

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



PITTSFORD HOMECOMING

Pittsford Village Farm held its annual Fall Potluck on Thursday, joined by one guest with a personal connection to the farm: Julia Peterson of Wichita, KS, a descendent of the Swift family.

PG. 3

SUDBURY CENTER

Come one, come all to share your vision of a new Sudbury Village Center on October 19 at the Sudbury Meeting House.

PG. 4

AUTHOR TALK IN ORWELL

Author Phil Holland will be giving a talk at Mount Independence on the Black presence in the Battle of Bennington on October 13.

PG. 18



LEAF PEEPING

If you haven't yet had a chance to admire the area's fall colors, then we've got some photos for you.

PG. 19



"PHANTOM" IN BRANDON

The Brandon Town Hall will be screening the 1925 silent horror film *The Phantom of the Opera* on October 19, just in time for Halloween.

PG. 29



Nonprofit will try to buy building for Orwell community 'We're burying a 57-year-old family member': Buxton's in Orwell to close

BY STEVEN JUPITER

ORWELL—On a sunny weekend, especially in summer, Buxton's on Main Street in Orwell fairly bursts with locals and tourists alike ordering the store's famous gourmet sandwiches, picking up supplies for a camping trip, grabbing a six-pack, or just coming in to visit with the current owner, Andy Buxton, the latest of the Buxton family to preside over the iconic shop.

On days like those, it's often impossible for Andy to even catch his breath.

Yet, as hectic and exhausting as those days can be, they're also lucrative and there haven't been enough of them lately. So, Andy and his wife, Mary, have made the heartwrenching decision to close the shop at the end of this month, in its 57th year. The closure had



ANDY BUXTON STANDS on the front steps of the store his family has run, on and off, since 1967. Buxton's will close at the end of this month, a situation that has stunned and saddened the Orwell community and prompted Orwell resident and VT State Rep. Joe Andriano to form a nonprofit to try to purchase the building from the Buxtons in order to offer the Orwell community a chance to weigh in on the historic property's future.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

been looming in Andy's mind for a while—the financial and personal pressures of the business had become unsustainable—but last week the Buxtons made the announcement in a Facebook video.

The news stunned the local community.

"About a week before we made the video, I told my family we were going to close," Andy said on a quiet afternoon at his shop last week. "The Saturday before, we were shortstaffed at the store and my two daughters were home alone for 8 hours. The younger girl started feeling sick and we weren't there to comfort her because we were here making sandwiches. I have so many photos on my phone of my kids that were taken by other people and sent to me because I was working.

(See *Buxton's*, Page 12)



Yet again!

A TRUCK COMING from Alberta, Canada attempted to cross the Sanderson covered bridge on Pearl Street in Brandon on Friday, October 4, causing significant damage. Despite warnings, truckers sometimes follow their GPS and don't realize until it's too late that their cabs won't make the low clearance. The bridge was closed for a period for inspection and deemed structurally sound.

Photo courtesy of Paul Limmer

Need a ride? Car services arrive in the Brandon area

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Vermont can be tricky without access to a car. Public transportation is limited, and folks often live too far to walk to their destinations. Until recently, there wasn't much the carless could do other than hit friends and family up for rides to work, to the store, to

the doctor, to the airport.

Now, however, the Brandon area is served by at least two paid car services, including its first Uber.

Anyone who finds themselves without a car can avail themselves of these services for rides to and/or from destinations near and far.

(See *Car services*, Page 8)

One year later, the Honoree Fleming case remains unsolved

BY ALAN J. KEAYS/VTDIGGER

CASTLETON—On October 5, 2023, 77-year-old Honoree Fleming, a former college dean, was found shot to death on the Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail, just a short distance from the Vermont State University at Castleton campus.

Soon after, police released a sketch of a "person of interest" in the case. The man, described as white, red-haired and about 5-foot-10-inches tall, was seen leaving the area of the shooting shortly after bystanders heard gunshots, according to investigators.

Trudeau said last week that investigators have received hundreds of tips related to the homicide case and still receive tips "every other week or so" to pursue.

(See *Honoree Fleming*, Page 21)

Names lost in Vermont, Part 34: Mayhew, Nicklaw, and Shoro

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Our last installment of Lost Names [Bush, Bullio, and Anoe, #33] connected us to three more families whose names were transformed in Vermont. Vermont-born Margaret Mayhew, age 36, married widower Peter Bush [Pierre Bousquet] on December 8, 1878. In Brandon town records, her name is written as Mayhew, the church record preserves her original name, Marguerite Mailloux, daughter of Francois Mailloux and Anastasie Privé. Looking further for Margaret's family, one finds her as a seven-year-old child in the household of Franklin Mayo in Brandon's 1850 census. In the early years of their marriage, Margaret's parents shuttled between Vermont and towns just over the border in Québec. Two

of their children were baptized in Québec: one son Magloire Mailloux [who went by Mike Mayhew] in Burlington, and three daughters at St. Monica's Church in Forest Dale. Twelve years after Peter Bush's death, his widow Margaret (Mayhew) Bush married Civil War veteran Thomas Niles in 1900. They lived in Brandon until Thomas's death in 1922. Thereafter, Margaret moved away, likely living with one of her children out of state until her death several years after Thomas. The November 1929 obituary of Margaret's sister, Victoria Devino, does not list her as one of her surviving siblings.

Back now to the Beaulieu family and to two of Lucie (Beaulieu) Bush's sisters. Her sister Rosella married Frank Shoro.

Their monument in St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon lacks a top. After emigrating from Québec, Frank and his family adopted Shoro as their last name. The first clue in ascertaining his real name comes through his marriage record at St. Joseph's Church in Burlington: François Charron married Rosalie Beaulieu on January 8, 1852. Frank

volunteered for Civil War service in Company H, 5th Vermont Volunteers to serve in the Civil War. Wounded and hospitalized for nine months, he was given a medical discharge. His certificate indicates he was born in Moscow, Canada. We've seen other instances of this birthplace, a spelling variation of Maska, the original name of St.-Hyacinthe. Indeed, that is where Francois Charron was baptized on August

7, 1833. Coming to Brandon on

Phil Nicklaw. Nicklaw usually



FRANK SHORO ARMY discharge showing his birthplace as Moscow.

his own as a teenager, he joined a well-established community of expatriates from neighboring villages in Québec. Despite wartime injuries, Frank Shoro lived a long life, as reflected in his obituary from the Brandon Union in February 1919. Two of Frank and Rosalie's children lived into their nineties. A photo in the Rutland Herald commemorated Frank Shoro, Jr. and his wife Belle Larock on their 65th wedding anniversary in 1952.

Frank died age 93. Longest lived of her generation, Lenora (Shoro) Loomis died in 1975, age 98! Lucie and Rosalie Beaulieu's younger sister, Eleanore, married in Brandon on July 26, 1858. Her husband's name has a complicated history. The church record states his name as John Baptist Philibert Jack. From the monument in St. Mary's Cemetery, his name is carved as J.B. Philip Nicklaw. J.B., typical for many French-Canadians, is Jean Baptiste. For most of his Vermont years, he was known as

derives from the French Nicolas, also a first name, with the Nicklaw variant crunching the three syllables of Nicolas into two. But one would not have found him with the Nicolas surname in the baptismal register at the church in St. Hyacinthe. Instead, we have Jean Baptiste Philibert Jacques born in August 1838, son of François-Xavier Jacques and Scholastique de Deland. Why did we go from Jacques to

(See Names lost, Page 6)



FRANK AND BELLE Shoro anniversary photo.



Cobble Knoll Orchard

Apples available on the stand and pick-your-own

Homemade Cider Donuts and Apple Pies. Fresh Pressed Cider, Maple Syrup, Honey, Vermont artisan cheese, Jams, Pickles, Apple Butter, Pumpkins and Squash

Open Daily 9 AM - 5 PM through Oct. 27
1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743

Check availabilities at CobbleKnollOrchard.com, Facebook or Instagram.

THE TOWN HALL PLAYERS

WILL BE HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR THEIR
UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF
"OLDE TYME RADIO READINGS"

A combination of Comedy and Spooky plays from the 1940's, just in time for Halloween, set in a sultry Cabaret setting. The plays will be performed on Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26 at 7:00 pm in the Brandon Town Hall.



AUDITIONS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH,
4:00 TO 6:00 PM
IN THE BRANDON TOWN HALL

To sign up for auditions email Dennis at denniswarden@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 802-247-5420

Have you ever wanted to perform on stage without having to memorize lines or blocking? Then staged readings are the way to go!



Homecoming at Pittsford Village Farm

Julia Peterson of Wichita, Kansas visited the Pittsford Village Farm (PVF) last Thursday for PVF's Fall Potluck, which featured delicious food prepared by Pittsford residents and pizzas generously donated by Keith's Country Store & Deli. Julia's grandmother, Ruth Caroline Caverly Swift Miner (1894-1964), had grown up on what is now PVF as the daughter of Dr. Henry Swift, who established his practice in PVF's main house back in the late 1800s.

Ruth received a nursing certificate from Middlebury College and was stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, NH when she met Oliver Miner, who was a doctor at the hospital. Ruth and Oliver were born on the same day in 1894 and got married on that date in 1918.

The Miners eventually moved out to Kansas, but

Ruth always remained a Vermont girl, according to Julia. She liked to fish and shoot guns and once, as a child, got herself in trouble for wearing her brother's trousers to go sledding, "a no-no for a girl at the time," said Julia.

Though Julia grew up in Kansas, she remembers visiting her grandmother's childhood home on a family trip as a child. Now, as an adult, Julia has given generous financial support to PVF, Maclure Library, and the Pittsford Historical Society. Each received a gift of \$10,000.

"I admire the people of Pittsford," said Julia. "They work so hard."

And the people of Pittsford thank Ms. Peterson for her generosity. Welcome home, Julia!



