

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 27

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

\$1

Correction

Last week's issue contained incorrect dates for the 36th Chamber Great Brandon Auction. It will take place Friday, July 5th – Saturday, July 13th at the Brandon Town Hall. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience.

Hope to see you there!



NAMES LOST

Genealogist Michael F. Dwyer explores the history of the Gilbar, Gilbert, Bushee, and Cornstock families.

PG. 2

IN MEMORIAM

A World War II memorial plaque dedicated to Brandon High School students who died in the war was rediscovered at the American Legion.

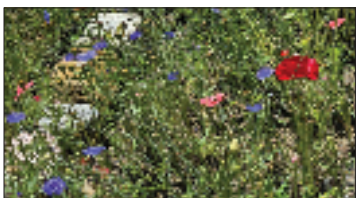
PG. 3



BRANDON TOOLSHIP

This summer the Brandon Energy Committee will be operating a mobile tool-storage shed with electric lawn care tools for town residents to borrow.

PG. 9



GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais finds there's much to appreciate about a Vermont summer.

PG. 14



Summer on Otter Creek

THE LUSH SUMMER foliage almost hides the train bridge over Otter Creek in Leicester. This summer has seen local vegetation in high spirits: trees and flowers all seem particularly healthy and exuberant. Hopefully, things will continue like this through the fall.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Burning rubber: Brandon's Joey Scarborough racks up wins at local racetracks

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Joey Scarborough was driving racecars years before he even had a license to drive himself to school. At 14, he used a booster to give him the extra height he needed in the seat, but he was racing and gaining the experience—"seat time," he calls it—that has allowed him to rack up wins at all the local tracks.

Now 27, he's had a great start to his 2024 season: a win at Devil's Bowl in West Haven, a win at Airborne Park in Plattsburgh, and two wins at Malta in Ballston Spa. And we've barely even cracked July.

He's got 26 feature wins under his belt, and last year came in 2nd in points at Airborne and 3rd at (See Joey Scarborough, Page 8)



JOEY SCARBOROUGH OF Brandon stands next to one of the three cars he races at Devil's Bowl and other local tracks. At only 27, he's already got more than 2 dozen feature wins under his belt.
Photo by Steven Jupiter



BRANDON HIGH SCHOOL Teacher Mary C. Force stands before the old Brandon grade school that burned down in the 1950s on Seminary Hill. 'Miss Force' has been honored since 1989 with a scholarship in her name.

Alumni of Brandon High School celebrate teacher Mary Force

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—We all had at least one teacher who made a difference in our lives, who understood us when no one else seemed to, who guided us when others gave up, who provided encouragement when we most needed

it, who got more from us than we thought we could give, or who gave us the tough love we needed to pull ourselves together.

For many alumni of the old Brandon High School (BHS), that teacher was Mary Force, who (See Mary Force, Page 6)



Names lost in Vermont, Part 27: Gilbar, Gilbert, Bushee, and Cornstock

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Several years ago, Roberta (Wright) Mills of Florence asked me to explore the genealogy of her great-great-grandfather Eli Gilbar to see if we could find any evidence of Native American ancestry. While no traces of Native American forebears have yet surfaced in this family, Eli nonetheless emerged as opportunity to investigate another lost French-Canadian surname. Eli's parents Joseph Jalbert and Marie-Rose Delima Constant were married on August 20, 1832 in St. Pie, Québec, about forty miles due north of Enosburg. Joseph's first ancestor in Qué-

bec from France was Mathurin Gerbert dit Lafountain, who married Isabelle Targé in Québec in 1669. Even then, spelling variations abounded

"Pie," French for Pius, after lots of popes, was rendered as "St. Pee" in the Vermont death certificate of Eli's brother John, with the name of the mother written as Rose Cornstock. Joseph and Rose's first six children were baptized at St. Pie, the last one Ambroise [later Albert], born in 1841. Soon after his birth, the family crossed the border to Enosburg and, in the process, did not reconnect to a Catholic church. A long-vanished grave marker in Mis-

sissiquoi Cemetery attests that Joseph "Gelbar" died on November 25, 1854, age 34. Joseph's early death made a hard life even more difficult for his young family

Eli Gilbar, living in Enosburg, Vermont, in 1861 claimed he was 18 years old when he enlisted in Company A of the 7th Vermont Infantry. With no record of his birth or baptism, the best evidence of Eli's true age comes from the 1860 Enosburg census wherein Albert Jalbert, [last name spelled correctly in this instance], age 20, headed a household that included their widowed mother "Mary" [Rose] and among other siblings, Eli, age 13. Thus, Eli was only about 14 when he joined the army. Comparing his enlistment paper with other personal descriptions in army records, he grew about five inches in the course of his service! Moreover, as documented in his reenlistment certificate, wherein he signed an X next to his name, years later he learned to write his name. Eli's brothers Albert and William joined the same regiment. Their descendants and other members of the family later adopted Gilbert as their preferred surname

Returning from the Civil War, Eli Gilbar relocated 120



WALKER WRIGHT, RAISED by his grandparents, Eli and Mattie Gilbar.

NAME	AGE	SEX	COLORED	INDIAN	PAUPER	DEAF	BLIND	INSANE	OTHER
116 St. Albert Jalbert	20	M							
Benny	12	F							
Isabelle	12	F							
Joseph	15	M							
Eli	13	M							
Martha	8	F							
Thomas	10	M							

JALBERT CENSUS IN 1860.



Eli's SIGNATURE, WHICH evolved from a simple X as he learned to read and write.

miles away from his family in Enosburg to Manchester, Vermont, where he married fourteen-year-old Mary-Matilda Bushee on November 19, 1866, their union officiated by a Protestant clergyman. The Bush-

ees shared a similar migration path with the Gilbars. Mattie's parents, Medard Boucher dit Tremblé and Eleanore Brière were married at St. Jacques de l'achigan, Québec, on June 10, 1834, with their children baptized variously with the Boucher and Tremblé surname. Medard's first ancestor in Québec was Jean Galleran Boucher, who married Marie Leclerc at Chateau Richer on October 10, 1661. In the early 1850s, the Boucher/Bushees moved to Manchester County, Vermont, also leaving behind ties to the Catholic Church. It took some sleuthing to locate them in Pawlet's 1860 census. Their surname had indexed as Burhoe! Medard was now Joseph and Eleanore went by Ellen. With twins in both the Jalbert and Boucher families, it came as no surprise that Eli and Mattie had twin daughters, Emma, and Matilda. In all these instances, one twin died young

In their almost sixty years of marriage, Eli and Mattie experienced a hardscrabble life moving from Vermont to Greenwich, New York, and then back to Vermont in the mid-1890s. According to the 1900 census, Mattie had eight children, five of whom were dead. Their eldest daughter, Emma Gilbar married at 15 and died at age 23. Emma's husband John Wright died at 21,



ROBERT E WRIGHT and sister Edna, ca. 1911. Charming outfits!

(See Names Lost, Page 7)

BRANDON YARD SALE DAY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024
REGISTRATION FORM

Name and address listing: \$10 OR

Enhanced listing: \$15

\$15 buys you 25 words to describe your yard sale's "special" items plus your name and address in a boxed ad.

For ALL LISTINGS:
NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____

For ENHANCED LISTING:
ADD 25 WORDS:
(separate sheet of paper)
MAIL TO: BACC, PO BOX 267,
BRANDON, VT 05733
OR DROP OFF AT CARR'S GIFTS.
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:
July 30, 2024
Go to Brandon.org for more info!



Brandon High School memorial plaque rediscovered

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- A WWII commemorative plaque has been uncovered at the Brandon American Legion. Displayed at the Brandon High School (BHS) alumni luncheon this past Saturday was the bronze plaque presented by the classes of 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949, Brandon Chapter of Future Farmers of America, and the Student Council. It hung in the lobby of the high school building commemorating those who served and in memory of those who died - E. Malcolm Douglas, Elmer Kent, Maurice

A. LaRock, and Leslie E. Penning. Many of those surnames still persist in our town. In its 6/20/1947 issue, The Brandon Union covered the presentation of the plaque at the Memorial Day services in 1947.

Also at the BHS alumni luncheon, Chuck Memoe recited the list of the nine Mary Force Scholarship winners (see article on Mary Force in this week's issue of The Reporter). A reading of the names of 13 BHS graduates who passed in the last year was recited. Members of the classes of 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949

were present at the event. Rose (Capen) Bertani represented the class of 1946: she grew up on Wheeler Road. There were two couples present who met at Brandon HS: Ken '57 and Barb '59 Brown of Goshen who have been married 62 years, Lawrence '55 and Pearl '56 Fales who have 66 years after their vows. Others who met at BHS but have lost a partner include Charles and Carolyn Memoe '57, and Bucky and Shirley Shackett. The luncheon was catered by Kamuda's Market.



CHUCK MEMOE (BHS Class of 1958) reciting the names of the recipients of the Mary C. Force Scholarships at the annual luncheon for alumni of Brandon High School (BHS). BHS closed in 1961 when Otter Valley Union High School opened and brought students together from Brandon, Pittsford, and the surrounding communities. Photos by George Fjeld



TOP LEFT: THE bronze plaque that was recently rediscovered. It honors Brandon residents lost during WWII. Top right: A clipping from the Brandon Union marking the original unveiling of the plaque in 1947. Above: Roughly 60 alumni of Brandon High School met for their annual luncheon at the American Legion on Saturday, June 30.

Spotlight On Business

36TH CHAMBER GREAT BRANDON AUCTION

AUCTION

BRANDON TOWN HALL

JULY 5th - JULY 13th



Brandon.org for more info

Come visit our great annual auction filled with treasures donated by so many good folks in the area! And we want to highlight the great businesses that support us with their

donations each and every year! We thank them for their continued efforts in making Brandon the greatest little village in the state of Vermont!

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



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lots of great tasting food that's good for you

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Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Update from the legislative break

Although this is my off time from the legislature, I continue to work on issues that are important to Brandon and my constituents. This time of year is special in Brandon - we love our Independence Day celebrations and the kick-off to summer! I hope to see all of you at the parade.

