

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 28

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

\$1



**SWISS ROLL CHAMP**

Seven-time champion A.J. Mendiola returned to win the annual Swiss Roll eating contest at Brandon's Independence Day festivities.

PG. 9



**DANCING IN THE STREETS**

Young and old took over the streets of downtown Brandon to groove beneath a rainbow.

PG. 14



**BROAD STRIPES, BRIGHT STARS**  
 Photos from Brandon's Independence Day parade.

PG. 16



**SKY LIGHTS**

In case you missed it, we've got photos from the impressive holiday fireworks display.

PG. 20



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**Wet 'n' Wild:  
 Rain can't dampen our patriotic spirit!**

BRANDON'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE Day Celebration Parade got off to a very wet start on Saturday, July 6, drenching parade participants as they lined up to begin the route up Park Street. But with perfect timing, the skies cleared at 10 a.m. and the rest of the day was glorious, capped off with a rainbow in the evening! Above: 2025 Grand Marshal Sheila Gearwar with her son Jacob (left) and his husband Tyler (right) in the ceremonial car driven by Bill Mathis. See photos of the festivities beginning on page 14.

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**RENE SANCHEZ**

**Rene Sanchez takes the helm as RNESU Superintendent**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—It's been a busy week for Rene Sanchez. On July 1, he took over as the new interim Superintendent at Rutland Northeast Supervisory (See Rene Sanchez, Page 3)

**Duckie Race '24  
 Malibu is the new champion!  
 Winky's comeback stymied!  
 Dastardly Canyon comes in third!**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—This year's Independence Day Celebration Duckie Race on Saturday, July 6 had more drama than a Joan Crawford film festival!

Readers will recall that Canyon had been disqualified from last year's event because of cheating and decided this year to double down on the malfeasance by kneecapping Winky, (See Duck Race '24, Page 28)



THE DUCKIES NEAR the top of the Neshobe falls in the annual Duckie Race on Saturday, July 6. The first three duckies to reach the finish line at the bottom of the falls won cash prizes.

**Brandon Selectboard discusses trucks, dams, and corporations**

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened on Monday evening for its regular meeting. Board member Tim Guiles

was not present.

The meeting began with the board in its capacity as the Sewer Commissioners. Stephen Cijka, Brandon's Chief Waste-

water Operator, was on hand to give the board his recommendations for a new truck to replace the Wastewater Department's (See Brandon SB, Page 8)

# Legislators cite myriad reasons for leaving their seats

BY SARAH MEARHOFF/VT-DIGGER

Vermont's Statehouse halls are slated to see another bout of turnover come January, though not as drastic as last election cycle.

For lawmakers vacating their seats, their reasons are many. Some are retiring after decades in service, but others decided to leave their posts after facing trying personal and financial circumstances.

During the 2022 election cycle, roughly one-third of House and Senate members opted to not seek reelection. When the new biennium began in January 2023, large swaths of each chamber were nearly unrecognizable.

This cycle won't see such a dramatic change. As of this week, at least 36 House members did not file to run for reelection to their

current seats by the Secretary of State's Office's deadline to appear on their respective primary ballots. (Independents and minor party candidates are not due to file until August.) There are 150 seats total in the chamber.

In the Senate, five senators who served this biennium — several of them institutions unto themselves, with decades of legislative experience — won't be on the ballot this fall. A sixth, Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, registered to appear on Bennington County voters' Democratic primary ballots, then died in June. That makes for one-fifth of the 30-member chamber.

For some outgoing members, to bow out of public service means retirement. After two decades in office, Sen. Jane Kitchel, D-Caledonia, is retiring to a post-service

life of tending to her garden and, she hopes, going on a safari with her family. Sen. Dick McCormack, D-Windsor, said he wants to pick up his folk music again and complete his longtime goal of visiting all 48 contiguous United States. Sen. Bobby Starr, D-Orleans, and his wife yearn to travel "where it's warmer in the winter," he said upon his retirement announcement.

Rep. Butch Shaw, R-Pittsford, too, is opting to retire. In a phone call with VTDigger this week, he noted his age — nearly 77 years old — and said simply that it's "just time" to retire.

"I always knew that, every day, when I walked into the building, if I got a tingle in my spine and was saying to myself, 'I can't believe that people like me make laws,' that would be my symbol that I should

be there or I shouldn't be there," Shaw said. "And I still have that feeling absolutely when I walk into the building. I'm very excited to be there."

"But then, you know, you wake up one morning, and I said to myself, 'I'm approaching 77 years old, and it's just time to go home,'" Shaw concluded.

For others who are retiring, the question of whether to do so was existential. Rep. Peter Anthony, D-Barre City, told VTDigger that he had envisioned himself serving four complete terms in the House, like his former seatmate Rep. Tommy Walz, D-Barre City. He had more work he hoped to complete, especially on Vermont's strained education financing structure in his post on the House Ways and Means Committee.

But closing out his third term this year, his calculus changed when Barre City Councilor Teddy Waszazak approached him, saying he would be interested in the seat if Anthony opted to retire. Anthony pointed to Waszazak and Walz's replacement, Rep. Jonathan Williams, D-Barre City, as beacons for generational change in the Statehouse.

"Listen, the institution needs to get younger. It needs to be more gender balanced," Anthony said. "I can't help my gender, as it happens, but I can help the fact that I'm an 80-year-old running for reelection. And there are two good, younger fellows who want to go at it, who are smart, who are dedicated and who are savvy, and will do a good job for Barre."

Some retirements caused a ripple (See *Legislators leaving*, Page 4)



## Hubbardton Battlefield: Remembering how America began

THE ANNUAL RE-ENACTMENT of the Revolutionary War's Battle of Hubbardton took place this weekend at the historic battlefield, one of the few left untouched. Hundreds of re-enactors spend the weekend on site, with hundreds of spectators coming to watch. It was the only Revolutionary War battle to take place in Vermont.

Photo by Dale Christie

# Rene Sanchez

(Continued from Page 1)

Union, the district that includes Otter Valley Middle and High Schools, Lothrop Elementary in Pittsford, Neshobe Elementary in Brandon, Otter Creek Academy in Leicester, and the Barstow School in the town of Chittenden.

Mr. Sanchez comes to RNESU from the Champlain Valley School District in Chittenden County, where he was Superintendent for the last 3 years. He takes the reins from Superintendent Kristin Hubert, who left RNESU at the end of the 2023-24 school year in June.

Mr. Sanchez learned of the position after he'd already decided to leave Champlain Valley, where he'd felt that he and the district had differing visions. The RNESU board had already interviewed other candidates without success when Mr. Sanchez expressed interest. It seemed like a good opportunity for both of them and Sanchez was happy to have found another superintendent position within commuting distance from his home in Williston, where he lives with his wife, Jean, and their three children.

But now he's had to hit the ground running, since he has barely two months to get up to speed before school begins in September. His office at RNESU in Brandon is still full of boxes to unpack.

"In some ways, starting over the summer is great because you've got time to catch up and tour the school buildings to see what needs to be worked on," he said. "But in other ways, it's a challenge because the staff and students aren't around, and I haven't had a chance to talk with them yet."

But he's eager to get to know his new community, asking where's a good place to grab lunch not only in Brandon, but also in Pittsford and elsewhere in the area. He may live in Williston, but he plans to become as much a part of the local community here as he can, whether by

attending school events as part of his position or by patronizing local businesses.

"It's imperative that I spend time here," he said. "I'll be at sports and concerts. I'll make sure I'm available to the community."

Having come to RNESU after a particularly difficult budget season in which many local residents expressed frustration with what they perceived as a lack of communication and sensitivity from the supervisory union, Sanchez understands that it's essential to create more open dialogue.

"Budgets were difficult everywhere in Vermont this year," he said. "But I hope to begin the budget process earlier and get more input and feedback from parents and the community. By giving the process more time,

we can bring more people into it."

While acknowledging that Otter Valley wasn't unique in its budget woes, he also acknowledges the undeniable differences between a district like Champlain Valley, which encompasses some of the wealthiest communities in Vermont (Shelburne and Charlotte, for example) and RNESU, where a significantly higher percentage of families face financial challenges. His work at RNESU will require a sensitivity to those issues that was perhaps less necessary at Champlain Valley.

"His understanding of the needs of rural students is what makes me truly enthusiastic about him," said OVUU board member Kevin Thornton, who sat on the hiring committee. "We were very, very lucky to get him."

Part of that required sensitivity is recognizing that there are alternative paths to success and students should be given the information and opportunities needed to make decisions about their futures.

"We need to be sure we're preparing students for whatever they want to do, whether it's college, trade school, or a job," said

Sanchez. "Let students decide but give them the information and education they need. Vermont needs a skilled workforce. We need to provide enough seats at the tech centers (Stafford in Rutland and Hannaford in Middlebury, for example) to meet students' needs. I'm a very big fan of students getting certificates and licenses while they're in high school, to set them up for employment after graduation."

Another big challenge for Sanchez is that much of his leadership team across RNESU is also new to the district or to their particular roles there. There's been a lot of turnover since the pandemic. But Sanchez is confident that his years of experience as a school administrator will allow him to guide his team effectively.

"Rene brings many things to the table," said OVUU board Chair Laurie Bertrand. "He has a very experienced background in education, which we will need for our new principals and administration. He's also community minded and the boards want to find additional ways to connect to the community. We look forward to working with him this year."

Before Champlain Valley, Sanchez worked as an assistant superintendent in South Bend, Indiana and as a principal in Houston and Austin, Texas. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, a law degree from Ohio State, a Master's in Education from the University of Texas, and is completing his doctorate at Indiana University. It's fair to say he's devoted his career to education.

Sanchez is originally from Texas and grew up in an area where many community residents often felt unable to approach the local school board.

There was, he said, a perception that the schools must know what they're doing and shouldn't be bothered. Or that folks who weren't fluent in "educationese" wouldn't be able to express themselves clearly and therefore stayed away. As a result, there wasn't open communication between the schools and the communities they served.

Sanchez operates differently. He's hoping to bring more transparency to school-community relations and will actively seek

feedback from district residents, particularly since he's still unfamiliar with the Brandon-Pittsford area and the specific concerns of its citizens.

"I need to listen to educators, parents, and the community," he said. "It's not enough for the district to give the community its own version of events."

RNESU has struggled in recent years with low test scores at all levels. During this year's budget battles, those scores were often brought up by those who questioned the wisdom of giving more money to a district whose outcomes were often subpar.

"We need to be more transparent about assessment data," he countered. "I want to hear from teachers and principals. I want to hear about the great things our kids do but also about our pressure points. We need to return the focus to students and act with a deliberate amount of urgency."

With regard to RNESU's recent efforts at diversity, equity, and inclusivity, he said, "We also need to make sure that all students have the same opportunity to succeed in our schools, which includes feeling like they belong. If students are not able to belong, we need to intervene. All of our students are Vermonters."

Every single one deserves the same education."

Though his office is still a work in progress—he's been on the job for just over a week—he already has some touches in place that give a sense of his own personality. He's a fan of sci-fi and comics, with "The Tick" a favorite. He mentions "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," a 1979 comedic sci-fi novel by Douglas Adams as having been an early influence on his approach to education.

"The point of 'Hitchhiker's' is that everything is interconnected," he said. "Everything is a push and pull. Everything is heavily dependent on relationships. Once you recognize that, you can make the best decisions for our kids."

As for his long-term prospects at RNESU, Sanchez says, "My goal right now is to assess the system here with all my experience and help RNESU get where the board wants the district to be. But if it works out, I'd be happy to stay beyond this year. I love Vermont. My wife is from here. My family is here. I want to stay here."