LEFT: JULIA PETERSON of Wichita, Kansas stands with Baird Morgan, an honorary board member of the Pittsford Village Farm (PVF), with the house where her grandmother Ruth Caroline Caverly Swift grew up in the late 1800s. The house is now the centerpiece of PVF's operations. Ms. Peterson attended PVF's potluck dinner last Thursday. Below: Ruth Caroline Caverly Swift with her parents, Dr. & Mrs. Henry Swift. Dr. Swift ran his practice from the PVF house. Above: Ruth Caroline Caverly Swift on her wedding day in 1918 to Oliver Miner.

Family photos courtesy of Julia Peterson



Spotlight On Business

THE SAFER SOCIETY FOUNDATION



Brandon.org for more info



The Safer Society Foundation is a nonprofit organization established by Fay "Honey" Knopp in the mid-1990s to address the critical issue of sexual abuse of children. We focus on creating trainings, guidebooks, and treatment resources for the

professionals across North America and even around the world who are on the front lines of this effort. We are proud to have called Brandon our home for nearly three decades.

SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 Medicare Advantage plans will no longer be available in Vermont in 2025

BY PETER D'AURIA/
VTDIGGER

Two Medicare Advantage plans will cease operations in Vermont in January, leaving several thousand covered residents in the state in need of new coverage by the beginning of 2025.

The two plans, operated by MVP and WellCare, a subsidiary of health care giant Centene, will no longer be offered in the state — news that comes as insurers cut Medicare Advantage offerings nationwide.

UVM Health Advantage, a plan offered in partnership with the University of Vermont Health Network, was no longer financially viable amid an increase in medical utilization and regulatory changes, MVP and the UVM Health Network said. The plan currently covers about 6,000 Vermonters — roughly 11% of residents on a Medicare Advantage plan.

“It’s a difficult decision, one that we wish we didn’t have to make,” said Jordan Estey, MVP’s vice president of government affairs. “But as a small regional not-for-profit organization, the realities are the realities. And unlike some of our peers — you know, national for-profit plans — it’s more difficult for us to weather this type of financial impact in the

short term.”

The plan will continue to operate in several counties in northern New York, Estey said, where it covers far fewer people.

A representative for WellCare could not be reached for comment Thursday afternoon. A company press release in August said that WellCare would not be offering Medicare Advantage plans in six states, including Vermont, in 2025.

As of September, Vermont had about 54,000 people on Medicare Advantage plans, according to data from the federal Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services.

It’s not clear how many people are covered by WellCare’s Medicare Advantage plan. As of 2021, according to state data, WellCare covered only about 1,500 people — 6% of Vermonters on Medicare Advantage plans at the time.

The news comes just weeks before Medicare’s annual open enrollment period, which begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. The plans will continue to provide coverage until Jan. 1. Vermonters covered by the plans will need to return to traditional Medicare or choose another Medicare Advantage plan during that period to retain health insurance.



If I were a little sparrow O'er these mountains I would fly
THIS MIGRATING NELSON'S sparrow can sometimes be found in the wet grasses and cattails at the Pomainville Wildlife Management Area in Pittsford.
Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Joint Spaghetti Dinner on October 19th, at the Shoreham Congregational Church

Both the Bridport Grange and the Shoreham Congregational Church have buildings that need repair. The two organizations are joining forces to sponsor a Spaghetti Dinner, using the space at the Shoreham Congregational

Church, to benefit the Building Funds of both groups. By combining the workforces and resources of both the Shoreham Congregational Church and the Bridport Grange, they plan to create a community event for both towns that

will benefit both of them. The Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 5 to 7:30 PM. The menu includes spaghetti with both meat and vegetarian sauces, (See Joint Spaghetti Dinner, Page 9)

Local residents invited to envision a Sudbury Village Center and more

Residents from the surrounding community are invited to attend the Sudbury Village Center Pop-Up on October 19th at the Sudbury Meeting House from 12pm until 4pm. The event will bring people together to imagine, play, and dance

out the possibilities of recreating a vibrant town center. With activities that include music and square dancing in the meeting hall, a pop-up cider and donuts café in the Cook House, horse-drawn wagon rides and pumpkin bowling

in the barn, locals can learn about the area’s traditional role as the center of life in the region and share their vision for its revival. The Sudbury Village Center Pop-Up is an event that looks at how the (See Sudbury Center, Page 9)

Brandon Energy Committee upcoming events

There is another Brandon Repair Fair planned for Sunday October 20th, from 12:00 to 4:00, in the Town Hall. We expect to be offering similar services as last time with multiple members of ReBHS and the Energy Committee present. Will send pictures after, and of course we’d appreciate it if it could be in the

community calendar. Also, the Brandon Energy Committee and SolarFest are again sponsoring a Button Up weatherization event, also at the town hall, on Saturday October 26th, from 10:00 -11:30, in the downstairs meeting room of the Town Hall. Informational and training sessions from BROC/

HEAT Squad/Efficiency Vermont will be featured. There will be drawings for Ace gift cards and other items for those who attend, as well as free weatherization materials. People can register and learn more at: www.solarfest.org/brandon

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 23

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

REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a 501c3 nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary; Mitchell Pearl; Shelly Williams.

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Letters to the Editor

We had a great weekend of activities here in Brandon

Thanks for a beautiful weekend in Brandon! It started on Thursday, when a bunch of local folks (150 of them!) headed to Salem, MA on a Brandon Rec-sponsored bus for a day of history and fun! And it continued on Friday and Saturday nights with classic Halloween Movies at the Brandon Drive In—double features at that! A time for families and friends to make memories together. And

then Sunday rolled in with our famous Harvest Fest, replete with hay rides, bounce houses (courtesy of Whirlies World), our Leaf People, a great performance by One for the Road, and loads of terrific vendors!

These things only happen with a core group of dedicated volunteers keeping things rolling: Rick Nicklaw, Patty Moore, Dallas and Jeff Ladd, (See *Great weekend*, Page 13)

Why I'm running for the Vermont House of Representatives

I decided to run for the Vermont House of Representatives because life in Brandon has become increasingly unaffordable. When I visit local businesses, owners often share their frustrations about the challenges they face—burdensome regulations, high taxes, and a shortage of workers. Residents, too, express concerns about rising property taxes and the increasing cost of almost everything.

After knocking on doors and speaking with my neighbors, I'm more convinced than ever that many Brandon residents are struggling to pay their bills. I've heard complaints about the costs of running heat pumps—people say they're expensive to maintain, and when they break after the warranty expires, homeowners are left to fend for themselves. WCAX recently reported that heating with oil is expected

to be the least expensive option this winter, while electricity will be the most costly.

Looking ahead, the forecast for next year includes even more tax increases. I'm committed to finding ways to make Vermont affordable for its most vulnerable residents, because the current trajectory is making life increasingly difficult for too many.

Under our current legislature, (See *Why I'm running*, Page 11)

Stephanie Jerome has made her positions clear and has my vote

On November 5, we will be faced with many decisions that will greatly impact our future. One of those decisions is who to trust to represent Brandon as our representative in the Vermont State Legislature. I am placing my trust in Stephanie Jerome. I trust Stephanie because, unlike

her opponent, Stephanie has not only made public her positions on the issues that matter most to Vermonters, (see <https://www.stephaniejeromevt.com>) but she has actively worked to resolve the problems we face. Stephanie understands that legislative success requires working across

partisan lines to create outcomes that benefit everyone.

Stephanie understands that many of us are struggling with the costs of living, especially those of us who are on fixed incomes with high medical expenses and limited access to affordable health insurance. Stephanie

supports a number of legislative measures designed to ease those financial burdens, such as banning unethical practices by Pharmacy Benefits Managers, that drive up the costs of medications; eliminating the practice known as “prior authorization” (See *My vote*, Page 11)

'No' is not governance; I'm voting for Jerome

“No” is not a plan for the future nor a solution to any real problem. No is just a two-letter word that invokes negative emotions and does very little to engage people in discussion or collaboration, something that is desperately needed these days. The idea that Todd Nielsen's main promise while running for Brandon's one State Representative seat is that he will vote no on all tax or fee increases is far too simplistic a concept of governing. A good public servant must remain open to all ideas because that (See *Not 'No'*, Page 13)

I will choose to be represented by Stephanie Jerome

Choices are good. We are lucky to live in a country where we have choices. This election year we citizens of Brandon will choose how we will be represented in Montpelier. I, for one, will choose to be represented by Stephanie Jerome, someone who is thoughtful, experienced, and

understands the many sides of complicated issues.

I have known Stephanie and her husband, Brian, for over twenty years now and cannot think of a better person to work for us in Montpelier.

Stephanie grew up in Rutland County, attending local schools

and UVM. When she and Brian decided to raise a family, they chose Brandon because of the strong sense of community they saw here and because of the local schools. Stephanie Jerome is a strong supporter of our local schools, which she believes are the bedrock of our community.

The Jeromes started a successful business in town, producing science education videos. They bought and improved a rundown commercial property in town to house their business. A few years later they bought another empty commercial building nearby (See *My choice*, Page 13)

It is time to move on

This is where the beginning must be. It takes a balance of differing voices, sorting through issues relevant to Vermont voters today to produce the best solutions. We need to know what the real issues are and who will do their best for us before we cast our ballot. At this point we have had the same grouping of like-minded individuals saying the same old stuff every year. Usually, they repeat the same old plans, only

tweaking them here and there instead of challenging themselves to create new and better plans. Our local budgets are bad and continue to rise as do our taxes. Too many people moving to Vermont, homeless people eating up state dollars, and high school taxes are easy to blame when in fact we need to focus on what we can do better rather than shifting blame from one to the other. We

(See *Move on*, Page 13)

Thank you from the Brandon Senior Center

The Board of Directors for the Brandon Senior Citizens Center would like to thank Tanner Romano and the members of his team at Naylor and Breen for an excellent job at our community dinner on September 24th. We had a crowd and Charity Eastman, Deb Perry, Miles Krans,

Jacob Krans, John Eugair, Erin Eugair, Elizabeth Eugair and especially Cindy Norton took care of serving and clearing with the expertise of a 5 Star restaurant! Thanks to all for your professionalism and happy attitudes, you made it fun!