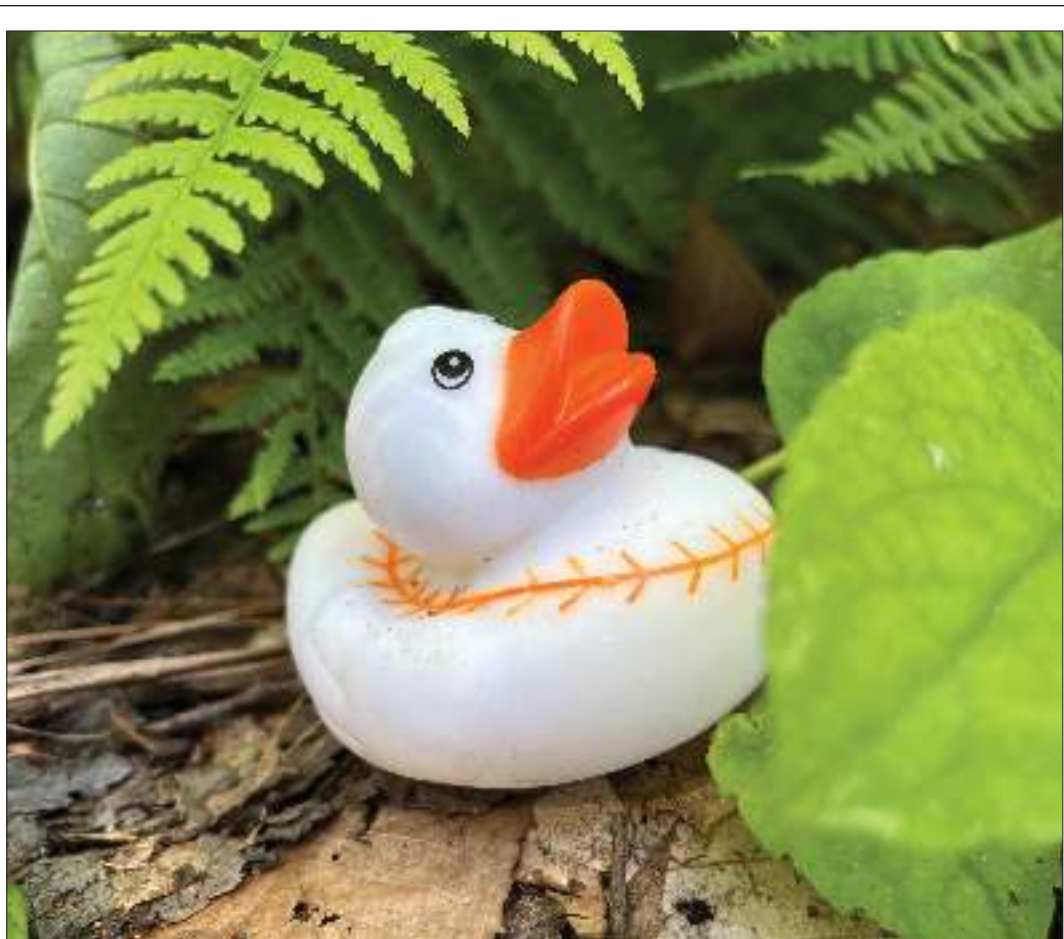
Work on education funding and property taxes dominated the State House from January to May this year. I feel that it would be helpful to provide you with an explanation of this year's "Yield Bill," so that we all have an understanding of how important this bill is to our taxpayers, our school, and our students. H.887 is the bill that funds our schools and sets property-tax rates for the coming year. Gov. Scott vetoed it, and the legislature overrode that veto.

School funding in Vermont is complicated - it is a combination of local control and legislative action. Every year, school districts all across the state develop budgets and bring these budgets to the voters. Our OVUU school board worked hard to deliver responsible budgets that provide our students and teachers with the resources they need. This year school boards were faced with a "perfect storm" of rising health-care premiums (up 16%), the end of federal COVID money, student needs (including mental health and social services), the cost to maintain aging school buildings, and overall inflation. As a result, all across the state school budgets went up.

Once local voters approve budgets, the responsibility passes to the legislature. All of the local budgets, plus other expenses like school transportation and

special education, were added up. The Legislature is then required to raise enough money to cover the cost to educate students. This year, the House and Senate worked hard to figure out ways to cover the voter-approved costs but still try to bring down property-tax rates. By looking at every option, we were able to bring that average estimated increase down from 19% to about 13%. This was done by using unexpected excess tax revenue, by adding a one-time transfer to the Education Fund from the state's General Fund, and by raising taxes on cloud software and short-term rentals (paid by visitors). All of this added about \$96 million in "other" revenue to the Education Fund and allowed us to reduce property taxes as much as possible. We also provided extra help, in the form of an expanded property-tax credit, for the 66 percent of Vermonters who pay their property/school taxes based on household income. H.877 put together a package to fund our schools, at the level that local voters in every district approved, while still trying to bring down property-tax rates as much as we responsibly could.

There were some last-minute ideas from the Governor, including borrowing money to bring down this year's property tax rates (Treasurer Mike Picciak said this would damage our state's credit rating and ability to bond), or using up all of our Education Fund reserves (which would leave us in a crisis in the case of an economic downturn or revenue shortfalls). These ideas would have helped a bit this year but created a bigger problem next year. This is (See *Legislative updates*, Page 18)



Winky in the wild!

ACCOMPLISHED BIRDER SUE Wetmore sent in this photo of Winky in his natural habitat, a reassuring sign that he's on the mend and ready to swim in the Ducky Race on Saturday, July 6 at 1 p.m. behind the Brandon Inn. "He looked as healthy as any rubber ducky I've ever seen," said Wetmore.

YOU CAN BUY your duckies for the race behind the Inn or at the info booth at the Congo Church from 9 to 12 on the day of the race.

"I SWEAR I heard him quacking 'Eye of the Tiger,'" added Wetmore.

Community Forums Shoreham Congregational Church to partner with the Bridport Grange to raise funds

Two different organizations in two different towns with similar goals have resulted in a special collaboration. The Bridport Grange owns a building that was used for many community events, including dinners. Because of severe water damage, the building is now unusable. The Shoreham Congregational Church owns a historic building with a large Fellowship Hall that for more than a century was a major part of town activities. Building maintenance and repair issues have loomed large for the small congregation

for several years.

Both organizations have been involved in frequent fund-raising activities to bolster their respective building funds. Now they are joining forces to sponsor a series of events using the space at the Shoreham Congregational Church to benefit the Building Funds of both groups.

The first collaborative event will be a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, July 20, from 5 to 8 PM. The menu will include spaghetti with both meat and vegetarian sauces, tossed salad, bread,

beverages, and dessert. The cost is \$12 for adults and children 12 and over, or \$6 for children under 12. Proceeds will be split between the two organizations. While reservations are not required, they would be greatly appreciated by calling or texting 802-989-8253.

By combining the workforces and resources of both the Shoreham Congregational Church and the Bridport Grange, they hope to create a community event for both towns that will benefit both of them.

VT Fish & Wildlife Junior Warden Weekend

CASTLETON—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will be offering Junior Warden Weekend to be held at the Edward F. Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton on July 27-28.

"We are pleased to announce a fun and exciting opportunity for teens ages 15-17. Junior Warden

Weekend allows us to provide teens with a window into what we do as wardens and how we contribute to conservation in Vermont," said Lieutenant Wes Butler. "Our job duties are incredibly varied depending on the time of year and specific needs of our communities, and we are excited to share some of these

experiences with the participants in this program."

Campers will arrive on Saturday morning and immediately jump into K-9 demos, mock crime scene investigations, game processing, and more. "We are thrilled to be able to partner with the Warden Service on (See *Junior Warden Weekend*, Page 5)

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary; Mitchell Pearl; Shelly Williams.

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

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Community Forums continued National Nonprofit Petco Love Invests in Rutland County Humane Society

RUTLAND—Rutland County Humane Society is set to receive a \$7,500 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for animals in Rutland County, Vermont.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested nearly \$400 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations — like ours — across North America, with 6.8 million pets adopted and counting.

“Our investment in the Rutland County Humane Soci-

ety is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized,” said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. “Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We launched Petco Love Lost, a national lost and found database that uses patented image-recognition technology to simplify the search for lost pets.”

“RCHS is so appreciative of the continued partnership with Petco Love to provide funds for our programs for the pets and people in Rutland County. Their continued generosity has enabled us to provide medical care,

comfort, and love for pets in our care,” said Beth Saradarian, Executive Director of the Rutland County Humane Society.

The Rutland County Humane Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to and advocating for and working towards a responsible and humane community. We shelter and provide compassionate care while finding loving homes for at-risk and companion pets serving Rutland County, Vermont. Since 1959, RCHS estimates it has cared for or assisted over 125,000 animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, and in the early years skunks, loons, fawns, goats, and horses.

For more information about the Rutland County Humane Society, visit rchsvt.org.

Game Wardens and State Police Urge Vermonters to Boat Safely this Fourth of July

MONTPELIER—The state of Vermont is reminding all Vermonters to boat safely this Fourth of July weekend.

Recently released 2023 U.S. Coast Guard data show that alcohol use remains the primary known contributing factor in recreational boater deaths. In addition, 85 percent of people who drowned in a recreational boating incident were not wearing a life jacket.

The Vermont Warden Service, Vermont State Police and other local law enforcement agencies will be partnering with the National Association of Boating Law Administrators and the U.S. Coast Guard by participating in Operation Dry Water heightened awareness and enforcement weekend which takes place July 4–6, 2024.

Operation Dry Water is a national awareness and enforcement

campaign focused on reducing the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities and fostering a stronger, more visible deterrent to alcohol and drug use on the water.

“It’s always important to remind people that operating a vessel under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal and can lead to serious injuries, death, property damage and legal consequences,” Game Warden Sgt. Jenna Reed said.

“The July Fourth holiday means time on the water for boaters in Vermont and across the United States. With an increased public presence on the water, the data show an increase in the number of boating incidents and fatalities that take place during this time. We want everyone to be safe and responsible while having a good time on Vermont’s waterways,” she added.

“Wearing a properly fitting, Coast

Guard-approved life jacket is one of the easiest steps you can take to improving your safety on the water,” said Vermont State Police Boating Law Administrator Al Johnson. “New life jackets are much more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange PFDs of the past. There are also innovative options such as inflatable life jackets that improve mobility and flexibility for activities including boating, fishing, paddling or hunting, and the new styles are much cooler in the warmer weather.”

VSP and the Warden Service encourage residents and visitors to enjoy Vermont’s beautiful and diverse waterways this summer. While you’re out there, take pictures, make memories, and for your safety, boat sober and wear your life jacket.

Junior Warden Weekend

(Continued from Page 4)

this exciting new program,” says Hannah Phelps, Green Mountain Conservation Camp Coordinator. “This weekend is a great opportunity to engage with local game wardens while also getting a weekend at camp—there will be no shortage of campfires, fishing, swimming, and other camp activities throughout the weekend program.”

The weekend is open to ages 15-

17 and is the perfect way for teens to unplug and engage with peers outdoors before heading back to the classroom. The weekend is capped at 25 participants, but there is still space for new registrants. Arrival time is 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 27 with departure at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

The cost for the weekend is \$125, which includes all meals. Sponsorships are available on a limited ba-

sis.

To register for the weekend, please email a completed application found at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/conservation-education/junior-warden-weekend> to Hannah.Phelps@vermont.gov. Registration questions can be directed to Hannah Phelps at 802-522-2925.

Letters to the Editor

Come one, Come all!

The Brandon Tree Group Biggest Tree Contest continues until Thanksgiving!! Prizes!! Enter early, enter often!! Enter the biggest tree you can find for largest diameter tree (at breast height, 4 ½ feet above the ground). Measure it (inches around). Send us a photo, the size, your name, and email. Enter more than once!! Who knows which tree will be the winner? The tree doesn’t need to be on your property, it doesn’t need to be your tree. In the event of more than one entry of the same tree, we’ll figure it out.

This is a family-friendly contest with no age limits, so get your kids interested, get them out and looking.

Don’t know what kind of tree it is? Enter it anyway, we’ll figure it out later. Fun for one, fun for all!! Start keeping your eyes open for that one giant tree that you’re sure is big, bigger, and biggest!! Did I say Prizes!?!?

Neil Silins
Tree Warden
Brandontreewarden@gmail.com

Thank you! St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church food drive was a huge success!

In spite of the rainy weather, the Brandon Area Food Shelf Drive held on Sat. June 29 was a huge success, netting over 500 lbs. of non-perishable food items and close to \$600!

Many thanks to Cassie Root and George Howard for spearheading this operation and Chris and Mary

Holliday for helping box and haul the goods to the food shelf. Most of all, thanks to all who gave so generously to make sure our neighbors are not hungry.

Kathy Mathis
Director, Brandon Food Shelf



Tuesdays

Summer Concert Series

JUNE 18 - AUG. 13, 2024
TUESDAYS @ 6PM
42 Elm St., Pittsford, VT
across from Kamuda's



Concerts are outside on the Village Farm grounds.
For extreme weather, concert is canceled. Check PittsfordVillageFarm.org
This event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

July 9 — Ryan Fuller

Ryan is a solo musician, singing and playing guitar. He plays a little bit of everything but main genre is 90's alternative.