## Correction

In last week's issue, the article on Joey Scarborough incorrectly stated that his twin brother Jake had passed away in a car accident last fall. Jake Scarborough suffered severe

injuries in that accident but survived and is still recovering. We apologize to the family and our readers for the error.

## Tuesdays Summer Concert Series

JUNE 18 - AUG. 13, 2024

TUESDAYS @ 6PM

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

## July 16 – Yankee Chank

Vermont's own Cajun band, Yankee Chank, a group of musicians from throughout Vermont who perform traditional dance music from Southwest Louisiana – Cajun and Creole music.

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# Legislators leaving

(Continued from Page 2)

effect down the ballot. Rep. Scott Beck, R-St. Johnsbury, is vacating his seat in the House to make a go at flipping Kitchel's Senate seat red. Rep. Patrick Brennan, R-Colchester, is racing to do the same in the Grand Isle district represented for nearly four decades by former Sen. Dick Mazza, a Democrat who resigned his seat due to illness in April and died in late May. Rep. Seth Bongartz, D-Manchester, is running for one of two open seats in Bennington County, vacated by Sears and Sen. Brian Campion, D-Bennington. Rep. Katherine Sims, D-Craftsbury, is campaigning to fill the seat of Starr, a longtime Northeast Kingdom moderate.

Two other House members are vying for seats in the Senate currently occupied by incumbents. Rep. Chris Mattos, R-Milton, is challenging incumbent Sen. Irene Wrenner, D-Chittenden North, in the recently redrawn, purple Chittenden North district. Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro, is challenging incumbent Sens. Christopher Bray, D-Addison, and Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, for the Democratic nomination in Addison County. With their Senate challenges, Mattos and Elder leave their House seats behind.

Some legislators are leaving their posts to spend more time with family. The Brattleboro Reformer reported that Rep. Tristan Roberts, D-Halifax, is taking "a paternity leave from politics," with a newborn due in August. Rep. Sara Coffey, D-Guilford, who chairs the House's transportation committee, told the Brattleboro Reformer that she wants to spend more time with her mother and aunt in southern New England.

For others, the question of whether to run for reelection was dire. Rep. Melanie Carpenter, D-Hyde Park, wrote in an op-ed published by the News & Citizen that her de-

cision not to run came after much deliberation.

"My family continues the work of rebuilding our farm, which was severely impacted by the flood, and I am needed at home," she wrote, referring to widespread, catastrophic flooding which impacted Vermonters last year.

Carpenter, herself was appointed last year to replace Rep. Kate Donnelly, D-Hyde Park, who resigned from her post in January 2023. At the time, Donnelly dubbed legislative service "an impossible juggling act."

"It asks you to forgo money, stability of schedule, accessibility to family and more with little regard to the mental, emotional, and familial toll that these demands require," Donnelly wrote in a column last year, also published by the News & Citizen.

Donnelly wasn't alone in her assessment. In a Facebook post announcing his decision not to seek reelection after one term, Rep. Joseph Andriano, D-Orwell, wrote that, "Ever since I was younger it was my dream to be a state representative."

What forced him out, though, were the finances. Despite numerous attempts at bills to raise their wages, Vermont legislators earn approximately \$15,000 annually. While technically a part-time job, requiring attendance in Montpelier January through May, lawmakers have long said that the job demands off-session work, too, in the form of constituent services and summer study committees. Legislators also do not receive health insurance.

"I wish the financial realities were different," Andriano wrote, "but no matter how I cut it, I can't figure out a way to make it work for another two years."



## A bird with flourish

A BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER can be found in hemlocks. This bird was seen near the Falls of Lana.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

# Vermont Master Angler Program 2023 Annual Report released

RUTLAND, Vt.—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has released the Vermont Master Angler Program 2023 Annual Report with 989 entries and 72 Master Angler Award recipients.

Vermont's wealth of waters and abundant fish populations provide many opportunities to experience outstanding fishing. The Vermont

Master Angler Program recognizes the achievements of anglers who catch trophy-sized fish from Vermont waters and celebrates the clean water and healthy habitats that allow these fish to survive and grow to exceptional sizes.

The Vermont Master Angler program is a length-based program that sets "trophy sized" benchmarks for

34 eligible fish species. While these trophy-sized fish are a challenge to catch, they are attainable for anglers that develop the necessary knowledge and skills.

Anglers catching a fish exceeding the minimum qualifying length in any of the 34 species categories can receive a certificate commemo- (See Master Angler report, Page 5)

# Training course offered Aug. 1 for new hunter education instructors

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is offering a New Instructor Training Course for people interested in volunteering to teach hunter, trapper or bow hunter education courses in Vermont.

The training will take place Thursday, August 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife office in Montpelier.

All applicants must complete

their instructor paperwork and online homework before attending the course. Instructor application paperwork can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/2pfr7c44](http://www.tinyurl.com/2pfr7c44)

or call 802-828-1193 prior to the course date.

Policies and procedures, field techniques and teaching methods will be covered to give instructors the tools to teach future hunters how to have a

safe and enjoyable experience. Lunch will be provided. Be prepared to be outside for at least part of the day.

Applicants are required to pass a background check with a Vermont State Game Warden and apprentice-teach with a chief instructor before they will receive their full State of Vermont Hunter Education Instructor certification.

(See Hunter training, Page 5)

## The REPORTER

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

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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# Letter to the Community

## 'It takes a village,' and wow did our village show up this 4th of July!

You know the phrase, "it takes a village..." When you put all the pieces together to create the Brandon Independence Day Celebration, you realize just how true that statement is. Literally from sun up to sun down, Brandon's residents and visitors had a plethora of safe and entertaining activities to please a crowd. And the crowd was pleased! A little wet – but pleased!

The committee members that put it all together have literally

been working since the day after the 2023 celebration (and are now talking 2025!). And the committee cannot do it without the community. From cold hard cash sponsorships and donations to time and effort. The published list of contributors is on the back of the flier that was in last week's Reporter newspaper.

Special call-out thanks to the Brandon volunteer firefighters, who not only caught all of the ducks after the race; they swam

into the river to keep some of the ducks from getting stuck! The Party Behind the Inn was a sea of people having a blast. We thank our many volunteers who worked day-of-the-event.

There were scores of donations to the Silent Auction and a huge thanks to the voters of Brandon for the town appropriation approved at Town Meeting Day. In addition, thanks to our community partners: Brandon Rec Department, Brandon PD,

Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, Red Clover Ale, and Jam Man Entertainment. And of course, all the families, organizations, businesses, politicians and entertainers who made the event safe and fun! Thanks to all of you who purchased Ducks and 50/50 raffle tickets. One lucky Brandon resident is now +\$1900 wealthier!

We would love to have you join in the fun for planning next year's event. Just send a reply

and we'll get you hooked up to the right person!

Got any good photos of the day's activities – parade, street dance, fireworks or party behind the Inn? Post them to <https://www.facebook.com/BIDCC> or email them to: [vermonteyecandy@gmail.com](mailto:vermonteyecandy@gmail.com).

*The Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee*

## Hunter training

*(Continued from Page 4)*

"Our hunter education instructors are all volunteers, donating their time to pass on a cherished Vermont tradition," said Hunter Education Training Coordinator Nathan Lafont.

"The hours our instructors put in will leverage federal dollars that enable the Hunter Education Program to function."

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available for free upon request.

Requests should be made as early as possible. Please call the office staff at 802-828-1193 (voice) or 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

## Master Angler report

*(Continued from Page 4)*

rating their catch. Their names and catches are also included in the Vermont Master Angler Annual Report posted annually on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website. Anglers demonstrating the skill necessary to catch multiple species that all exceed the minimum qualifying lengths in the same calendar year are recognized as "Vermont Master Anglers" and receive a unique one-of-a-kind lapel pin at the end of the year. To qualify for the annual Vermont Master Angler Pin, an angler must submit qualifying entries for five or more species within a calendar year.

2023 was another successful year for the program, with 989 entries approved, 246 of which were from youth anglers. There were also 72 Vermont Master Angler award recipients in 2023 -- 21 of which were youth anglers. Youth anglers have a slightly lower minimum qualifying length for each species.

"We were glad to see another successful year for the program in 2023," said state fisheries biologist Shawn Good.

Good says the program provides the department with information on the quality of fishing throughout the state and helps promote the many diverse fishing opportunities that Vermont has to offer.

"As one of the biologists who run this program, it makes me really happy when I hear from anglers telling me that the program has helped

motivate them to try fishing for different species, or that it has generated a lot of excitement for their kids, trying to catch their next Master Angler. One of the great things about this program is that it gets families outside and enjoying some quality

time together on the water."

To see the full 2023 Vermont Master Angler Program Annual Report, visit Fish and Wildlife's website at: <https://tinyurl.com/4sxdkwh>

**Yard & Bake Sale**  
**AT THE BRANDON SENIOR CENTER**  
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**80th Birthday Card Shower for David F. Hazen**  
**July 13, 2024**  
 Many will remember David from the decades he spent teaching at Lothrop Elementary School in Pittsford and serving as the Teaching Principal of the Orwell School. Please help us celebrate David by showering him with birthday cards:  
 c/o Genesis Mountain View Center  
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 Rutland, VT 05701

# Obituaries

## Kenneth M. Osterhout, 80, Brandon

MUNCY—Kenneth M. Osterhout, 80, of Muncy, PA (formerly of Brandon) died on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at his home with his loving wife by his side.

Born February 15, 1943, in Jackson, MI, he was the son of the late Marion Osterhout and Isabel (Rogers) Gooding. On May 19, 1967, he married his first wife, Jeanette W. Osterhout. Together they celebrated 42 years of marriage before her death on April 28, 2009. On August 14, 2010, he married the former Jeanne (Manbeck) Wilhelm, who survives. Together they celebrated 13 years of marriage.

Ken was a high-school graduate. He served honorably in the U.S. Air Force. Following his time in the Air Force, Ken served in the Vermont Air National Guard for 26 years, retiring as Senior Master Sergeant. Along with his service in the Air Force, he spent much of his professional career working with mar-



**KENNETH M. OSTERHOUT**

ginalized people, including those with intellectual disabilities, mental health challenges, and incarcerated individuals.

He was a member of Crossroads Church Muncy Campus. Before moving out of the area, Ken was also a member of the Forest Dale Vermont Wesleyan Church for over 40 years, where he served faithfully

in many different capacities.

Ken was a Mr. Fix-It and enjoyed tinkering with tools. He was fond of making and collecting wooden toys. He was a lover of people and never met a stranger. He always had a story or anecdote to share and especially loved sharing how his life had been changed by a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Amy Osterhout of South Bend, IN; former daughter-in-law, Christy (Joe) Thompson, of Cypress, TX; stepson and daughter-in-law, Dean and Susie Wilhelm of Clarks Summit, PA; stepdaughter and son-in-law Beth and Mike Driscoll of Muncy; former sister-in-law, Janice Gearwar of Brandon, VT; 4 nephews; and 17 grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and first wife, he was predeceased by a son, Jay Osterhout.

The graveside committal service and burial with military honors, will take place on July 20, 2024, at 11 AM, at the Forest Dale Cemetery. Rev. Barry Tate will officiate.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church, 1895 Forest Dale Road, Brandon, VT 05733.

Miller & Ketcham of Brandon is in charge of arrangements.

## As Vermont homelessness rises, US Supreme Court ruling gives towns more authority to punish camping

BY CARLY BERLIN/  
VTDIGGER

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its most significant decision on homelessness in decades: It ruled that municipalities can ban people from sleeping and camping in public places.

