestone and what success means going forward.

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**GARDENING CORNER**

With tongue in cheek, Lyn Desmarais debunks the idea that gardening reduces stress.

PG. 31



SEE PAGE 16 for more graduation coverage.

**CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!**



**WINKY SUFFERED A brutal assault at the hands of a demented rival back in May. Seen here in his bandages after the attack, he's on the mend and in training for the Independence Day duckie race on July 6!**

**Winky receives sponsorship from Nifty Thrifty; will race in July!**

BY STEVEN JUPITER & LORYNDA FISH

BRANDON—In the quiet of a recent morning, a determined duckie waddled from his nest on the banks of the Neshobe to the large glass punch bowl he's

been using for his rehabilitation. Swimming in circles for hours to regain his strength, digging deep within himself for grit he didn't even know he had. He is Winky and he will swim again!

(See Winky to race, Page 8)

**OVUU budget passes on third attempt**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After a tough budget season that saw school budgets shot down across the state, the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school budget for FY25 narrowly won the approval of a majority of those who voted in the district on Tuesday, June 11. The final tally was 738 yes (53%) to 667 no (47%). It was the district's third proposal this season and the approved budget of \$26,808,222 represented a 1.6% decrease from the first proposal that was defeated in March and an 11% increase over the budget approved for the current year (FY24).

Starting out with a proposal of \$27,247,823, which was rejected by roughly 60% of voters on March 5, the OVUU (See OVUU budget, Page 7)



BUTCH SHAW

**After 15 years, Butch Shaw bids farewell to the Statehouse**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Community service is part of Vermont culture: everyone pitches in however they can to make this brave little state work. Few embody this as fully as Charles "Butch" (See Butch Shaw, Page 28)





# The Opera Company of Middlebury & Barn Opera in Brandon emerged unexpectedly but have found devoted followers.

## How 2 Vermont professional opera companies happened by accident

BY THEO WELLS-SPACKMAN/VTDIGGER

“On paper,” said Doug Anderson, artistic director and co-founder of the Opera Company of Middlebury, “it’s fairly impossible that we exist.”

Anderson just finished the sold-out run of Donizetti’s “La Fille du Régiment” on June 8th, in the company’s 20th season. Jim Lowe’s review in the Times-Argus called it “absolutely delightful” and “virtuosic.”

In the company’s entire history, “virtually every performance has been sold out,” Anderson said. “It just shows how much the community is supporting what we’re doing.”

Established in 2017, the nearby Barn Opera in Brandon is a relative newcomer to the state’s scene. But audiences have already flocked to the opera house where Joshua Collier is the artistic director. Having been first brought to the area by Anderson in Middlebury, Collier was named one of Vermont Public Radio’s 40 artists under 40 in 2019.

For both directors, the intimacy of their productions is crucial: The Town Hall Theater in Middlebury seats 232, and the Barn Opera House just 110.

“I love the size of our house,” Anderson said of the historic Middlebury theater. “Suddenly, the drama, the narrative story, can (be) told in subtle and very effective ways.”

He fell in love with Vermont during a stint teaching at Middlebury College. Despite the fact that the job was temporary, he

built a house in East Middlebury.

“In a sense, it was foolhardy,” he said. “I didn’t know I was gonna run a theater and run an opera company.” After his 3-year teaching contract expired, he would otherwise have been jobless.

But in 1997, Anderson walked into what would become the Town Hall Theater and fell in love. Then, while the newly purchased theater was still a construction site, he made another leap of faith. Working with a team of local artists, he produced the company’s first opera: Bizet’s “Carmen.”

“There was sawdust in the corners,” Anderson said of that early renovation period. “Ten thousand bats flying around.”

The production felt like a risk, but it turned out to be a huge success, with budding operatic talent impressing all comers.

“Before we knew it, we had sort of committed ourselves ... let’s turn this into an ongoing thing,” he recalled.

In 2015, Anderson hired Collier, who sang in Puccini’s “Turandot.” Though the production only lasted a month, the experience of Vermont lingered in Collier’s mind as he returned to Boston.

Two years later, on a video call with his 1-year-old daughter, he hit a wall. He had been away performing 10 months out of the year, he said, on far-flung regional gigs with companies from New Hampshire to North Carolina.

“She looked behind the iPad, and she couldn’t find me, and she started to cry,” he said. “I said: ‘Something’s gotta give.’”

And through serendipity, he



THE BARN OPERA House.

Photo provided by Joshua Collier/Barn Opera

*“In a very small state, we’re lucky to have two really dynamic opera organizations,”*

— Amy Cunningham, deputy director of the Vermont Arts Council

said, “I found this beautiful place and this wonderful community.”

He arrived back in Vermont in 2017, expecting to become “the hermit opera singer,” far from the urban centers and their packed concert halls. He joined the board of a struggling nonprofit, at the time called Brandon Music. He told the board members he could produce an opera on the company’s home stage — which happened to be a barn.

“I was told it’ll never work,” he remembered. “You’re gonna get 30 people.”

The 50-seat barn sold out immediately.

Two years later, he had successfully raised half a million dollars and bought a bigger barn. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he created six live recordings of socially distanced opera casts.

But the limited geographic reach and expense of his productions continued to trouble him.

His mission to “take a sledgehammer” to the socioeconomic exclusivity often associated with opera has fueled significant expansion. He’s founding another company, Opera Vermont, which will be associated with Barn Opera but will focus on reaching new audiences.

“Vermonters don’t want to be told that an art form is above them,” Collier stated. “They want to be moved by the power of the music.”

(His barn opera house gives out

free local beer before every performance. Jeans and T-shirts are encouraged.)

The new project will see Collier’s productions move throughout the state to other participating venues, including the Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester and the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro.

“A state opera company doesn’t have to be something where people go to it,” he said. “It can be a company or an organization where we go to the people.”

The Opera Company of Middlebury recently merged with the Youth Opera Company of Vermont to broaden accessibility and develop local talent. It also offers a program that offers free show tickets to audience members under 26.

One thing both directors stressed is that their work never stops being risky.

“Every year, it’s a major struggle to get to the next year,” Anderson said, adding that ticket sales cover just 30% of the cost of the production. Barn Opera also relies heavily on private donations.

“We have to think about what the scale of philanthropy means,” Collier said.

While \$100,000 is a drop in the bucket for some major companies, Collier said, for Barn Opera, it can cover two years of programming.

The success of the local opera companies hasn’t been lost on

the Vermont Arts Council, which works to promote the state’s “creative economy” as a critical financial engine. A recent study showed that the arts are responsible for significant tourism and other sources of growth, according to Amy Cunningham, the council’s deputy director.

“In a very small state, we’re lucky to have two really dynamic opera organizations,” Cunningham said, noting that a third company, Opera North, based in Lebanon, N.H., is also accessible for Vermonters on the eastern side of the state.

“Just across the river!” she said.

According to Maria Laskaris, Opera North’s development director, Vermonters make up 30% of the company’s audience. She called the Upper Valley, regardless of state lines, “a community that is eager to see the arts and support the arts.”

In a relatively rural area where arts aren’t always widely accessible, Cunningham lauded the opera companies’ commitment to community and educational outreach.

In the post-Covid era, full theaters in any context is good news, she said.

This fall, Barn Opera will present the world premiere of “Truman and Nancy” by William Zeffiro. The Opera Company of Middlebury will also premiere a new work by local composer Jorge Martin before its feature presentation of Derrick Wang’s “Scalia/Ginsburg.”

Opera North’s summer festival will kick off in July with “Orpheus in the Underworld” and “Rigoletto.”



SOPRANO SARA LEMESH as “Marie” in La Fille du Régiment with the Opera Company of Middlebury.

Photo provided by Doug Anderson/Opera Company of Middlebury



# Rene Sanchez is named as the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Interim Superintendent

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is excited to announce that it has named Rene Sanchez as Interim Superintendent effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Sanchez has stated, "I am deeply honored to be chosen as the RNEU Interim Superintendent. I am prepared to continue the diligent work of Superintendent Hubert, her team, and the RNEU boards. As I arrive, not only am I excited to meet everyone, but also to learn from and develop partnerships with the students, the educators, and the commu-

nity. Together, we will build on the boards' and communities' goals to create the best possible outcomes for our students."

RNEU board chair Laurie Bertrand has said of Mr. Sanchez, "We are delighted to have Rene join our supervisory union. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will benefit RNEU and help us continue to provide a quality education to all of our students."

Prior to taking on this role, Mr. Sanchez most recently served as the superintendent of

the Champlain Valley School District. Prior to that role Mr. Sanchez served as the Assistant Superintendent of Operations in South Bend, Indiana, and as a secondary principal in Houston and Austin, Texas. He has also written chapters for educational leadership books focused on implementing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Science, Technology, Arts, and Math (STEAM).

Originally from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, Mr. Sanchez attended undergraduate

studies at the University of Notre Dame where he earned a bachelor's degree in Government and International Studies. He has a law degree from Ohio State. Mr. Sanchez graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Master's in Education. He is currently enrolled at Indiana State to conclude his Ph.D.

In Vermont, he has been responsible for bringing a data-driven focus and systems-thinking processes to the organization in the academic, belonging, and operations areas. With his board, he has successfully passed a five-year strategic plan and a facilities bond and implemented the district's Equity Policy and equity audit recommendations.

In South Bend, as the Assistant Superintendent for Operations for the South Bend Community School Corporation. He oversaw Human Resources and Transportation. Within HR, he created a New Teacher training monthly series focusing on Equity and Universal Design for Learning, coordinated the move to a new HRIS system and digital personnel records, and improved the teacher hiring timeline. He spearheaded the purchase and implementation of WIFI on the district's school buses in the

transportation realm. This action led South Bend Schools to bridge the digital divide during the COVID-19 pandemic and recognize the district in local, state, and national news.

As principal of Houston ISD's 3000+ students Chavez High School, his team founded the IB Diploma and Career Programmes, the Process Technology Associates' Degree program with San Jacinto College, which was featured in the book, UDL: Moving from Exploration to Integration for its culture and use of Universal Design for Learning

schoolwide. The school was recognized by America Achieves and the Organization for Economic and Community Development for closing the academic gap with affluent schools. Scholarships increased from \$6 million to over \$19 million. And, in just 3 years, his vertical team increased their fine arts programs by 250%.

Mr. Sanchez is married to Jean, a native Vermonter. They have three children and three dogs. Mr. Sanchez loves cycling, cooking, reading, fishing, golfing, and working in the garden and yard.



RENE SANCHEZ

## With veto override, Act 250 reform bill becomes law

BY CARLY BERLIN/  
VTDIGGER

Lawmakers have voted to override Gov. Phil Scott's veto of a marquee housing and land-use bill that makes broad reforms to Act 250, Vermont's signature development review law.

That means H.687, a bill that seeks to balance promoting housing growth and environmental conservation, will now become law.

"We kept our eye on the twin goals of environmental integrity and the immediate short and long term needs of the people we serve," Rep. Seth Bongartz, D-Manchester, one of the bill's authors, told colleagues on the House floor ahead of the vote on Monday morning.

In the House, 107 lawmakers voted to override the veto, while 38 voted against it. In the Senate, the override received 21 "yes" votes and eight "no" votes. Overrides require a two-thirds majority in each chamber.

For years, state leaders tried and failed to find a path forward to update Act 250, a law that has governed development in Vermont for over half a century. Proponents for housing growth have long argued that the regulation adds time, cost and risk to the development process, throwing cold water on Vermont's efforts to encourage more housing construction. Meanwhile, some environmentalists have reasoned that Act 250 could do more to protect sensitive habitats as the climate changes.

H.687 represents a compromise between those interests.

It will relax Act 250's reach in existing development centers, a move proponents hope will clear red tape and encourage compact housing development amid an acute housing shortage. It also lays the groundwork for extending Act 250's protections in areas deemed ecologically sensitive.

Scott has long beaten the drum on deregulation, arguing that loosening Act 250 will help boost more housing growth. But throughout the 2024 legislative season, the Republican governor repeatedly criticized lawmakers' latest attempt to overhaul the land-use law, claiming that H.687 places more emphasis on conservation than on promoting more housing, particularly in rural parts of Vermont.

That disapproval reached a fever pitch late last week, when Scott vetoed the bill. "Despite almost universal consensus, I don't believe we've done nearly enough to address Vermont's housing affordability crisis," Scott wrote in a letter to lawmakers explaining his decision. He claimed that H.687 would in fact expand Act 250 regulation "at a pace that will slow down current housing efforts."

Republican lawmakers repeated many of Scott's concerns on Monday, arguing that certain aspects of H.687 — like a new "road rule," which will trigger Act 250 review for larger-scale private road construction, a measure meant to deter forest fragmentation — constitute an expansion of Act 250's reach and will hinder building.

But Democratic backers of the bill countered that charac-

terization, arguing that H.687 in fact makes significant Act 250 rollbacks for the first time in the law's history.