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ROOSTER**

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Mary Force

(Continued from Page 1)

graduated from BHS in 1926 and taught in various schools in Brandon for more than 40 years.

“We respected her because of the standards she set,” recalled Chuck Memoe (BHS Class of 1957) in a recent conversation at his house in Brandon.

Though she eventually became a counselor and Vice-Principal, Miss Force was mostly known for teaching math at BHS, and she expected her students to perform to the best of their abilities.

“She was there to teach, and we were there to learn,” said Bonnie Miller Johnson (BHS Class of 1958).

“When she spoke, you listened,” said Seth Clifford (BHS Class of 1958).

“She would have six students doing problems up on the blackboard and you didn’t want to fail,” said Mr. Memoe.

Despite her reputation for discipline, Miss Force had a softer side.

“She had a great love of sports,” said Mr. Memoe. “And she used that to get to some of the boys. During the World Series, she’d

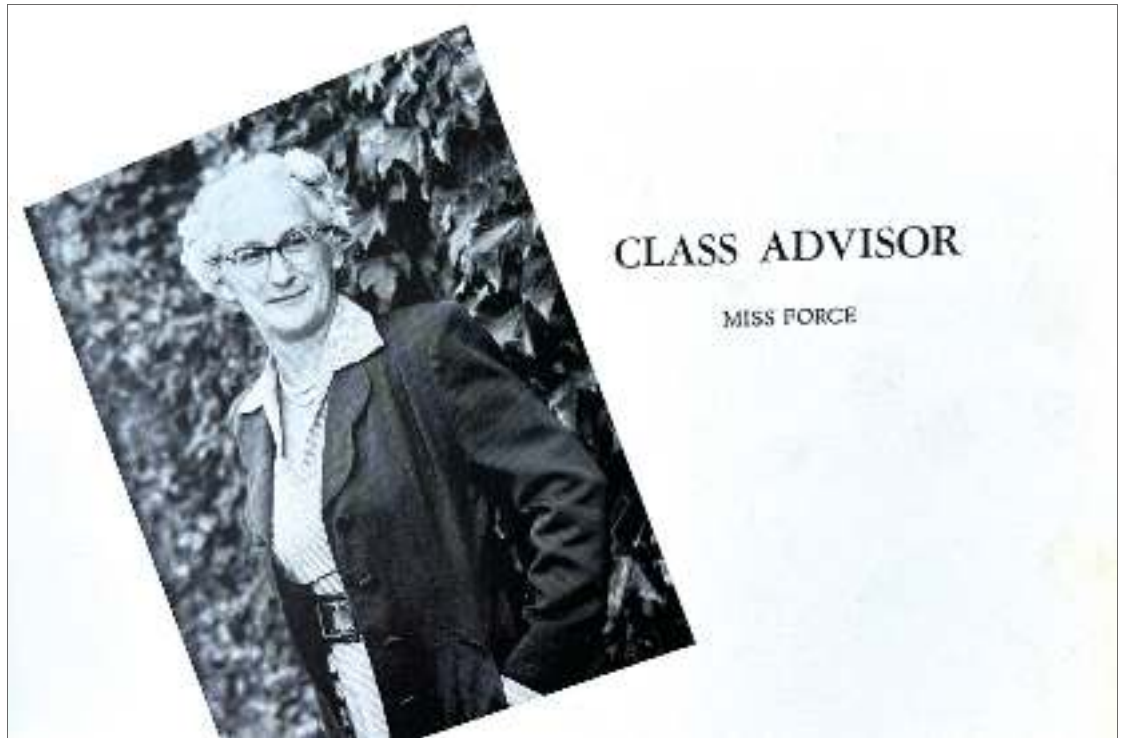
post the scores on the board every morning.”

Ms. Miller Johnson recalled that after she’d graduated, she went to Miss Force’s house on Union Street to talk to her about a problem she was having. “She gave good advice. I still called her ‘Miss Force’ and she said, ‘Bonnie, I’m just Mary now!’”

Miss Force taught at BHS until the school closed in 1961 when Otter Valley Union High School opened. She continued to teach full time at OV until 1972 and then part time for a few more years.

By 1988, a group of her former BHS students wanted to honor her by establishing a scholarship in her name. The scholarship was given out for the first time in 1989 in the amount of \$500. The first recipient was Mr. Clifford’s son, Seth Charles Clifford. Miss Force even presented the award herself until her passing in 1996.

Over the years, the Mary Force Scholarship Committee has given out more than 200 awards. The amount of the award has grown to \$2,500 as well, in large part because of the generosity of do-



A PHOTO OF Miss Force in a Brandon High School yearbook from the 1950s. She taught math but was also a school counselor and eventually Vice-Principal.

nors. The fund has been fortunate enough to receive many donations, some as large as \$100,000.

“I’ve never seen a scholarship go 35 years and continue to grow,” said Mr. Memoe.

The criteria for applicants are straightforward: students must be descendants of BHS alumni (anyone who attended BHS for any length of time) and must have at least a B average. Applicants don’t have to be from Brandon.

This year, recipients of the Mary Force Scholarship include Emily Beck, Makennia Dick, Soren Goldsmith, Trinity Lapiere, Olivia Miner, Aleksandra Savela, and Troy Senecal.

Additionally, the BHS alumni group raised \$3,000 for picnic tables that bear brass plaques in Mary Force’s honor. The tables were installed in May, one in the playground on Seminary Street and the other on Park Street in front of the Ripton Distillery and Mae’s Place. The plaques were manufactured in Rutland.

“I thought we’d have to borrow the money [for the tables],” said Mr. Memoe. But the group worked with Deputy Town Manager and Economic Development Officer Bill Moore to raise the funds through private donations.



ONE OF THE two picnic tables that the Brandon High School alumni group purchased in honor of Mary Force. This one is on Park Street in front of Mae’s and the Ripton Distillery. The other is in the playground on Seminary Street.



A CLOSE-UP OF the plaque commemorating Miss Force that is affixed to the tables. The alumni raised \$3,000 to purchase the tables.

The youngest alumni of BHS are now in their late 70s (started at BHS but graduated from OV) but each year the alumni luncheon still draws dozens of people. The oldest members of the group are in their 90s now. But the members of the Scholarship Committee are still enthusiastic about the work

and still committed to helping students finance their educations. All in the name of their beloved teacher, Mary C. Force.

“We had good teachers,” said Ms. Miller Johnson. “We were lucky.”

ONLINE AUCTION
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Auction Closes:
Tuesday, July 16 @ 10AM





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(802) 483-2811  Christopher Book/Director

For five generations the Barnard family has assisted families in Pittsford, Proctor, Chittenden and the surrounding area getting through one of life’s most difficult times.

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory

Names Lost

(Continued from Page 2)

leaving three children, Walker, and twins John and Cora Wright. Eli and Mattie raised these orphaned children along with their lastborn child, Alvin, born in 1890, younger than his niece and nephew

The sole-surviving photograph of Eli Gilbar and his wife Mary aka Mattie shows him wearing his Grand Army of the Republic medal. Eli's Civil War pension file weighs in at 213 pages and chronicles his struggles to support himself and his family amid increasing disabilities including "dumb ague," a type of malaria. Pensioned at \$4 a month in the early 1880s, further depositions and medical examinations chronicle Eli's diminishing ability to perform manual labor and the government's reluctance to increase his pension. At his death on July 21, 1925, Eli had been receiving \$30 a month. His death notice made scant mention of his Civil War service

Mattie died in 1930. Her obituary stated that she was survived by two children, Alvin Gilbar of Sunderland and Libby Green of Corinth, New York. Rev. Mabel Winch, ordained at the Congregational Church of East Arlington in 1914 and officiated at the burial service. Little could Mattie and Eli Gilbar have foreseen that the grandson they raised, Walker Wright (1885-1948), would ultimately have scores of descendants. Walker's first wife, Alice Mattison, died tragically from complications of a third pregnancy, leaving two children, Cora and Robert Eli Wright. A decorated World War II veteran and the recipient of a Purple Heart, Robert Wright settled in Pittsford, where, in 1934, he married Marjorie Hendee Smith. At the time of Robert's death in 1986, 25 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren survived him. When his widow, Marjorie, died in 2007, that number of great-grandchildren had increased to 51, along with two great-great-grandchildren. Of course, the count continues upward! One of my former students, part of this family network, present at Pittsford's Memorial Day Parade, gave birth to a son several days later. That leaves the possibility of yet another descendant of Eli Gilbar and Mattie Bushee to learn their ancestors' story of courage and survival.

ELI'S RE-ENLISTMENT IN 1864.



ELI AND MATTIE Gilbar around 1920. Eli is wearing his GAR medal.

NAME	AGE	SEX	OC.	IND.	VAL.	PRO.	RENT.	REMARKS
Walker	11	M						
Alvin	8	M						
John	6	M						
Cora	4	F						
Robert	2	M						
...

"BURHOE" CENSUS IN 1860.



MARJORIE AND ROBERT E. Wright. Robert is in his World War II uniform.


GREAT BRANDON AUCTION
 36th
 Friday, July 5th ~ Saturday, July 13th

In the Brandon Town Hall

Fri, July 5: 2-7:30pm
 Sat, July 6: 8am-10pm
 (This is also Brandon's Independence Day celebration & Parade!)
 Sun, July 7: 11-5pm
 Mon, July 8 thru Thu, July 11: 11-7pm
 Fri, July 12: 11-7:30pm
 Sat, July 13: 8am-2pm (Auction Closes!)
 Sun, July 14: 10am-2pm (For pick up of items only)

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND A GREAT AUCTION THIS SUMMER, MAKE IT THIS ONE. The Chamber has found a PERMANENT HOME, the beautiful Brandon Town Hall!

Our great air-conditioned indoor location will be staffed by volunteers for 9 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding and eBay style "Buy It Now" format so you can walk out the door with your treasure!

The Auction offers antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, Vermont-made items, and surprises & treasures from attics and barns. Featuring work from many of our famous local artists and lots of gift certificates to local businesses including restaurants, brew pubs, fuel oil, massages, services, and much more!

802-247-6401 info@brandon.org
 Go to www.brandon.org for more info and pictures.

Joey Scarborough

(Continued from Page 1)

Malta. He was 3rd in total points at Devil's Bowl in 2018.

"I was never really afraid of it," said Scarborough in the workshop at his parents' house in Brandon where he and his father, Don, maintain the three cars Joey races. His lack of fear stems no doubt from growing up around racing: Don raced for over 35 years. Joey and his twin brother, Jake, learned how to handle a car from their father. "Dad taught us how to race," said Scarborough. "It wasn't about winning at first. We did laps and learned how to handle the transmission. How to shift from first to reverse. We made my first car by cutting two older cars in half and joining the chassis."

And to this day, Joey and Don build and maintain their cars themselves. This is no hobbyist's operation, though. Their garage is filled with all the professional equipment they need to ensure peak performance and maximum safety from their cars.

"Cars can fall apart on the track for lack of maintenance," said Scarborough, who has had bad experiences on the track when he failed to perform pre-race inspections. Everything has to be tight or he's risking his own life. There's no room for loose bolts when you're going 100 mph. "I can feel if the car is off," he continued. "You're only as good as the horse you're riding."

To casual observers, racing may seem mindless—literally going in circles. But there's a lot more to it than meets the eye.

"You're going full throttle on a track with 30 other cars and no mirrors. You have to be aware of who's around you at all times. You're constantly looking down the track to see what's coming.

You have to be patient. If you're stuck behind and you know your car can go faster, you wait for an opening. But it all depends on whether the car is having a good night. You have to adjust to the car's mood."