The implications for the court's 6-3 decision are most immediate for the Western U.S.: The ruling undermines lower court decisions in that region that prohibited local governments from penalizing someone for sleeping outdoors if there were no shelter beds available.

But experts anticipate the ruling will influence homelessness policy nationwide, clarifying how local officials can respond to people sleeping outside. And it comes as cities and towns across Vermont grapple with a rise in unsheltered homelessness — and are bracing for more people to lose their shelter over the next few months, as new limits on the state's safety-net motel voucher program kick in.

"I would expect that in the wake of Friday's decision, there may be cities or towns that are considering taking another look at some of these policies," said Harrison Stark, a senior staff attorney at the ACLU of


Vermont.

The high court upheld a wide-ranging ban on sleeping and camping in public places like sidewalks, streets, and city parks in the small city of Grants Pass, Oregon, finding that the rules did not defy the Constitution's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Such blanket bans on sleeping in public spaces appear to be relatively rare in Vermont, according to Stark.

Last fall, the small Northeast Kingdom town of Canaan considered such a ban. At the time there was no homeless shelter available in the region for the general population, although one has since opened in St. Johnsbury. At the time, the ACLU raised concerns about the potential ban's constitutionality.

The town tabled the ban and hasn't revisited it since, said town clerk and treasurer Zachary Brown in an interview Tuesday. The town's selectboard wanted to wait and see what the Supreme Court decided, Brown added. He said he could not comment on whether he anticipated the selectboard would take up the ban again in light of the Supreme Court case. Canaan's selectboard chair did not respond to a request (See *Punish camping*, Page 22)

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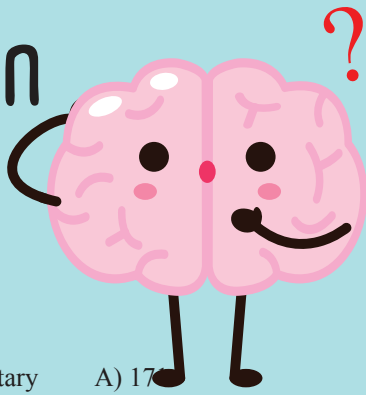


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# Brandon Brain Buster



Oakville Elementary School has grades K through 6. Starting with 1st grade, the number of students in each grade is exactly one greater than the number of students in the grade below. Which of the following CANNOT be the total number of students at Oakville Elementary?

- A) 17
- B) 243
- C) 305
- D) 327
- E) 447

Answer on pg. 21



## It's always been treasure

THE GREAT BRANDON Auction is underway at Brandon Town Hall! Hundreds of lots are available for silent auction or buy-it-now. Everything from furniture to art to tools to antiques...swing by and find that perfect object for your home!

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**WE NEED U**



**Friday, July 12**

Middlebury Town Hall Theater,  
 Constance Holden  
 Memorial Concert

**Friday, July 26**

Salisbury Meeting House

**Friday, August 9** Salisbury Meeting House

**Thursday, August 22** Salisbury Meeting House

**Friday, August 30** CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

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# NINE & DINE

**GOLF & DINNER**

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH

JULY 27TH

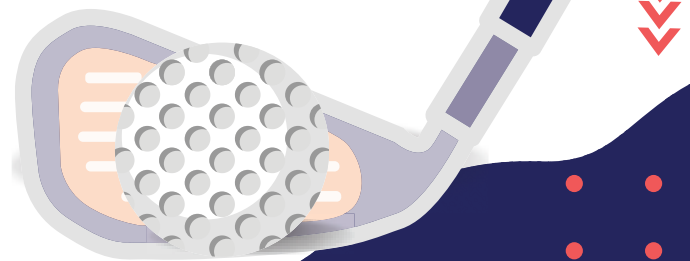
AUGUST 3RD

AUGUST 24TH

**5:30PM SHOTGUN**

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**CARTS ARE \$20/PLAYER**



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# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)  
 (WWD) 2015 diesel truck, which requires some repairs and is too big for WWD's needs.

The Highway Department (HD) has a 2012 truck that has body rust and will likely not pass its next inspection.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to allow the HD to sell its 2012 truck and purchase the WWD's 2015 truck. The WWD will then purchase a gasoline-powered Ford F-350 for an amount not to exceed \$75,000. The \$75K will come from the WWD's capital fund, which currently has approximately \$192K.

The Ford was Mr. Cijka's recommendation. He said the WWD had had luck with Ford trucks in the past. The truck will be purchased from a dealer in New Hampshire but will be serviced locally.

Commissioner Heather Nelson said that she trusted Mr. Cijka's recommendation to purchase the Ford even though it wasn't the cheapest option (the sticker price is \$72,460). The other options presented were a Ram 3500 for \$69,592 and a Chevy 3500HD for \$68,843. Ms. Nelson stated that Mr. Cijka had always made sound recommendations in the past.

The board then reconvened as the Board of Cannabis Control Commissioners and approved a handful of cultivation licenses for small growers.

The board then reconvened

as the Selectboard and began its posted agenda.

The first order of business after approval of the agenda and prior minutes was to approve two warrants in the amounts of \$279,479.25 and \$78,346.58. Because FY24 has just finished, there will still be lingering expenses from that fiscal year, hence the two warrants. The larger of the two represents expenses incurred during FY24 and paid for from that budget, which the smaller of the two represents expenses incurred during FY25, which began on July 1.

The warrants included a charge for \$7200 for two water fountains that will be installed in the playground and dog park on Seminary Hill. One of the fountains will be reimbursed by the Water District while the other will be greatly offset by \$2500 in donations. The installation is expected to be completed this summer.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins delivered his report, which is printed in full in this issue of The Reporter. An attendee asked about the upcoming tax sales on delinquent properties. 70 property owners have received letters indicating that they are in arrears and subject to tax sale. Mr. Hopkins stated that the large number was because the town had halted all tax sales during the pandemic and this is the first year since 2019 that any such sale will be held. He also stated that the town

works with homeowners to establish payment plans but that the state requires that such plans satisfy the outstanding taxes within a year, a burden that many delinquent property owners cannot manage.

Rec Director Bill Moore presented his report as well. He thanked everyone who helped make the Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 6 a success, noting that such events are possible only because of Brandon's many dedicated volunteers.

Mr. Moore also stated that there will be a pick-up soccer scrimmage group for grade 7 and up (including adults) at Estabrook Park from 6 to 7:30 pm on Mondays. The group will be organized by Brent Wilbur.

There will also be a 4-day cheerleading camp at the OV gym on July 18, 19, 25, and 26 from 6 to 8 pm. The camp is open to grades 3 and up and will culminate in a halftime routine at an OV football game.

The Brandon Carnival will take place from July 25 to July 28 at Estabrook Park.

The board then approved a blanket payroll authorization to reflect current pay rates for FY25, which began on July 1.

## NEW ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The board approved the hiring of Larry Stevens as the new Zoning Administrator, replacing Jeff Biasuzzi, whose 3-year term will expire on 7/14. Mr. Biasuzzi had been working 1.5 days per week for Brandon (he also worked for several other towns, such as Pittsford and West Rutland) but could not accommodate the board's expansion of the position to 3 days per week. Mr. Stevens will remain Brandon's Rental and Health Officer as well. Mr. Biasuzzi has agreed to train Mr. Stevens.

## DAM ON THE NESHOBET TO BE REPAIRED

The town-owned dam creating the upper falls on the Neshobet behind Kennedy Park in downtown Brandon has suffered damage over the years, with some of the stone blocks dislodging and causing water to flow unevenly over the dam.

The damage had been the subject of some discussion by the board in the past, but no action had been taken to rectify it. The board unanimously authorized Mr. Hopkins to restore the upper courses of stone so that water flows evenly from the collection pond behind it. Currently, water runs primarily through one side channel created by fallen stones. Mr. Hopkins will also look into

the cost of having the entire dam rebuilt and the pond behind it dredged. Markowski has been consulted on the project.

If the dam were to fail, insurance would not cover the cost of any damage after January 2026, Mr. Hopkins said. He added that the overflow culvert and relatively low volume of water made it unlikely that there would be any major damage in the event of failure.

## TOWN HIGHWAYS

The board approved the FY25 financial plan for the town's highways, an annual requirement for the state. According to the plan, the town anticipates spending \$1,115,155 on the maintenance of the town's roadways in FY25, including the paving projects on North Street and Union Street.

Mr. Hopkins noted that the town had unexpectedly been awarded a Class-2 paving grant of approximately \$38K that will be used to offset the cost of the North Street project. The money that the grant frees up will be used for other, smaller paving projects around Brandon.

## FINANCIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The board also acknowledged receipt of a financial management questionnaire prepared by Town Treasurer Sue Gage, as required by the Vermont League of Towns and Cities. The questionnaire asks town treasurers to indicate that their towns have adequate financial controls in place. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in the Selectboard packet for 7/8/24 on the town website.

## LATE HOMESTEAD PENALTY

The board declined to impose a penalty on homeowners who fail to declare homestead status for their primary residences on time. The tax rates on primary residences are lower than on secondary residences but a declaration of homestead status is required to qualify for the lower rate. The penalty for late declaration can be as high as 8% of the education tax liability for the property, according to state law. However, the board declined to impose the penalty. Town Treasurer Sue Gage, who was present via Zoom, stated that the penalty was severe and often impacted people who were already facing financial challenges.

## PUBLIC COMMENT: BRANDON INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

The board opened the meeting for public comment, though Board Chair Doug Bailey began the segment with a statement about the Brandon Industrial

Corporation (BIC), which had been the subject of some controversy at recent Selectboard meetings.

The BIC is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) "business league," akin to a Chamber of Commerce. Its purpose is to promote Brandon as a site of industrial activity. It is not a town entity, though since 1988 Brandon's incumbent town managers have been involved as members of BIC's board to represent the town's interests.

A Brandon resident recently accused Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins of "running" BIC because he was listed as registered agent for BIC on the VT Secretary of State's website. It was subsequently explained that a registered agent is simply a point of contact between a corporation and the state or public. If someone sues a corporation or if the government brings criminal action against it, the registered agent is the point of contact for service of process. The position carries no operational or managerial duties or powers and does not denote any ownership stake.

The resident had been concerned that the recent deal between BIC and Novus Energy of Montpelier to develop a solar field at the Brandon Industrial Park (BIP) presented a conflict of interest because of Mr. Hopkins' involvement with BIC. The BIP is owned by BIC, not by the town.

Mr. Bailey explained on Monday evening that the Selectboard merely provided a letter stating that the town did not object to the development of the array, as part of a multi-step process for Novus to receive permission from the state to build the array. Mr. Bailey stated that the town had no further involvement in the deal except that it would ultimately purchase electricity from the array at a discounted rate.

Mr. Bailey also stated that BIC has its own board of directors: Jim Leary (president), Tom Whittaker (vice-president), Devon Fuller (secretary), and Pat Wood (treasurer). According to Mr. Bailey, paperwork to update BIC's registration with the Secretary of State is underway. Mr. Bailey asked that all further questions about BIC be addressed to its board.

After an announcement from Town Treasurer Sue Gage that tax bills would be going out the first week of August, the Selectboard adjourned.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**July 30, 2024**

Go to [Brandon.org](http://Brandon.org) for more info!