"For the first time since its passage, we now recommend relinquishing jurisdiction for the purposes of building housing in areas that meet certain conditions," Bongartz said. He noted that local planning and zoning rules have evolved considerably since the state-level review law was passed in 1970, as a response to rapid development in Vermont.

H.687 sets in motion a process to chop Vermont into a series of "tiers" that will dictate how development is treated under Act 250, easing the law's reach in some already-developed areas and strengthening its protections over sensitive ecosystems.

The actual boundaries of the new Act 250 tiers will be hashed out in a years-long mapping and rulemaking process. In the meantime, the bill sets up a number of interim exemptions from Act 250, including one for all housing projects within the state's 24 designated downtown areas through January 2027, and for projects of up to 50 units around dozens of village centers around the state.

The sprawling bill carries far more than just Act 250 changes. It also includes broad reforms to the state's designation incentives program, a new tax on second-home buyers, funding for eviction prevention programs, flood disclosure requirements for home sellers and landlords, and more.

## Spotlight On Business BRANDON YOGA CENTER



Brandon Yoga Center offers Hot Yoga, Vinyasa, Gentle, Chair, Restorative and Yin yoga classes. Enjoy Pilates, Reiki energy healing sessions and Tai Chi.

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improves cardiovascular function; deepens sleep; and many more.

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Visit [brandonyogacenter.com](http://brandonyogacenter.com) for more information and class schedule times.



# Mosquitoes are coming!

## Dispatch from the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District

Summer and wet weather bring mosquitoes, particularly around Lake Dunmore and in the floodplains of the Otter Creek. This is why, in the late 1970s, Art Doty and others formed an Insect Control District to mitigate the mosquitoes. The organization has changed over the years: Goshen, Pittsford, and Proctor later joined the original trio of Brandon, Leicester, and Salisbury. The organization is now called the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW). Anyone interested in exploring its activities and recommendations should check the website: <http://ocwicd.com>.

This spring has not been as wet as last year's, and our Operations Coordinator also reported seeing little fish and many frogs in the pools in floodplains such

as the Pomainville Wildlife Management Area between Pittsford and Brandon. This is good news; it means the flood-plain ecosystem is recovering and developing a population of creatures who view mosquito larvae as food. This may reduce the need for human treatment in some areas.

There have also been changes in personnel and policy at the State level, in the Agency of Agriculture, which regulates the use of pesticides and oversees the ICD among many other organizations. Last year, a concern about advance notification before adulticiding treatments led the State to require a schedule of treatment. Weather, however, is not subject to human scheduling, and the result was

that many parts of the member towns were undertreated because the weather did not allow treatment on their scheduled days. This year, the scheduling requirement has been dropped, but the thresholds and frequency testing have been adjusted. Treatment for larviciding (i.e., the use of biological agents in the water) and adulticiding (the spraying at ultra-low volume of chemicals that kill adult mosquitoes) both require sampling before treatment. OCW personnel go out to designated locations to leave traps (for 24 hours) or to capture larvae in the water with dip nets and catch mosquitoes in the air with larger nets. The State has also required OCW to equip its trucks with flow meters to measure and modify the

rate of spraying according to the speed of the truck. The District is very grateful to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association for a grant that covered the cost of this equipment.

People can also do much to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes and to protect themselves on their own: remove or treat all sources of standing water around your houses.

*People can also do much to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes and to protect themselves on their own: remove or treat all sources of standing water around your houses.*

reduce their exposure to mosquitoes and to protect themselves on their own: remove or treat all sources of standing water around your houses. This includes things such as birdbaths, tires, and gutters. Larvicidal products for garden features are readily available at most hardware stores. Spray the clothing you wear outside the house with a product such as permethrin (which also protects against ticks), and use long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Adult (See *Mosquitoes are coming*, Page 7)



### Tiny but mighty

THIS TINY MARSH wren is defending its territory at the West Rutland Marsh.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

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## Community Forums

# Hubbardton Military Road guided hike

HUBBARDTON — On Saturday, June 22, 2024, the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site in Hubbardton, Vermont, offers a vigorous guided hike on part of the Hubbardton section of the 1776 military road that led to Mount Independence in Orwell. The hike runs from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Jim Rowe, the historian for the Crown Point Road Association, is your knowledgeable guide.

Be prepared for some uphill and rugged areas. Wear boots, dress for the weather, and bring water. Meet

at the Hubbardton Battlefield visitor center for orientation. You'll then drive to the starting point for the hike. The fee is part of regular admission: \$5.00 for adults, \$1.00 for ages 6 to 14, and free for children under 6.

You'll learn how Revolutionary War soldiers traveled overland across Vermont to get to the new American fortification at Mount Independence in Orwell. Hikers will get a taste of what it might have been like for soldiers traveling over this varied terrain.

The Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site preserves the location of the only Revolutionary War battle fought in Vermont. The site is at 5696 Monument Hill Road in Hubbardton. The site is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 to 5:00 p.m., through to October 20, the last day of the season.

For more information about the program, call (802) 273-2282.

For more information about the Vermont State-Owned Historic Sites visit [www.historicsites.vermont.gov](http://www.historicsites.vermont.gov).

# VT turkey brood survey starts July 1

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for help with monitoring wild turkeys.

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



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

If you see a flock of turkeys in Vermont during July and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its (See *VT turkey brood*, Page 5)

## The REPORTER

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# Letter to the Editor

## The differences among a park, recreation area, and wilderness and why it matters

Lands owned by the federal government have many designations. Moosalamoo is a National Recreation Area (MNRA). There are wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, and others. These area titles are not simply meaningless, tedious bureaucratic inventions. Instead, most are Congressional designations that have been studied and intentionally designed to balance the multitude of values Americans hold for public lands.

Why should you care? Because the designation drives how the land is managed (or left alone) and what activities are allowed on such lands.

National recreation areas, such as MNRA, are primarily created for recreational purposes. MNRA also has a goal of providing opportunities for education on the natural environment and forest management, which necessitates providing opportunities for all to access and enjoy the area. Management goals involve balancing varied public recreational interests with the protection of the natural character and resources.

Wilderness areas, such as the Joseph Battell Wilderness that abuts the MNRA, are to be protected in an “untrammeled” state by prohibiting

things like motorized access and human development such as structures. These areas generally offer more solitude and are considered by many to be more “pristine.”

Other national forest areas without a recreation, wilderness, or other special designation are managed by the U.S. Forest Service for multiple uses such as logging, grazing, and recreation.

Both MNRA and Battell Wilderness were established in 2006. At that time, Congress also designated five other Wilderness areas in Vermont. While the MNRA is not wilderness, the goal is to keep it as

natural as possible while still providing opportunities for public enjoyment.

There are different beliefs regarding what the human relationship to the land is or should be. Are we “managing” the land for its instrumental value, or does it have an intrinsic value and we should respect it for its own sake? There are no right answers or beliefs here, rather, we must continually balance often competing ideas and values.

Although not perfect, public land designations are a pretty good system that respects and attempts to operationalize the pluralism that is the founda-

tion of our democracy. In other words, while the democratic experiment can be challenging at times, this country is founded on the idea that people with different interests, beliefs, and lifestyles can peacefully coexist, including while recreating.

The differences between the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service will be for another day. Enjoy the land and tread lightly.

Susan Johnson  
Executive Director,  
Moosalamoo Association

## Community Forums continued Vermont Fish & Wildlife is seeking volunteers for goose banding

ADDISON -- Here's a great opportunity to go on a wild goose chase that can make a difference.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for volunteers to help in rounding up and placing identification bands on the legs of Canada geese at its Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area off Route 17 in Addison, starting at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 3.

“We are hoping to have between 30 and 70 individuals volunteer to help,” said Andrew Bouton, state waterfowl biologist. “We request that children be accompanied by adults to help them work with the geese.”

Please call the Fish and Wildlife office in Essex at 878-1564 to volunteer and leave your phone number in case the event must be rescheduled due to bad weather.

“We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the office at the end of the driveway, past the Visitor Center. Please be prompt as we will start on time.”

Volunteers should wear appro-



priate clothes and hiking boots or rubber boots and use adequate sun protection as there will be little shade. Bring plenty of water and be prepared to walk some in this effort to capture geese for our annual banding efforts that help us track the resident population within Vermont. All geese will be released back into the wild after

we collect data.

The Canada geese nesting in Vermont today are the result of work begun at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in the 1950s by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The geese banded this year will be monitored to gather biological information to help monitor their population.

## VT turkey brood

(Continued from Page 4)

website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) and report your observations, including where and when you observed the turkeys with the number of adult and young turkeys you observed. The value of the data collected improves when more people participate.

“Information gathered from this survey helps us monitor long-term

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

“We monitor and manage wild turkey numbers annually in or-

der to maintain a healthy, abundant and sustainable population of these iconic and ecologically significant birds throughout the state,” added Bernier.

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

# Senior Center Game Day



**Every Friday, Starting June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00.** Cards, board games, darts, adult coloring, whatever! Come in for free lunch at noon and stay for some fun. All welcome! For more information call Kathy at 247-3121.

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# Obituaries

## Jeannette Ann Coble, 78, Goshen

GOSHEN—Jeannette Ann Coble, age 78, passed peacefully on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Jeannette was born in Scotch Plains, NJ, on January 1, 1946. She grew up in Scotch Plains, where she received her early education and graduated from Scotch Plains High School. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Albright College in Reading, PA. She was an English Professor at Ocean County Community College in New Jersey, for 18 years. She was a resident of Vermont since 1999, moving here from Normandy Beach, NJ, where she loved searching the beach for shells and sea



**JEANNETTE ANN COBLE**

glass. She enjoyed watching and feeding wildlife, walking in the woods. She loved cats.

Her favorite dogs were Brittany Spaniels and German Shepherds.

Surviving her are 2 sons and their wives: Randy and Kaela Coble of St. Albans, Ron and Kasandra Coble of Brandon. 4 grandchildren also survive her: RJ, Brayden, Tyler, and Arilyn Coble. She was predeceased by her parents and a brother, Walter.

Respecting her wishes, all services will be private.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

## Anita S. Bilodeau, 86, Whiting

Anita S. Bilodeau, age 86, passed peacefully on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at Shard Villa in Salisbury.

Anita was born in Whiting on June 24, 1937. She was the daughter of Aime and Gracia (Quesnel) Seguin. She grew up in Middlebury, where she received her early education and graduated from Middlebury High School, Class of 1956. On October 22, 1956, she married Germain Bilodeau, a military man, and traveled with him to Germany. Following his honorable discharge, they returned to Middlebury and established Ideal Rooms on Court Street and ran it for several years. She also worked as a Customer Service Agent at the Chittenden Bank in Middlebury from 1974 until 2002. She and her husband moved to Whiting in 1972. Mr. Bilodeau predeceased her in 1986. She belonged to Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic



**ANITA S. BILODEAU**

Church in Brandon.

Surviving is her daughter Suzanne Denis (Randy) of Whiting, 3 sons (Roger Bilodeau of Mt. Juliet, TN, Richard Bilodeau (Amy) of Beaverton, Oregon, and Steven Bilodeau (Cathy) of Brandon), 7 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, & cousins. She was predeceased by 2 sisters, Angie Martin and Pauline Bilodeau, a

grandson, Justin Bilodeau, and daughter-in-law, Michele Bilodeau.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 12 noon, at Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic Church in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor, will be the celebrant. Following the mass, the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion for a time of remembrance. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place later in the day in the family lot at St. Mary's Cemetery in Middlebury.

Friends may call at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon on Tuesday, June 24, 2024, from 6-8 PM.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; Shard Villa, 1177 Shard Villa Road, Salisbury, VT 05769.

## Teresa Helen Parker Curran, 94, Brandon

BRANDON—Teresa Helen Parker Curran, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 20, 2024, in Arvada, Colorado. She was 94 years old.

Teresa was born on March 5, 1929, to Rita (Parker) LaFrance and Henry Parker, the youngest of eight children. Teresa was predeceased by 7 of her siblings. Teresa was married to Donald Curran who predeceased her in 1973 after 25 years of marriage. A son, William Curran, also predeceased her in 2014.

Surviving family members include her daughter Kathleen Brockman, son-in-law Mark Brockman, grandchildren Mark J. Brockman, Heather T. Lee and spouses Candy Brockman and Thomas Lee. Great-grandchildren Jude Evan Lee and Luna Sonny Lee. Also survived by William and Catherine Curran's children and grandchildren in Australia.

A memorial service will be



**TERESA H. PARKER CURRAN**

held on Friday, June 21, 2024, at 10:00 am at Our Lady of Good Hope Church (Saint Mary's Catholic Church) at 38 Carver St. in Brandon, Vermont, followed by interment at Saint Mary's Cemetery on Forest Dale Rd. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Brandon or Pittsford Fire Departments.