And rounding a bend isn't simply a question of turning the wheel. There's the entry, the apex, and the exit, each of those moments presenting its own challenges. And if any of them is mishandled, the race can be lost. At racing speeds, there's no time to waste. Experience tells you what you need to do.

But even seasoned drivers like Scarborough can have a bad night. A driver might hit one of the tires surrounding the track and lose time (happened to Scarborough) or even roll the car over (also happened to Scarborough). But he'll finish the race if he's not hurt and the car isn't damaged.

"You can beat yourself up for making a mistake, but you have to get over it," he said.

Scarborough also has a sportsman's attitude: he drives to do his



JOEY SCARBOROUGH (LEFT) and his father, Don, show off another of the three cars that Joey races. They build and maintain the cars themselves in their workshop in Brandon. They're meticulous about maintenance, since any little oversight can cost a race or, worse, cause injury.

best, not to block other drivers. Some drivers are always trying to prevent anyone from moving ahead instead of simply focusing on their own car. "That's not really racing."

His father Don agrees. "I raised my boys to be respectful and race clean," said Don, who let his sons decide for themselves whether they were going to get into racing.

"Even at two-and-a-half, Joey seemed interested," said Don. "I

didn't feel like we should push them. If they were willing to work, I'd provide proper equipment."

The half & half car Joey started out with was shared with his twin brother Jake, who was severely injured last fall in a car accident. Dealing with the injury and recovery has been "day to day," according to Joey. He still cherishes the memory of the time he and Jake finished 2nd and 1st respectively at Canaan, New Hampshire in 2012.

"That's probably one of my best memories racing," he said.

Scarborough currently works for VTrans in Mendon during the day but would love to go fully pro and devote all his time to racing, like his idols Matt Sheppard and Matt Williamson. He has a slew of generous local sponsors (Interstate Batteries in Rutland, Central VT Motorcycles in Rutland, Winning Image Graphics in Pittsford, Crash Palace in Rutland, McKernon in Brandon, and Elmo's Pit

Stop in Fair Haven), but the financial commitment to go pro is steep and he'd need to join a team.

Regardless, Scarborough sees himself as a pro. "We hold ourselves to a professional level," he said. "We do this as a family. We don't take vacations; we just work on our cars and go to racetracks. I have good people supporting me."

"If your heart's not in it, you're not going to drive like he does," added Don.

Driving three nights per week, he's clearly committed. This week, he'll be at Airborne on July 3, Malta, on July 5, and Devil's Bowl on July 6.

Wherever his career takes him, Devil's Bowl will always hold a special place for him. "I grew up at Devil's," he said. "I call that place home."

And at only 27, we'll certainly see him hoisting many more trophies over his head over in West Haven.

WELCOME RICK!



Wimett Trading Company is proud to announce that Rick Curtis, former owner at Curtis Auto Sales in Pittsford, has joined our sales team.

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JOEY SCARBOROUGH'S MANY trophies. He's been racing since the age of 14 and has quite an impressive record.

Brandon Toolship: Coming Soon to a Neighborhood Near You!

BY DAVID MARTIN

An exciting collaborative project is close to launching. The “Brandon Toolship” is a futuristic and funky mobile tool-storage shed that will house electric lawn-care tools that town residents will be able to check out through the Brandon Free Public Library. The project is a result of the collaboration of the Brandon Energy Committee, SolarFest, and ReBHS (Rehabilitating Brandon High School) in their commitment to make these resources widely available to the residents of Brandon.

The electric lawn care tools initiative was the idea of the Brandon Energy Committee, which got grant funding for the purchase. The tools are being donated by the town to the Brandon Free Public Library for use by their members. Rather than house the tools at the library, the team from ReBHS (the non-profit organization looking to revitalize the old Brandon High School) proposed creating mobile “Tool-

chance to experience going electric.

Announcements will be made via FPF and other social media when and where the Toolship will be located, and it is anticipated that the first Toolship will be put into service by the end of July. Library members will be able to check out a tool by simply texting a number on the trailer to receive a unique pin code to access the trailer and check out tools. In addition to the tools, the Toolships will include a set of shelves that would feature a range of free items such as produce from a local CSA, information from local programs and organizations, free books, and other goodies.

Two Toolships, each designed to house a mower, leaf blower, and string trimmer, will be deployed in coming months. SolarFest donated the solar panels and equipment to allow the tool batteries to be charged by the sun. They also secured a grant to fund the building of the first Toolship. The first one will



DAVID MARTIN OF the Brandon Energy Committee and ReBHS with some of the electric lawn equipment that will be housed in the 'Toolships' that the organizations are building. Library patrons will be able to check out the equipment for free to get a taste of electric lawn care and hopefully abandon fossil-fuel powered machines.



DAN BRETT OF ReBHS helps paint signs for the 'Toolships,' which will change location throughout Brandon to allow different neighborhoods to have easy access to them.

ships” that take the tools to the people so they can be placed in neighborhoods closer to where the tools would get used. The plan is to rotate the Toolships to different neighborhoods throughout the season to give as many people as possible the

be featured in the Brandon Energy Committee’s float for the Independence Day parade on Saturday, July 6th. The Toolship and tools will be on hand downtown in the Central Park after the parade for anyone who
(See Brandon Toolship, Page 19)

NINE & DINE
GOLF & DINNER

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH
 JULY 27TH
 AUGUST 3RD
 AUGUST 24TH

5:30PM SHOTGUN
\$60/2-SOME
 CARTS ARE \$20/PLAYER

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 or Email Mandy to Sign up!
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 milnegolf.mandy@gmail.com

ARTIST: Genevieve Louselle
GRADE: Kindergarten
SCHOOL: Lothrop
MEDIUM: Crayon and Cake
Tempera Paint
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



Statement from Mr. Aucoin:
Genevieve created a tulip painting to celebrate Spring. She used the wax resist technique with crayons and cake tempera paint.

Grid operators expect electric demand to increase by 17% in the next 10 years

BY EMMA COTTON/
VTDIGGER

New England's grid operators are expecting the demand for electricity to grow by 17% in the coming decade, and they attribute much of that growth to new electric vehicles hitting the road, according to a new report.

In fact, electric vehicles are likely to contribute more to the growth in electrical demand than any other factor, according to a new forecast by ISO New England, the nonprofit organization that operates the interconnected electric grid in all six New England states.

Overall, grid operators expect New England's electricity consumption to grow by about 17% in the next decade, or about 1.7% per year. They assume some of the growth will be offset by solar arrays on the consumer's side of the grid, and by increased efficiency measures — for example, insulating a home.

More electric heat pumps and other changes in the heating sector are also likely to increase electrical demand, according to the report.

The forecasted growth in electricity demand comes largely from policy changes. Local, state and federal leaders are urging and incentivizing people to electrify their cars, homes and businesses in an effort to reduce emissions from fossil fuels, which cause climate change.

"Every state has roadmaps and mandates," said Victoria Rojo, a lead data scientist with ISO New England. "It really runs the gamut. And then there's specific municipalities that have goals, you know, for X number of school buses or whatever. There's a lot of different things out there."

One of the biggest policies driving the change is Advanced Clean Cars II, a rule first adopted by California, which requires all passenger cars and light-duty trucks delivered by manufacturers to sell in the state be zero-emission vehicles by 2035. Vermont and 16 other states have also adopted the regulation, according to California's Air Resources Board.

While the policies are in place to reduce climate change-causing emissions, much of New England's power is still generated by natural gas.

On Friday morning, real-time data on ISO New England's website showed that the grid's power sources included 47% natural gas and 31% nuclear power. Renewable energy (which ISO New England defines as solar, wind, refuse, wood and landfill gas) made up 17% of the mix, and hydro accounted for another 5%.

Most utilities in Vermont purchase a large percentage of their power from renewable sources, but not all of those sources plug directly into the New England grid.

In order to increase renewable energy within New England's grid, utilities will need to find ways to store more power, Rojo said.

Renewable energy sources have "inherent variability in their energy production, so then having sufficient battery resources or energy storage resources to balance all of that is crucial," she said. "Those pieces have to work together in order to overall reduce or to meet the decarbonization goals."

Kristin Carlson, a spokesperson for Green Mountain Power, Vermont's largest electric utility, said the company is already working to build out its battery storage — and that wider adoption of electric vehicles could actually help the cause.

"Electric vehicles, they are the solution for the grid, because more electrification through electric vehicles lowers costs for everybody, and they are a highly manageable new load," she said.

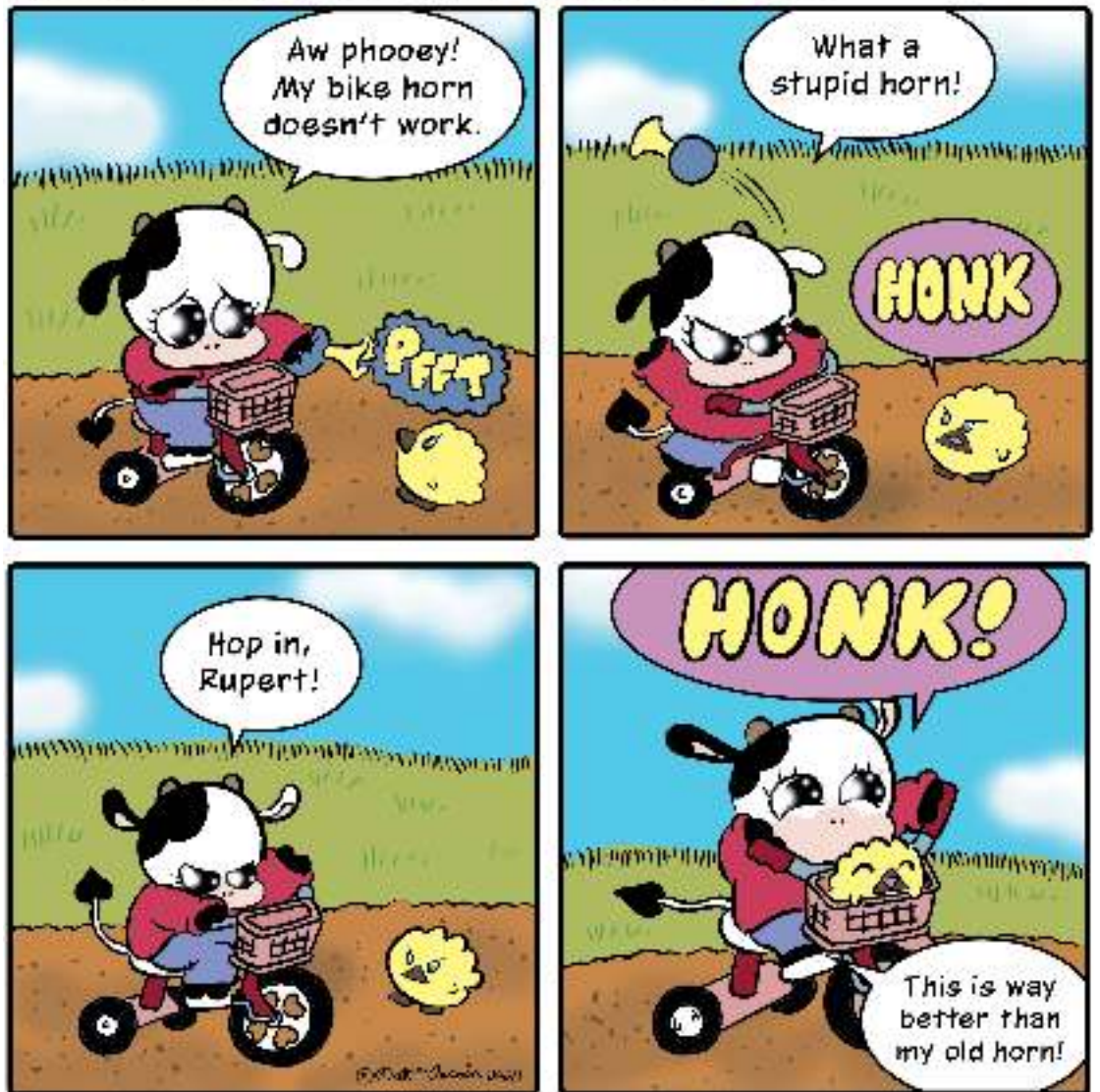
She called electric vehicles "batteries on wheels," and said the company has a program that provides reduced charging rates to the equivalent of \$1.20 per gallon in exchange for allowing the utility to turn chargers off during peak energy usage periods. (Participants are notified in advance through text and can opt out, but Carlson said the utility tries to make sure the timing is convenient for most people, and the opt-out rate is low).