Kathy Mathis

U.S. history has lessons for this coming election

“The passage of the Tea Act (1773) by the British Parliament gave the East India Company ex-

clusive rights to transport tea to the colonies and empowered it to (See *Election lessons*, Page 31)

What should motivate us to vote?

Voting record is more important than personality in elections

Voting is one of the most important civic duties we have, but the motivation behind how we cast our ballots can be complex. Is it habit? Emotions? A rational assessment of

the issues? Elections undeniably stir emotions, often dominated by anger and frustration—anger over the rising cost of living, the struggle to pay bills, or the perception that life is getting harder. This emotional charge (See *Motivation to vote*, Page 28)

Stephanie Jerome has a record of helping Brandon

As neighbors in this election season have pointed out, it is heartbreaking to see folks struggling to make ends meet due to rising costs of living, increased taxes, and other financial burdens. What is just as heartbreaking is how some struggling Brandonites, and many, often angry, others, have been convinced that they would be better off based on simple campaign slogans of “change” and “no new taxes.” The problem is, even if there are no new taxes for fees, there remain a host of problems to solve and people to help.

Many of the forces driving local economic hardship extend way beyond Vermont's borders. State legislators must collaborate to position the state and its resi- (See *Record of helping*, Page 9)

A request for a stay of execution of one of Brandon's oldest residents

A 150-plus-year-old resident living in the public way between 42 and 44 Park Street in Brandon has been slated for execution by the Town.

This state tree of Vermont (*Acer saccharum*—“sugar maple”) and its partner tree were planted in the mid-to-late 1800s. It and its mate are our last “bride & groom” trees

still standing together on this historic street. Without considering possible options, our Town has already removed many of these historic living structures.

It's true the tree is old. It has shelf fungus and is in decline. However, it is far from dead! It may just need assisted care. It has (See *Stay of execution* Page 9)

Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

Nicklaw? That has me stumped because it does not follow a known dit name variation.

Unlike his brother-in-law Frank Shoro, Phil Nicklaw's parents moved to Forest Dale. In Brandon's 1870 census, Phil's father Francis also went by the name Nicklaw, with his mother's name written as Augusta.

A gravestone survives for Francis, with his name carved as F. X. Jacques. In the next census, Augusta appears as Calista DeLand, close to her actual maiden name. She spent her last years in Greenfield, Massachusetts, where she died in 1894. Although her body was returned to Brandon, her name was not inscribed on her husband's stone.

Just adding to the puzzle of flip-flopping surnames, Phil and his brother Peter kept the Nicklaw name while three of their brothers went by Jacques!

Beers's Atlas of 1869 for the village of Forest Dale gives us a snapshot of who lived there in

a tightly knit community. More importantly, it gives us evidence of assimilation and integration as to why some immigrants lost their French-Canadian names. Brothers-in-law Frank Shoro and Phil Nicklaw are nestled between the houses of Vermont

natives Nathan Churchill and Christopher Bump. One wonders, after 150 years, how many descendants of these families still live in the area...



SNIP OF BEERS'S Atlas for Forestdale in 1869.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Brandon* in the County of *Rutland* of *Vermont* enumerated by me, on the *10th* day of *Sept* 1850. *William Johnson*

1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10 11 12		
			Age	Sex	Color				Value of Real Estate	Place of Birth	Value of Personal Estate
1221	1222	1223	28 m			Labour		Canada			
			26 f								
			7 f								
			6 m								
			4 m								
			1 f								

FRANKLIN MAYO AKA François Mailloux in Brandon 1850 census.

ONLINE AUCTION
(1589) Warehouse Equip. & Tools
Auction Closes: Mon., Oct. 22 @ 10 AM

PREVIEW AUCTION: MONDAY, OCT. 21 FROM 11AM-1PM
131 DORSET LANE, WILLISTON, VT LOCATION

Over 345 lots of clean, late model machinery and equipment from a recently closed Shelburne, VT fulfillment center, including: Toyota, Lomatsu & Hyster Forklifts, Crown Stock Pickers, Pallet Trucks, Cam-A-Lot XR 42-C Vertical Baler, Conveyors, Air Compressors, Work Benches, Gerie Lifts and Vbra!

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FRANK SHORO
 died at his home in Forestdale, January 31, aged 85 years. He had been ill from a complication of diseases due mainly to his advanced years.

Mr. Shoro was a life-long resident of Forestdale and enlisted from this town in Company H., 5th Vt., with which he served his country in the civil war. He was a member of C. J. Oamsbee Post, a delegation from which was in attendance at his funeral. The funeral was held from St. Mary's church, Rev. Father Cray officiating. The bearers were five sons and a son-in-law, Mr. Edward Loomis. He is survived by nine children, five sons, Frank and Lewis of Forestdale, John and Edward of North Hampton, Herbert of Greenfalls N. Y. and four daughters, Mrs. Rose Miles of Forestdale, Mrs. Hattie Major of Northampton, Mass., Mrs. Mary Surprise of Springfield, Mass., and Mrs. Edward Loomis of Rutland. He is also survived by twenty-nine grandchildren and fourteen great grand children. The burial was in the Catholic cemetery in Brandon.



BRANDON UNION'S OBIT for Frank Shoro and family grave-stones for Shoro, Jacques, and Nicklaw.

BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.
 3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • www.barnardfuneralhome.com

(802) 483-2811 Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory

BRANDON REPORTER

Sports

Otter Valley football continues its roll with a 42-12 win over Missisquoi Valley Union High School

Go, Otters!



Photos by Colin Carroccia



LEFT TO RIGHT: SENATOR WEEKS, GOVERNOR SCOTT, SENATOR COLLAMORE, AND SENATOR WILLIAMS.

RE-ELECT RUTLAND COUNTY'S

WINNING TEAM

SENATOR BRIAN COLLAMORE

SENATOR DAVE WEEKS

SENATOR TERRY WILLIAMS

VOTE BY NOV. 5TH

★ **GROW THE ECONOMY**

★ **MAKE VERMONT MORE AFFORDABLE**

★ **PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE**

PAID FOR BY THE COLLAMORE FOR SENATE COMMITTEE, FRIENDS OF DAVE WEEKS, AND TERRY WILLIAMS FOR SENATE



DOROTHEA LANGEVIN WITH her Tesla. Langevin is Brandon's first official Uber driver. She also offers rides through her own service: E.V. Shuttle Rides. Brandon resident (and Selectboard member) Tim Guiles also offers rides in his electric vehicle. Langevin and Guiles have driven clients locally and as far as New Jersey and Boston.
Photo by Steven Jupiter

Car services

(Continued from Page 1)

Dorothea Langevin of Brandon has been offering her driving services since March of this year and is now Brandon's only official Uber driver. For those who don't have access to the Uber phone app, Langevin takes ride requests through her own service E.V. Shuttle Rides.

"I've always owned a car in the 30 years I've been living in the state and always liked driving," said Langevin. "I always took the flexibility of my own vehicle quite for granted. Moving to Brandon from Middlebury, I became aware of a gap in transportation I wasn't aware of before."

Langevin is a relatively recent arrival in Brandon and saw an opportunity to provide a necessary service to a new community in which she felt welcomed. Equipped with a new Tesla and a commercial driver's insurance policy, she began offering paid rides to those who need them.

"I realized how important transportation is to the viability of a community," she said.

Langevin's clients use her services of a wide range of reasons. There are those whose own vehicles are temporarily out of commission. Some folks don't want to leave their own cars at the airport or train station. Others are just visiting and don't have access to a car (guests at local inns often call her). And some people simply can't afford the expense of a vehicle and find it more economical to call Langevin when necessary than to pay for gas, insurance, etc.

Langevin joined the Uber network for the ease of the phone app and for the brand recognition. Uber requires a background check of all its drivers, who must have clean driving and criminal records. The company also insists on certain

standards of comfort and safety in its drivers' vehicles.

Once she was an official Uber driver, Langevin spent the summer gaining experience up in Burlington, where there's an established network of other Uber drivers. She boasts a perfect 5-star rating from her clients.

"I've worked hard for that," she says. She's completed over 500 rides and spends 10 hours per day, 5 days per week in her car.

The cost of a ride is set by Uber if the ride is requested through the app. If requested from her directly, she charges \$1.50/mile plus a charge for pick-up if the distance is great. For example, a pick-up at Burlington Airport would likely incur a travel charge for the time it takes her to travel from Brandon to Burlington.

But distance is generally not a deterrent for Langevin. If she can fit the ride into her schedule, she's generally willing to cover longer distances. She recently drove a client 4 hours each way to a destination in New York.

However, Langevin cautions that because of the rural nature of the area and the distances she often covers, it's usually best to pre-arrange rides with her to ensure her availability.

"There's a good chance I'm not going to be right around the corner if someone requests a ride at the last minute," she said.

Langevin is willing to drive from 10 a.m. to roughly 8 p.m. Rides after 8 p.m. can be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, though Langevin does not provide late-night rides home for folks who have had too much to drink at a bar or party.

"It's a safety issue," she said.

According to Langevin there's a need for other drivers in the area and that the gig is perfect for "re-

tired, outgoing people with reliable cars who want to make some money."

Anyone interested in arranging a ride can contact her through the Uber app or by texting her at (802) 458-1847. Langevin prefers texts to voice calls.

Langevin is not the only car service in town, however. Brandon resident (and Selectboard member) Tim Guiles also provides rides to those who need them.