Arrangements by Miler & Ketcham Funeral Home of Brandon.

## Vermont's bump stock ban stands despite US Supreme Court ruling

BY ALAN J. KEAYS/  
VTDIGGER

A Vermont legal scholar and the state's top prosecutor said a ruling Friday by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning a federal ban on bump stocks won't result in throwing out a separate state ban in Vermont on the devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to fire more rapidly.

The 6-3 decision by the nation's highest court struck down the bump stock ban enacted by the Trump administration after the 2017 deadly mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas in which a shooter used firearms with bump stocks, The New York Times reported Friday.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in the majority opinion that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives had overstepped its authority when it prohibited the device and issued a rule that classified bump stocks as machine guns, The Times reported.

"We hold that a semiautomatic rifle equipped with a bump stock is not a 'machine gun' because it cannot fire more than one shot 'by a single function of the trigger,'" Thomas wrote, according to The Times report.

Vermont Law and Graduate School Professor Peter Teachout,

who specializes in constitutional law, said Friday that the U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down the federal bump stock ban will not also overturn a separate state law prohibiting bump stocks in Vermont.

"It was not based on the Constitution's Second Amendment," Teachout said of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision. "It was based on the interpretation of a federal statute that was adopted about 100 years ago making it a federal crime under federal law to possess and use machine guns."

The holding of the high court's ruling, Teachout said, was that "guns modified with these bump stocks do not constitute machine guns within the meaning of the federal statute."

As a result, he said, it limits the ability of the federal government to use that federal statute to ban bump stocks.

"Since it's not based on constitutional grounds," Teachout said of the high court's decision, "it has no impact at all on Vermont's regulation of firearms."

It would have been a different matter had the U.S. Supreme Court decision struck down the ban based on Second Amendment grounds, (See Bump stock ban, Page 9)

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# OVUU budget

(Continued from Page 1) school board had to find cuts sufficient to win approval from an electorate that was clearly not aligned with the district's vision.

The second proposal, which was put before voters on April 30, reduced the budget by 1% to \$26,979,072. That iteration cut the Dean of Students at Neshobe, the Nordic ski team at OVUHS, a "late run" school bus from the Middle School, and \$164,000 from OVUU's assessment to the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union's

(RNESU) budget. The annual assessment is OVUU's contribution to the district and covers expenses such as special education, interventionists, and transportation.

It was not enough. That proposal was rejected nearly 2 to 1, leaving OVUU feeling defeated and somewhat adrift. At OVUU board meetings, board members struggled with a seemingly impossible mandate: to maintain educational quality while cutting spending to a level that voters could accept. This was made all the more difficult

in a year when costs for everything seem to have spiked. In

*The final tally was 738 yes (53%) to 667 no (47%). It was the district's third proposal this season and the approved budget of \$26,808,222 represented a 1.6% decrease from the first proposal.*

Selectboard and school board meetings, community members

expressed anger and frustration with budgets that did not seem to consider the financial pressures many are feeling. Online forums like Facebook and Front Porch Forum saw heated debate over budgets that some saw as a necessary expense and others saw as unlivable.

On Monday, June 17, the

Legislature overrode Gov. Scott's veto of the "yield bill," which sets the annual property tax rate for the state. The bill will now become law. On average, the education portion of the property tax bill for FY2025 will rise by 13.8%, though the tax rate for individual property owners will be affected by homestead status, income sensitivity, and the Common Level of Appraisal for the property owners' specific communities.

# Mosquitoes are coming

(Continued from Page 4)

mosquitoes are most active in the evening (which is why the OCW sprays at that time). More such information is available on the OCW website; it is also provided by Town Health Officers through town newsletters and on town websites.

At this time, anyone who wishes not to be sprayed should have informed the District of that preference; notices were published in newspapers and in some Front Porch Forums. If you haven't notified OCW of your desire NOT to have your property sprayed, please do so promptly.



**Mim's Photos**  
Like all things vintage?  
are on page 24!

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**WINKY HAS FOUND** an enthusiastic fan club at Nifty Thrifty, which is sponsoring Winky's training, going so far as to provide a punch bowl to rehab in. (L to R) Lynn Wilson, Laura Peterson (holding Winky), Liz Gregorek (holding the punchbowl), Lucy Rouse, Dorothy Bird, Lyla Fuller, Kathy Rausenberger. Winky will enter the duckie race held on July 6!

## Winky to race

(Continued from Page 1)

Readers will recall that Winky was the victim of a horrific attack in May (see The Reporter of May 8 for details) that left the duck world wondering whether he'd ever be able to swim again, let alone race in the annual Independence Day Duck Race in Brandon.

The bowl was provided by Nifty Thrifty, the Brandon thrift shop that has been sponsoring his recovery and will sponsor his much-anticipated comeback race on July 6th.

"Now, more than ever, Winky needs our funding and our endorsement," said Laura Peterson of Nifty Thrifty. "He'll need proper nutrition, physical therapy, a trainer, lots of practice time, and a will of steel to be ready for the Race Over the Falls competition in July. But we are here for him, financially and emotionally. We love you, Winky!"

"I don't know where'd I'd be without Nifty Thrifty," said Winky as he took his 77th lap in the punchbowl that morning. "They've been enormously supportive, not only providing this bowl where I can train safely, but also providing the emotional

and psychological support I've needed to get back in the swim of things, pun absolutely intended. Plus, they give me yummy worms. And boy, do I like me some worms!"

Winky has also found comfort in the bosom of his family. His mother, Lilypad, flew in from her summer home in Goshen to be by her son's side.

"Winky has always been a fighter," said Lilypad. "He comes from tough Yankee stock. It'll take more than a shattered kneecap to keep him out of the running."

*We advise everyone in northern Rutland County to be on the lookout for a white rubber duckie with a black mohawk who stinks of duckweed. Don't feed him. Don't quack at him.*

Lilypad also hinted that Winky has received other endorsement deals, though she refused to give specifics. But rumor has it that Bucky's Beak Balm and Floof's Fine Feather Conditioner are among the companies wooing Winky into what are said to be five-figure contracts.

"I can't say anything at this point," said Winky. "You need to talk to my agent." Winky's agent is a brassy old Canada goose named Shecky who's been known to hiss at reporters and paparazzi and, to be honest, basically anyone who crosses his path.

"He's just super protective of me," said Winky when this reporter complained that Shecky was biting his ankles. "I wish he'd been around when I was attacked, but you can't dwell on the past."

Winky showed off a couple of dazzling turns in his training bowl.

"I'll start training again in the Neshobe at the end of the week," he stated. "I'm feeling good. I'm feeling strong. I'm feeling hungry...you got any worms?"

Meanwhile, Winky's assailant, Canyon, has escaped from the Marble Valley Correctional Facility in Rutland, where he had been held since the assault in May. Guards making their rounds noticed that his cardboard box was empty shortly before midnight on June 16.

"We consider him extremely dangerous," said the warden. "He's a real live wire, so it's impossible to know what he'll do. We advise everyone in northern Rutland County to be on the lookout for a white rubber duckie with a black mohawk who stinks of duckweed. Don't feed him. Don't quack at him. If you see him, call the authorities immediately."

"I'm not worried," said Winky. "I've been studying taekwondo. I'm ready to kick his tail if he tries to mess with me again."

"See, I told you he came from tough Yankee stock!" said Lilypad.

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## Goshen Historical Society Event at Ruth Stone House

Saturday, June 29 at 2:00 p.m.

The Goshen Historical Society and the Ruth Stone House are presenting a look at the House and the people who lived in it prior to poet Ruth Stone (1915 – 2011), who purchased the old farmstead in Goshen in 1956. Ruth was Vermont Poet Laureate from 2007 to 2011. Her independent spirit will be displayed through her granddaughter Bianca Stone and her husband, Ben Pease, at the House on Hathaway Road.

The event will take place on Saturday, June 29 and will start at 2:00 p.m. at the Goshen Town Hall with some history and Wilcox ice cream with strawberries or shortcake. Visitors can then move up the road to the House for a look at a work in progress with Bianca and Ben.

Everyone is welcome. Admission is by free-will offering.

## Bump stock ban

(Continued from Page 6)

according to Teachout, since the U.S. Constitution applies to states as well as the federal government.

“I’m not saying it’s not open to challenge,” Teachout said of Vermont’s bump stock ban. “I’m just saying this Supreme Court decision only applies to the enforcement of federal statutes, not the state statutes.”

Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark said in a statement Friday that her office had filed a brief in support of the federal bump stock ban and called the U.S. Supreme Court ruling “unfortunate.”

“I want to reassure Vermonters that this decision does not have an impact on our state’s — or a couple of our neighboring states’ — own ban on bump stocks,” Clark said in the statement. “The decision also does not prevent Congress from implementing a new ban on these devices.”

The law banning bump stocks in Vermont was part of a series of gun reform measures enacted in 2018. It was passed by lawmakers and signed into law by Gov. Phil Scott two months after an alleged school shooting plot was uncovered in Fair Haven.

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs is currently challenging in federal court in Vermont two firearms laws enacted in the state: a 72-hour waiting period for firearms purchases and a ban on high-capacity magazines.

Chris Bradley, the federation’s president, said Friday it was too soon to say if the U.S. Supreme Court ruling would lead his organization to mount a legal challenge to the bump stock ban in Vermont as well.

“It’s premature at this point, and it’s not the federation according to Chris Bradley. It’s the federation ac-

ording to the board of directors,” he said.

Bradley added that his organization is “midstream in a very expensive case” that is at the trial court level and likely to include extensive appellate litigation.

“We’re going to do one thing at a time,” he said.

As to his reaction to Friday’s ruling, Bradley replied, “I think the Supreme Court got it right, certainly ATF overstepped their bounds, and they’ve been spanked for it.”

Conor Casey, executive director of GunSense Vermont, a gun control advocacy group, said Friday he was disappointed with the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

“It’s a despicable decision,” said Casey, who is also a state representative. “I really believe that to celebrate this decision is to celebrate the countless deaths of Americans going forward here.”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson in dissenting to the majority opinion, according to the New York Times.

“When I see a bird that walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck,” Sotomayor wrote. “A bump stock-equipped semiautomatic rifle fires ‘automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.’ Because I, like Congress, call that a machine gun, I respectfully dissent.”

NBC News reported Friday that even with the federal ban no longer in place, bump stocks would still not become readily available nationwide as 18 states have enacted legislation banning them, citing Everytown for Gun Safety, a nonprofit gun-control group.



### This little piggie had a wool coat!

“WOOLLY PIG” BY Muffy Kashkin Grollier is one of the scores of decorated pigs on display around town as part of the 25th anniversary of the Brandon Artists Guild. The pigs will be auctioned off from August 16 through August 18.



# JUNIOR GOLF

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---

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# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Ellie Disorda

GRADE: 2

SCHOOL: Neshobe

MEDIUM: Watercolor, ink, oil pastels, glitter glue, paper

TEACHER: John Brodowski

**STATEMENT FROM ELLIE:**

I was inspired by my friend Natalie and the rainbow look all over her painting. I already added some of my favorite colors to the painting but I decided to add rainbow colors to the background. It came out wonderful.

**STATEMENT FROM MR. B:**

For this project, we learned about the musician Evelyn Glennie. She is a brilliant percussionist who is also deaf. We talked about some of the overlap between music and the visual arts and students were encouraged to think about things like repetition, speed, pattern, and more when creating their paintings. Ellie created this beautiful painting for the project. I think it is fun to imagine what parts of her painting might sound like.





# Vermont Legislature overrides six vetoes in one day, setting new record

BY SHAUN ROBINSON  
AND SARAH MEARHOFF/  
VTDIGGER

Last June, Vermont's Democratic Legislature overrode a record five vetoes in a single day.

On Monday, they one-upped themselves — but with an unexpected stumble. By 5:34 p.m., both chambers had adjourned, having overridden six vetoes. Another — of H.121, a sweeping data privacy bill — was ultimately sustained by the Senate.

The House and Senate on Monday gavelled in for one day, colloquially referred to as a veto session, for the chance to override the seven vetoes Republican Gov. Phil Scott issued after legislators adjourned the regular 2024 legislative session in May. (In total, the Legislature also overrode six of Scott's vetoes last year, but one came during the regular session.)

To override a gubernatorial veto requires a two-thirds vote of members present. In theory, Democrats have veto-proof majorities in both the House and Senate. But in practice, party affiliation, on its own, is not always indicative of how a member will vote on the question of whether to override the governor's will.

That proved to be the case on Monday. The road to overriding one veto was particularly bumpy: The Senate ultimately

*Lawmakers also voted to override Scott's veto of H.645, a bill proponents say would ensure people have equitable access to restorative justice programs across the state.*

made three attempts to override H.72 — a bill allowing for the establishment of an overdose prevention site in Burlington — before the chamber finally succeeded at about 4:15 p.m.