**AJ MENDIOLA (CENTER) and Leif Nelson (right) were the Swiss Roll eating champions for 2025! Mr. Mendiola has dominated this competition and had no qualms about taunting his "competitors." Though perhaps young Mr. Nelson is a rising star in the field? On the left is Jim Leary, who has organized and emceed the competition since its inception. Thanks for all your hard work, Jim!**

## A.J. Mendiola dominates 8th Annual World Championship Swiss Roll Eating Contest

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Highlighting this year's Independence Day activities was the 8th Annual Swiss Roll eating contest. As a qualifier for the Paris Olympics, there were competitors from Boston, New York, Rhode Island, Florida, and Tokyo, Japan, engendering a great deal of stress on all the competitors. Seven-time winner A.J. Mendiola returned to the venue waving to the crowd and getting tremendous applause, stating "I'm gonna beat these wannabes!" As the reigning champion, he got a prime spot at the competition table. After Jim Leary, Swiss Roll competition chief judge, reviewed the rules—which included a new one: You must eat a boxful+2 of the Swiss Rolls—the competitors were all juiced to take down the champ. However, it was obvious from the start that A.J. is clearly an eating machine! Wasting no time, he popped open the packages, gobbled the Swiss Rolls after crushing them, and followed each with a swig of soda. In a

swift 1 minute and 20 seconds, the contest was over and A.J. retained his championship belt! Caught up after the event and still enjoying his hard-won title, Mendiola said, "It's a lotta fun. Brandon puts on a great festival for Independence Day!"

Bob Bearnot of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York finished only one packet of Swiss Rolls before Mendiola finished all of his. After the crushing defeat, he was asked why he entered. Bearnot said, "I just love Swiss Rolls." Sam McNally of Somerville, Massachusetts, a returning competitor, said "This hurt worse than last year. I was mentally prepared but I obviously have more physical training to do."

Before the main event, a junior competition was held, looking for new blood to compete at the major level. 10 competitors age 15 and under, some from as far away as Massachusetts, lined up for the Junior Championship! They were required to scarf down 2 packs or 4 Swiss Rolls before any other competitor to

win the contest. Leif Nelson of Brandon did just that! Excited after his win, he blurted out, "I looked like a chipmunk!"

Look for this event when you watch the Olympics this summer!



**ABOVE: AJ MENDIOLA makes a grand entrance with Emma Jean Hoops holding his championship belt. Left: One of the defeated competitors holding a box of Swiss Rolls. Better luck next year!**

Photos by George Fjeld

# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Seamus Reynolds

GRADE: 6th

SCHOOL: Lothrop

MEDIUM: Oil Pastel

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin

**Statement from Mr. Aucoin:**

Seamus and his class had been studying Pop Art when he created this piece. Seamus took a familiar image--the Easter Island Head--and changed it to create something new.



# Brandon Town Manager's report June 22–July 3

## FOR AWARENESS OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE

The town clerk's office (downstairs) will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4th and 5th.

The town administrative office (upstairs) will be closed Thursday, July 4th.

## FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

I worked with the State to continue to advance the Town's request for ERAF (Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund) monies to be combined with FEMA aid received for our response to the July 2023 flooding. As related in an earlier report, State ERAF of 17½% of the Newton Road reconstruction and the Wagner and Birch Hill repairs will augment the 75% of cost that FEMA covered for those projects. FEMA covered 100% of our wastewater treatment facility and our river debris removal costs.

I assisted with the renewal of the transfer station's decennial permit. I worked with the selectboard's chosen fuel suppliers to enter into FY25 contracts. I collaborated with the police officers' union representative to finalize the ratification of the 2024-2027 police contract.

The Town has received MERP energy assessments for the Town Hall, highway garage, and town office. We await the MERP assessment for the wastewater treatment facility. Those will all be provided to the board as a package when that last one arrives.

The Town has received a positive response from wastewater management officials at the State of Vermont, as follows: "After review, the resolution you have reached for staffing is acceptable and I am happy to see a third team member has already been hired. Regarding the possibilities of using the 2014 study as a basis to move forward with infrastructure projects, I will be contacting our funding experts and be in touch with any relevant updates. Best Regards, Aaron Krymkowski"

**Cannabis Control:** This arrived from the State after the agendas were published:

Application S-000008917 Tier 1 Outdoor Cultivator Small Cultivator Renewal: Friendly Farmers

I recommend this be added to the Brandon Cannabis Control Commission agenda for action so it is not unnecessarily delayed two weeks.

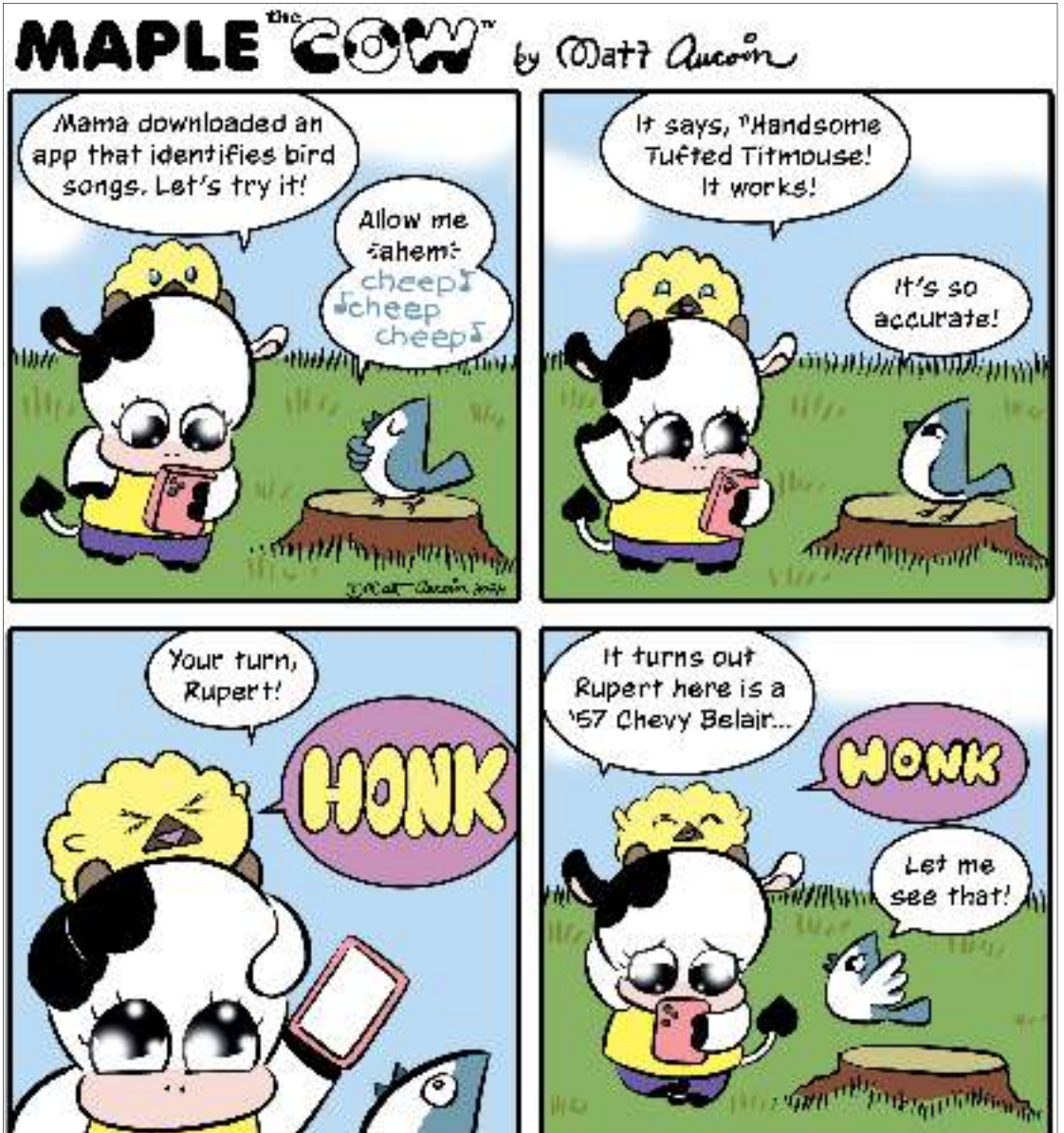
Act 167 and Act 160 of 2024 relate to animal control officers' authority and to livestock running at large. For an animal control officer to retain humane officer status and investigate animal cruelty cases, it is now necessary for them to work under the auspices of the Town's police department. Required training has not yet been developed or released by the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board (ACIAB). Our animal control officer and our chief of police are in conversation about how this would best work in Brandon under current statutes and ordinances. The board may expect some VLCT guidance on updating our animal control ordinance.

Appropriate end-of-year accounting entries continue apace in the Town Treasurer's office. One material change reported to me by Sue Gage is the available balance at the end of FY24 in the Wastewater capital account is no longer the \$240,000 I reported to you in my memo about the WW truck. The FY24 available balance in WW capital is now on the order of \$192,000. This will be replenished in the FY25 budget with \$190,000 from the adopted FY25 WW budget.

The FY24 budget is sugaring off almost perfectly in line with projections:

## FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

I am working with the engineers and Town staff to plan an open house so the community can learn about the wastewater treatment process as well as see the results of  
(See TM report, Page 22)



**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**  
See page 25

# QUALITY VEHICLES GREAT PRICES

		
<b>2014 HONDA CRV</b> EX AWD, Auto, Sunroof, 125k miles <b>\$12,995</b>	<b>CARS AND TRUCKS</b> <b>802 465 4688</b>	<b>2013 MINI COOPER S</b> 4cyl, Turbo, 6 speed, 117k miles <b>\$8,995</b>
		
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# Calendar of events

## July

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

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

All are welcome in.

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

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

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

(or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at [www.gmttc.com](http://www.gmttc.com).

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily, making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reap the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

We spend a fair amount of the time exercising in a seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think you will soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on our email list. \$15/class.

## 2024 Music at the Riverbend lineup

### July 10

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

### July 17

Bloodroot Gap  
Locally Sourced Free-Range Bluegrass

### July 24

Enerjazz  
Vermont's High Energy Big-Band

### July 31

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

### 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

## 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](http://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](mailto:allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org) with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

### Friends Zone

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

### Ping Pong

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

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday

year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of

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

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle

## Wednesdays

## Proctor Town Green, 7 pm



### July 10

Green Brothers Band

### July 24

Chaz Canney

### August 7

Whisper Band

## Thursdays

### Ukulele Group

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

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



### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

## Fridays

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

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

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

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

### Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

### Brandon Senior Center Game Day

Come join us every Friday at 2:00 p.m. Cards, darts, puzzles, board games, coloring.

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

The 45th Annual Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green is a free, family-friendly series of performances supported by community donations and volunteers. It will delight audiences during the week of July 7 through 13, 2024, under the big white tent on the Village

Green, Middlebury, VT.

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

ble Street Dance: We shut down Main Street for you to boogie and jive!

Events are held rain or shine. Free admission; donations welcomed. We recommend checking the Festival website for last-minute schedule changes.

Info: <http://www.festivalonthegreen.org>

## 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.

### 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."

## Friday 12th

### Jackson Gallery Presents "It's All Relatives"— Middlebury Town Hall Theater

The exhibit runs through August at the Jackson Gallery in the lower level of Town Hall Theater on Merchants Row in downtown Middlebury. All are invited to a reception for the artist on Friday, from 5 – 7 pm. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday noon to five, and when performances are taking place. Entrance is through the front doors of the theater.