In the future, the utility is planning to launch a program to borrow energy from electric vehicles batteries during high usage times — something it's already doing

(See *Electric demand*, Page 23)

While the policies are in place to reduce climate change-causing emissions, much of New England's power is still generated by natural gas.

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



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INFO@BRANDONPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

Calendar of events

July

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Youth Class at 4:30 and Adult Class at 5:30. Beginners and spectators welcome. Classes at Neshobe School Gym until mid-July, then returning to Town Hall. Visit www.AikidoVermont.org for more info.

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink.

2024 Live at Kennedy Park line-up

July 13
Kevin Kareckas, Singer/Songwriter

July, 20
Romp postponement date.

July 27
Tom Van Sant, Rock Covers

August 10
Electrostatic Cats, small band, big sound

August 24
Jim Shaw, Folk, old-time, blues, pop oldies

September 14
Melissa Moorehouse, Singer/Songwriter

September 28
Bird Boombox, Alt. Folk/Rock Trio

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

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.

2024 Music at t

July 3

The Local Talent
Alt Country with a Hint of Rock & R

July 10

Deb Brisson & the Hay Burners
Rootsy, soulful and bluesy, rockin' a country

July 17

Bloodroot Gap
Locally Sourced Free-Range Bluegr

July 24

Enerjazz
Vermont's High Energy Big-Band

July 31

Jenni Johnson
Old & New school; Jazzy & Swingin
& Funky

Free PICK UP BASKETBALL – For rising 6th – 8th graders Wednesday evenings in July from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31)

There will be a 10 minute instructional session followed by pick up games. We will engage in 2vs2, 3vs3, and 5vs5 full court games. Come and have some fun playing

basketball with your friends. No need to sign up, just show up. For further information or if you have any questions call Fred at 247-6722 or 282-5423.

Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

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

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

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

ing a great game of "Pong!"

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

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

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

Goings on around town

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!

Upcoming activities at M



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!

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 4th

Salisbury’s 49th Ice Cream Social

On Thursday the Fourth of July from 2–4 pm, Salisbury will celebrate Independence Day with its forty-ninth annual ice cream social on the lawn and under the tents at the Salisbury Meetinghouse (853 Maple St.). Join us at this traditional holiday event, visit with your neighbors, and enjoy ice cream by the cone or the dish with a wide range of toppings and accompanying choice of home-baked pie. Prices will be by donation, the proceeds to go as usual to area benefits. Rain or shine, the ice cream’s fine at the meetinghouse in Salisbury Village.

Friday 5th

Cantrip — Next Stage Arts Project

Come for an evening of Celtic music by high-energy bagpipes/fiddle/guitar quartet From the strong base of its Celtic roots, Cantrip branches out into the music of other European cultures. With swirling border pipes, raging fiddle, thunderous guitar, and three rich voices, Dan Houghton, Jon Bews, Eric McDonald, and Alasdair White take audiences on a cultural journey, putting their own spin on each musical style.

Known for their innovative arrangements, high-energy songs and tunes, and dry wit, Cantrip has toured throughout Scotland and the US, expanding the boundaries of Celtic music along the way. Cantrip sprung from a local music session in Edinburgh, Scotland over 20 years ago. The band name is an Old Scots word meaning a charm, magic spell or piece of mischief, and it aptly describes the unexpected twists and turns in the quartet’s musical arrangements as well as the compelling potency of their musicianship. Dan Houghton (bagpipes, flutes, whistles, guitar, bouzouki vocals) has won the Scottish Lowland and Border Pipers’ Society Open Borderpipes and New Composition events, as well as the Maitre de Cornemuse at St. Chartier. Eric McDonald (guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, vocals) found his way to traditional music through the rich music scene in Boston, and studies with guitarist/mandolinist John McGann and cellist Eugene Friesen at Berklee College of Music. A prize-winning graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Jon Bews (fiddle, vocals) came to Scots music from a classical education by way of Goth rock, quickly becoming one of Edinburgh’s most in demand fiddlers. Alasdair White (fiddle) is widely

regarded as one of the leading exponents of Scottish fiddle music touring, teaching, and performing with some of the best-known names in Scottish, Irish, and Breton music on both sides of the Atlantic.

Co-presented with Twilight Music. 7:30–9:30 pm, \$10–25.

Saturday 6th

Annual Butterfly and Bug Walk — Birds of Vermont Museum

Experience Vermont’s butterflies and other insects up close! Join Vermont Entomological Society naturalists and entomologists for an exploratory stroll on the Birds of Vermont Museum grounds. Bring binoculars, magnifying glasses, and an insect net if you have one. Pack a lunch if you would like to picnic after the walk. Do bring your water bottle and dress for outdoors. Free, suggested donation: \$5–10. Pre-registration is helpful but not required. Call the museum at 802–434–2167. Max: 20 people. If it is raining on the day of the walk, please call the Museum (802–434–2167) to see if we have rescheduled; rain date is Sunday, July 7). Terrific for anyone interested in Vermont’s six-legged creatures. Check out the Vermont Entomological Society site <https://www.vermontinsects.org/> — gorgeous photos and information about the Society.

From 10 am–12 pm at the Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington.

The Riverbend lineup

Aug 7

Breanna & the Boys
Local folk rock power trio

Aug 14

Tom Caswell Blues Band
Providing authentic blues sounds in the Chicago, Texas, Delta and West Coast styles.

Aug 21

Extra Stout
Vermont’s Premier Irish Band

Aug 28

Red Hot Juba
Soul, swing, rock n roll, blues and country music



The Brandon Artists Guild of Brandon, Vermont presents Artist Talk: Featured Botanical Collage Artist
July 19th, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Beth Murphy, botanical collage artist will share her techniques and practices of pressing botanical materials.

Her mixed media of nature’s colors and textures will be on exhibit. Refreshments will be served.

The gallery is open Monday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, and Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

7 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733, (802) 247-4956

Maclure Library

Proctor Town Green, 7 pm

July 10
Green Brothers Band

July 24
Chaz Canney

August 7
Whisper Band

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 Ensemble 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>



Summer observances from a small Vermont town

BY LYN DESMARAIS

I am going to trot over to Bristol's Rocky Dale gardens on Sunday, July 14 to get some ideas—Slet's face it, any ideas—on garden design from Charlie Nardozzi. There are limited tickets available, at \$30.00 each, and the monies benefit the Art on Main Gallery. Charlie's there from 4 to 6 p.m. Bring your questions. Beg for help. I'm even bringing photos of my gardens, unless I'm too embarrassed, then I'll take photos of someone else's gardens with me. At least that's what I intend to do. I have no idea how I can corner Charlie. I'm imagining that he'll have learned, by now, how to deftly avoid women of a certain age, with a phone in one hand, paper and pen in the other, and a slightly crazed look in their eyes, dirt on

their faces and under their nails. Hmmm I'll have to see if I can cook up some sort of a disguise.

Rocky Dale Gardens has been transformed since 1990. Eliot Lathrop of Building Heritage has repaired many of the outbuildings, and Jamie Masefield has repaired stone walls. Jamie has also worked on the walls at Miller Hill Farm. Go to see the superb work these craftsmen do and stay long enough to buy some lovely healthy plants.

I drove down Park Street in the rain today (Saturday) and was so impressed with all the gardens in bloom. I'm also seeing veggie starts and chicken coops. Brandon is looking great for the 4th of July parade. I'm so happy that Sheila Gearwar has been chosen Grand Marshal of this year's July 4th festivities. She richly deserves it. She

does so much for so many, year in and year out, without a fuss.

I see that many of the rain gardens have been fully replanted. Yay. They look great, as do the flowers in Central Park. A huge shout out to Nancy Spaulding Ness. I also saw, one morning about two weeks ago now, fairly early, but still quite hot out, Louis and Sarah Pattis weeding a garden along Union Street by its intersection with Route 7 with help from Nan Meffe and someone else, whose back was to me. Thank you. Brandon is so lucky to have so many dedicated and talented volunteers.

I am also admiring hayfields this week. I'm seeing golden and light red rippling grasses with bobolinks, bluebirds, swallows, and red-winged blackbirds diving

in and out. Just beautiful. Unfortunately, I also see the lime green seed heads of wild or poison parsnip. Be careful out there. Now is the time to avoid it. It's not an allergic reaction to the oils of the plant—everyone's skin is susceptible. Here's a link from the UVM extension master gardener's website to explain how to eradicate it <https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/wild-parsnip>, and you should also google what to do if exposed. I'd give you advice but, "I am not a doctor, nor do I play one on TV." I will say that I completely cover up on all sunny days and even cloudy days, if I think there is even a chance of exposure to it.

If you are seeing hollyhocks, hydrangea, and black-eyed susans out already, you are not imagining it. I'll be interested in seeing if the

warm winter and spring which has encouraged many of my plants to flower earlier in May and June than normal, will also mean that they may stop flowering earlier as well. My peonies were at least a week to ten days early and did finish early. I now have Shasta daisies and coneflower in full flower. I'm concerned because I'm not sure if there will be enough food for all of our pollinators in September and October. Normally my hydrangea are in flower in mid to late July and go on until the beginning of October. I'll be cutting them back this year to try to encourage more blooms. I'll see if deadheading increases the length of the flowering season. I'll be watching goldenrod and native asters to see if their flowering season is affected. What are you seeing in your gardens and along your roadsides? I keep meaning to grow zinnia from seed, but I never quite achieve that goal. I have added butterfly weed, sedum, and verbena (an annual) to all my gardens. I do have a lot of milkweed at field edges, all pollinator staples. I'm warning them all now "I'll be watching you." In my ten-year plan I promised my pollinators that I would add autumnal flowering shrubs, but often I've run out of steam or budget or both, and so "somehow" they never materialize and go on next year's list. This autumn I do have an ambitious plan of moving hundreds of daffodils. Well at least I have an ambitious plan.



Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

The postcard with the photo of the grounds behind the Brandon Inn was sent in 1960. It doesn't look like much has changed in the 64 years since then. Now there is an electrified Pavilion in the center of this lush green lawn where every Wednesday evening in July and August a free concert is held. The first concert will be Wednesday, July 3rd featuring The Local Talent. Music starts at 6:00 p.m., bring a blanket and/or chairs. There's always free popcorn, but many people bring dinner or snacks, and sometimes the Inn serves drinks on the terrace.

Thanks to Ed Barna for this photo.



THE GROUNDS BEHIND the Brandon Inn now, and (above right in the 1960s).



Your mystery for next week!

REAL ESTATE

Fern Lake & Brandon



FERN LAKE: Nestled on a serene 0.71 A lot, a delightful, yr-nd. home w/150' of lake frontage, stunning views & tranquil surroundings. A cozy 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath home with 1,080 sqft. of comfortable living space, perfect for a small family or just seeking a peaceful retreat. Property features a spacious Living Room with fireplace, a well-appointed kitchen & a charming outdoor deck overlooking the lake. Lakefront living at its best with abundant natural beauty all around. \$560,000.