With H.72 having been a major priority

of Democrats this session, the Senate's initial failure to override Scott's veto led to shock and tears in the chamber Monday morning. Moments after the first vote, the bill's proponents gathered in a tight circle outside the Senate chamber, strategizing to find a way to revive the bill before lawmakers adjourned for the summer.

When all was said and done, the bill was salvaged thanks to Sen. Richard Westman, R-Lamoille, who initially voted to sustain Scott's veto Monday

morning. By that afternoon, he made a special request to change his vote, and the veto was ultimately overridden by a 20-9 vote.

Also on Monday, lawmakers in both chambers overrode Scott's veto of H.887, the state's yield bill, which sets an average property tax rate for the year in order to fund Vermont's public education system. With their votes, lawmakers ignored Scott's recent pleas to further buy down this year's projected average property tax increase of 13.8% — a proposal that legislative leaders dismissed last week as "fiscally irresponsible."

Legislators on Monday also overrode a slate of vetoes on environmental bills from this legislative session: Votes in favor of H.687, a bill reforming Vermont's decades-old land use law, Act 250, prevailed. Scott's veto of H.706, a bill that bans seeds treated with a group of pesticides called neonicotinoids, which harm pollinators, was overridden in both chambers. And H.289, a bill establishing a renewable energy standard, will take effect after the House and Senate voted to override Scott's veto.

Lawmakers also voted to override Scott's veto of H.645, a bill proponents say would ensure people have equitable access to restorative justice programs across the state. The legislation sets out baseline standards for county prosecutors to follow when deciding whether someone who commits a relatively minor crime should be referred to a restorative justice program in their community, instead of being charged in court.

The bill also moves oversight of these "pre-charge diversion" programs from the state Department of Corrections to the office of Attorney General Charity Clark. Scott's veto hinged on a lack of funding in the bill for an additional position in Clark's office to carry out that work.

But Clark pushed back on the governor's reasoning earlier this month, saying that her office already had the resources to start fulfilling the bill's requirements this year.

MAPLE <sup>the</sup> COW™ by Matt Aucom



Speaking on the House floor Monday in support of overriding Scott's veto, Rep. Martin LaLonde, a South Burlington Democrat who chairs that chamber's judiciary committee, echoed Clark's comments and called the veto "a fundamental misunderstanding."

The House voted to override Scott's veto of the restorative justice bill 110 to 35, while the Senate later overrode it by a narrow 21-8 vote.

Garnering the longest floor debate on Monday by far was lawmakers' consideration of whether to override Scott's veto of H.121, the data privacy bill. It also included provisions that would have compelled social media platforms to alter their algorithms for users under 18 years old, with the goal of addressing social media's mental health impacts on children.

The House quickly and decisively voted to override the veto, by a 128-17 vote. But in the Senate, members debated the merits of the bill — and whether it could wait until next year — for nearly an hour before 15 senators ultimately voted to sustain the veto, and 14 voted in favor of the bill.

That hour-long debate was despite the fact that the votes had already been counted ahead of

Monday's session. In an email Sen. Kasha Ram Hinsdale, D/P-Chittenden Southeast, sent to legislative colleagues Sunday night, she wrote that the chamber didn't have the votes to override the veto.

"(W)e would still not have 20 votes in the Senate regardless of everyone maintaining their vote from May because of the loss of Senator Sears," Ram Hinsdale wrote in the email, referring to the death earlier this month of Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington. "Beyond that, we have lost seven additional votes as senators have had more time post-session to consider the impact of the (private right of action) on Vermont-based businesses, non-profits, medical facilities, educational institutions, utilities, and employers."

The bill didn't go down without a fight. Ram Hinsdale and other senators noted that many of the bill's effective dates were years in the distance, even if it had prevailed. But several senators said Vermont couldn't wait until next session to pass the bill.

"I have never felt so much urgency to pass a bill," Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, said during Monday's floor debate.

Lawmakers' work was not limited to overrides Monday. They also granted approval to

three other bills that hadn't made it across the finish line before the end of the regular legislative session last month.

The Senate gave its final sign-off to H.55, a bill that makes a number of changes to Vermont's employment laws and includes a provision pushed by state Treasurer Mike Peciak to pilot a state-managed trust fund for Vermont children born on Medicaid. The House previously approved the bill on the final day of the regular session. Notably, the legislation does not deposit any state funds into the program, as the treasurer had originally proposed.

Other measures in H.55 provide worker's compensation coverage for certain state employees who are recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder and call for a new study on cancer rates among Vermont firefighters, among other provisions.

The House also approved H.81, a bill that requires manufacturers of agricultural equipment to provide the resources and property rights necessary to farmers and independent mechanics to independently repair their equipment. And H.890, a bill that delays for a year the implementation of one of several newly created health insurance

(See Six vetoes, Page 29)



# 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

### 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.

#### Brandon Senior Center Game Day

Come join us every

Friday at 2:00 p.m. Cards, darts, puzzles, board games, coloring.

#### 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!

**Proctor Town Green, 7 pm**

**June 26**  
Robert Waugneux

**July 10**  
Green Brothers Band

**July 24**  
Chaz Canney

**August 7**  
Whisper Band

## Goings on around town

## 45th Annual Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green July 7–13

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, VT. "Brown Bag" family-friendly programs are presented from Noon until 1 pm weekdays with evening musical performances from 7 until 8:30 pm on Sunday and 7 until 9:45 pm Monday through Saturday. July 13, Vermont 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>

### Saturdays

**Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center**  
First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. 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."

**Thursday 20th**

**Community Acupuncture—Spa at the Woods, Killington**

Community acupuncture is a healing practice that brings acupuncture treatments into a communal setting, offering accessible and affordable healthcare to a diverse range of individuals. Unlike traditional acupuncture, which often takes place in private rooms, community acupuncture sessions typically occur in a shared space where multiple people receive treatments simultaneously. In a community acupuncture setting, individuals relax in comfortable chairs or recliners, fully clothed, while licensed acupuncturists administer treatments. The treatments focus on addressing a variety of physical, emotional, and mental health concerns, such as pain management, stress relief, insomnia, anxiety, and more. \$40.

**Fair Haven Concert in the Park**

The Concerts in the Park kicks off their summer season with the Whiskey River Band playing classic country. Weekly concert series features family friendly entertainment, offering a variety of musical genres in Vermont's loveliest venue, the Fair Haven Park.

From 7–9 pm.

**Friday 21st**

**Senior Fitness—Spa at the Woods, Killington**

This class is for anyone 65+ who wants to maintain strength, flexibility, and balance as they age. We will include a variety of body weight exercises as well as use props like chairs, resistance bands, hand weights, and yoga belts to add levels of challenge and support to the exercises. This class is appropriate for all fitness levels and modifications will be provided as needed. \$5.

**BarnArts presents: Macbeth**

Join BarnArts outdoors amidst the trees of Fable Farm to experience the magic and tragedy of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Directed by Killian White, over 20 local actors delve into tyranny, paranoia, betrayal, and the bonds of marriage as the prophecy of witches launches a tragic series of events fueled by grand ambition amidst already violent times in the Scottish Highlands. Fridays & Saturdays: June 21–22 & 28–29, 6:30pm; Wednesday: June 26, 6:30pm; Sundays: June 23 & 30, 4pm.

Outdoors at Fable Farm, 1525 Royalton Tpk, Barnard, Vermont. Tickets: \$15–20. Tickets and more info: barnarts.org.

**Saturday 22nd**

**Rutland County Pride Festival**

Join Rutland County Pride as we kick off the 2024 Pride Festival on Center Street and Merchants Row! The 2024 Rutland County Pride Festival is happening on Saturday June 22, 2024 from 11 am–5 pm on Center Street and Merchants Rows in Rutland, Vermont! In partnership with the Rutland Area Branch of the NAACP, join us as we kick off the 2024 Pride Festival with a Juneteenth Strut starting at the Rutland Free Library at 11 am as we make our way into the festival! The festival will include: vendors, entertainment, speakers, music, drag performances, food, games, prizes and more!

Find updates and get involved by visiting: <https://www.rcpride.org/pridefestival>

**Mac & Cheese Cook-off & Basket Raffle—Trinity Episcopal Church, Rutland**

The Rotary Club of Rutland will host the 2nd Annual Mac & Cheese Cook-off on Saturday, June 22, 11 am–2 pm at Trinity Church, 85 West Street in Rutland. Tickets to enter the themed basket raffle for the benefit of Companions in Wholeness are available now and at the event. Local cooks, both amateurs and professionals, will bring their champion recipes to this competition. The club invites the public to experience this Mac down competition for the best Mac & Cheese in Rutland by sampling the cheesy fare and casting their vote

for the People's Choice Award. 3 samples for \$5 or taste them all for \$20. Tasting will occur from 11 am–1 pm.

Our contestants come from a wide range of talent including folks from Heritage Family Credit Union Mortgage Team, Center Street Alley, Baird Farm, The Sanctuary on Center, River Shed, Will Gormly, Steve Peters, Paisano's, The Mad Rose, Jennifer Guevin and Hangry Hogg and more to come. Contestants will also compete for Judges' Choice. This year's judges are Teri Corsones, Esq., State

Court Administrator, Gordon Dritschilo, reporter for the Rutland Herald, and Ellie McGarry, executive director of Companions in Wholeness. These judges know their food and are up to picking the best.

Cooking contestant sign-up is open until limited space is filled. Email [kwfranzoni@gmail.com](mailto:kwfranzoni@gmail.com) or call 802-558-4644 to sign up. Basket Raffle: Get ready for some awesome themed baskets in this raffle. A single \$5 ticket or 5 tickets for \$20 for your chance to win one of the following themed baskets. SAILING, GARDEN PARTY, WINE & CHEESE, GIFT CARDS, VERMONT 1, VERMONT 2, CHRISTMAS, DATE NIGHT, and More.

You do not need to be present to win a basket. Get your tickets in advance online at <https://rutland-city-rotary.square.site/basket-raffle-2024>. For more information on the Mac Down visit [www.rutlandcityrotary.org](http://www.rutlandcityrotary.org)

**Cabin Music—Next Stage Arts Project**

In this unique event, Next Stage Arts present James Carson's self-directed documentary Cabin Music, followed by a brief Q&A and live piano recital by James Carson. "A supremely immersive experience." — American Society of Cinematographers. "A beautiful film . . . a stunning musician." — POV Magazine. "A quest to create sounds that reflect the magnificence of nature." — Times of India. Cabin Music is New York pianist and filmmaker James Carson's two-decade effort to transform the ways in which music is created and experienced by audiences. Hailed as a childhood prodigy, Carson's first orchestral works were performed by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at age sixteen. His subsequent studies at the New England Conservatory, with giants including Cecil Taylor, Joe Maneri, and the poet Robert Creeley, led him to a dramatic life change: he walked away from music to backpack overland from Spain to Japan, then built a remote strawbale cabin in the pursuit of creating a new form of music. Carson's performances remove his own intentions by receiving and channeling all forces and energies within and beyond the performance space. He, and his award-winning, self-directed feature documentary film debut, Cabin Music, now tour internationally, initiating audiences into the project's global origins.

From 7–9 pm, \$15–20.

**Thursday 27th**

**Planning Commission Walking Tour of Downtown**

Please join us at Central Park at 5:30 p.m. for a 1-hour walking tour of downtown Brandon as part of the Planning Commission's zoning regulations review as mandated by the state. We will start at Central Park's gazebo and finish at the Town Hall.

**Upcoming activities at Maclure Library**





# Yard Sale?



Advertise  
it in  
the Reporter!

Call 247-8080  
for details.

# Restaurant *guide*



**From Provence to You**  
*De la Provence à Vous*

Wednesday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
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Want a reservation? Please book through the website <https://cafeprovincevt.com> or call (802) 247-9997

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for more information



## The Great Brandon Auction is coming!

AN ASSEMBLY OF chairs on the stage at Brandon Town Hall heralds the arrival of the Great Brandon Auction, organized by the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce. Furniture, art, housewares, and more! The silent auction will run between Friday, July 5th and Saturday, July 13th. There are always hidden treasures to be found!

Photo by Dorothea Langevin


## BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# DID YOU KNOW?

**WE'RE SO MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS.  
(ALTHOUGH BOOKS ARE PRETTY AWESOME.)**



With your library card, you can check out a VT State Park Day Pass...cost-free!





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FREE PUBLIC  
**LIBRARY**

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[INFO@BRANDONPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG](mailto:INFO@BRANDONPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG)



# Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

I reached out to Jim Peck to help with the mystery history photo from last week. Jim is a Brandon native who is now living in California. He loves history, and Brandon, and a challenge, so, through the miracle of the internet we figured this one out.