## 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

## Saturday 20th

### Genealogy Day at Cornwall Town Hall

From 12:00–4:30 pm speakers Drew Bartley and Ed McGuire will offer tips on researching your family history/genealogy and what is new with DNA research/genetic research. One-on-one assistance will also be available from Drew, Ed, Sherry Marcoux, Linda Miller, and Anne Collins. They are

all experts in various areas of genealogy, including Vermont resources, Revolutionary War patriots, Mayflower descendants, LDS searches, and more. "You are the link between generations - you knew your parents and grandparents and your children and grandchildren know you. What can you tell them that will keep the memory alive for your grandchildren's children?"

### Baffo Box Show — Modern Times Theater and Middlebury Town Hall Theater

Performed in a one-of-a-kind suit-stage, this show packs classic hand puppetry, Dadaist ventriloquism, and stand-up comedy into a cardboard box and delivers it, with impeccable timing, live on stage.

Inside the box are the Baffos — two slapstick chaps who keep the sun, moon and everything else running on schedule. From the moment the lid opens, audiences are captivated as the Baffos juggle and dance their way through the day's chores, despite the undeniable evidence that their world is changing.

A daring work of puppetry and object manipulation, full of beautiful images, junk music sonatas, and Modern Times Theater's unique brand of all ages comedy. This re-envisioning of classic hand puppet forms is digital entertainment as it was meant to be: two hands, ten fingers, and no camera tricks.

Puppeteered by Justin Lander and directed by Rose Friedman, The Baffo Box Show was supported by a 2022 Family Grant from the Jim Henson Foundation.

Modern Times Theater has been making and touring puppet shows and variety acts, and creating public

community events since 2007. They pursue a radically divergent model of art making, creating venues in unlikely locations, and revitalizing the historic, run-down, and defunct. Working in populist theater forms, they seek to reinvent and reimagine classic American entertainment.



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

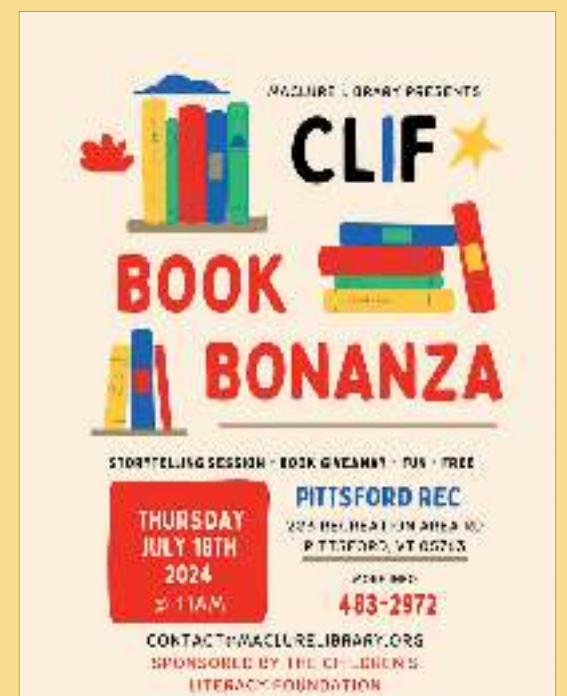
Beth Murphy, botanical collage artist, will share her techniques and practices of pressing botanical materials.

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

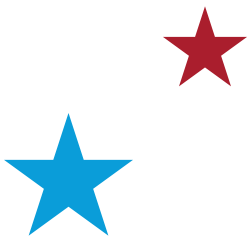
## Upcoming activities at Maclure Library



# Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the street



# The whole town got in on the action



# A Yankee Doodle time was had a



4th of July photos by George Fjeld & Steven Jupiter.



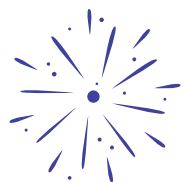
# at the Brandon 4th of July parade

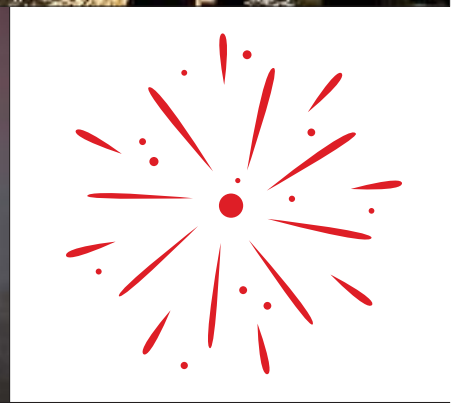






# Fireworks light the skies over Brandon & Dunmore!





FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
FY24 Revenue Budget \$3,488,880 Actual \$3,590,322		102.91%
FY24 Expense Budget \$3,588,880 Actual \$3,684,747		102.67%
Revenue Minus Expense / Net Gain or [Loss]	Budgeted* (\$100,000) Actual (\$94,424)	
*FY24 budget planned \$100,000 in tax relief; actual needed to balance budget so far is \$5,576 less		
***Expect further adjusting entries by Town Bookkeeper and Treasurer during July***		
FY25 Budget Operating Expenses		3.88% thru funds / 4.17% thru year
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance		\$465,841
1% [Local Option] Tax Fund Available / Undesignated (\$100,000 board-reserved for paving not included at night)		\$174,765
Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated		UNION STREET
Delinquent property taxes (prior years)		\$549,028 (was \$572,321)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years [over 120 days])		\$199,086 (was \$198,514)
Tax Sale Status		70 accounts at attorney for letters

## TM report

its investment in clean water.

I created a web page on the Town site to comply with the provisions of S55 and its expansion of requirements for Open Meeting Law.

<https://www.townofbrandon.com/resources/vermont-open-meeting-law/>

I participated in the Planning Commission Walkabout and in the following Planning Commission meeting as they make progress on the Brandon Land Use Ordinance rewrite.

I had many other meetings with town officers, staff, townspeople, our state representative, and responded to a number of requests for information from various parties. Various tax repayment situations and public works matters were the most frequent topics.

### FOR AWARENESS OF THE SELECTBOARD

As Independence Day is Thursday, the Town staff and I are finalizing reports and warning the selectboard meeting on Wednesday. Bill Moore and I will be working at the town office on Friday, and verbal updates to this report may be in order at your meeting on Monday.

### TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

I recommend approval / adoption of all warned items presented tonight.

Respectfully submitted,

*Town Manager  
Seth Hopkins*

## Punish camping

(Continued from Page 6) for comment.

Officials in towns that do have camping bans on the books, like Brattleboro, say they aren't heavily enforced. Clearing encampments is expensive, said Brattleboro Town Manager John Potter, and town resources are limited. The town has directed attention to encampments that "have gotten out of control, are dangerous," Potter said — such as areas where it's difficult for first responders to reach.

"The focus of the town has not been on encampments. The focus of the town has been on how to increase housing in the area so that fewer people are without," Potter said.

While the court case was underway, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns advised municipalities to be careful about removing people from public spaces unless they had alternative spaces to direct them to-

ward, said Josh Hanford, director of intergovernmental relations for VLCT and former commissioner of the state's Department of Housing and Community Development.

"That's just been our general guidance," Hanford said. "Be cautious, be careful, understand that there is this pending court case." At the same time, Hanford said, cities and towns could address public health safety concerns surrounding encampments.

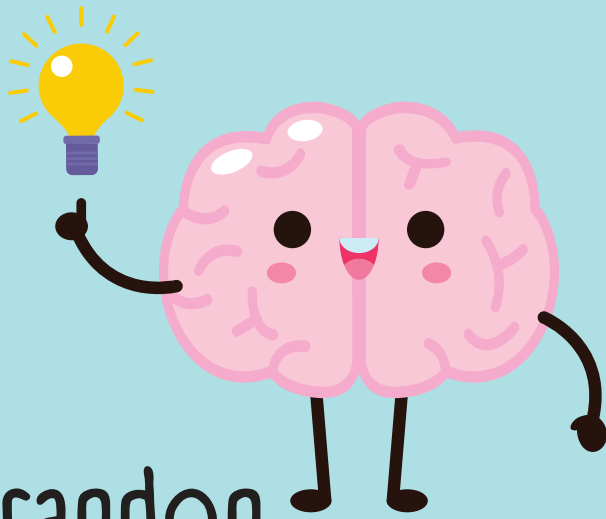
That guidance isn't changing significantly after the Supreme Court's ruling, Hanford said. Stark, from the ACLU, cautioned that the court's decision is fairly narrow — and cities and towns should consider other existing safeguards before altering policies on camping.

"It removed one specific check on government's ability to criminalize sleeping outside, but didn't address any of the other myriad protections for the unhoused," Stark

said of the court case. Those other protections include the right to due process, an individual's rights to their possessions, and their privacy rights, among others, he said.

Municipalities don't appear to be leaping toward more stringent encampment policies. Dominic Cloud, city manager for St. Albans — which recently broke up an encampment — said the Supreme Court decision has been critiqued "because it authorizes a heavier hand. That's not our game. Our game is to use a softer hand to the very last resort."

Rutland City Mayor Mike Dogenes said the city's approach to addressing encampments — which involves deploying police officers to conduct health and welfare checks — is working well, and he doesn't anticipate the court's decision will change it. But once the city has more transitional housing set up, he said, it will consider what options the ruling might allow for enforce-



# Brandon Brain Buster Answered

**Answer: C**

If we call the number of students in kindergarten  $x$ , then we know that the number of students in 1st grade must be  $x + 1$ . If the number of students in 1st grade is  $x + 1$ , then the number of students in 2nd grade must be  $x + 2$ . And then the numbers of students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 would be  $x + 3$ ,  $x + 4$ ,  $x + 5$ , and  $x + 6$ , respectively. If we add all the grades together, we get  $6x + 21$ . So, we know the total number of students at Oakville Elementary is  $6x + 21$ . Therefore, the total number students at the school must be 21 more than  $6x$ . In other words, the total number of students at the school must be 21 more than a number that can be evenly divided by 6 (since  $6x$  can be divided by 6 without leaving a remainder).

If we test the choices one by one, we can see which one is NOT 21 more than a number that can be divided by 6.

A)  $171 - 21 = 150$ .  $150/6 = 25$ . So, 171 CAN be the number of students. Eliminate A.  
 B)  $243 - 21 = 222$ .  $222/6 = 37$ . So, 243 CAN be the number of students. Eliminate B.  
 C)  $305 - 21 = 284$ .  $284/6 = 47.33$ . So, 305 CANNOT be the number of students. Keep C.  
 D)  $327 - 21 = 306$ .  $306/6 = 51$ . So, 327 CAN be the number of students. Eliminate D.  
 E)  $447 - 21 = 426$ .  $426/6 = 71$ . So, 447 CAN be the number of students. Eliminate E.

The choice that is NOT 21 more than  $6x$  is C.

ment.

"What can we do to work and get people from one situation to another?" he said. "How can we get them from camping, perhaps, into a transitional housing campus that will benefit their life and get them back on their feet?"

The court ruling comes as many Vermont municipalities expect to see more unhoused people setting up camp over the next few months. As of July 1, participants in the state's motel voucher program have their stays limited to 80 days in a year (though stays during the coldest winter months, from December through March, won't count toward that limit). In tandem with that time limit, the total number of rooms in

the motel program will be capped at 1,100 come mid-September. As of late June, there were over 1,400 rooms in use. Meanwhile, shelters across the state are generally full.

"Some households might exit their hotel or motel units on July 1st and preserve their eligible days for colder weather, while others may choose to stay in the unit and use their 80 days this summer," Miranda Gray, deputy commissioner of the Department for Children and Families' economic services division, wrote in a letter to municipal leaders last week. "While some households will move into permanent housing, it is also likely that some may camp over the summer."