"This is my second year offering rides in my electric car," said Guiles. "My typical ride is to or from Burlington Airport, but I've also given rides to and from Middlebury, Rutland, Hanover, NH, Boston, Albany, and even Princeton, NJ. I give rides as a hobby, so I'm not always available. I fit rides around my other activities. I've driven to NJ several times, and it would be fun to go anywhere in North America if someone wanted me to drive them there...and I could find time in my calendar."

Guiles charges \$1.50 per miles in advance of the scheduled ride and has set fees for common destinations:

- Rutland: \$45
- Middlebury: \$45
- Burlington Airport: \$100
- Albany Airport: \$160
- Montreal Airport: \$240
- Boston Airport: \$270

Anyone interested in scheduling a ride with Guiles can call or text (802) 279-2168.

So the next time you find yourself needing to pick your car up at the mechanic's or wanting to take the train from Rutland without leaving your car in the lot or having a medical appointment that would be unsafe to drive home from, remember you now have options beyond your circle of friends and family.

Stay of execution

(Continued from Page 5)

recently withstood hurricane-force winds and torrential rains. Is there a remedy less drastic than totally removing it? Has an arborist imaged the tree to determine its actual condition? Would pruning dead/dangerous limbs, eliminating imminent danger to the public, be a better option? Should our Town make an effort to maintain the few remaining monumental maples? Can we grant this tree a stay of execution while planting more trees? These last standing trees are evidence of the once grand cano-

py that lined so many of Brandon's streets.

The circumference of this specific tree is approximately 113 inches. Its canopy is still substantial and its leaves appear to be healthy. It provides oxygen, extracts carbon dioxide, moderates air, sound, and visual pollution, absorbs water and stabilizes our land. If killed, its partner and other trees may well follow suit. Its trunk and branches alone are awesome to behold. Given our warming climate, the shade and respite from an increasingly brutal sun will be sacrificed.

I personally will be deeply affected by the removal of this particular tree, but the loss of any of these grand maples diminishes Brandon's streetscape for decades to come. Once removed, no one will witness such grandeur for another century and a half. Let's plant more trees. Let's also put our best effort into the care and maintenance of our remaining living legends.

*Helyn Anderson
Brandon*



Record of helping

(Continued from Page 5)

dents in the best ways possible to avoid further hardship and take advantage of economic opportunities. Unless the candidate for change has other ideas or talents not yet disclosed, it remains unclear how he will approach legislative duties. Listening and caring is a great start, but alone will not solve problems.

I am left to assume that the candidate will follow the party line (unless any tax or fee in-

creases are involved). The general economic philosophy of the Republican party is to favor investors and businesses on the assumption that the wealth created at these levels will trickle down to the rest of us. This would include health care and fossil fuel industries, for example, coincidentally the sources of rising costs and big donor backers of Republican candidates. It's questionable whether this philosophy is working, given the enormous

income gap and the struggle of lower income folks.

Democratic economic policies generally favor low- and middle-income people, on the assumption that the economy is grown from the ground up. This, clearly, has not solved all Vermont's problems either, given all the outside forces the state must contend with. The question before us locally can't be boiled down to political generalities, rather, who will work to help

Brandon's residents? In addition to dealing with extremely complex issues at the State House, I've observed Stephanie Jerome spending countless hours helping people one-on-one to access financial and other needed assistance. She frequently publicly provides resources for seniors, tax relief, and low-income assistance, though it's not clear how many use these resources.

For voters, it does, indeed, require time and effort to look be-

yond campaign slogans to what a candidate may actually do. The issues in need of resolution are seriously more complicated than simple one-idea campaign slogans and assertions that state government and regulations are the problem. Legislating is really hard work, and we need to ensure our representative is up to the task. I already know Stephanie Jerome is.

*Susan Johnson
Brandon*

Sudbury Center

(Continued from Page 4)

community could engage in a restoration project in the Sudbury-Lake Hortonia region that creates public amenities and communal spaces. Members of the non-profit Sudbury Community Club and the Lake Hortonia Community Trust joined together to create "SUD HUB - Restoring Community Together".

Sudbury and Lake Hortonia community members and visitors once gathered at Andy's Campground, Jones Store & Creamery, Hyde Manor, Hortonville, the Dance Pavilion, and the Lake Hortonia Country Store.

"We hope to bring back some of the social and business centers that were fundamental to our towns in the past," says Larry Rowe, President, Board of Directors of the Sudbury Community Club. "The

Pop-Up event can help residents visualize a village center, and will allow us to collect ideas and feedback about the type of places they would like to see return to the Sudbury and Lake Hortonia area."

SUD-HUB board members will use the community's input to set a course toward acquiring property that can reestablish these important hubs. The group is evaluating several central properties for possible acquisition using state grants and fundraising.

Schedule of events for the Sudbury Village Center Pop-Up:

- 12-1 pm Chili Cook Off and Live Music by Hermit Hollow String Band

- 1-3 pm Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, Cider & Donuts, Open Mic for Local Musicians, Local artist and vendor displays, lawn games

and Bowling

- 3-4 pm Square Dancing
- 12-4 pm: survey collection, self-guided tour of the Sudbury

Meeting House, Cook Farmhouse and Barn

For more information about SUD-HUB and the Sudbury Village

Center Pop-Up, visit <https://sudburyvt.org/> or email sudhubVT@gmail.com

Joint Spaghetti Dinner

(Continued from Page 4)

tossed salad, bread, beverages and dessert. The cost is \$12 for adults and children 12 and over, or \$6 for children under 12.

Proceeds will be split between the two organizations.

At the dinner, we will also sell raffle tickets for a donated cord of

firewood. The winner will need to deliver and split the wood themselves or arrange to have it done. Ticket prices are 1 ticket for \$1, 6 tickets for \$5, and 12 tickets for \$10. The drawing will be at a pancake breakfast on November 9. You will not need to be present at the drawing to win.

Re-elect

Stephanie JEROME

State Representative

Brandon

★ VOTE BY ★

NOVEMBER 5th



Paid for by Stephanie Jerome for House of Representatives

www.stephaniejeromevt.com

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Wyatt Poljacik

GRADE: 3

SCHOOL: Lothrop Elementary

MEDIUM: Cake Tempera Paints

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



WYATT'S STATEMENT:

"I feel good about the picture because I took my time. I love art. I started with the brown and then I added orange for the blending and then the yellow and then the red."

Why I'm running

(Continued from Page 5)
 health insurance premiums have become some of the highest in the nation. Despite our high per-pupil spending, student performance in Vermont remains low. Meanwhile, drug addiction is soaring, and instead of focusing on rehabilitation and supporting our police, the legislature is promoting safe injection sites. Homelessness is also on the rise, and I believe we need to prioritize getting people back to work instead of enabling them to remain on the streets. In my own experience working security, I've seen homeless individuals walk out of stores with full shopping carts without paying, unafraid of any consequences.

Our legislature also voted for the Clean Heat Standard study that would mandate fees on heating oil and propane if approved, but even the Public Utility Commission now acknowledges that the plan may not be viable. As they recently wrote: "Our work over the past year and a half on the Clean Heat Standard demonstrates that it does not make sense for Vermont, as a lone small state, to develop a clean

heat credit market and the associated clean heat credit trading system... These additional regulatory hurdles and costs... may not achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals for the thermal sector." They are now considering a new thermal energy benefit charge on the sale of heating fuel, which would add even more costs for Vermonters.

I agree with Governor Phil Scott, who said: "In January, the Legislature will decide how to move forward on their Clean Heat Standard. A new independent consultant report, required by the Legislature, estimates it could cost around \$10 billion. Vermonters cannot afford new or higher costs, especially when it comes to heating their homes."

As your representative, I will fight to make Vermont more affordable by addressing the real concerns of everyday people—whether it's the cost of living, the quality of education, or public safety. We need practical, sensible solutions, not costly policies that push Vermonters further into hardship.

*Todd Nielsen
 Brandon*

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



My vote

(Continued from Page 5)
 for primary care providers, so that the physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners at local offices, clinics, and community health centers can order tests or make referrals without first seeking permission from insurance companies; and increasing eligibility for the state Medicare Savings Program, to ensure that older Vermonters transitioning from Medicaid to Medicare aren't placed in a financial bind by increased premiums and co-pays. Stephanie also supports interstate compacts that allow healthcare professionals licensed in neighboring states to practice across state lines, increasing the availability of health care providers and making it easier for Vermonters to find an appro-

priate provider. Stephanie also understands that health care includes reproductive health care, and that family-planning decisions, like all other health care decisions, are deeply personal.

I don't know where Todd Nielsen stands on these issues. I don't know how he plans to address our high medical insurance costs, or to ensure our access to necessary medical care. Without any information about how he will work to create and pass legislation that will actually address and resolve the many issues that affect the cost of living in Vermont, including the cost of health care, I can't trust him with my vote.

*Cecil Reniche-Smith
 Brandon*

Queen Connie reigns over the cloudy skies
 FEATS OF STRENGTH continue to impress.
 Photo by Sepi Alavi

Buxton's

(Continued from Page 1)

People tell me memories of my own kids. My kids deserve more. We owe them more.”

Andy added that if the store were profitable, he'd try to find a way to keep it going. But changes in the post-COVID labor market and in shopping habits have put an unmanageable strain on the business.

“At our peak, I signed about 25 paychecks a week,” he said. “Now I've got 5 paid employees and we're operating at reduced hours. I've got an amazing, dedicated team, but we can't operate with only 5 employees. A general can't lead into battle if the infantry isn't there.”

“I don't want to blame the problems of the business 100% on COVID,” he continued. “But it definitely had an effect. After the pandemic, people took jobs with easier hours and better benefits. We're open every day except Christmas. People want a better work-life balance.”

Andy's grandparents, Dick and Thelma Buxton, who established the store in 1967, had initially refused to sell Andy the business for exactly that reason: they knew the toll it takes.