This photo is taken at the bend in Rt 7 at Estabrook Field

looking north. The road with the stop sign on the left is where Arnold District Road turned off of Rt 7, and cut straight through what became the Brandon Training School. The house on the right is still there, but the wrap around porch has been removed. Governor Ebenezer J. Ormsbee lived in that house as a kid. The building in the background on the right was

the Arnold District Schoolhouse which was closed in 1958.

Jim Peck informed me that both Stephen A. Douglas and Governor E. J. Ormsbee are alumni of this one-room school.

These trees along Rt 7 leading to the Pine Hill Cemetery were known as the Cathedral Aisle, and were conceived of, bought, and planted by the Ladies' Cemetery Asso-

ciation sometime between 1875 - 1885. It was thought to be a great kindness to those journeying to the Pine Hill Cemetery to have these beautiful and shady trees along their route.

When the road was widened, the trees had to come down. Even before that, the trees had become a liability as cars got bigger and drove faster, and

more traffic traveled along Rt 7.

I've included a photo of the Cathedral Aisle, which is the same stretch of road but from the opposite direction.

And thanks to Mike Howland of Brandon who wrote to us to tell us that his 98-year-old mother was able to identify the location. Well done!



The bend in Rt 7 at Estabrook Field today, and circa mid 1800s.



Your mystery for next week!

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# *Our Otter Valley Seniors, 2024*



**ELLA AFRIFA**



**ELIZABETH ATHERTON**



**ISAIAH BAGLEY**



**KATELYN BASETTE**



**ALEC BEAULIEU**



**CHASE BIONDI**



**ALEX BISHOP**



**MASON BUSHEE**



**EMILY CAPEN**



**LAYLA CHAMBERLAND**



**BRAYDEN CHANDLER**



**PEYTON CHISAMORE**



**CLARA CIFONE**



**BRIANNA JADE COFFIN**



**MATTHEW COLE**



**BRYCE CONNAUGHTON**



**KAYLEIGH COREY**





**SIERRA CORMANY**



**ALEX CRAM**



**CHASE CRAM**



**AIDEN DECKER**



**MAX DERBY**



**CHLOE DEREPENTIGNY**



**DANA DIPIETRO**



**COLE DISORDA**



**GAVIN DISORDA**



**ALYSSA DOUGLAS**



**NOAH DREW**



**LUCIANO FALCO**



**LINNEA FAULKNER**



**DELANEY FIELDER**



**TRINITY FLANDERS**



**ELLA FRENCH**



**JACOB GABORIAULT**



**NATE GAISSERT**



**ZACH GILMORE**



**HANNAH GREENO**





**ABIGAIL HAYES**



**ALEXIS HOLBROOK-DUVAL**



**JAYDEN IHINGER**



**OLIVIA KALINOWSKI**



**GABBY KEHOE**



**ISAAC KENNEDY-MITCHELL**



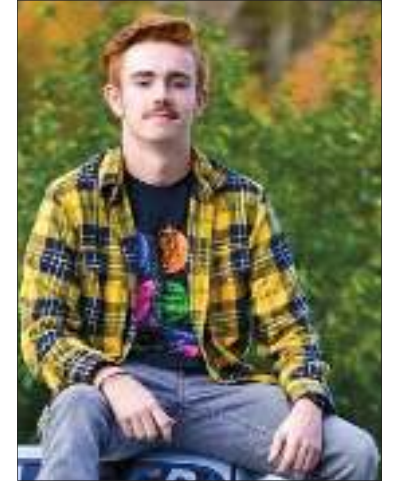
**BROOKELYN KIMBALL**



**DILLON LADD**



**LAURIE LANCTOT**



**BAKER LAROCK**



**EMMA LAROCK**



**PAIGE LEE**



**DEREK LI**



**HAYDEN MARTIN**



**SIMON MARTIN**



**KLAIRISSA MCDONOUGH**



**AUTUMN MEZA**



**SAVANNAH MITCHELL**



**WILLIAM MONCRIEF**



**LILY MORGAN**





**EMILY MOSELEY**



**CODY MULCAHY**



**SALLY O\_BRIEN**



**LAJAY O\_CONNOR**



**JARED O\_NEIL**



**AVA POTTER**



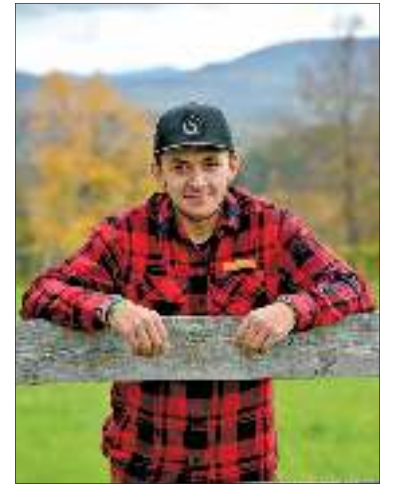
**JHOLAI PSCHORR**



**MAGGIE RANNEY**



**KYLEE RAYMOND**



**GAVIN ROBERTS**



**ALEKS SAVELA**



**KAYLIE SELLECK**



**ELAINA SHELDRICK**



**AIDEN STEEN**



**CLAYTON STICKNEY**



**MYKENZIE THIBAUT**



**OWEN THOMAS**



**SAWYER TINSMAN**



**AIDEN WADE**



**ADRIANNA WATKINS**





MADISON MYKENZIE WIGGIN



ISAIAH WOOD



We are so proud of you. You have worked hard! Great things await and we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish and to support you in your next chapter. We love you so incredibly much, Mom, Shaun, Dylan, Emma, and your favorites—Chuck and Elmo!



# Valedictorian Max Derby urges graduates to write their own version of success in the future

BY MAX DERBY

I would like to start by once again thanking everyone here for coming and for the part that all of the friends, family members, and faculty have played in our lives throughout the process of high school. Congratulations to my fellow classmates on reaching this milestone that is a major turning point in all of our lives. I would personally like to thank my family, close friends, teammates, coaches, and mentors who have helped keep me motivated and on track along the way. Although I may have brought some concern over my procrastination in writing this speech- similar to every other assignment all throughout high school - as always, I finished it on time and put some hard work into it. If it wasn't for those who pushed me along and always encouraged me to try my best at everything thrown my way, I wouldn't be standing here today giving this speech.

Throughout our time at school, we have been traveling down the same road towards this moment. Graduating high school is a huge milestone in everyone's life. It marks the transformation into adulthood and the openings of many new doors to all sorts of opportunities. We can all look back on memories of our younger selves wishing for this day to come sooner. Dreaming of all of the new things that we would be able to do when we were finally adults. Now we have reached an intersection and everyone's path towards their green light will look different. This difference in pathways for each of you is caused by a significant moment or person.

Think about and reflect on a major moment or person that has helped change your perspective and motivated you to take the course of your future in a certain direction. This could be a mentor, a coach, or possibly a teacher. Or this could be the first time you were introduced to something you immediately felt passionate about. This is easier to identify for some of us and for others including myself, it may be harder.

Ever since I was a young child, I always wanted to tackle any sort of challenge thrown my way, I always wanted to pursue knowledge of something new. I often saw puzzles and patterns in the world around me that others my age didn't normally recognize. This plays into the idea of growing up as the gifted kid, causing my life growing older to be a little bit different than those around me.

But similar to everyone else, I was also just a kid with big dreams and no limits to my imagination of what I could accomplish. This same younger version of myself and everyone else here looked forward to this day as a pivotal moment in our lives, marking the beginning of something new. Everything you work for in your lives should be sought after with the same spirit that we had when we were younger, where our goals and dreams had no limits. Think of the rest of your lives as working towards your goals to make your younger self proud.

As I stand before all of you today, I want to remind my fellow classmates and those of you in the audience to always work hard and strive for your dreams,



**VALEDICTORIAN MAX DERBY will be attending the University of Vermont as an honors student. He hopes to become a physical therapist.**

as your younger self who saw no limits in your pathway will always be rooting for you, no matter the circumstances. As you continue onto the next chapter, keep in mind that your green light for success is not measured by money and material possessions, but rather by those you hold closest to you and moments that change your perspective. That green light looks different from person to person, so it is important that you define your own version of success and work towards this goal, pushing yourself past your limits, until you have achieved your own version of success.

I wish you all the best of luck in all of your future endeavors and I am honored to share this huge moment with all of you. Though we are probably one of the last high schools in the state to graduate this year, it's finally time. We made it. Whether these were the worst four years of your life or the best, we did it. The chains have been lifted, go wreak havoc on the world, and don't forget to chase your dreams and make an impact.

*Max Derby is the valedictorian for the OV Class of 2024. Max has been a scholar-athlete at OV for four years, participat-*

*ing in soccer and basketball, earning recognition from the Southern Vermont League for his excellence in soccer. Max has also been a valued employee of the Brandon Inn, where he has been employed for four years. Max has maintained an impressive GPA and earned recognition for excellence in several of Otter Valley's most challenging classes. Max plans to attend the Patrick Leahy Honors College at the University of Vermont, where he intends to major in biology. His ultimate goal is to become a physical therapist.*



# As Salutatorian, Abigail Hayes congratulates her classmates on getting through the pandemic with grace

BY ABIGAIL HAYES

Good morning, everyone. It is a pleasure to be up here speaking to you today. First, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for making it this far, and let's thank all the people who supported every one of us as we worked to get to this moment. Thank you to the parents, the family and friends, role models and teachers who put up with us and pushed us to be our best selves and to keep persevering. I know that without my mother and grandparents, I would not be standing before you today. I would never have had the courage or motivation to do everything I did. And to my mother, I am so incredibly grateful to have her in my life. I have a request, call it a last homework assignment, for all of the 2024 graduates sitting here today: you are here because somewhere along the way you made good choices. Take a moment and think about that, and before you leave, take the time to thank all of the people who supported you and helped you get this far.

For each of us, the journey has been a little different, but we have all made it through to today and learned so much along the way. We began high school in the middle of COVID, saw teachers come and go, have been under the leadership of two administrations, lost classmates, witnessed the fights and all the high school pranks (devious licks, bad parking) and drama. But through everything, we have learned not only the academics which will allow each and every one of us to excel in life moving forward, but also how to succeed and grow as a person. High school has been a mix of hard work and fun, the studying late for tests and projects while messaging each other for support at 3am, and celebrating when they were done, hanging out with friends and just enjoying being a teenager but also working hard both in and out of school.

These four years were taken

one day at a time, and slowly the small achievements became large accomplishments. We went from finishing one assignment, getting a good grade on a test, to passing the semester and then the year, to taking AP exams and earning awards and scholarships-and now gradu-

games to attending competitions, shows, events, and supporting our classmates.

We have the honor of graduating along with Mr. Peduto, who has been a legend in this school, and is retiring this year. For all of those who have been fortunate to have him as a teacher,

having a 4.0 GPA, or going to college, or getting a good job. It's not about how much money you make or how impressive your achievements are. A wise friend once taught me that after you are gone you will be remembered for how you made people feel. Were they happy? Did you

tiful moments in life. These past four years have not been easy, but they have been filled with the most unparalleled memories. Our memories last forever and so we should always learn from our past to build our future and enjoy every moment in the present.

Today I ask you to look back on all you have learned and all you have experienced and use that to shape your future. Keep building connections, keep working hard to live your dreams. Here we will go our separate ways and some of us will stay close, some will stay friends and in touch, some of us may never see each other again. But we will always remember the impact each one of us made. Think of the people who got you through those difficult classes, those who made hard days seem a little better, who encouraged you, who taught you that nobody is perfect (because let's be honest there have been good and bad lessons, both equally important) and be grateful for all of those moments.

So, from here on, as taken from Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

Congratulations to all of us, the class of 2024 - we are amazing.



**SALUTATORIAN ABIGAIL HAYES plans to study Spanish and criminal justice in college.**

ation. Looking back, it seems so amazing and overwhelming what we have accomplished as a class, and the connections and memories we have made. After having missed out on almost two years of "normal" high school, it is incredible how we have made up for it in the past two years. From difficult classes, such as American Studies and chemistry, to state championships, college courses, internships and co-ops. We have built skills that will move us forward. We have also come together as a community, showing school spirit, from the sidelines in student sections at

you know he will be well missed not just because he is an amazing teacher in math but because he takes the time to teach practical life lessons that prepare us for more than college. We will also be leaving along with Ms. Snow, our dear sweet librarian who will be very much missed for her kindness and efforts to help everyone she could. She created a space that was more than just a library but an atmosphere that allowed students to rest and recharge.

Over these past four years, I have learned that life is not just about getting good grades, or

make them laugh or bring a smile to their face? Did you take the time to notice someone and help them? Life is about connections and building relationships-things that are not tangible but worth so much more, they are priceless.