(See Punish camping, Page 31)

# Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

It's probably not a surprise to anyone that last week's mystery

photo was Rt. 7, or Franklin Street, across from the Library and looking north at the Bran-

don Inn. What I love about this old photo is the trees and the shade they provide. Hopefully our current

street trees will grow up tall and broad enough to shade our streets, too. Even small urban areas like downtown Brandon

become 'heat islands' in the summer sun. Roads, sidewalks, parking lots, buildings, and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat, raising the temperature in urban areas 1 to 7 degrees higher than outlying areas. Shading pavement and buildings goes a long way in reducing the build-up of heat on these hot summer days.

Roads, sidewalks, parking lots, build-

**LOOKING NORTH ON Franklin St. now, and circa 1920.**



This week's mystery



## This little piggie went on vacation

"SWINE AIRLINES" BY Ed Thomas is one of the dozens of decorated pigs on display around downtown Brandon in anticipation of the silent auction to benefit the Brandon Artists Guild on its 25th anniversary. The auction will take place on August 16, 17, and 18 at Brandon Town Hall.

# Restaurant guide



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

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

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

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT



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



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

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

Ad design included in pricing  
Call 802 236-4662, or email [george@brandonreporter.com](mailto:george@brandonreporter.com) for more information



# 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!

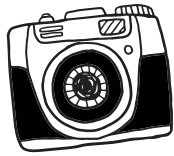
E-mail  
[kate@brandonreporter.com](mailto:kate@brandonreporter.com)  
if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080

## Recognized



**CORRECTION:** The woman standing in the background in the picture above is Franci Farnsworth—not to be confused with Francis Farnsworth, a longtime Brandon resident who used to live on Franklin Street. (Thank you for the clarification, Franci!)





# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Book size
8. Indonesian Island
13. "The Sopranos" character
14. Plants often found in stews
15. Stern
19. Atomic #52
20. Often seen after a company name
21. Silk garments
22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
23. Type of beer
24. Margarine
25. Throw lightly
26. Explains again
30. Raccoon-like animal
31. Sneaker parts
32. Platforms
33. Scored perfectly
34. One's essence
35. Strikes with a firm blow
38. Makes tractors
39. Music term
40. Lack of energy
44. Vestments
45. \_\_\_ and feathers
46. Total
47. Gobbler
48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
50. Home of Rudy Flyer
51. Manageable
55. Lugged
57. Irritated
58. Sea eagles
59. Warm seasons

## CLUES DOWN

1. About visual sense
2. Part of a horse's saddle
3. In a way, interchanged
4. Rocker's accessory
5. Very important person
6. It precedes two
7. Flavored
8. Musical notes
9. String instrument (slang)
10. Mister
11. Fine, light linen fabric
12. Absence of bacteria
16. Discounts
17. Area units
18. A description of one's life
22. Gazelles
25. Plumbing fixture
27. Makes especially happy
28. One side of something many-sided
29. Frosts
30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
32. Female animal species
34. School terms
35. Written law
36. Unpleasant aroma
37. Nuclear weapon
38. One who challenges
40. Opposite of first
41. Able to be utilized
42. Less interesting
43. Implants
45. Canister
48. Gestures
51. After B
52. Romanian monetary unit
53. Long-term memory
54. Cash machine
56. The Volunteer State

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

# 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.

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

Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

## RCHS is Hosting a "Kitten Shower"!

Did you know that Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) takes in about 400 kittens each year? As it gets warmer, the kittens are steadily coming into us. Please help RCHS take care of our many new kitten arrivals this season. July 1st–July 15th we will be hosting a Kitten Shower! If you would like to shop online, you can check out our Amazon "Kitten Shower" wish list under "Ways to Give" at [rchsvt.org](http://rchsvt.org), and your gifts will be shipped directly to RCHS. If you'd like to shop locally, you can bring supplies to the shelter! Some of the items we need include KMR kitten formula, chicken or turkey baby food (Gerber brand), cat beds and toys, pate canned kitten food, dry kitten food, fleece blankets, and monetary donations and/or gift cards to Chewy or local pet food stores. For more information, please call the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700, or e-mail [Adoptions@rchsvt.org](mailto:Adoptions@rchsvt.org). Thank you for helping us take care of the kittens!

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

#### MEET TAKI - 2 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PIT BULL. BRINDLE/WHITE.



Taki is a very smart boy who, despite being cautious around strangers, has a heart full of love for those who take the time to earn his trust. With some patience and understanding, Taki will blossom into an affectionate companion. Building a bond will be very important for Taki. Therefore, he may need multiple visits. He may take a little longer to warm up to new faces, but the effort will be worth it! Taki can be a little insecure and because of that he needs outlets for his frustration. Having toys such as tug toys and a variety of interactive toys will be key for him. He also loves high reward treats like hotdogs! These will be his keys for success! Once he trusts you, he is incredibly affectionate! He is also quite the water dog. He enjoys chasing the hose or going for swims when we can. Taki came to us as a stray from Rutland on May 9th. We know that he would prefer a home without other dogs or cats. We feel that he would do best in a home with older children who can give him time to adjust give him his own space at times. If this handsome boy sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him! His adoption fee is \$275, but we are currently running a sale for all of our dog adoptions. To learn more about Taki or our sale, please call (802-483-6700) or stop by anytime we're open, Tuesday through Saturday 11–4.

#### MEET DAHLIA - 10 YEARS OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC LONG HAIR. ORANGE.

Meet Dahlia! She is a beautiful shade of orange and has a heart of gold. She has a sweet personality. Dahlia is a friendly gal who just wants to be pet all the time! One of her favorite activities is basking in the sun. She loves to seek out the sunniest parts of the cat room and lay there and take a cat nap. Dahlia will be the perfect companion for her forever people! She came to us on June 14th as a stray from Rutland. She is currently adjusting in the community cat room and doing well with her feline friends. However, we have no known history on how she will do with children or dogs. If this sweetheart sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with her! Her adoption fee would be \$95. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11–4.



**RUTLAND COUNTY  
HUMANE SOCIETY**

802-483-6700 • [WWW.RCHSVT.ORG](http://WWW.RCHSVT.ORG)  
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



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



**Adult fiction**

**The Midnight Feast**  
by Lucy Foley

It's the opening night of The Manor, the newest and hottest luxury resort, and no expense, large or small, has been spared. The infinity pool sparkles; the "Manor Mule" cocktail is poured with a heavy hand. Everyone is wearing linen. But under the burning midsummer sun, darkness stirs. Old friends and enemies circulate among the guests. Just outside The Manor's immaculately kept grounds, an ancient forest bristles with secrets. And it's not too long before the local police are called. Turns out the past has crashed the party, with deadly results. Everyone's got a secret. Everyone's got an agenda. But not everyone will survive the Midnight Feast.

**Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books**  
by Kirsten Miller

Beverly Underwood and her archenemy, Lula Dean, live in the tiny town of Troy, Georgia, where they were born and raised. Beverly is on the school board, and Lula has become a local celebrity by embarking on a mission to rid the public libraries of all inappropriate books—none of which she's actually read. To replace the books she's challenged at the local public library, Lula starts her own lending library in front of her home. But a local troublemaker has stolen Lula's wholesome books, removed their dust jackets, and restocked the library with banned books: literary classics, gay romances, Black history, witchy spell books, Judy Blume novels, and

more. One by one, neighbors who borrow books from Lula Dean's library find their lives changed in unexpected ways. Finally, one of Lula Dean's enemies discovers the library and decides to turn the tables on her, just as Lula and Beverly are running against each other to replace the town's disgraced mayor. That's when all the townspeople who've been borrowing from Lula's library begin to reveal themselves. The showdown brewing between Beverly and Lula begins and it will change their town forever.

**One of Our Kind**  
by Nicola Yoon

Jasmyn and King Williams move their family to the planned Black utopia of Liberty, California hoping to find a community of like-minded people, a place where their growing family can thrive. King settles in at once, embracing the Liberty ethos, including the luxe wellness center at the top of the hill, the heart of the community. But Jasmyn struggles to find her place. She expected to find liberals and social justice activists striving for racial equality, but Liberty residents seem more focused on booking spa treatments and ignoring the world's troubles. Jasmyn's only friends in the community are equally perplexed and frustrated by most residents' outlook. Then Jasmyn discovers a terrible secret about Liberty and its founders. Frustration turns to dread as their loved ones start embracing the Liberty way of life. Will the truth destroy her world in ways she never could have imagined?

**LIBRARY NOTES**

Summer Reading Programs have started! Visit our website for the full calendar of events.

**Rakesfall**  
by Vijra Chandraseke

Annelid and Leveret met as children in the middle of the Sri Lankan civil war. They found each other in a torn-up nation, peering through propaganda to grasp a deeper truth. And in a demon-haunted wood, another act of violence linked them and propelled their souls on a journey throughout the ages. No world can hold them, no life can bind them, and they'll never leave each other behind. As Annelid and Leveret reincarnate ever deeper into the future, they will chase the edge of human possibility.

**God Bless You, Otis Spunkmeyer**  
by Joseph Earl Thomas

After a deployment in the Iraq War dually defined by threat and interminable mundanity, Joseph Thomas is fighting to find his footing. Now a doctoral student at The University, and an EMS worker at the hospital in North Philly, he encounters round-the-clock friends and family from his past life and would-be future at his job. Balancing the joys and frustrations of single fatherhood, his studies, and ceaseless shifts at the hospital, Joseph tries to articulate vernacular understandings of the sociopolitical struggles he recounts as participant-observer at home, against the assumptions of his friends and colleagues.

**Brandon**  
Police Report

**July 1**

- Received a complaint of a person trespassing at an apartment on Barlow Avenue.
- Received a report of a stolen ATV on Neshobe Circle. Investigation ongoing.
- Assisted in escorting a Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) social worker to a residence on Grove Street regarding a child neglect investigation from the previous day. No contact was made with the residents.
- Assisted a member of the community at the Brandon Police Department (BPD) regarding questions related to a Relief From Abuse Order.
- Responded to the Neshobe Elementary School for a burglary alarm activation. It was later determined that the alarm had been accidentally set off by the building custodian.
- Two children were placed into the custody of the DCF after a CHINS Order was applied for by the BPD and granted by a Superior Court Judge.
- Received a request to serve court paperwork on Walnut Street.
- Vehicle stop on Country Club Road for failure to display registration plates. Warning issued.

**July 2**

- Officers observed a wanted female subject with an active arrest warrant while on patrol on Syndicate Road.
- Executed a search warrant on a car suspected of containing drugs on Syndicate Road.
- Responded to a disturbance on Franklin Street involving a man reportedly walking out into oncoming traffic and almost getting struck by passing vehicles. The subject was located and cleared from the roadway.
- Received a request to serve judicial papers to a Brandon resident. Shortly thereafter, the person was located outside of Brandon by the requesting agency and the paperwork was served in-hand.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) on Church Street with a man that had been stung by a bee and was allergic.
- K9 Unit was called for an exterior open-air sniff for a vehicle that was suspected of containing illegal drugs. K9 Guinness alerted on the vehicle and illegal drugs were found inside.