“They didn't want that for me,” said Andy, who grew up helping out at the store with the rest of his family. “They said ‘No way, José’ when I asked about buying the business when I was 26 back in 2006. They didn't want me to miss out on family life like they did.”

It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, however, since his grandparents' refusal to sell to him allowed him to continue working in hospitality, honing his managerial and culinary skills.

“I thought I could handle it at the time,” he laughed. “But I would've known only what my grandparents knew and would've only been able to continue it their way.”

So, ready to retire, Dick and Thelma sold the store in 2006 to someone outside the family, a man named Doug Edwards from upstate New York. Doug continued the place under the Buxton's name, but soon came to realize that running the main store in a small rural town can take a lot out of a fella.

“Doug is a good man, but he was burning out,” said Andy.

In 2015, Andy and Mary moved back to Orwell from Middlebury. One day Andy found himself in the store just as a customer.

“It was around Christmas,” Andy recalled. “I was just shopping, and Doug said that if I was ever interested in buying back the store to let him know. Mary and I hemmed and hawed, but I wanted to do something on my own and thought, ‘Wait a minute... maybe this is the path.’”

The sale was completed two years later, in 2017, when Andy and Mary's daughters were 2 and 4. The

girls have grown up helping out, just as Andy did.

“It's great. They help at the register,” he said. “People love to see that involvement.”

Andy set about transforming Buxton's from a general store that sold everything under the sun—“My grandfather had spark plugs for every known car and boxes of toilet flanges in the back”—to a food-based market.

“I don't know anything about toilet flanges and it didn't make sense to stock inventory you might sell once a year,” he laughed.

Andy developed his own menu. The gourmet sandwiches became a Buxton's trademark, with people traveling from all over the area to give themselves a treat. He also got a license to sell liquor as an 802 Spirits outlet, though he likens the onerous process to “applying for two different mortgages in two different countries.” He hoped to

consumer products, such as Lysol spray, that a small store like Buxton's can't obtain from its suppliers.

And the pandemic changed shopping habits. Buxton's adapted to the lockdowns by developing an e-mail ordering system with curbside pickup and touchless payments. But people got used to buying online, to the point where even now Andy still sees Fresh Direct and Blue Apron deliveries with local addresses in the back of his regular UPS guy's truck.

“That's something I could've done for them,” he said. “Those are sales I would've had before. And there are too many days when I'm in here with my staff at 6:30 a.m. ready to go and we don't have our first sale until 9:30. That's hard.”

“I've got the best customers, people who have been coming here for years and would follow me anywhere,” Andy was quick to add. “I've always tried to price things fairly and am cheaper on some things than Shaws or Hannaford. But I've got customers who stopped

ary in a 3-minute video.”

A NOVEL APPROACH

After the news of Buxton's closing broke, Joe Andriano felt sympathy for his friends Andy and Mary, and sorrow for his town, which would be losing one of its most significant assets. Andriano isn't just another local customer, however; he also represents Orwell in the Vermont House of Representatives and is an attorney with extensive experience creating nonprofit organizations.

He believed he could help the Buxtons and the town of Orwell.

“Andy and Mary are friends and neighbors,” said Andriano in a phone conversation. “Their happiness is paramount. But Buxton's is also the heartbeat of Orwell. People come here from all over. It's so helpful to the community to have it. It means a lot to us as Orwellians.”

So Andriano proposed something unexpected to Andy and Mary.

He would form a nonprofit with the goal of buying the building from the Buxtons, relieving them of the

an influx of cash, said Andriano, the Buxtons would have to sell the building to whoever was willing to buy it and the community would lose an opportunity to guide the fate of one of its most important pieces of commercial real estate.

The GoFundMe set up by Andriano is seeking \$103K to cover a year of the Buxtons' building-related expenses.

“We will take any portion [of that year],” said Andriano. “Whatever we raise through the GoFundMe buys us time.”

If the GoFundMe raises sufficient funds to stave off a sale, Andriano and the nonprofit will raise additional monies for the purchases of the building through grants. Ownership of the property will transfer to the nonprofit. The town of Orwell will not be a party in the sale or purchase.

Phase two will entail a series of community meetings in Orwell to determine what the town's residents want to do with the space, as well as a structural evaluation of the building to determine what work will need to be done to preserve the historic building and prepare it for the community's chosen purpose.

Phase three will be the execution of that chosen purpose. The nonprofit will retain ownership of the building and will collect rent from any commercial venture that occupies it. The rent money will be used for the physical upkeep of the building. The goal is not to generate income but rather to maintain a community resource.

Andriano mentioned Albany and East Calais as examples of other Vermont towns where similar projects have been undertaken after the loss of core retail. In fact, Andriano is traveling this week to East Calais to learn more about that town's experience. Grant programs through organizations such as the Preservation Trust of Vermont have helped towns like Albany and East Calais save key historic buildings for community use.

“I will not accept a cent,” insisted Andriano. “This is 100% volunteer. We will hire an outside attorney to handle the real estate transaction, which we expect will be paid for by grants. My only motive is I love this community.”

“There's been a lot of confusion about this project,” said Andy Buxton in our earlier conversation. “It's not like I'm asking to have gambling debts paid off. The GoFundMe is a risk. If it doesn't work, I'll have to sell the building to whoever has money. Buxton's is done, but I've got one more gift to give the town: I can give them the choice of what to do with the building.”

[Editor's note: Anyone interested in donating to the GoFundMe campaign can visit the campaign's page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-buxtons-store-preserve-the-heart-of-orwell-vt>]



BUXTON'S BEFORE IT WAS BUXTON'S. The building was constructed in 1910 as a store. It wasn't until Dick and Thelma Buxton purchased the place in 1967 that it came to be known as Buxton's.

Photo courtesy Buxton's

keep his customers in town so they wouldn't need to travel to Brandon, Fair Haven, or Middlebury to buy alcohol and might pick up a few other things while they were in the store.

“I've accomplished 100% of the business plan I started with,” said Andy.

But, as has been the case with many small rural stores throughout the state, it hasn't been enough.

The pandemic not only caused a state-wide labor shortage in retail and hospitality, but it also made it difficult and expensive to procure goods and produce prepared meals. Basics like fry-o-lator oil and kitchen gloves became impossible to get. The supply chain has mostly returned to normal but there are still

coming here because they found their favorite beer for 30¢ less in Middlebury.”

The Buxtons also took on debt to revamp and expand the operation after they bought it. They remodeled the space and installed a commercial kitchen, among other improvements. But the store's sales, especially after COVID, have not been sufficient to keep the store going.

The combined pressures of finance and family ultimately pushed the Buxtons to give up something precious to them.

“I said to Mary, ‘We're burying a 57-year-old family member,’” Andy recalled of the moments after they made the Facebook announcement. “‘And we just read the obitu-

financial stress of maintaining it and preserving for the people of Orwell the ability to determine the use of it according to their own vision.

“I've worked on nonprofits my entire career as an attorney,” said Andriano, who is not seeking reelection in November. “I have a lot of expertise in business law.”

The first phase of the plan would entail raising money through a GoFundMe campaign to forestall a fire sale of the building. The goal is to raise enough to allow the Buxtons to service their debts while the nonprofit attempts to raise additional funds for the purchase of the building. If successful, the GoFundMe would create a window for the nonprofit to seek and obtain the necessary funds for the purchase. Without

Great weekend

(Continued from Page 5)
Jeremy Griffin, Arturo and Sarah Mendiola, Crystal Ketcham, and so many more! Want to get in on the fun? Holler at

me! Let's keep the good times rolling!

*Colleen Wright
Brandon Rec Department*

My choice

(Continued from Page 5)
and improved it. Stephanie has firsthand experience developing commercial properties. In addition, she has employed local citizens, including my own son when he was in high school. Stephanie Jerome knows what it means to make a payroll as well as to start and build a business. As a property owner, she knows, as all of us do, the pinch that property taxes make on a household budget. One of her top priorities is addressing the shortage of affordable housing in our town and throughout Vermont.

Stephanie understands the challenges of balancing work with raising a family and knows the importance of affordable childcare and health care. She will be a strong advocate for young families working hard to make ends meet.

Stephanie Jerome is a problem solver. She is experienced and energetic. She has volunteered on various boards including the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, the Brandon Economic Development Committee and the Brandon Planning Commission. Stephanie will be a strong voice for our towns, our businesses, our schools, our people and our families. Stephanie is deeply vested in our community. She has made it a point of pride to hold regular open coffee and chats with our citizens. Please join me in voting for her as our representative in Montpelier!

*John Peterson
Brandon*

Not 'No'

(Continued from Page 5)
is part of problem-solving, taking in all the information available, working with that information for the best solution, and then acting on it. Shutting down any tax or fee increase before even knowing what those taxes or fees might go to is short-sighted and unrealistic. No one can predict the future, so it is impossible to know what kind of funds may be required to maintain the infrastructure and lifestyle we have all grown to expect, so to just say no is too risky. For the state to be able to fix our roads, maintain law and order, educate our future workforce, and create a climate-re-

sistant infrastructure, we will need tax dollars. If we don't want to pay taxes, then we need to decide what we don't want to pay for. Now that is a fair debate. Will it be heating fuel subsidies for folks on fixed incomes or less law enforcement? Will there be fewer road projects or no early childhood education? Will we continue to harden our infrastructure for the future or just pay as we go when it comes to climate disasters? These are the choices we have to make, and they cannot be made when "no" is the beginning (and end) of the conversation. I applaud Mr. Nielsen for running because to have a

true democracy we need to have choices, but Stephanie Jerome has the experience of governing that is needed to best serve the town of Brandon. Stephanie is a decent, caring person who loves Brandon as much as anyone. Stephanie has represented Brandon with dignity, loyalty, a desire for fairness, and the whole town's best interest in mind. She is there when you need help and is willing to listen to all ideas that can make life in Brandon and Vermont better. This is why I'm voting "Yes" for Stephanie Jerome in November.