BRANDON: Excellent, established in-town location. 1464 sqft. of living space, (2 1/2 rooms) and a main room & plus a back storage shed. LR with hard flooring, open (11) kitchen, nice kitchen - lots of counter & storage space, Bath/Laundry, 3 BRs on 2nd floor in a full bath. Home is updated throughout, fully insulated, 3 mini splits, first class glass replacement windows, metal roof, 0.45 A lot. Huge barn/garage for a work shop & additional storage plus a second (10x16) storage shed. \$299,000.



WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
 (802)236-9112 (802)236-8093
 Fax: (802)236-8093
 Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE



Discover the charm of this beautiful Brandon village home, surrounded by perennial gardens. Double living room filled with natural light from the bay window. Hardwood floors and natural woodwork add warmth and character. Cozy up by the wood stove during cooler months, or enjoy the three-season porch for a touch of outdoor living without the elements. The deck overlooks a serene landscape, providing a perfect spot for relaxation. This home combines charm with practical features, making it a perfect retreat. Additional amenities include a garage and shed. Within walking distance to beautiful downtown Brandon! \$245,000



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

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



*Terry Ferson made a correction to his identification in last week's Reporter (6/19): This is not a photo of GG Corsones. Tom Mclaughlin advised Terry that the photo is actually of Henry Bisette, who was involved with the Sportsman's Club in Brandon. Jeanette Devino also recognized Mr. Bisette.



Ken Brown, of Goshen, wrote of this photo, "I was so sure someone would recognize Jim and Jinny Baird that I did not bother to call last week. Virginia Baird is the lady in the dark dress seated at far right. Her husband Jim in the dark suit is standing far left."



Recognized

We asked and you answered!
This weeks Mim's is devoted
entirely to identified photos.



Brian Fillioe and Luanne Merkert recognized this photo of Lincoln and Marie Ford who lived on Park Street in Brandon.



Ken Brown, Brian Fillioe, Jeanette Devino, and Terry Ferson identified Bonnie Miller Johnson, of Leicester, on the far right in this picture.

Judging by how many readers knew exactly what was going on in this photo, readers of the Reporter take their democratic duty seriously. Pictured here on voting day is Joyce Heath, seated, a member of the Board of Civil Authority. She is checking voter names at the local polls. Sue Wetmore, Ken Brown, Dolores Furnari, Brian Fillioe, Terry Ferson, Luanne Merkert, Anna Frenette, and Jeanette Devino all recognized Ms. Heath. Ms. Merkert, Ms. Devino, and Ms. Frenette explained that on the right are David Frenette and Nancy Vizvarie and their daughter Anna [Ms. Frenette herself]. They believe Francis Farnsworth is standing in the background. Ms. Frenette thinks the year was between 1994-96.



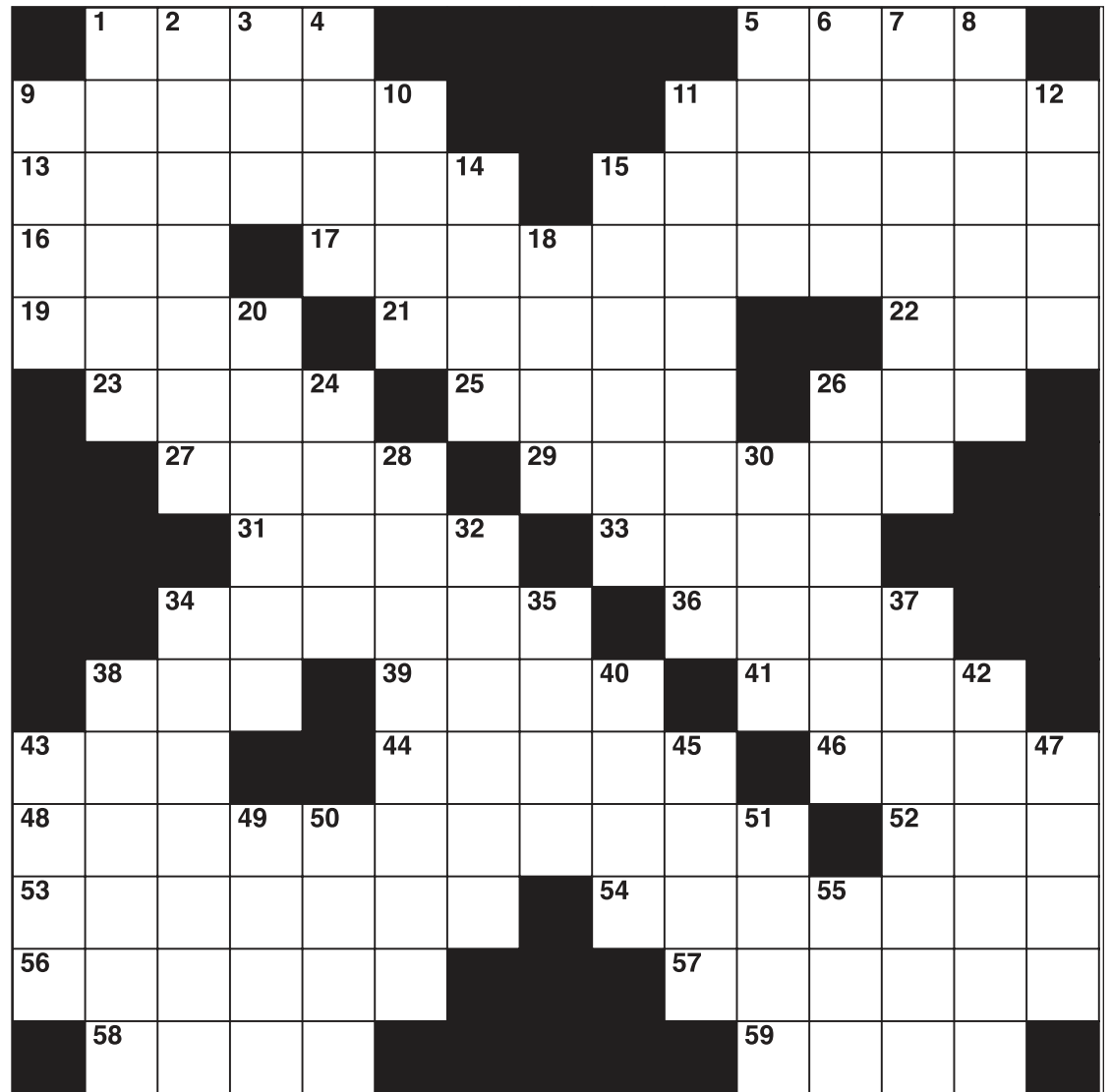
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Six (Spanish)
5. Invests in little enterprises
9. Large dung beetle
11. Gored
13. Partially paralyzed
15. Still a little wet
16. Legal field media company
17. Not working
19. 500 sheets of paper
21. Church structure
22. Sheep disease
23. Small drink of whiskey
25. Weaving tradition
26. Pestilence
27. Body part
29. Nabs
31. Places to stay
33. Witnesses
34. Looked for
36. Arranges
38. Political action committee
39. Middle eastern nation (alt. sp.)
41. Hair-like structure
43. Parts producer
44. Greek city
46. Subway dwellers
48. Norm from "Cheers"
52. Clean a floor
53. Vied for
54. Canned fish
56. Inspire with love
57. Sent down moisture
58. Wrest
59. Partner to carrots

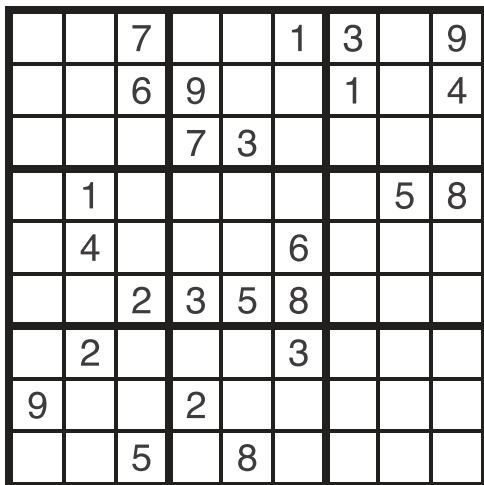
CLUES DOWN

1. Mounted
2. Assign
3. Wrath
4. Self-immolation by fire ritual
5. Parts of an organism
6. Person from England
7. Tropical plants of the pea family
8. Body part
9. Practice boxing
10. Containers
11. Contrary beliefs
12. Bleached
14. Pre-Islamic Egyptian
15. A group of similar things ordered one after another
18. Innermost spinal cord membranes
20. Cassava
24. A restaurant's list of offerings
26. Annoy constantly
28. Orchestrate
30. ZZZ
32. Astute
34. Highly decorated tea urn
35. Teach to behave
37. Endurance
38. Urinating
40. Barbie friend dolls
42. Repents
43. Man-eating giant
45. Jewish calendar month
47. Accelerated
49. Husband of Sita in Hindu
50. Lump of semiliquid substance
51. Lying in wait
55. Cease to exist



Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

Summer Solstice Dog Adoption Event At RCHS

Dive into summer with our Summer Solstice Dog Adoption Event at The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS)! Until July 20, every adopted dog picks a cookie tin revealing 25%, 50%, or 75% off their adoption fee! It's a great time of year to adopt a dog when it stays lighter later for extra walks, helping with house training, more time to play in the yard, and getting to know your new furry companion! Plus it will help us clear out our full kennels! By adopting, you're saving two lives: the dog you adopt and another who needs a spot in our kennels. Open your heart and home to make a difference this summer. If adoption isn't possible for you right now, you can still contribute by spreading the word about our event! Let's ensure this summer becomes a season of new beginnings for our deserving dogs. Visit our Adoption Center Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm, or check out our available dogs on our website at www.rchsvt.org. Let's get these wonderful pups into loving homes to enjoy the summer!

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

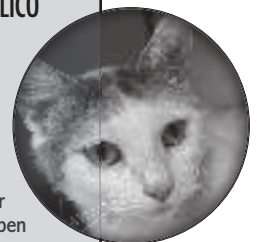


MEET CJ - 8 YEARS. NEUTERED MALE. SHIH TZU. BROWN.

Say hi to CJ! Even though CJ might be an older fella he is still very lively and looking to make friends with whomever is around! He came to us as a stray on 6/8 and has been eager to find his new forever home. He also got quite the makeover while here but will soon grow all his hair back and be a fuzzy teddy bear again soon enough! CJ has been quick to make friends with another older dog we have too, and still has a youthful and playful side to him. We've no history of how he may do with cats or children, and may do better in a quieter home with another lowkey dog to accompany him, but would also do well with enough love and treats to be on his own. Now as an older gentleman, CJ does have some medical issues to address while under our care, so he is currently a foster to adopt. CJ's adoption fee would be \$200. If you're interested in CJ please call (802-483-6700) or come in anytime Tues-Sat 11-4.

MEET MAPLE - 1 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. DILUTE CALICO

Meet Maple! She is the sweetest gal you will ever meet. She is a very gentle gal who loves to be with people. Wherever you go Maple will want to come with you. She loves attention and wants to always be petted. She is the biggest cuddle bug and will either want to lay next to you or on you. Maple has a calm demeanor and tends to go with the flow. She will make a great addition to any family. When Maple came to us she was a nursing mom. However, all her babies have been adopted and Maple is now ready to live the life of luxury with her forever people! She came to us on March 22nd as a stray from Rutland. We do not know how she will do with her feline friends, dogs, or children. However, we do not believe she would have an issue with other cats. If this beautiful gal sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with her. Maple's adoption fee would be \$110. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.