**July 3**

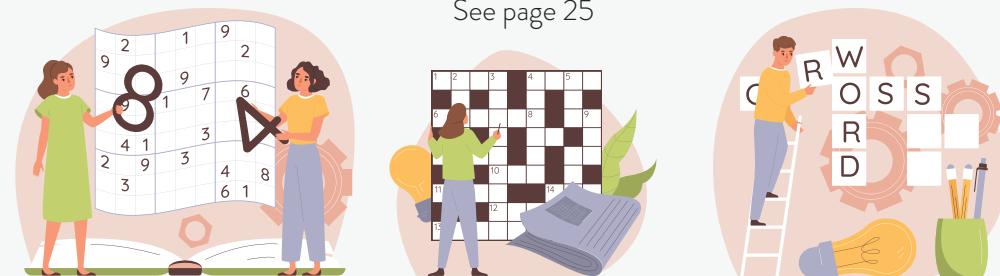
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment violation. Warning issued.
- Responded to a residence on Grove Street for an untimely death. An active death investigation is being conducted in conjunction with the Vermont Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
- K9 Unit provided a demonstration for the Pittsford Rec. Dept. Summer Camp.
- Served trespass notices on two individuals for Walgreens Pharmacy on Union Street.
- Responded to a citizen dispute on Franklin Street. The two women involved were subsequently trespassed from the property.
- Vehicle stop on Marble Street for defective equipment violation. Warning issued.
- Received a call from a business owner inquiring about having a trespass notice issued to an individual they no longer wanted on their property.
- Served a search warrant on Deer Run Road for stolen merchandise.
- Received a report of damage to a vehicle that the complainant believed was the result of her car getting struck in the parking lot of the Walgreens on Union Street. Incident documented for informational/insurance purposes.
- Vehicle stop on Syndicate Road for operating without an inspection sticker. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display plates. Warning issued.

**July 4**

- Responded to a tree down on Carver Street.
- Vehicle stop on Paint Works Road at McConnell Road for failure to display plates. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Responded to a custodial dispute on Forest Dale Road. Closed Wheeler Road due to roadway damage. Public works was notified of the situation.
- Responded to a disturbance at a home on Stanton Road between roommates.
- Received a report of dead deer on Grove Street. An officer pulled the deer off the road-  
(See Police report, Page 27)

**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**

See page 25



# Police report

(Continued from Page 26)

way.

- Responded to an erratic operator on Grove Street at Lovers Lane. The vehicle was not located.

- Received a call from a resident of Stanton Road asking to speak with an officer regarding problems with her roommate.

## July 5

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street for defective plate lights. Warning issued.

- Received a complaint of low wires on Pearl Street that were hit by a passing tractor-trailer unit.

- Received a report from a complainant that he had been assaulted on Mulcahy Drive after another individual "tapped his hat" over a girlfriend issue. No crime was determined to have occurred.

- Received a complaint from

a customer of the Hawk Hill Gun Store who wanted to speak with an officer about not being able to get his firearms back from the owner due to the owner not answering calls and the business never being open.

- Received a report of a minor crash. Incident documented for insurance purposes.

- Received a request from a resident of North Street to speak with an officer regarding suspicious activity going on around her home at night.

- Received a report from a caller that his neighbor, who has dementia, had walked to the Hannaford Supermarket in Brandon and was attempting to enter into random cars in the parking lot. The individual was later brought home by the complainant.

- Conducted a patrol on Franklin Street.

- Vehicle stop on Grove

Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

## July 6

- Responded to an apartment building on Barlow Avenue for a report of a trespass into the caller's apartment while no one was at the residence.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Nickerson Road for speeding. Ticket issued.

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

- Assisted BARS with a medical call on North Street.

- Conducted traffic control and security for the July 6th parade and fireworks being held in Brandon. During the events, a two-year-old child that had gone missing in the crowd was returned to his parent(s).

- Received a trespass complaint from a resident on Wyman Road.

- Received a report of an abandoned Subaru that had been left on private property on Grove Street.

- Responded to a report of a domestic assault on River Street.

- Assisted a child in filing a bullying complaint regarding an incident that occurred on Center Street.

- K-9 Unit assisted the Pittsford Police with a vehicle stop on Route 7.

- Responded to the parking lot of the Hannaford on Supermarket Drive for a group disturbance.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for turning where prohibited. Warning issued.

- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Mulcahy Drive.

- Received a lost purse that was found on Union Street. If you are missing a purse, please contact the BPD's non-

emergency number at (802) 247-0222.

## July 7

- Advised a complainant who came into the BPD asking to speak with an officer regarding a child custody issue.

- Received a report of vandalism to a park bench on West Seminary Street.

- Served a Temporary Relief From Abuse Order upon a woman on Churchill Road on behalf of the Rutland City Police Department.

- Responded to the area of Conant Square and West Seminary Street for a report of a large group of juveniles fighting. It was determined that there was no physical altercation and that the juveniles were only engaged in an argument.

# Time Machine: Firework accident altered Brandon's streetscape in 1922



The stores in the two blocks were open when the fire started and with the aid of volunteers moved nearly everything that could possibly be saved. The families of Charles Teasin, Joseph Bottamanni, Philip Sheridan and Andrew Rondo and the Catholic Order of Foresters, occupying apartments on the second floor of the Wright block removed most of their furniture but the rooms were badly damaged by smoke and water. The stores on the lower floor were damaged to the extent: T. W. Ray, treasurer, \$500; Joseph Bottamanni, fruit, \$800; Fred B. Sumner, groceries, \$300; Amos Saunders, restaurant, small; Victor Laroek, variety store, \$200.

The Newton and Thompson fire company responded to a call and did fine work. The Middlebury and Proctor departments were called but were not needed. Water was kept pouring on the ruins all day Sunday.

Most of the merchants have secured temporary quarters and are conducting business. Mr. McLane is located at his warehouse near the station; I. H. Macfield is in Patroski's shop; Will Collins is in Clifford's store and T. W. Ray has to his wholesale store.

Soon after the fire had started E. N. Lewis and his son, Graham, hid in their car for home but were stopped by officer Nichols who declared Lewis under arrest for selling fireworks when Graham threatened to "put a hole through him" if he arrested the father and they were both lodged in jail. They were taken to Rutland Sunday and baker Judge L. P. Wing in the city court and \$5 and costs of \$10.00 each.

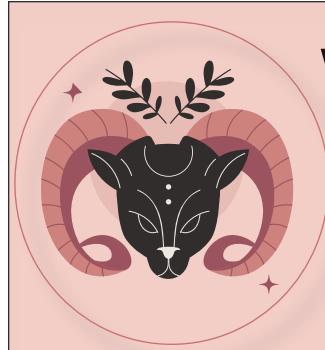
This is the third disastrous fire that has visited the business section in the last seven years. The entire business section on Park street burned at different times but are replaced with new brick buildings.

BY STEVEN JUPITER

Fireworks are beautiful but dangerous! This July 1922 article from the Brandon Union describes a major fire that destroyed two buildings on Center Street (see photo). The site of the incinerated buildings is now occupied by the Brandon Artists Guild and Café Provence.



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, you may be full of more energy than you have had in a while, helping you to sail through all of your tasks this week at a record pace. Enjoy this wave while you ride it.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, heed your body's messages that it needs some rest right now; otherwise, you may not be up for social engagements that are on the horizon. Pisces comes into your life this week.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

You cannot hang out with every person who is trying to get a piece of your time right now, Gemini. It's likely you will need to space out socializing over a few weeks to meet with them all.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, you have been working hard to make professional progress, and it

might be time to think about your next step. It could be time to take your talents elsewhere.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, you are often drawn to unfamiliar experiences that can teach you something new. This week could provide a host of opportunities to try something new.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

It is time to get off the fence and commit to one decision or another, Virgo. Your professional life hinges on your ability to take a path and then stick with it.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, you might be tempted to accept every invitation that comes your way. However, it is better to be smart about the people with whom you associate. Use every opportunity to network.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, take a look at how things should operate before you hit the floor running. You want to be strategic in how you expend your energy; otherwise, you may experience burnout.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

You lean toward being one of the more passionate signs in the zodiac, Sagittarius. That passion will be on full display

this week. You'll wear your heart on your sleeve.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

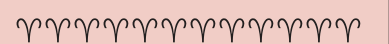
Domestic issues come to the forefront, Capricorn. You're inclined to spend time at home with loved ones. Take this time to work around the house and yard.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, your popularity is growing and it's time to get out there and hang with the movers and shakers. Soon even more people will learn who you are.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Strengthen your ideas with a concrete foundation, Pisces. Only then will your plan come to fruition in the right manner, leading to better success.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- July 12 Buckminster Fuller, architect (d)
- July 13 Harrison Ford, actor (82)
- July 14 Woody Guthrie, singer-songwriter (d)
- July 15 Iris Murdoch, novelist (d)
- July 16 Ida B. Wells, activist (d)
- July 17 Wong Kar-wai, filmmaker (66)
- July 18 Hunter S. Thompson, writer (d)

# Duck Race '24

*(Continued from Page 1)*

last year's second-place finisher and the duckie whom Canyon perceived as his biggest rival. The attack was so serious that it was unclear whether Winky would be able to compete this year.

Generously sponsored in his recovery by Brandon's Nifty Thrifty, Winky embarked on months of hardcore training on the Neshobe, rising before dawn to study the waterway's unpredictable currents and often practicing 'til long after dark. He was spotted just last week by local avian expert Sue Wetmore looking hale and hearty, his injury seemingly a distant memory and his spirits buoyed by an anticipated comeback.

'Twas not to be!

When the duckies were released by the Brandon Fire Department from a fire ladder cantilevered over the Neshobe River behind the Brandon Inn, a cluster that included Winky immediately took a commanding lead. The currents were especially swift that afternoon because of the heavy rains that had pummeled Brandon earlier that day. All that water came down from the mountains of Goshen and created challenging conditions that put the skills of all the duckies to the test.

As the vanguard neared the falls, Winky was in position to take a prize. However, also in that squad were Malibu, in her second attempt at the race, and Winky's archnemesis Canyon!

"It's all a bit of a whirlwind during the race and at times it can be hard to even know which way is up, but I caught a whiff of duckweed as I was trying to position myself for the falls. I immediately went into panic mode," said Winky after the race. "I wanted to keep my

eye on the currents, but I nearly choked on my own bile when I saw Canyon all up in my grill, grinning at me like a ghoul." Winky tried to maintain his composure, but faint quacks of pain escaped his bill as he relayed this harrowing tale.

"I totally lost focus. My paddlework was off. I could see the prize slipping away like a greased pig... all that strife and struggle was for naught! I disappointed my fans, my family, Nifty Thrifty! Why was he even in the race?! How did he get out of the ducktentiary?!" Winky fell into heaving sobs at this point and this author felt it cruel to continue the interview.

While Winky had been in position to claim a prize before hitting the falls, he fell behind after the drop and ultimately finished in fifth place, just short of the podium. Still, however, it was a noble effort for a bird that many had written off after the brutal attack. Even if fifth place does not come with a prize, in this instance it comes with the love and respect of an entire community whose hearts were broken along with Winky's kneecap.

As for Canyon, he defied the odds and any sense of karma by coming in third. He had recently been released from the ducktentiary on a duckknicality. His attorney had successfully argued that the statutes under which Canyon had been charged did not apply to birds. Since neither the plain language of the statutes nor the legislative record mentioned birds, the judge was forced to concede that the state had no authority to hold Canyon. On his exit from the cardboard box where he'd been incarcerated, Canyon is reported to have said, "I must be traveling on now. 'Cause there's too many places I've got to see. And the



**(LEFT TO RIGHT) Malibu, Anchovy, and Canyon came in first, second, and third, respectively, in the annual Rubber Ducky Race. It was Malibu's second race, Anchovy's first, and Canyon's second, though he was disqualified last year for cheating. He was released from the ducktentiary on a duckknicality after his arrest for kneecapping Winky, this year's favorite.**



**DOZENS OF EXCITED spectators line the banks of the Neshobe behind Blue Moon Boutique as they await the duckies' plunge over the falls.**



**THE DUCKIES TAKE the plunge over Neshobe Falls. This is where the race took an unexpected turn.**

bird you cannot change. Lord knows I cannot change."