The most important lessons we have learned are not how to find x in an equation or-I'm sorry Mrs. Kretzer-how to quote a source well, but how to deal with people we don't get along with, do work we don't want to do, how to overcome and persevere through difficult situations so that we may enjoy the beau-

*Abigail Hayes is the salutatorian for the OV Class of 2024. Abigail has been extensively involved in several programs at Otter Valley, but most deeply in the music program, participating in Band, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, and Chamber Singers. She also received a scholarship to participate in UMASS-Amherst's Jazz in July program. Abigail has been recognized for excellence in many courses at Otter Valley, engaged in international travel to both Costa Rica and Spain, and been employed at Cafe Provence in Brandon for several years. Abigail is planning to major in Criminal Justice and Spanish at the college level.*

## SPREAD THE WORD!

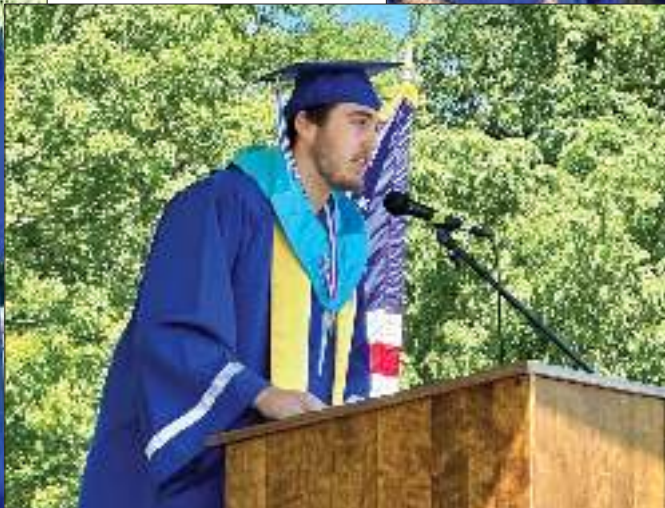
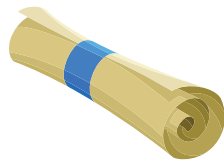
Have an upcoming event that  
you'd like to have added to our calendar?

LET US KNOW BY EMAIL AT [NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM](mailto:NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM)





# SNAPSHOTS OF GRADUATION 2024! *Congrats to all!*







*Photos by Steven Jupiter*



# Mim's Photos



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

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

Or call us at 247-8080

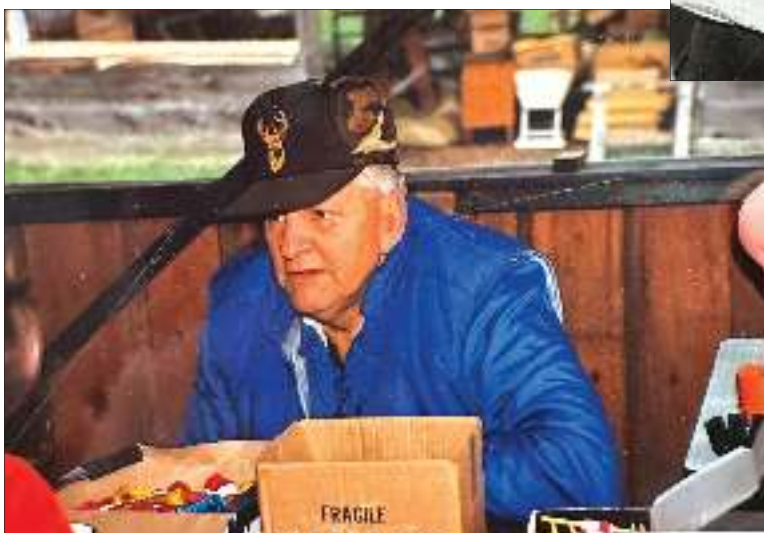


## Recognized



Brian Fillioe recognized (from left to right) Ben Boltz, Ken Torrey, Andy Livak, and himself. He explained they were four of five Brandon Selectboard members. The woman seated is Rachel Chartrand, former secretary for the Town of Brandon. She was leaving the Town Office to work for New England Woodcraft. The year would have been 1988-89.

Sue Wetmore, Bob Read, Kurt Kimball, and Terry Ferson also recognized Mr. Livak, Mr. Fillioe, and Ms. Chartrand.



Bob Read, Kurt Kimball, and Terry Ferson identified Brian Rivers, left, and Brian Fillioe, right. Sue Wetmore also recognized Mr. Fillioe.

Brian Fillioe explained that this photo was taken in the Town Office before its remodeling. Mr. Fillioe was unsure when the photo was taken, but he did not think he was on the Selectboard yet.



Set Wetmore and Bob Read identified this photo of Tony and Martha Clark, who bought Blueberry Hill in the late 1960s.



# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezed through
5. Supervises interstate commerce
8. Unruly group
11. Backs away from
13. Expression of understanding
14. Have concern for
15. Monetary units
16. Congressman (abbr.)
17. Iranian city
18. Eating houses
20. 2,000 lbs.
21. Grandmother
22. They include North, South and Central
25. In an early way
30. Foes
31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
32. One who unloads cages
33. Another term for sesame
38. Formally forbid
41. Make clear
43. Inaccessible
45. Get through
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Decameter
50. Type of sword
55. Actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: \_\_ pai dong
63. Termination point
64. Email function

## CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language
2. In style
3. Helsinki neighborhood
4. Unable to hear
5. More rapid
6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
7. In a cagy way
8. Kate and Rooney are two
9. Algerian port
10. Community in Ladakh
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Town in Galilee
19. Satisfy
23. Italian impressionist painter
24. Brass instrument
25. Chest muscle (slang)
26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
28. Woman (French)
29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
34. Baseball stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Popular sports league
37. Body part
39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Domesticated house pet
42. Untruths
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader
46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. River in central Europe
54. Harness
58. Father

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

# 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.

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

Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

## Make sure your pet has identification!

Losing a pet is very emotional and the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) has a few tips to ensure you're reunited quickly! An ID tag on your pet's collar is the easiest method. The tag should include your name, address, telephone number, and the pet's name. Another great idea if there's extra space is to add the veterinarian's phone number. If you move, get a new tag for your animal with your updated contact information. Also, please make sure you can read the tags as over time they can get scratched. Pets can also be microchipped. Many humane societies and veterinarians have a scanner that identifies if an animal has a microchip. Once a microchip is found, a phone call is made to notify the owner. Either way, please take a moment and check that your favorite pet has identification so you can get them back safe, sound, and in a hurry! If you have any questions, please call the Rutland County Humane Society at 802.483.6700.

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



#### MEET LASSIE - 9 MONTHS OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. SHETLIE MIX. TAN & WHITE.

Say hello to Lassie! She's a very smart, high drive dog with a bright future ahead of her. She loves to play and run around, but also knows how to take time to relax and enjoy the little things in life. She is the perfect age where she still has a lot of energy and is very eager to learn and please her new family. Lassie is treat motivated, so training her should be a breeze and is encouraged. She already has a handle on some basic commands and stays very clean inside of her kennel here. Now our little Lassie doesn't come without one or two quirks. She is dog reactive, so a dog intro is heavily emphasized for any homes already with a furry friend. We've no known history with cats or children, though she hasn't taken any interest in our cats here. If you are interested in meeting Lassie, please stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am-4 pm.

#### MEET RONAN - 4-5 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. SHAR-PEI MIX. TAN/GRAY.

Meet Ronan! He is an affectionate boy who loves human interaction! His favorite activity is making new friends whether they are canine or human. He is the perfect companion for anyone looking for a lively and loving addition to their family! When first meeting Ronan he will wag his tail with utter excitement! He thrives on attention and he is happiest when he is with his people. Whether it be playing fetch or taking a nice snooze on the couch, he is always eager to be around his human friends! He is the sweetest boy who has so much love to give. Ronan came to us as a stray from Rutland on May 6th. It appears that Ronan likes the company of his canine friends! However, we have no known history on how he will do with cats or children. If this sweet big-headed boy sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him. He is currently a foster to adopt! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm. He will be waiting for you!



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM  
11AM-4PM.  
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.



# OFF THE SHELF



## Adult Fiction

### The Downloaded by Robert Sawyer

In 2059, two very different groups have their minds uploaded into a quantum computer in Waterloo, Ontario. One group consists of astronauts preparing for Earth's first interstellar voyage. The other? Convicted murderers serving their sentences in a virtual-reality prison. But when disaster strikes, the astronauts and the prisoners must download back into physical reality and find a way to work together to save Earth from destruction.

### Mirrored Heavens by Rebecca Roanhorse (Between Earth and Sky Book 3)

Newly crowned Carrion King Serapio's enemies gather both on distant shores and within his own city as the matrons of the clans scheme to destroy him. Deep in the alleys of the Maw, a new prophecy is whispered, this one from the Coyote God. It promises Serapio certain doom if its terrible dictates are not fulfilled. Meanwhile, Xiala is thrust back amongst her people as war comes first to the island of Teek. With their way of life and their magic under threat, she is their last best hope. But the sea won't talk to her the way it used to, and doubts riddle her mind. She will have to sacrifice the things that matter most to unleash her powers and become the queen they were promised.

### The Comfort of Ghosts by Jacqueline Winspear

London, 1945: Four adolescent orphans with a dark wartime history are squatting in a vacant Belgravia mansion - the owners having fled London under heavy Luftwaffe bomb-

ing. Soon after, an ill and demobilized British soldier takes shelter with the group, Maisie Dobbs visits the mansion on behalf of the owners. Maisie is deeply puzzled by the children's reticence. Their stories are evasive and, more mysteriously, they appear to possess self-defense skills one might expect of trained adults in wartime. Her quest to bring comfort and the promise of a future to the youngsters and the ailing soldier brings to light a decades-old mystery concerning Maisie's first husband, James Compton, who was killed while piloting an experimental aircraft.

### Shelterwoods by Lisa Wingate

Oklahoma 1909. Eleven-year-old Olive Augusta Radley knows that her stepfather doesn't have good intentions toward the two Choctaw girls boarded in their home as wards. When the older girl disappears, Ollie flees to the woods, taking six-year-old Nessa with her. Together they begin a perilous journey to the rugged Winding Stair Mountains, the notorious territory of outlaws, treasure hunters, and desperate men. In Oklahoma 1990, Ranger Valerie Boren O'Dell arrives at Horsethief Trail National Park seeking a quiet place to balance a career and single parenthood. But no sooner has Valerie reported for duty than she's faced with controversy over the park's opening, a teenage hiker gone missing from one of the trails, and the long-hidden burial site of three children deep in a cave. Val's quest to uncover the truth wins an ally among the neighboring Choctaw Tribal Police but soon collides with old secrets and the tragic and deadly history of the land itself.

### Old King by Maxim Loskutoff

In the summer of 1976, Duane Oshun finds himself stranded in a remote Montana town beset by a series of strange and menacing events. He takes a job as a logger and builds a cabin on an isolated road near a reclusive neighbor who's a hermit named Ted Kaczynski. The two men are captivated by the valley's endangered old-growth forest, but Kaczynski's violent grievances against modern society soon threaten the lives of all those around him.

### Holy City by Henry Wise

After a decade of exile precipitated by the tragic death of his mother, Will Seems returns home from Richmond to rural Southern Virginia, taking a job as deputy sheriff in a landscape given way to crime and defeat. Impoverished and abandoned, this remote land of tobacco plantations, razed forests, and boarded-up homes seems stuck in the past in a state that is trying to forget its complex history and move on. When a mysterious, brutal homicide claims the life of an old friend, Tom Janders, Will must face the true impetus for his return: not to honor his mother's memory, but to pay a debt to a Black friend who, in an act of selfless courage years ago, protected Will and suffered permanent disfigurement for it.

# Brandon Police Report

## June 10

- An off-duty officer with the Brandon Police Department (BPD) witnessed an individual attempting to pass counterfeit money at a convenience store in Pittsford. The incident was relayed to the Pittsford Police Department (PPD) for follow up.

- Received a report of a sibling with mental health issues who has been harassing a family member by text messages. The complainant was provided with options regarding the matter.

- Attempted to assist a resident on Country Club Road who had locked themselves out of their home. All entrances were found to be secure, and the resident was advised that a locksmith would be needed.

- Assisted the Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) on Church Street with a patient who was having a medical issue. The individual was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

- Received a call from the assistant principal of OVUHS requesting a welfare check on a student who was believed to have been left unattended at home while their parent was away. The responding officer checked the residence, but no one was at home. The information was forwarded to the school for follow up with DCF.

- Received a complaint of a vehicle tailgating on Franklin Street.

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

## June 11

- Assisted BARS on Pine Tree Drive with an individual having a mental health crisis. The subject was transported to the hospital for treatment.

- Responded to Greg's Tires on Franklin Street for a report of a suspicious man who had been sleeping in the parking lot of the business. The man, who was transient and living out of his vehicle, was advised that the business didn't want him parking in their lot. The subject moved on without issue.

- Served, in-hand, court paperwork to a resident on West Seminary Street for the Middlebury Police Department.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for operating without a visible vehicle registration. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment (brake light). Warning issued.