Devon Fuller

Move on

(Continued from Page 5)
know what the answers are, they are simple. We can replace the old guard with a different lineup of people who bring new and diverse opinions to the table. We can vote for real change, support officials who promote long-term solutions rather than continue to vote for what we want today without thinking about the needs of tomorrow. We can vote for officials who support transpar-

ency in all matters and support improvements that do not contain hidden costs that rise every year. Requiring Selectboards to stop supporting grants that use up money for research to create new projects before finishing the necessary projects at hand is a must. We can support teachers who can and want to create a spirit of accomplishment in the classroom. The simple conclusion is that we need to stop spending more,

borrowing more, and producing less. The number-one plan must be to create a tax system that all Vermonters can afford, one that will help everyone stay in their homes, and one that supports creating homes that others can afford. Officials need to focus on quality and value rather than power and greed.

*Sandy Mayo
Brandon*

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SCENES FROM A WEEKEND OF FALL ACTIVITIES IN BRANDON





BRANDON'S FALL FESTIVAL took place this past weekend at Estabrook Park. Hayrides, vendors, Brandon's famous Leaf People! And scary movies (well, some more funny than scary) at Estabrook's drive-in theater. Thanks to Brandon Rec and all the folks who make this such a fun place to live!

Photos provided by Brandon Rec



Calendar of events

October

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Aikido with Brandon Rec -- Aikido classes for Youth (4:30) and Adults (5:30) at Brandon's Town Hall main floor. Beginners and Spectators always welcome! For more information, visit www.AikidoVermont.org

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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



Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with

old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives. The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

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

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

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

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.

Free drop-in homework help with Dan for grades K-12!

Wednesdays 3:30–5:00 pm at the Brandon Free Public Library.

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.

Events this Saturday Mountain Yoga

Learn to crochet, 11 am–12 pm
Join us to learn how to crochet for newbies to crocheting.

Participants will begin a simple crochet project in the class to learn basic stitches, terminology, and pattern reading. The cost is \$25 per person, and you will need a size H hook as well as worsted weight yarn for the class. Preregistration is required. Register on our website.

Crocheted Basket Class, 1–2 pm

Learn how to crochet a basket. This is a simple crochet project in the class to learn basic stitches, terminology, and pattern reading. You will need a size H crochet hook and worsted weight yarn (Blue Sky Organics are available for purchase at the library).

Learn to Spin, 1–4 pm

Join Marilyn Brandner, of Mountain and Pride of VT Shepherds, to learn how to spin. Spinning wheels and supplies are available for purchase at the library. You are welcome to bring your own. Class is limited to 3 students, so individualized attention. Cost is \$25. Preregistration is required.

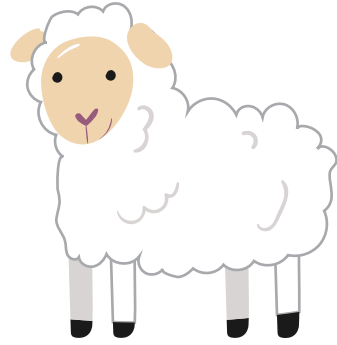
All classes to be held at Green Mountain College, 217 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701.

Sunday 13th, Pittsford Sheep Festival

The Pittsford Sheep Festival has been offering free family entertainment for over 30 years. This year it will be held on Sunday, October 13, from 11 am to 4 pm, at the Pittsford Recreation

Area off Furnace Road in Pittsford. Local craft vendors, felters, and spinners will have booths featuring their skills and products. Sheep shearing demonstrations will be held at 11:15, 1:45 and 3:15. Sheep dog handling demonstrations will be held at 1:00 and 2:30. The Leaping of the Lambs, an exclusive RAS activity, will be held at 12:00, 2:15 and 3:45. There will be

food for sale featuring tasty local lamb. In The Leaping of the Lambs, the sheep compete against each other by running through an obstacle course to reach a treat at the finish line. Come and cheer on your favorite sheep. You will have the chance to visit with local shepherds and learn about raising sheep in Vermont. This event is sponsored by the Rutland Area Shepherds. For more information check our website, <http://www.rutland-areashepherds.org>



Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Brandon Senior Center Game Day

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Saturday at Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber

12:30 pm. This class is for complete

Participants will begin a class to learn the stitches used and pattern reading. You will receive a small amount of worsted weight cotton (Cotton) for the class. These classes are held at the shop.

at Nickwackett Sheep Farm to learn how to spin your own yarn. All supplies will be provided, but you can bring your own wheel if you have one. There will be plenty of individual kits available for \$50 and includes all materials.

at Mountain Yarn and Fiber, and.

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.”

Wednesday 9th

Gypsy Reel and Special Guest from Ireland — Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series

Gypsy Reel, who will be performing on Wednesday, October 9th at 7 pm at Wallingford Town Hall, is known for playing high energy stirring music rooted in the Celtic tradition, but garnered from the whole world. Their music is an exciting synthesis of world rhythms and influences from three continents. Gypsy Reel will be joined by a special guest from Ireland. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door with proceeds going to Gypsy Reel. Please support local live music.

NXT Rockumentary Film Series: Homecoming (2019)

All hail the Queen B. From the moment Beyoncé Knowles, dressed as a modern-day Nefertiti, strutted down a catwalk at the 2018 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in the first of two headlining sets, you knew these would be historic shows—that year’s edition didn’t end up being dubbed “Beychella” for nothing. Had Homecoming been nothing but raw footage of her iconic performances over those consecutive weekends, we’d still consider it one of the best music docs of the past decades. But this peek at the creation of those epic concerts, co-directed by Beyoncé herself, also gives viewers a behind-the-scenes look at how much hard work she put into this mix of marching bands, dancers and revised rendi-

tions of her greatest hits together, and the way she used her moment in the festival spotlight to shout out Civil Rights leaders, HBCU’s and black culture of the past and present.—Rolling Stone. 7–9:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$10.

Thursday 10th

New England Review Ulysses Reading Series

The kickoff event in the NER Ulysses Reading Series will feature four writers: novelist Ann Dávila Cardinal, Middlebury student Cole Chaudhari, and NER contributors Samantha DeFlicht and Christopher Shaw. This is the first in a biannual, in-person reading series hosted in Middlebury College’s vibrant and acces-

3 on 3 Basketball League

Free of Charge!!!

Come play basketball with your future teammates. Open to boys and girls who are currently in the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade. Be coached by varsity players and coaches.

Each session will be two hours long. The first hour will be focused on developing skills. In the second hour they will play three 10-minute league games. The final week will be a double elimination tournament.

Deadline: Friday, October 11th. Please just individuals, no teams signing up. Teams will be selected by coaches. Schedule*: Sunday, October 13 (try out and team selection); Sunday, October 20; Sunday, October 27; Sunday, November 3 (Double Elimination Tournament, spectators welcome.). *All four sessions will start at 6 PM and go until 8 PM at Otter Valley Union High School. So come on out and play some basketball and have some fun and make new friends. To sign up, call or text Fred at (802)282-5423. You can also reach me at (802)247-6722 (yes, Mr. Spock answers my calls.)



sible Humanities House. Named after artist James MacDonell’s Visualizing Ulysses series of schematic prints, which hang throughout the house, this series celebrates new work by writers at all stages of their careers. Light fare and specialty mocktails inspired by Visualizing Ulysses will be served. From 7–8:15 pm at 115 Franklin Street, Middlebury.

Friday 11th

Yom Kippur Services — Rutland Jewish Center

Please join us at the Rutland Jewish Center (RJC) for Yom Kippur Services. The Kol Nidre Service will be held on Friday, October 11, 2024, starting at 5:45 pm. On Saturday, October 12, 2024, our Yom Kippur Service begins at 9:30 am, Mincha starts at 4:30 pm, N'eila begins at 5:30 pm, and Break The Fast follows the service. We are welcoming a new Cantor, Kate Judd from Brattleboro. Visitors are welcome. There is no charge to attend services; however, donations are gratefully accepted. Zoom information and instructions can be obtained from the RJC Office by calling (802) 773- 3455 or emailing office@rutlandjewishcenter.org. We look forward to seeing you (preferably) in person! Rutland Jewish Center, 96 Grove Street, (Entrance is on Library Avenue), Rutland.

Nowhere Washington, Western Terrestrials, Jonny Hick and The Kickers — The Underground - Listening Room

Advance: \$14 (+fees) // Day of show: \$17 (+fees)

Doors: 7 pm // Show: 7:30 pm. BYOB (21+) All Ages
Nowhere Washington: (https://www.facebook.com/nowhereWA/) Relax, you’ve got nowhere to be. Original pop-rock music inspired by growing up out in the sticks. Nick Sherman, keys and vocals; Angela Paladino, vocals; John Littleton “Chili Dog” Tyler II, bass; Jeremiah Johnson, drums and Kyle Martel on guitar.

Western Terrestrials: (https://www.westernterrestrials.com) Hard driving honky-tonk outsiders from Vermont. Conjuring up sweeping panoramas of dusty astral plains and the allure of whiskey-laden honky tonks, Western Terrestrials are the kind of wry, unconventional outsiders country music could get used to.

Jonny Hick and the Kickers: (https://www.facebook.com/jonnybegoodofficial/) Jonny Hick and the Kickers are a Vermont based band composed of Franklin county natives. Jonny grew up on a small family dairy and maple farm in Highgate, Vermont, where his father introduced him to Bob Dylan, The Band, Johnny Cash, and Van Morrison who all remain heavy influences on him to this day. Jonny plays his take on a Travis picking style of guitar while singing original arrangements. The Kickers, while also being local hicks, provide a contrast to Jonny’s Americana/ country style with varying indie influences of their own.