Officials with the race were at a loss to explain how Canyon had managed to enter the race despite all of his misdeeds, regardless of the outcome of his criminal proceedings.

"We certainly would not have allowed him to enter if we'd been aware of his release," said an official who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal. "But he competed fair and square this time. We

detected no foul play. We felt bound to respect the outcome."

"I think it's an absolute travesty of justice and ethics and morality!" said Lilypad, Winky's mother. "I don't like to say mean things, but Canyon is definitely the one duck I wouldn't mind seeing with a balsamic-orange glaze on a bed of basmati rice!"

"What can I say? I had a great lawyer. Name is Lionel Hutz. If any of y'all ever get tangled up in the criminal justice system,

give ol' Li-Li a holler. He'll do you right," said Canyon relaxing with a cup of chilled worms after the race.

Asked whether he felt any remorse over his actions toward Winky, Canyon honked in derision and preened his tailfeathers.

"I barely touched him," he finally said. "It's not my fault he's so fragile. He should take calcium supplements and build up them bones!"

*(See Duck Race '24, Page 29)*

# Duck Race '24

(Continued from Page 28)

Seemingly neglected in the brouhaha surrounding Winky and Canyon was Malibu, the first-place winner from Scarborough, Maine. This was her second year in the race, having failed to podium last year.

"I just kept my head down and my feet paddling," she said. "I know Canyon was disqualified last year and I'd heard what happened to Winky in the spring...I felt bad, but it's a duck-eat-duck world and I couldn't let it get to me. You don't even have time to register anything going on around you when you're in the thick of it. You have to concentrate on your own performance. I don't let stuff like that harsh my mel-low."

In second place was Anchovy of Revere, MA, a relative newcomer to the sport.

"The watah was wicked cold," said Anchovy, who was unaware of any of the controversy surrounding Winky and Canyon. "I just happened to be in Vermont visiting my nonna, who likes to spend the summah on Lake Dunmore, and thought, 'why not give it a try?' I've always been a fast swimmah. Plus, Brandon's got a Dunks now and everything."

The folks who purchased the winning duckies were

Alyssa Hutchins, who received \$100 for Malibu's first-place win



**ALYSSA HUTCHINS AND her daughter Elsie show off their \$100 first-place prize. Their duckie, Malibu, beat the rest of the field in her second attempt at the race. Congrats to Alyssa, Elsie, and Malibu!**

**DUCKIE RACE CHAIR Jessie Mohan receives the \$25 third-place prize from winner Val Zimmer, who donated the winnings back to the Race Committee as a way of cleansing the controversial win by Canyon, who kneecapped Winky last spring to eliminate him from the race. See story for more details!**

Joy Smith, who received \$50 for Anchovy's second-place finish

Val Zimmer, who received \$25 for Canyon's third-place result

Ms. Zimmer lives in California but was in town visiting family. When she learned of Canyon's checkered past, Ms. Zimmer donated the \$25 prize money back to the Parade Committee, to be used for next year's event.

"I felt it was important to pay it forward in order to put this mess behind us," said Ms. Zimmer.

"Maybe this will set Canyon on a better path."

When Canyon heard this, he erupted in a quackaphony of laughter.

"And this bird you cannot change," he said. "Lord knows I can't change."

All eyes are now on Duck Race 2025!



**THE BRANDON FIRE Department released the duckies into the Neshobe from a ladder truck on the shore. It was a dramatic beginning to a dramatic race! BFD was also at the bottom of the falls to catch the winners make sure all the duckies were safely returned. Thank you to the BFD for all their help with the race!**

## REAL ESTATE



This multi-family Brandon village home offers nice options with two spacious rental units. Or convert it back to a one family home for an impressive property indeed! The enclosed front porch has a marble floor and natural wood ceiling making a welcoming space for relaxing and entertaining. Attached garage and adjacent barn. Lots of room for workspace and storage. The back yard offers a nice grassy area and full sun most of the day. Conveniently located within walking distance to all the amenities Brandon has to offer. Comfort & convenience! \$325,000



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# Official Statement regarding Winky's comeback performance

Nifty Thrifty is disappointed in Winky's 5th place showing at the Duck Race on Saturday, but we are not disappointed in Winky's effort, stamina, and attitude. Even without a ribbon, Winky is still a winner in our books, and we will continue to sponsor him in this next year, leading up to his victorious comeback in 2025.



## Punish camping

(Continued from Page 22)

Burlington is anticipating seeing more people living unsheltered over the next few months as those new limits take effect, said Sarah Russell, the city's special assistant to end homelessness and co-chair of the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance.

That's on top of a stark increase in unsheltered homelessness the county has observed over the last year. Before the first major wave of motel program evictions last June, the county averaged about 60 to 80 people a month self-reporting as unsheltered, Russell said. After the evictions, those numbers skyrocketed, and have remained high. In June, the county tallied 265 people living unsheltered, according to Russell.

Russell does not expect the Supreme Court decision to change Burlington's policies around encampments – which were shaped, in part, by a 2019 settlement in a case brought by the ACLU. The city bans camping in city parks specifically; when it removes an encampment, it must give its inhabitants adequate notice and store their belongings. Recently, the city moved toward providing basic services at some encampments, like water and portable toilets.

Russell described the city's approach to encampments as "human-centered," and said the city's leadership is opposed to "criminalizing poverty and homelessness."

"We know that when we do that, it makes it much more difficult for folks to enter into permanent housing, when they've had multiple low-level interactions with law enforcement or the criminal justice system," she said.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT Request for Bids on Used GMC Suburban

The Town of Pittsford is accepting sealed bids on the sale of 1999 GMC Suburban. This vehicle has 80,060 miles.

This vehicle is to be sold "As Is," with no warranties. The Town makes no guarantees, either express or implied, as to the suitability of this item for any purpose.

Those wishing to inspect the vehicle prior to bidding may contact the Town Manager, David Atherton at (802) 483-6500 x20 to arrange an appointment.

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.

David Atherton, Pittsford Town Manager  
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### SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CLASSIFIEDS



### CUSTODIANS NEEDED

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is accepting applications for:

- Full time Head Custodian at Otter Valley High School, 8 hours per day
- Full time custodian at Otter Valley High School, 8 hours per day
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- Full time custodian at Neshobe Elementary School, 8 hours per day
- Part time custodian at Neshobe Elementary School, 4 hours per day
- Part time custodian at RNEU Central Office, Otter Valley North Campus and Otter Creek Academy, 3 hours per day

Starting rate of pay is \$19.18, with increase based on like experience. Positions will begin July 1, 2024.

Most positions are eligible for health benefits per Act 11. Full-time positions are eligible for dental, long term disability, life insurance and AD&D and Vermont Municipal Employee Retirement benefits.

**Qualifications:** A minimum of a High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with demonstrated custodial experience preferred.

*If interested please apply on [schoolspring.com](http://schoolspring.com) to Rich Vigue, Supervisor of Facilities and Transportation.*

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## Classifieds

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## At Devil's Bowl

# Miner & McPhee claim career-firsts; Cram joins crown vic wins list

WEST HAVEN — Pat Miner and Bubba McPhee each collected their first-career Devil's Bowl Sunoco Sportsman Modified features on Sunday at Devil's Bowl. Mid-Season Championship night meant double features for all classes except for the overflowing Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stocks, sending a litany of winners to victory lane, some for the very first time.

Miner and Johnny Bruno led the first 30-lap feature to green with Miner gaining the early lead. The race was halted on lap seven as Marty Kelly wound up backwards in the south end. Upon the restart, Bruno took the lead from Miner and held strong up front. Near the half-way point, the race was halted again as AJ Munger and Dave Camara were tangled up on the backstretch. Miner retook the top spot on lap 21 and did not give it up. He scored his first-career win in the headline class. Vince Quenneville came up to run 2nd and Bruno was 3rd.

Bubba McPhee won the second 30-lap sportsman contest with a late slide-job on race leader Tim LaDuc. AJ Munger led most of the race before LaDuc got by him on a restart on lap 21. Munger was collected in an incident on another restart a few laps later that also involved Camara, Anthony Warren, Jimm Ryan

and Billy Lussier, setting up a short dash to the finish with McPhee also scoring his first win in Devil's Bowl's headline class. LaDuc was 2nd with Josh Masterson 3rd.

The night's first O'Reilly Limited Sportsman Feature was won by Steve Miller, who beat Scott Towslee and Billy Duprey. Miller led all 20 laps while Towslee and Duprey came from row seven to hit the podium again.

Salisbury, Vt.'s Freddie Little wired the second limited feature, taking the lead on the opening lap from polesitter Tyler Travis. Alex Layn started 8th and got into 2nd position with eight laps remaining, but could not track down Little, as he took his first win of 2024, his second in the limited class. Springfield, Vt.'s Cody O'Brien raced from 6th to 3rd.

In the Hoosier Racing Tire Novice Ranks, Josh Bussino returned to Devil's Bowl Victory Lane, taking the lead from Leicester's Matt Cram with just six laps left to run. Matt Wade joined them on the podium after starting 6th.

Cram redeemed himself in the second feature, dominating every circuit to make his first trip to Devil's Bowl Speedway Victory Lane just a little over two months in to his racing career. Bobbi Hults and

Logan Denis joined Cram on the podium.

Matt wasn't the only Cram to win on Sunday. Rutland, Vt.'s Bradford Cram (unrelated) added his name to the short list of all-time 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic winners in the second feature. After Rob Steele went from 7th to win the first feature for the budding class, Cram got on his horse early in the second act, beating Steele to the front of the field and holding him at bay for the second half of the race to pick up his first win. Chad Merrill impressed as well, going from 10th to 3rd. The crown vics are back in action July 20.

Young, stud drivers Gage Provencher and Quinn Quenneville continued their season-long, tit-for-tat battle in the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint ranks. Provencher won the first feature over Ray Hanson and Vern Woodard, who continued a streak of consistent success. Quenneville had issues and ended up 14th, but came back with a vengeance in feature No. 2, torching the field to collect another win on the year. Provencher was 2nd with Hanoon 3rd and Woodard running well again in 4th.

The Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stocks ran split features for full points and added prize money.

Ryan Patch and Ronnie Alger had the front row in the first feature, but it was 10th starter Jarrod Colburn flexing his muscles early, speeding to the front by lap four. Things were looking good for Colburn, until lap 11 when Chase Allen drove by for the lead. Allen was coming off a win during last Sunday's Independence Day program and went on to repeat the feat. Brian Blake was 2nd with Patch 3rd. Colburn Faded to 4th in the closing laps. Griff Mahoney was 5th.

In the nightcap, Chris Charbonneau scored his first win of 2024 with his No. 4 Mustang, marking the first win for a rear-wheel-drive car in the mini stock class in quite some time. Granville, N.Y.'s Jake Mallory was 2nd with Willie Rice

3rd in a substitute role for Austin McKirryher. Cody Vanguilder turned in a season-best 4th place run, and Dawson Thompson finished 5th.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is back on Saturday, July 13 at 7PM with Hometown Heroes Night, offering FREE general admission to first-responders, fire personnel, ems, police, medical professionals and military with proper ID. There will be another 'wild and crazy' 50-lap enduro. General admission is \$15 with kids 12 and under always free. Infield tailgating is available for \$20 per person. Pit admission is \$28 for members and \$38 for non-members.



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