## June 12

- Recovered a wallet on the side of the road on Union Street that had been stolen from an unlocked vehicle. The recovered property was returned to the owner. The BPD would like to remind Brandon residents to lock their vehicle doors every night and to not leave any valuables or firearms inside.

- Received a call from a person with mental health issues in a manic state. The person was encouraged to seek treatment; however, he refused. At the time, he was not threatening to hurt himself or anyone else.

- Received a report of a larceny from a vehicle on Franklin Street.

- Took fingerprints for employment.

- Received a report of a larceny from a vehicle on Conant Square.

- Vehicle stop in Hannaford parking lot for speeding on Union Street. Ticket issued for driving with a suspended license.

- Responded to the area of Champlain Street in an attempt to locate a vehicle that was allegedly submerged in the water on Route 73 by a fishing access. The vehicle was not located. It was later determined that the vehicle's location was not actually in Brandon, but rather in Sudbury.

- Attempted to stop a motorcyclist on Park Street and Center Street, but the operator fled. The identity of the operator was later determined and criminal and/or civil charges will be brought upon the completion of the investigation.

- Assisted BARS with a lift assist on Franklin Street. The man was transported to Porter Hospital.

## June 13

- Stood by at a residence on Forest Dale Road to prevent a breach of the peace while a tenant removed her belongings from the apartment she was staying at.

- Assisted the PPD in trying to locate a man on Pearl Street who was involved in a hit and run crash in Pittsford. Contact was made with the individual, who was advised to contact PPD regarding the incident.

(See Police report, Page 27)

## Brandon Cash and Food Drive

Saturday, June 22, drive-thru cash and food drive across from St. Thomas in Brandon. 11am-2pm. Looking for peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, pasta, canned meats, peanut butter- or cheese-filled crackers, cash to purchase Hannaford gift cards. All donations needed and appreciated. The kids are out of school for the summer; let's help fill the cupboards!





# Police report

(Continued from Page 26)

- Received a vehicle complaint on Park Street. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle in question.
- Conducted a patrol on Park Street due to multiple vehicle complaints in the area. One vehicle stop was conducted as a result.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street Extension for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Conducted speed enforcement on Basin Road due to complaints of numerous speeding vehicles in the area. Upon conducting stationary speed enforcement for an extended period, no violations were observed.
- Conducted a patrol at the intersection of Franklin Street and Nickerson Road.
- Vehicle stop on Supermarket Drive for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.
- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

## June 14

- Assisted BARS on Valley View Drive with a report of someone having trouble

breathing.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Champlain Street. No traffic stops made as a result.
- Responded to an apartment complex on Mulcahy Drive for a report of a dispute between a man and woman taking place inside one of the apartments. Officers spoke with the individuals and nothing criminal was discovered to have taken place. Officers cleared the scene without incident.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Conducted traffic enforcement for cell phone/texting violations on Franklin Street. One operator was stopped for a cell phone violation.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Park Street for failure to use care when entering an intersection. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Pearl Street for a cell phone violation. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol on Grove Street. One traffic stop was conducted.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment.

Warning issued.

- Responded to the area of Conant Square for a report of two suspicious men. The caller expressed his concerns due to a recent alleged trespass into his vehicle that had occurred in the area. Officers attempted to locate the individuals in question; however, they were gone upon officers' arrival.

## June 15

- Provided security detail for the OVUHS graduation.
- Responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street.
- Responded to a parking lot collision in the OVUHS parking lot following graduation.
- Responded with Brandon Fire and Rescue to a two-car crash on Franklin Street and Alta Woods Drive. One occupant was transported to the Rutland Regional Medical Center for minor injuries. Crash is under investigation.
- Stopped two vehicles following the OVUHS graduation for burnouts in the parking lot.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street for defective equipment. Upon

further investigation it was revealed the driver was unlicensed. The operator was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 7/22/2024 at 10:00 A.M.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for an expired registration plate. Upon questioning, the woman operating the vehicle became agitated and fled from the scene in her car. Officers with the BPD and the PPD attempted to locate the vehicle, and did so successfully; however, the woman again fled. The woman ultimately turned herself in to the Rutland County Sheriff's Department where she was placed under arrest, processed, and was later lodged at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for the crimes of Eluding a Police Officer and Excessive Speed. The woman was also mailed multiple Vermont Civil Violation Complaints for civil violations. She was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court on 6/17/2024 at 12:30 P.M.

- Conducted a patrol on

Grove Street. Two vehicle stops were made.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at McConnell Road for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at McConnell Road for a display of plates violation. Warning issued.

## June 16

- Conducted a foot patrol and business checks on Center Street.
- Received a report of lost property.
- Assisted PPD with a drug investigation.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for expired registration.
- Received a call regarding a teenager operating a vehicle on Furnace Road at a high speed.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for a traffic signal violation. Warning issued.

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## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

they want. However, you are too savvy to fall for people who may be guiding you in the wrong direction.

### LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Loved ones and friends in your life deserve your time and energy right now, Leo. Figure out a way to cut down on hours spent on the job this week.

### VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, things going on in your life right now may be a bit more confusing than you anticipated. It can be stressful, but with some assistance from others you will get through the situation.

### LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Someone in your life who has not always been on your side has been changing his or her ways lately, Libra. You may want to reevaluate the relationship soon.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, you have been working hard to avoid conflict with someone close to you, but it could start to feel like more effort than you can care to keep up.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

An interesting travel opportunity is coming your way, Sagittarius. When the news arrives, take advantage of it and start planning your itinerary.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Capricorn, is your schedule flexible right now? Try to rearrange things to take advantage of some last-minute recreational opportunities. You deserve to have more fun.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, you may be feeling moody and introspective right now. Take time to evaluate your dreams and the thoughts going through your head. There may be common threads.

### PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Don't let some ambiguous feedback adversely affect your mood, Pisces. You will never be able to please everyone, so focus on those people who are on your side.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- June 21 Jean-Paul Sartre, novelist, playwright, philosopher (d)
- June 22 Cyndi Lauper, singer-songwriter (71)
- June 23 Alan Turing, Mathematician (d)
- June 24 Lionel Messi, soccer player (37)
- June 25 Antoni Gaudi, architect (d)
- June 26 Lord Kelvin, mathematician, physicist (d)
- June 27 Grace Lee Boggs, author and social activist (d)

### ARIES March 21–April 20

Aries, your friends have stepped up to support you, and it is time to get together and enjoy one another's company. Think about an activity that everyone can get behind.

### TAURUS April 21–May 21

Taurus, the people around you may work more slowly than you, so you will likely need to be patient this week while working on a particular project. Eventually things will work out.

### GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, exercise caution when dealing with people who promise big returns on your investments right now. Avoid financial dealings with anyone you have not fully vetted.

### CANCER June 22–July 22

Cancer, some people around you would like to use flattery to get you to do what

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# Butch Shaw

(Continued from Page 1)

Shaw, who has decided after 15 years as a State Representative to pass the legislative torch. Mr. Shaw announced to the Pittsford Selectboard at its last meeting that he will not be seeking re-election in November. Rep. Shaw sat with this reporter last week for a wide-ranging discussion of his life and career in light of his announcement.

Shaw, now 76, attributes the decision to a desire to spend more time with his wife, Mary, who “has been a wonderful partner and given up a lot” over the 15 years Shaw traveled back and forth to Montpelier from their home in Pittsford.

“One morning you wake up and say, ‘It’s time to go home and give someone younger with more energy a chance.’”

Shaw began his career in the Statehouse back in 2009, when Republican Peg Flory resigned from her seat in the Vermont House of Representatives, representing Pittsford and Sudbury. Flory had one year left in her term—she left to become a State Senator for Rutland County—and recommended Shaw to then-Governor Jim Douglas as her replacement.

“I had an interview with Governor Douglas during a heavy snowstorm,” recalled Shaw. “I was waiting at his office and he arrived late because he had been pushing the plunger on the demolition of the old Champlain Bridge.”

There were other candidates under consideration, but Douglas took Flory’s recommendation and called Shaw in in early 2010 to tell him he’d won the appointment. He’s held the seat ever since.

There have been changes to the district, however. Shaw started off representing Pittsford-Sudbury, then in 2011 he began representing Brandon-Pittsford-Sudbury, and ultimately in 2022 he became the representative for Pittsford-Proctor, which is his current district.

The constant in all of this has been Pittsford, a community he’s called home since 1968. Originally from Middlebury, he moved to Pittsford after training courses in Boston to take a job as a draftsman with a local electrical engineering firm. He later started his own company specializing in traffic lights, doing significant contract work with the state.

Montpelier wasn’t in his sights until Flory convinced him he could do it.

“I was pretty nervous at first,” Shaw admitted with the confidence of someone who has since proven himself. “It’s a lot of responsibility representing constituents. I’ve always wanted to handle the position with dignity and respect. But I had no legislative experience and was the very last member sworn in that term.”

He had a lot to learn. And, fortunately, he was able to find mentors, like Rep. Linda Myers of Essex Junction, who took him under their wings.

“People were genuinely interested in helping me get into the groove,” he said.

One aspect of statehouse culture that particularly impressed the new legislator was the formality of the legislative chamber.

“Decorum was really important. It was very formal in those days, how you comported yourself on the floor. People respected the institution. The rules kept debates civil and on topic. It took a lot of party politics out of it,” Shaw said. “In Montpelier, I’ll debate until the cows come home and still go to dinner with no hard feelings. Someone you disagree with today can be your ally in something else tomorrow.”

That willingness to work with people to find solutions to Vermont’s problems became one of Shaw’s trademarks.

“Let’s have a cup of coffee” was one of Butch’s go-to methods,” said Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins in an email to The Reporter. Hopkins worked with Shaw when Hopkins was Chair of the Brandon Selectboard. “It was his way of de-escalating situations that were headed for, or were already in, a state of public conflict. Butch has solved more problems by getting two or three people together over coffee than all the social media posts have created.”

Those interpersonal skills have been important throughout Shaw’s legislative career. He’s always been a networker, committed to his principles but open to compromise when warranted. And he’s certainly capable of changing his mind. His 11 years on the Committee on Corrections and Institutions certainly helped reshape his views on criminal justice, for example.

“I was a ‘lock ‘em up and throw away the key’ kind of guy when I started,” he said. But over time he came to see that the situation was more complex than that. “I learned

how rehab can and cannot work. There are a lot of people in prison with mental-health and drug problems. We need prevention.”

“Our courts are backlogged and our prisons are still full. But we’re sending fewer prisoners to serve time out of state.

“It’s hard.”

And part of that difficulty, in Republican Shaw’s view, is that the Democrats’ supermajority has all but shut down debate and compromise between Democrats and Republicans, up to and including Republican Governor Phil Scott.



**STATE REP. BUTCH Shaw addressing the Vermont legislature. After 15 years of public service, Rep. Shaw will not seek re-election in November, choosing to pass the torch to the next generation of legislators. He has represented Pittsford since 2010, and at various times Brandon, Proctor, and Sudbury as well.**

And we offer rehab services we did have 15 years ago. We have a high school in prison now. If we can educate people, we might be able to change their behavior.”

But Shaw has acknowledged that many of Vermont’s problems stem from Vermont’s relatively small tax base and the state’s limited coffers.

“It’s a huge chess game,” he said, referring to the state’s maneuvers to finance its infrastructure without further damaging its credit rating, which was downgraded a few years back because of the state’s large debt load.

This year’s budget strife across the state also seemed to him a case of “chickens coming home to roost” after years of neglect by the legislature. When asked why education-finance reform hasn’t happened already, his reply was simple:

“I don’t think Republicans will regain the majority in November,” he said. “We’d have to flip too many seats. But the majority should be listening more to the minority. Years ago, Democratic Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson gave a speech where she said, ‘It’s the job of the majority to steer the ship but it’s the job of the minority to point out the rocks.’ Today, a lot of the majority isn’t even worried about the rocks.”

Shaw has worked with three different governors in his 15 years in Montpelier: Jim Douglas, Peter Shumlin, and Phil Scott.

His overlap with Douglas was brief. But Shaw was in office for the duration of Gov. Shumlin’s tenure.

“I always got along with him personally,” he said, even when he disagreed with the Democrat’s policies. “I always

respected the office of the governor, regardless of who was in it.” He gave the closure of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in 2014 as an example of something that could’ve been handled better under Shumlin.

Shaw has known incumbent Gov. Phil Scott for decades, going back to their days in the construction industry.

“Phil has always been a fierce competitor but he’s honest and thoughtful and genuinely wants to make Vermont more affordable,” he said.

Shaw said that when Irene hit in 2011, much of the focus was initially on the hard-hit mountain towns, leaving many devastated communities in Rutland County feeling neglected. Shaw was able to get then-Lt. Gov. Scott to tour the region to see the damage and register the need for massive aid in this neck of the woods as well.