Saturday 12th Sunday 13th

63rd Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival—Rutland

Chaffee Art Center presents the 63rd Annual Art in the Park Fall Foliage Festival featuring fine artists, craft persons, specialty foods, kid’s activities, and musical entertainment. Shows will be held rain (snow) or shine in Main Street Park at Junction of Routes 4 & 7 in Rutland, Vermont. Estimated attendance 5000+. October 12 & 13, Saturday 10 am–5 pm and Sunday 10 am–4 pm.

Sunday 13th

Middlebury Car Show & Fall Festival Start Your Engines! Join us in a day of excitement and fun for the low low price of free!!

Join us in Middlebury on Sunday, October 13th for the 3rd annual Middlebury Car Show & Fall Festival. Main Street will close to welcome 75 classic cars and trucks. Food trucks, 50+ vendors, live music, raffle drawings, and more! With kids’ activities as well, this event is fun for the whole family and free for spectators. From 10 am–3 pm at Triangle Park, Main Street, Middlebury.

Tuesday 15th

Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum

Tuesday, October 15th at 6:30 pm. Brandon Town Hall upstairs. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a forum for the candidates running for the contested seat for State House Representative. Candidates: Stephanie Jerome, Todd Nielsen.

Candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves, share their ideas, and answer questions from the public. For more information contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or email info@brandon.org. Be informed—your vote is your voice.

Goings on around town

Brandon Museum receives grant to redesign its space for public events

BY JENNIE MASTERSON
BRANDON—The Brandon Museum has received an \$8,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to re-purpose its public meeting room into a fully functional education room. The Cliver Room will continue to be available as a free meeting space, but the installation of Audio Visual equipment will make it more accessible for courses, presentations, and workshops, both in-person and virtual. Conference style furniture will expand the room's capacity from about 12 people to 22. These changes will now allow the Brandon Museum to offer year-round programming by local and na-

tional presenters, traditional crafters, and historians, especially during those long winter months. In time, the Museum hopes to provide summer youth programs by collaborating with the Brandon Recreation Department and others.

The Brandon Museum was created to caretake the Stephen Douglas Birthplace and its exhibits and to manage the Brandon Visitors' Center. The Museum's mission has expanded to include providing diverse activities and events that deepen the community's knowledge of its history, the people, and the events that shaped Brandon over the years. A recent Covered Bridge Exhibit proved


very popular, bringing a surge of new visitors to the Museum and is an example of how the Museum wishes to serve its town. The Museum has many ideas for future exhibits, such as the Ayrshire Breeders Association, the Hawk Hill Settlement, and Brandon Schools through the Years, Our Town Doctors, and Retailers over the Decades. Watch for these and other pop-up exhibits at the Museum! If you have a passion for and knowledge about a topic that you would like to share via a talk or presentation, or ideas for historical topics to develop as presentations, please reach out to the Museum at Info@brandonmuseum.org.

Don't miss this new *Family-friendly* fundraising event where the winner is crowned Rutland County Health Partners' Ambassador for a year!

KARAOKE for a CAUSE

OCT 20, 2024
1:00 – 4:00 PM
The Moose Lodge
78 Center St, Rutland

- DJ Services provided by Sunset Entertainment
- Free Photo Booth
- 50/50 Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Door Prizes and more!




Rutland County HEALTH PARTNERS
NO-COST HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR ADULTS

204 North Main St, Rutland, VT | 802-775-1360
rhealthpartners.org

Limited tickets!

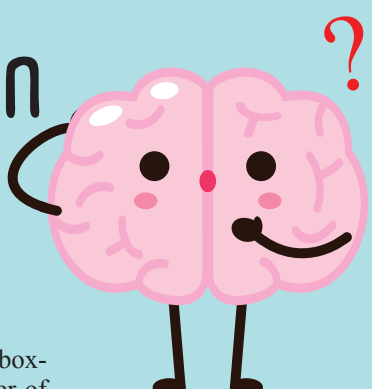
Adults: \$30 (includes 1 free beverage)
Children under 18: \$10
All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please purchase your tickets in advance in person at RCHP or on our website. Tickets will not be available at the door.



Scan to buy tickets!

Brandon Brain Buster



Each of ten identical boxes contains some number of marbles, with no box containing zero marbles. Each marble weighs 1 ounce and each box weighs 3 ounces when empty. The numbers of marbles in the ten boxes, if written in a list from smallest to largest, forms a series of 10 consecutive whole numbers. If the average weight of all the boxes, with their marbles, is 8.5 ounces,

then the box that weighs the most contains how many more marbles than the box that weighs the least?

A) 10
B) 9
C) 8
D) 7
E) 6

Answer on pg.24

Talk on Black presence at 1777 Battle of Bennington at Mount Independence

ORWELL, Vt.—On Sunday, October 13, 2024, come to the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont, for an illustrated talk, The Black Presence at the Battle of Bennington, given by teacher and author Phil Holland. The program starts at 1:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

This is a Vermont Humanities Council Speaker's Bureau event and is co-sponsored by the Mount Independence Coalition, historic site friends group.

Holland explores military records and early town histories to present a more diverse picture of Vermont's iconic battle and its Green Mountain Boys than typically depicted. Most Vermonters might be surprised that among the 30 men killed at the Battle of Bennington was a black man, Sipp Ives, a member of Seth Warner's Continental regiment of Green Mountain Boys. Ives was not the

only patriot of African descent who played a role in the fighting and its aftermath. Holland also will reflect on historical memory and how it is preserved and constructed.

The site with its trails and museum is open daily through October 20, 2024. Regular hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Regular site admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$1.00 for ages 6 to 14, and under 6 free.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site is a National Historic Landmark and is one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archaeological sites. It is located at 497 Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersections of Vermont Routes 22A and 73 near Orwell village. Carefully follow the signs.

For more information about the Vermont State-owned Historic Sites, visit: www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

Yard Sale?



Advertise it in the Reporter!

Call 247-8080 for details.

Falling into Foliage



BEAUTIFUL SCENES OF fall foliage in our area.

Photos by Dale Christie

PITTSFORD HAUNTED HOUSE IS COMING FOR YOU



PITTSFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT is working hard to get its notoriously scary Haunted House ready for its big weekend! The house has been an annual tradition for decades and last year's house, the first since COVID, was over-the-top amazing. The Haunted House will be open on October 18, 19, 25, and 26. Don't miss it!

Photos by Laurie Hemple

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

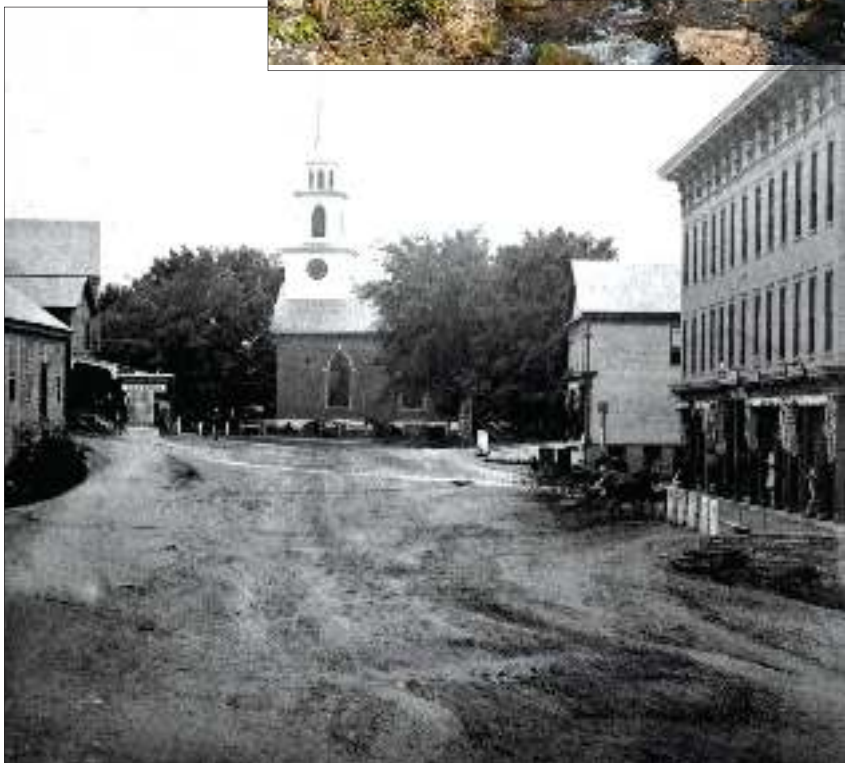
This is the way the upper dam by Kennedy Park looked circa 1900. Almost all of the buildings visible in this photo are gone. Thanks to Bob Read, I think I have the scoop. The building on the far left actually spanned the river, but its fate was not to be washed away, it was a fire. Even so, the remnants of the building were reduced and rehabbed into a hardware store, which eventually became the original Brandon House of Pizza, which DID wash away in Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. There is a house behind this building, (you can barely see the porch), which was taken down around 1967. The dark building with the light trim is located where Bob Read's shop is now but is NOT his shop. Bob's present

building was built in 1917. Maybe this building was a victim of fire as well. Or flood.

The building in the background appears to be on the opposite bank of the river because of the bend in the Neshobe River right there. This one is a puzzle. It could be the building that is now between the Brandon Inn's backyard and the parking lot behind the Center Street shops. That is an old, old building that fits the shape and angle, but it seems to be in the wrong location. The building in the old photo is too far to the left. Bob tells me they moved buildings pretty regularly back then, so perhaps it was moved. Or maybe it was a building that was lost to fire, flood, or time.



THE UPPER FALLS circa 1900, and now.



Your mystery for next week!

Honoree Fleming

(Continued from Page 1)

"The case has not progressed as quickly as we would have liked," Trudeau said, adding that the investigators are continuing to work on the case.

He said investigators continue to review phone data from area cell towers at the time of the killing, but termed that a slow process, involving matching data with potential users.

"We're still progressing with the case and there's still work to be done," Trudeau said.