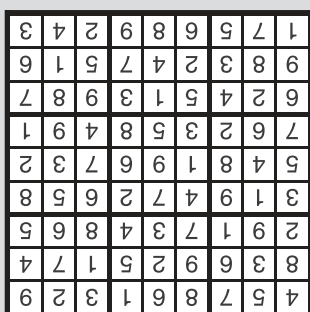
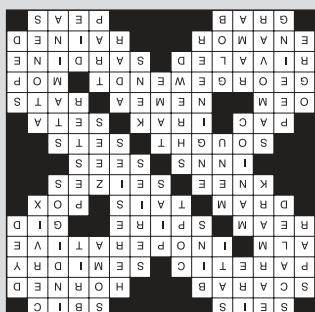
RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

802-483-6700 • WWW.RCHSVT.ORG
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OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM 11AM-4PM. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS





New in DVDs

Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire (Rated PG-13)

Relegated to Hollow Earth, Kong continues to search for his family but instead finds a fearsome enemy imprisoned and on the verge of breaking out to conquer the humans. Alongside his human family -- Jia, Ilene, Trapper, and Bernie -- he ventures above ground to recruit help from Godzilla and other Titans but making allies from old enemies is never easy!

In the Land of Saints and Sinners (Rated R)

Ireland, 1970s. Eager to leave his dark past behind, Finbar Murphy (Liam Neeson) leads a quiet life in the remote coastal town of Glencolmcille, far from the political violence that grips the rest of the country. But when a menacing crew of terrorists arrive, led by a ruthless woman named Doirean (Kerry Condon), Finbar is drawn into an increasingly vicious game of cat and mouse, forcing him to choose between exposing his secret identity or defending his friends and neighbors.

The Three Musketeers - Part II

Milady D'Artagnan is forced to join forces with Milady to save Constance, the queen's confidante, who was kidnapped before his eyes.

But as war is declared and Athos, Porthos, and Aramis have already joined the front, a secret from the past shatters old alliances.

New in YA Graphic Novels

Kim Reaper: Grim Beginnings by Sarah Graley

Like most university students, Kim works a part-time job to make ends meet. Unlike most university students' jobs, though, Kim's is pretty cool: she's a grim reaper, tasked with guiding souls into the afterlife. Like most university students, Becca has a super intense crush. Unlike those of most university students, Becca's crush is on a beautiful gothic angel that frequents the underworld. When Becca works up the courage to ask Kim on a date, she falls into a ghostly portal that interrupts Kim's work and starts a chain of events that pits them against angry catdads, vengeful zombies, and potentially the underworld itself.

Fangirl 1 by Rainbow Rowell

Cath is an obsessed Simon Snow fan. Cath's sister Wren has mostly grown away from fandom, but Cath just can't let go. She doesn't need friends in real life. She has her twin sister, Wren, and

QUICK LIBRARY NEWS:

Please note the library will be closed July 4th and 6th this week for the holiday.

she's a popular fanfic writer in the Simon Snow community with thousands of fans online. But now that she's in college, Cath is completely outside of her comfort zone. There are suddenly all these new people in her life. She's got a surly roommate with a charming boyfriend, a writing professor who thinks fan fiction is the end of the civilized world, a handsome new writing partner, and she's barely heard from Wren all semester.

Fangirl 2 by Rainbow Rowell

Cath just wants to hang out with her twin sister Wren and write fan fiction. But now that they're in college, her sister doesn't have time for her. And life keeps pulling Cath further and further out of her shell. For the first time ever, Cath has her own social circle. There's Nick, her handsome classmate, who wants her to write short stories with him... And then Levi, who keeps showing up when she isn't looking for him. Actually... maybe Cath's circle is more of a triangle?

Legislative update

(Continued from Page 4)

money taxpayers would have to pay back, making bills higher in the future.

Vermont has a very complicated education funding system, and we need to overhaul it and to make tough decisions. But those money-saving decisions can't happen in a rush. Districts will have to make hard choices by considering consolidating or closing small schools, increasing class size, reducing staffing, and renovating or replacing aging school buildings. H.887 sets up an important public education commission -- which is required

to hold hearings in every county -- that will bring an action plan to the legislature on short-term cost containment and long-term financial transformation.

Like all of us, I am worried about property taxes and how Vermonters can afford to pay. Vermonters can't afford rising taxes, but we support our schools and we want to give our teachers and students the resources they need. The hard part is balancing the two, and H.887 tried to accomplish that goal.

To see if you are eligible for a property tax credit based on household income go to: [https://](https://tax.vermont.gov/property/property-tax-credit)

tax.vermont.gov/property/property-tax-credit

Please reach out to me this summer at sjerome@leg.state.vt.us. I look forward to meeting you and talking about your concerns at one of our many summer celebrations.

Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
(Brandon)
VT House of Representatives
Brandon (Rutland-9)
Committee on Commerce and
Economic Development
(Vice-Chair)
www.stephaniejeromevt.com |
802-683-8209

Brandon Police Report

June 24

- Took fingerprints for employment.
- Completed a background check on a towing company requesting to be added to the Brandon Police Department (BPD) towing rotation list.

- Responded to the Morning-side Cafe on Center Street for a report of a man who walked into the restaurant, stole some food items, and was sitting out front. A short time later the business called back and advised that the man had returned and paid for the items, so no police response was required.

- Assisted the Pittsford Police Department (PPD) with taking into custody a person with an active arrest warrant on Route 7. The subject was arrested without incident.

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

- Assisted the Middlebury Police in locating a person of interest on Union Street.

June 25

- Served a Temporary Relief From Sexual Abuse Order on a juvenile at the Police Station. Order served in-hand to DCF on behalf of the juvenile.

- Responded to a home security alarm activation at a residence on Town Line Drive. The alarm was determined to be false.

- Served a subpoena in-hand on Wheeler Road.

- Responded to a report of a man attempting to steal liquor from Brandon Liquor and Deli in Conant Square. Another suspect fled the scene in a white vehicle, but the second suspect was detained. It was later determined that the individual that had been detained had two in-state warrants for his arrest out of Rutland County as well as another outstanding, non-extraditable, arrest warrant from out-of-state. The suspect was issued a citation to appear in court the next day for arraignment on the aforementioned warrants and was also issued a trespass notice for the business. The area was checked for the other suspect, but they were not located.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Forest Dale Road in the area of the Neshobe Golf Course for ongoing speeding complaints.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain

travel lane. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a display of license plate violation. Warning issued.

- Responded to Stanton Road for a mental health issue.

June 26

- Responded to an alarm on Furnace Road. The alarm was discovered to be false.

- Conducted a welfare check on Grove Street. The person of interest was found to be okay.

- Received a complaint concerning an individual who was watching the complainant's, and her neighbor's properties, with binoculars. Contact was made with the individual and they were advised of the voyeurism laws in Vermont.

- Participated in the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Four traffic stops were conducted and four tickets were issued for vehicle violations.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for having no inspection sticker. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for uninspected motor vehicle. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop by the intersection of Grove Street and Steinberg Road for operating without an inspection. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Town Farm Road. VCVC issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for registration violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment (broken windshield). Ticket issued.

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

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for operating with an expired inspection sticker. The driver, who had been stopped in the past and was issued a warning previously, was issued a ticket for failing to get his vehicle inspected.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for improper passing violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for operating without an inspection sticker. Ticket issued.

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue on New Road with a medical call.

- Vehicle stop on Supermarket Drive for defective equipment (cracked windshield). The investigating officer de-

(See Police report, Page 19)

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
 terminated that the operator's driver's license was criminally suspended. The operator was released on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 8/26/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for failure to use turn signal. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol on Forest Dale Road.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a defective equipment violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Supermarket Drive for driving while using a cell phone. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street. The operator was screened for suspicion of DUI, but was found not to be impaired by drugs or alcohol. The operator was released on a warning.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

June 27

- Responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Carver Street. Upon arrival, the responding officers conducted an investigation and placed the female suspect under arrest for Domestic Assault – 2nd Degree Aggravated. The suspect was brought back to the BPD where she was processed and then lodged without bail at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility. She was cited to appear for arraignment on 6/27/2024 at 12:30 p.m.

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

- Vehicle stop near the intersection of Franklin Street and Old Ice House Road for speeding. Warning issued.

- Received a report from a caller who said she had been receiving texts from a man asking her for sexual favors. The complainant was advised of her options, including applying for a Relief From Abuse Order.

- Received a complaint of a man cutting limbs off a tree with a chainsaw in the area of McConnell Road who then stepped into the travel lane in front of the complainant, revving the chainsaw while waving it around. Officers were unable to respond at the time due to heavy call volume. No further complaints received regarding the initial incident.

- Received a report of an operator on an ATV in the area of North Street who had harassed the complainant earlier in the day.

- Received a complaint of larceny at a residence on McConnell Road regarding missing power equipment.

- Removed a traffic hazard that was blocking the roadway on Hollow Road.

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

- Located an individual with an active warrant in the area of West Seminary Street. The individual was taken into custody and brought to Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for lodging.

- Received a report from a man at the BPD of fraudulent activity on his CashApp account.

- Vehicle stop on Pearl Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop near the in-

tersection of Grove Street and Arnold District Road for a cell phone violation. Ticket issued.

- Received a vehicle complaint on McConnell Road for erratic operation. Due to an emergency call for service, officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

- Responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Church Street. Further investigation determined that there was no domestic disturbance, but rather a woman who was in distress about losing a family pet.

- Conducted a traffic patrol on Franklin Street. Two traffic stops were made and one ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Route 7 for an expired inspection sticker. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for uninspected vehicle. Ticket issued.

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

June 28

- Vehicle stop near the intersection of McConnell Road and Birch Hill Road on a former police vehicle that still had police markings and emergency equipment and was being operated by a civilian operator. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop conducted on Marble Street for failure to

yield the right of way to oncoming traffic. Warning issued.

- Received a vehicle complaint for vehicle backfiring and speeding on Franklin Street. Officers were unable to locate any vehicles back firing.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Nickerson Road for driving with no taillights. Warning issued.

- Assisted the PPD with a trespassing call. The PPD later advised the BPD that the agency did not need back-up assistance with the matter.

- Conducted an investigatory traffic stop on Mulcahy Drive on a vehicle that was believed to contain a wanted individual with an active arrest warrant. Upon further investigation, the officer found the operator was the individual in-question and that he had an active arrest warrant. The operator was placed under arrest and lodged at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility.

- Responded to a call of a domestic disturbance at a residence on Union Street. Upon investigation, a man was placed under arrest for Domestic Assault, was processed at the BPD, and later released on a citation to appear in the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 7/1/2024 at 12:30 p.m.

June 29

- Received a complaint of

dogs incessantly barking at a residence on Deer Run Road.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at McConnell Road for speeding. Warning issued.

June 30

- Responded to a residence on Franklin Street for a report of an out-of-control nine-year-old child. The child was eventually calmed and the officers left the residence without further issue.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for unregistered and uninspected vehicle. Warning issued.

- Responded to a residence on Grove Street after a witness reported that a baby was walking on the side of Route 7 unsupervised, naked, covered in fecal matter, and was almost struck by an oncoming car. After investigating the incident and obtaining additional witness statements, the father of the child was placed under arrest on scene for the crime of Cruelty To A Child. The baby was taken into emergency custody by law enforcement and turned over to the Vermont Department of Children and Families. The father of the baby is scheduled to appear in Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 8/19/2024, at 10:00 a.m.

- Responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Bridge Street.


Brandon Toolship

(Continued from Page 9)
 would like to learn more.

Electric lawn tools have come a long way since the days of corded string trimmers of 20+ years ago. Today a cordless electric mower can run for an hour or more at a time, all the while being MUCH quieter and more pleasant to use. The lack of fumes and hassle that come with trying to start a gas engine after a winter of storage was enough to convince this

homeowner to give them a try. I think if you give them a try you too will see the advantages of going electric for your lawn tools. If you are not already a member of the Free Library and think you may want to check out the Toolship when it comes to your neighborhood, visit the library, and become a member.