“The southern half of Vermont is often overlooked in favor of Chittenden County,” said Shaw. In response, he’s felt the need to stand up even more vigorously for the communities he’s represented, whether it was his home district or Vermont as a whole.

He recently helped pass a bill to help firefighters suffering from work-related cancers, for example. It’s an issue close to his heart, as he’s been a volunteer in the Pittsford Fire Department for 56 years, even acting as Assistant Chief for 31 of them.

“I think it’s an important bill,” he said.

Shaw is also proud of several projects he helped effectuate in his district:

He helped shepherd Brandon through its Segment 6 project, which massively revamped the downtown.

He helped structure a no-interest loan plan to help Pittsford residents who had to dig private wells when their access to the Chittenden reservoir was cut off by the town. That program became the model for a statewide fund for residents in similar situations.

He helped improve Route 73 in Sudbury to avoid the constant flooding from Otter Creek that often shut it down and cut Sudbury residents off from the quickest route to Brandon. Now, the roadway floods only during the most extreme rain events.

He helped push through the state-funding program that closed the gap between the 75% that FEMA covered for

(See Butch Shaw, Page 29)



# Butch Shaw

*(Continued from Page 28)*  
property buyouts and the fair-market values of the afflicted properties. He made a personal appeal to Gov. Scott to get the program started.

He helped secure funding for the Pittsford Veterans Memorial, the Pittsford Rec Department, the roof of the Brandon Methodist Church, the playground on Seminary Street in Brandon, the renovation of Brandon Town Hall, and the baseball field at Otter Valley, among other projects.

He recently helped secure forgiveness for monies owed by Proctor to the Agency of

Transportation for a \$100K sidewalk project that didn't work out as planned as was ultimately shelved. He saved the town tens of thousands of dollars at the very least.

"It's just what legislators do," he said. "Never taking no for an answer. The whole thing is about the constituents."

And that commitment to his constituents and to his office has engendered much respect from those he's worked with.

"Butch has been a great advocate for and friend to Brandon," said Seth Hopkins. "His legislative tenure has been characterized by quiet and ef-

fective service. No matter the issue, Butch treated people on all sides with respect and courtesy. We should all try to extend Butch's legacy of lowering our voices and talking with each other as human beings."

Democratic Rep. Stephanie Jerome was Shaw's district mate in Brandon-Pittsford-Sudbury from 2018 until Brandon became its own district in 2022. She wrote about Shaw, "It's been a pleasure to work with Butch over the past six years. He's always been kind, approachable, and helpful on whatever bill we're working on, and always has his con-

stituents' best interests at heart. He will be deeply missed in the Statehouse, not only by me but by all legislators!"

But perhaps no Vermont legislator has gotten to know Shaw as well as State Sen. Brian Collamore of Rutland County, a fellow Republican who shared an apartment with Shaw in Montpelier for 10 years.

"I was fortunate to room with Butch," said Collamore in a phone conversation. "He was a great roommate, a great cook, and a tremendous guy. He served his districts extremely well. He could always find or suggest a solution to a problem. He took time to listen. He was honest, full of integ-

rity, and had a lot of common sense. I thank him so much for his leadership and for teaching me. He had great patience with me. I couldn't imagine a better teacher."

Reflecting on his time in Montpelier, Shaw said, "I didn't leave a lot on the table." He has few regrets, even when bills he authored withered in committee. "I didn't propose many bills I didn't think could get passed."

"I've got a clear conscience and an open heart," he continued. "I've done my job to the best of my ability."

And the many people he's helped over the years would agree with him.



REP. SHAW STANDS beside the Veterans Memorial at the Pittsford town offices. Mr. Shaw was instrumental in obtaining funding for the memorial. It was just one of the many projects he helped realize for his constituents over the 15 years of his tenure in the statehouse.

# Six vetoes

*(Continued from Page 11)*  
claim processing requirements, was also greenlit. The legislation was introduced for the first time Monday morning through a special House rules process.

Lawmakers said the bill came at the request of health insurance providers, which they said needed more time to meet some of the requirements laid out in legislation Scott signed into law just last month: Act 111.

Two of those three bills will now head to the governor's desk. H.81, having been once again amended by the House on Monday afternoon, has stalled for the

year. Monday morning also began with floor activity unrelated to lawmaking. Before House members kicked off the business of the day, Rep. Mary Morrissey, R-Bennington, offered a public apology to her district mate, Rep. Jim Carroll, D-Bennington, for repeatedly pouring water into his backpack over the course of this legislative session.

The longtime Bennington Republican said she had apologized to Carroll and asked her colleagues, and members of the public, for forgiveness.

"I am truly ashamed for my

actions," Morrissey said, her voice shaking. "It was conduct most unbecoming of my position as a representative, and as a human being."

Carroll stood up next and suggested that he wasn't quite ready to do as Morrissey asked.

"It was torment, there's no doubt about it," Carroll said. "There's going to be some work to be done between the two of us. That first time we sit down together, it's going to be kind of awkward. But we have to start somewhere."

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## Does gardening reduce stress? Bah humbug!

BY LYN DESMARAIS

I read an article recently that said gardening reduces stress, improves cardiovascular health, and overall mental health. To borrow from Scrooge, “Bah humbug!” I want to see the raw data that that article was based on. Did they interview anyone who actually gardens? No one has ever spoken with me or with any other gardeners in town to my knowledge. Gardening at this time of year reduces me to a maniacal mess. Notice any of your fellow gardeners in town? I haven’t seen any. They are all home obsessing in their gardens, unable to go out. So, let’s start with stress. I can identify at least 40 sources of acute stress from gardening. I’ll spare you most of them.

Stress Number 1: The weather. It never rains when we need it too, and the sun doesn’t shine when we want it to, and the wind is always blowing. If it’s great weeding weather, I’m stuck running errands, if it’s too hot and sunny I’m out there weeding, or dead-heading, sweat running into and stinging my eyes.

Stress Number 2: My plants are in all the wrong places, so everything looks messy. The plants clearly haven’t read my gardening plan. Many of them move, without permission. And when I’m weeding and I find a plant that’s in the wrong place, I stress over what to

do with it. Do I jump up and put it in a pot and plant it right away so that its delicate root system does not get desiccated by the wind? Do I throw it in a bucket of water and try to resuscitate it the next day? When I weed I have at least 150 plants to pot up. Someone thought they were salad the other day and nearly served them! And it turns out they are all plants that may not be weeds but even Plant App struggles to identify.

Stress Number 3: Weeds! I received what I would term a cheerful sounding email from a verifiable source this week informing me that Vermont now has added eight new invasive plants to their invasive species list. Eight-what, what?!? I can’t cope with the four I have: bindweed, goutweed, weird, springy stretchy weed that I don’t know the name of, and a plant that I am going to call artemisia. All four are wildly out of control and migrating into the lawn. Despite trying to eradicate them for years, I have managed to spread them to all of my gardens. I can no longer share plants unless they are completely bare root. In the case of gout weed, I have an entire garden that I cannot plant into or share out of. Weeds give me insomnia. They’re out there growing, twisting, hiding, and sending their long roots underground, silently poised to suffocate and cast aside my beloved perennials. Invidious.

Stress Number 4: Colonizers. In addition to the dastardly behavior of these 4 invasive weeds that now permeate all my gardens, I have plants that I have put in my gardens that well, the polite term would be called “colonization.” They’re invasive. They’re just prettier than the four above. Within a year or two they have hogged the entire bed: June daisies, bee balm, black eyed Susans, lemon drops (evening primrose) phlox, and a ground hugging sedum. “How can something so beautiful be so wicked?” They ensnare my peonies, they suffocate my iris, they gobble up real estate. I can’t rein them in. I dig them out, but they come back the very next year. They say adults ask kids what they want to be when they grow up because they are looking for ideas. I believe it. I write this column hoping my readers will take pity on me and tell me what to do to lower my stress levels.

I tried to ask a friend. She only stayed a few minutes. “Seeing all your weeds is making me anxious,” she said honestly. “I’ve got to go and get weeding.” Another friend said “Well, I’m totally overwhelmed. I can’t seem to get rid of gardens I’ve created. I can’t keep up with all the work they require, and I can’t let them run wild.” She paused, “I guess I’m going to have to move.” You may laugh, gentle reader, but I believe people fleeing

their gardens is far more common than you realize.

And those people who report excellent cardiac health and mental health? I’ll bet they are sneaking off to the gym or going for power walks.

Meanwhile, 365 days of gardening recommends that you cut off the blooms of your iris but not the stalk and start deadheading annuals and perennials that are past bloom, now. Add that to your list. No stress. Just hop to it.

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## At Devil's Bowl

# Marc Johnson shines for 10K payday in Slate Valley 50, and Quenneville captures his third win of 2024

WEST HAVEN—Guilfordland, N.Y.'s Marc Johnson, won Sunday's 50 lap Short Track Super Series Modified Feature at Devil's Bowl Speedway over Matt Sheppard, Mat Williamson, Jack Lehner and Stewart Friesen. Vince Quenneville stayed hot, taking his third win of the year in the 40-lap, topless Sunoco Sportsman Modified Feature. Scott Towslee, Jake Barrows and Brian Blake also picked up wins on the night.

Tim Fuller and Johnson shared the front row for the start of the race with Fuller taking the early advantage. Johnson followed him for the first two circuits before being able to get by and leading lap three. Sheppard and Williamson, starting 5th and 7th, respectively, began making their way forward. Friesen was making his way forward from 11th starting position, making time on the middle and outside lanes on the slick half-mile.

Johnson, still the leader, got into thick lap traffic around lap 30. Getting to the back of the pack and passing Daryl Mitchell and JR Hurlburt among others. By this time, Sheppard was firmly settled

into 2nd and Williamson 3rd. Friesen battled with Lehner and David Hebert for top top five positions, while Anthony Perrego tried to advance in between them.

A caution flag inside of 10 laps to go for a car off the racetrack and turn three bunched up the field. Johnson chose the inside lane for the restart, with Sheppard to his outside. Johnson drove away from Sheppard in turn one and was not challenged for the remainder of the race. Sheppard held on for 2nd with Matt Williamson 3rd. Jack Lehner impressed with a 4th place run, while Friesen settled for 5th. Anthony Perrego was 6th, Fuller 7th and 8th was Adam Pierson. David Hebert and Alex Yankowski completed the top-10. Devil's Bowl Speedway Sportsman regular Troy Audet was 21st in his 2nd modified start. Walter J. Hammond was 15th in his STSS Modified debut. Allan Hammond was 18th and Walt, Jr., finished 23rd.

Vince Quenneville, Jr. and James Hanson started on the front row for the 40 lap, \$2,000-to-win Sunoco Sportsman Modified Feature. The race was marred by cautions for

the first 8 laps before a long run of green flag racing that took the field to the completion of the event.

Tanner Siemons got into trouble early, along with James Hanson in a separate incident that sent cars flying everywhere to try and avoid him. Billy Lussier and Adam Pierson didn't have much luck in the early going either. Quenneville had no issues, leading the way at every moment. Fire Swamp and Tim LaDuc, the 5th and 8th place starters, made their way forward, along with Kevin Chaffee, Dave Camara and Marty Kelly, III from rows 12 and 13.

At the end, neither Swamp nor LaDuc could run with the No. 78 car, and Quenneville crossed the line by more than five seconds in front of Swamp. LaDuc was 3rd with Travis Green 4th. Bubba McPhee was 5th. Jimmy Ryan, Joey Scarborough, Chaffee, Camara and Kelly completed the top-10.

Dave Camara earned another Elmo's Pit Stop Hard Charger Award of the year, going from 26th to 9th for a +17.

Scott Towlsee won the O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman Fea-

ture with a late race pass on William Lussier, Jr. Tyler Travis took the lead early from his outside-pole position, leading the first 19 trips around. Lussier, Jr., passed him on the outside of turn two on a lap 20 restart, driving away from the field, until Towslee, who started 19th, was able to reel him in and pass him at the north end on lap 24. Gary English scooted by Lussier for 2nd at the end. Marty Hutchins was 4th and William Duprey was 5th. Travis ended up 8th.

The Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stock ran two A-features, each 20 laps, paying \$200 to the winner. Griff Mahoney led early in the first main, but ran into trouble with lapped

traffic and had to go to the tail. Jake Barrows captured the win, climbing all the way from 15th spot. Sophomore competitor Ryan

Patch gave Barrows a run for his money on the outside lane, but Barrows outlasted his advances, leading the final eight circuits to win. Patch was good for 2nd with Austin McKirryher turning in a 3rd place run. Richard Fleury ran well in 4th and Jeremy Brownell was 5th.

In the nightcap, Brian Blake came from 11th to pick up the win, taking the lead from Chris Charbonneau's rear-wheel-drive Mustang on lap 14. Chase Allen was 3rd with Adam Stewart impressive in 4th. Adam Mohoney was 5th.



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