David Martin is Chair of the Brandon Energy Committee and a member of ReBHS



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

is nice to get together, it also can cause some stress. Space out visits so you can recharge in between.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
 Leo, don't worry if you can't see the path forward too clearly right now. Things will be revealed in due time and you'll have all the information you need to proceed.

ARIES March 21-April 20
 Aries, keep moving forward when you find yourself in a tough situation. It's best not to linger, but to find a path forward. Wait for the dust to settle before getting involved.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
 Taurus, you have a tendency to go overboard at times. Perhaps take a more middle-of-the-road strategy this week when a task falls in your lap. Give it time before acting.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
 Gemini, you have a lot going on in your life right now to keep you busy. With so much happening, try not to worry about what is going on with others. Stay in your lane.

CANCER June 22-July 22
 Family matters may be causing you some strain this week, Cancer. While it

over others and inspire them to try new things this week. Join along in the fun.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
 Someone from the past could come back into your life, Capricorn. He or she could provide some answers you have been looking for. Stay tuned and be a good listener.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
 Virgo, when a difficult arises, your first response is to get right in the middle of it and try to work things out or force it to go away. That isn't always the most effective approach.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
 Libra, when it comes to your personal passions, you are full speed ahead and very regimented in the path you take. Put those skills to the test this week with a new venture.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
 Scorpio, if anyone assembled a crack team of experts to get through tough times, you certainly would be included. You'll help a loved one with a last-minute problem soon enough.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
 You have a natural curiosity and zeal for life, Sagittarius. These traits may cascade

You soon get the opportunity to hang out with someone you haven't seen in awhile, Aquarius. You may stay up late catching up on all of the moments you have missed lately.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
 A mistake that someone else made will be a learning experience for you, Pisces. This experience could serve as a cautionary tale of how to approach life or similar situations.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

July 5 Shohei Ohtani, baseball player (30)
 July 6 Frida Kahlo, artist (d)
 July 7 Ringo Starr, singer (84)
 July 8 Artemisia Gentileschi, artist (d)
 July 9 David Hockney, artist (87)
 July 10 Arthur Ashe, tennis player (d)
 July 11 E. B. White, writer (d)

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8080
for details.



'The Cameraman' with live music on July 20 at Brandon Town Hall Buster Keaton's classic silent comedy set in 1920s NYC to be shown on the big screen

BRANDON—He never smiled on camera, earning him the nickname of "the Great Stone Face." But Buster Keaton's comedies rocked Hollywood's silent era with laughter throughout the 1920s.

See for yourself with a screening of 'The Cameraman' (1928) one of Keaton's landmark feature films, on Saturday, July 20 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center.

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

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

'The Cameraman' tells the story of a young man (Keaton) who tries to impress the girl of his dreams (Marceline Day) by working as a freelance newsreel cameraman.

His efforts fail spectacularly, but then a lucky break gives him an unexpected chance to make his mark. Can Buster parlay the scoop of the year into a secure job and successful romance?

'The Cameraman' includes several classic Keaton sequences, including a disastrous first date at a public swimming pool, an unusual baseball sequence filmed at Yankee Stadium, and a dramatic water rescue following a boat accident.

In 'The Cameraman,' Keaton uses the movie business itself to create comedy that plays with the nature of film and reality.

"Keaton's films are audience favorites, and people continue to be

surprised at how engrossing and exhilarating they can be when shown as they were intended: in a theater, and with live music," said accompanist Jeff Rapsis, who performs at more than 100 screenings each year at venues around the nation and abroad.

Rapsis, who lives in Bedford, N.H., improvises live scores for silent films using a digital synthesizer to recreate the texture of the full orchestra.

"It's kind of a high wire act," Rapsis said. "But for me, the energy of live performance is an essential part of the silent film experience."

The screening of 'The Cameraman' is sponsored by Donna Malewicki; Barbara and Tom White; and Gary and Nancy Meffe.

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

- Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" (1921) starring Rudolph Valentino. Sweeping drama of a divided family with members caught up on oppositesides during World War I. Breakthrough film for Rudolph Valentino, introducing the sultry tango and launching him to stardom. The real deal! Shown both in honor of the 110th anniversary of World War I's outbreak and the anniversary of Valentino's untimely death in 1926.

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

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

See Buster Keaton in the 'The Cameraman' (1928) with live music on Saturday, July 20 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

For information, visit www.brandontownhall.com.

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



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KIDS HAVE A blast at Little Phantoms Summer Camp in Proctor. It's an outdoors-based, hands-on program that uses the Proctor Skating Rink as a home base. Check out the rink and the summer camp on Facebook! Photos provided

Proctor's skating rink offers summer fun

Little Phantoms Summer Camp welcomes campers for a 2nd year. Teachers Megan Canucci and Kayla Razanouski, who work at The Children's Center in town, were just as excited for the start of camp as their campers. Little Phantoms Summer Camp is an outdoor adven-

ture-based camp where hands-on activities are the key to a great summer. Camp opened this year with water games, hiking, making geo rocks, and exploring natural habitats at Beaver Pond and the Proctor falls. Each week is filled with fun weekly themes running for 8 weeks during the

summer. If you would like to see some of their adventures, check out their Facebook page at Little Phantom Summer Camp at The Proctor Skating Rink. And check out the rink's Facebook page to find out when the rink is open for roller skating!



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Loss of federal internet discount program may impact thousands in Vermont

BY AUDITI GUHA/
VTDIGGER

Almost 26,000 rural or low-income households in Vermont were left in the lurch when a federal internet discount program ended June 1.

The Affordable Connectivity Program, which launched in December 2021, provided \$14.2 billion in discounts on internet service and connected devices to low-income residents nationwide. That money ran out at the start of the month, and Congress has so far declined to allocate new funding.

In the Green Mountain State this affects almost 26,000 households, according to a White House fact sheet. Local officials have warned that the loss of the program, which offered a monthly discount of up to \$30 and rebates toward a computer, means that many of Vermont's most vulnerable may soon be unable to afford their high-speed internet bills.

It would cost \$9.3 million a year to replace the discounts, which were available to qualifying households regardless of their internet provider, accord-

ing to Christine Hallquist, executive director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board.

"If you look at the people who are not connected today, they represent a significantly higher number of low-income families. So the digital divide today is the economic divide," Hallquist said.

In some cases, communications union districts (groups of communities that unified to build a broadband infrastructure) and local internet providers have been scrambling to try to soften the blow for their customers.

Maple Broadband in Addison County has upped its own \$20 subsidy to \$30 per month, according to Executive Director Ellie de Villiers. "So instead of having a \$50 credit, these customers now have \$30 credit."

One of the state's newer communications union districts, Maple Broadband was formed in late 2020 and covers 20 member towns. It was able to absorb some of the impact of the federal funding loss because it had just two Affordable Connectivity Program customers out of 330, de Villiers said.

The loss of the funding will present a challenge, particularly for low-income families who may be working two jobs, doing paperwork and struggling to pay the bills.

"That's a whole other level of stress," de Villiers said.

Burlington Telecom, an internet provider in the state's largest city, is offering additional options to residents affected by the loss of the federal program in its coverage area. This includes a basic 50MB internet service for \$9.95 per month and an enhanced 150MB service for \$24.95 per month to customers who qualify, according to a press release.

At the federal level, U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., is among a bipartisan group that has been pushing for Congress to revive the program. He co-sponsored the bipartisan Affordable Connectivity Act earlier this year in an effort to extend the money, particularly for the 330,000 subscribers on tribal lands across the country. However, that legislation appears stalled.

"The Affordable Connectiv-
(See Internet program, Page 24)

Electric demand

(Continued from Page 11)
with school buses in South Burlington.

So far, Green Mountain Power has set up a "virtual power plant" with a combination of batteries that includes utility-scale systems, batteries in homes and electric vehicles, Carlson said. It adds up to 55 megawatts, roughly enough to power more than 15,000 homes.

Battery storage helps mitigate climate change by supporting renewable energy, she said. It also helps residents stay resilient during storms by creating back-up power systems.

"What's important to have as we face climate change — as we address the changing climate and more severe weather that's causing more outages and putting people at risk — is energy generated closer to where it's used, paired with battery storage," she said. "It's the way to keep everyone connected."

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Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Suburban" and are due at the Office of the Town Manager, 426 Plains, Pittsford, VT 05763 by 12 Noon on July 12, 2024, at which time bids will be opened. Bids will thereafter be presented to the Select Board at its July 17th meeting for consideration.

The successful bidder will provide cash (or its equivalent) in full within 10 days of notification that their bid has been accepted by the Select Board and before taking possession of the truck. Registration, title and any tax due are the responsibility of the successful bidder.

The Town of Pittsford reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

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If interested please apply on schoolspring.com to Rich Vigue, Supervisor of Facilities and Transportation.

To request a paper application and/or job description contact
RNESU Central Office, 802-247-5757.

Internet program

(Continued from Page 23) The program's monthly rebate has been a lifeline in helping thousands of Vermont families, seniors, and veterans access high-speed internet, and the same can be said in states like Texas or Louisiana," Welch said in an emailed statement Wednesday. "Republicans' refusal to work with us to extend the ACP is leaving millions of people in the dark. This fight is far from over—I will continue to push to get this program extended however we can."

Welch is one of almost 9,000 customers of ECFiber, Vermont's first communications union district, which covers 31 communities in the east central region, according to Chair F. X. Flinn.

ECFiber has about 160-170 people who participated in the federal discount program, but it may be early to tell what the fallout is, Flinn said. ECFiber also provides its own \$20 subsidy, which brings the base rate down to \$22 a month for people who qualify.

"Typically, it takes about three months for people to get in a situation where they've ei-

ther got to cut back or get cut off," he said. "So there's just not enough information yet."

The White House's fact sheet points former Affordable Connectivity Program participants to the federal Lifeline program, which offers up to a \$9.25 discount per month.

Comcast, which provides Xfinity internet across Vermont, has plans at \$9.95 and \$29.95 for people who qualify for federal subsidies. It has also rolled out a new month-to-month, no-contract \$30 plan called Now, according to the company.

Less than 2% of Consolidated Communications and Fidium customers participated in the program, according to the company, which declined to share the number of house-

holds it serves in Vermont.

As communications union districts and internet providers across the state scramble to fill the hole, the state broadband board has launched a multiyear

effort to address the digital divide with a \$5.3 million federal equity grant focused on affordability, accessibility and digital skills to ensure that every resident has access to digital technologies, including internet access.

The money is expected to come in September. While it will not immediately help to pay for the loss of the Affordable Connectivity Program, the aim of the digital equity plan is to provide reliable and affordable broadband service to all who choose to get it by 2034, which could translate to 90% of Vermonters.

Comcast, which provides Xfinity internet across Vermont, has plans at \$9.95 and \$29.95 for people who qualify for federal subsidies. It has also rolled out a new month-to-month, no-contract \$30 plan called Now, according to the company.



A SHIPMENT OF fiber optic cable is delivered to the Washington Electric Co-op in East Montpelier on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

The plan includes research in the first year to identify gaps and figure out where to prioritize service, creating a digital network with community partners in the second year, and workforce development to create job opportunities in the third year, said Britaney Watson, the digital equity officer at the broadband board.

While \$5.3 million won't stem the hole left by the loss

of the federal program, it is important to help Vermont identify where the hole is and who is most in need, Hallquist said.

"Our plan is to look at the equipment and look at the training and the other things that are needed because the funding needs to come from another source, and that gets very complicated because it's very expensive," she said.

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