A \$25,000 reward was established late last year with funds

raised in part through a GoFundMe page and some from "private funding sources" for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons

responsible for Fleming's death.

Castleton Police Chief Peter Mantello issued a press release Friday stating the reward was being terminated, and funds raised through the GoFundMe effort would be "re-designated" to set up

a scholarship in Fleming's memory. The other funds will be released to the private donors, the statement added.

The man, described as white, red-haired and about 5-foot-10-inches tall, was seen leaving the area of the shooting shortly after bystanders heard gunshots, according to investigators.

REAL ESTATE



MULTI-USE PROPERTY!

Impressive 2 story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, a very yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state of the art heating system with radiant heat, and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3 bay garage and a spacious backyard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building. Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at \$415,000



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Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com



Make the dream of home ownership a reality. We can help. Contact us today or apply online. Loan Quoted: 3.75% (30 Year Fixed Rate) NMLS #4569279



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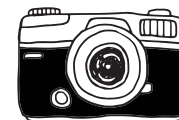


Mim's Photos

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

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

Or call us at 247-8080



Recognized



Mystery solved! There is a consensus that the man on the left in this photo is Reginald Barnard and the man on the right is Baird Morgan. Indeed, Terry Ferson had meant this when he identified this photo for us last week. Beth Carr and Sue Wetmore further confirmed that Baird Morgan is on the right. Ms. Carr wrote, "I was friends with his oldest daughter, and we've lived in their house for 40 years." Thank you, all, for helping us with this photo.



Terry Ferson recognized the man on the left here to be Norm "Pearly" Scarborough, who ran the grocery store on Union Street in Brandon.



Dolores Furnari, Sue Wetmore, and Terry Ferson recognized Sid Rosen on the left in this photo. Mr. Ferson also identified Sally Green, formerly of Brandon, on the right.



Terry Ferson recognized the man on the left here to be Norm "Pearly" Scarborough, who ran the grocery store on Union Street in Brandon.



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Exclamation
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. Popular type of device
18. Alcoholic beverage
19. Ancient Olympic Site
20. Sharpshoots
21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Measuring instruments
26. Midsection body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. "Partridge" actress Susan
33. Yell
34. Civil rights city in Alabama
39. Young boy
42. Type of sea bass
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Spy group
51. Florida is famous for them
56. Irritating individuals
57. Luck
58. Hunting expedition
59. WWII diarist Frank
60. Peyton's younger brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Type of overseas tax or levy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Israeli politician Abba
3. Renowned desert
4. Eat greedily
5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
6. Beat
7. Bloodsucker
8. From a place already noted
9. Counted on
10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
11. Something one can make
13. One who abstains
17. Wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Bacterial infection of the skin
26. Expresses surprise
27. What engaged couples ultimately say
28. Crony
29. Where one begins (abbr.)
35. Architectural designation
36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Indigenous peoples
41. Deflections
42. Circulating life force
43. Executes with a rope
44. Natives of an island nation
45. Girls
47. Logician and philosopher
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian language
54. Amounts of time
55. Mathematical designation

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

Sudoku

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

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

October is National Adopt a Dog Month!

Not only is October one of the prettiest months to live in Vermont, but it is also National Adopt a Dog Month! You can celebrate by adopting one of RCHS's many pups! We have lovely dogs who can't wait to meet their forever family. We have some looking for a cozy couch to snuggle up on, and some looking for a hiking partner to enjoy these fall days with. You can see our adoptable dogs at www.rchsvt.org or stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am-4 pm. Let's make this month one full of love and second chances!

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



MEET ORLA - 7-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX. BLACK/WHITE.

Orla would do great in an active family who could give her the walks and adventures she needs. She does great in playgroups with other dogs and could easily be your dog's new best friend! If you're interested in this adorable lady Orla, please call or come in anytime Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-4 pm.

MEET CLUTCH - 6-MONTH-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. BROWN TABBY.

Clutch is a playful fella who's looking for his new home! He's a spry young kitten who enjoys spending time running around and being a goof. If you're interested in our furry friend please come in or call Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-4 pm.



**RUTLAND COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY**

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

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



OFF THE SHELF



New in adult fiction

A Sunny Place for Shady People: Stories by Mariana Enriquez

A neighborhood plagued by ghosts, a family whose faces melt away, a faded hotel haunted by a girl who dissolved in the water tank on the roof, a riverbank populated by birds that used to be women—these and other tales illuminate the shadows of contemporary life, where the line between good and evil no longer exists.

I Dreamed of Falling by Julia Dahl

Roman Grady is the sole reporter for the local newspaper in a tiny Hudson Valley town - a town so small that every store opening and DUI is considered newsworthy. But when Roman's longtime girlfriend, Ashley, the mother of his four-year-old son, is found dead, he realizes he had no idea what was really going on in her life. And when he starts asking questions, he's not prepared for the answers. How did no one in a house full of people see what happened to her? And why does it seem like everyone in town suddenly has something to hide?

Elusive by Genevieve Cogman. (The Scarlet Revolution Book 2) 1793

Eleanor, once a lowly English maid, is now a member of the League of the Scarlet Pimpernel: renowned for their daring deeds, and for rescuing aristocrats and vampires from the guillotine. When the notorious French diplomat Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand goes missing, Eleanor and the League leap into action. But they uncover two vampire factions feuding for control over humanity's fate. Talleyrand's disappearance is part of a larger, more dangerous scheme - one that threatens to throw France into bloody chaos.

The Life Impossible by Matt Haig

When retired math teacher Grace Winters is left a run-down house on a Mediterranean island by a long-lost friend, she books a one-way ticket. Among the rugged hills and golden beaches, Grace searches for answers about her friend's life and how it ended. What she uncovers is stranger than she could have dreamed. But to dive into this impossible truth, Grace must first come to terms with her past.

DID YOU KNOW?

Game Night is starting up on 3rd Thursdays - beginning 10/17 from 6-8 pm. Come play classic board games, or try out some newer ones like Catan, Ultimate Werewolf, and more! We also have reinstated our art shows, and this month's display is from Virginia Creighton, based on the training school grounds.

We Need No Wings by Ann Dávila Cardinal

When Tere's husband dies unexpectedly, she finds herself completely broken. Taking a leave from the university, Tere hopes that she can mourn her husband and get back on her feet, but instead, she spends a year consumed by grief. Until the day she levitates. Suddenly, Tere's life is thrown into disarray, and the repeated incidents of levitation not only make her question her sanity but also put her in danger. When she's reminded that her family is related to the renowned levitating mystic Saint Teresa of Ávila, she travels to Spain, hoping to find answers. But saints can be elusive, and not all answers are easily found. Tere will soon have to decide whether to remain shrouded in her grief or open her heart to a world where we need no wings to fly.

Brandon Police Report

September 30

- Provided guidance to a woman on how to make an insurance claim after her vehicle was struck by another motorist in a public parking lot.

- Assisted EMS by providing first aid to a man that suffered a head injury at the Neshobe Golf Club.

- Assisted the Vermont State Police (VSP)—New Haven with issuing a temporary relief from abuse order on Church Street. The man was also cited and released for an outstanding warrant out of VSP—New Haven.

- Dispatched to Center Street for a report of a child running around by himself. Officers determined that the child was with his parent and was safe.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for an equipment violation. Warning issued.

October 1

- K-9 Unit assisted the Middlebury Police in an exterior drug search of vehicles and packages suspected to contain illegal drugs. K9 Guinness was deployed, and he alerted on one of the vehicles and one of the packages.

- Received a report of a missing woman in the area of Brandon. The subject was later located outside of Brandon and was determined to be safe and sound.

October 2

- Conducted speed enforcement on Union Street due to ongoing complaints. Two vehicles stopped for speed violations.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street at Ella Dean Road for speeding. Warning issued.

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

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with an elderly woman who had fallen and sustained injuries on Grove Street. The patient was transported to the hospital for treatment.

- Received a call about a possible stolen vehicle on Robin Bird Lane. It was later determined that the vehicle was involved in a crash in Goshen. The complaint was referred to the VSP as the incident occurred outside of Brandon.

- Assisted the Pittsford Police with a two-car head on crash on Route 7 in Pittsford.

- Assisted a motorist with

a disabled vehicle that had a flat tire at BARS on Franklin Street.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for failure to display license plate. Warning issued.

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

October 3

- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Carver Street.

- Responded to a dispute at OVUHS involving an angry parent and the school administration. The individual was asked to leave the property by the responding officers and did so without issue.

- Made numerous attempts to serve a Restraining Order on an individual on West Seminary Street. No service made.

- Dispatched with the Brandon Fire Department to the Forest Dale Area for a report of an unknown burning smell.

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for an unregistered vehicle. It was later determined that the vehicle was in-fact registered. No enforcement action taken.

October 4

- Responded to an alarm activation at the Brandon Town Highway Department garage on Champlain Street. It was later discovered to be a false alarm.

- Responded to a tractor trailer accident on Pearl Street in which the truck struck the Sanderson Covered Bridge, causing structural damage. Tickets issued for numerous violations.

- Took fingerprints for employment purposes.

- Responded to the Brandon Town Highway Department garage for an alarm activation. The alarm was later determined to be false.

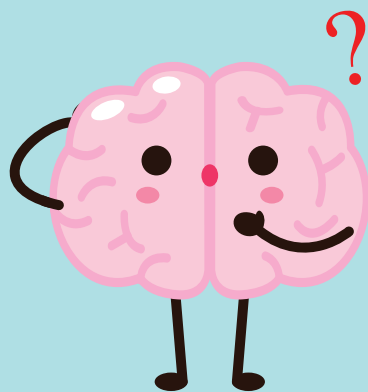
- Vehicle stop on Park Street at the Brandon Public Library for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

- Received a report of an animal in the roadway on Grove Street. The Animal Control Officer (ACO) was notified.

- Received a report of animals in the roadway on Forest Dale Road. The caller wished to be anonymous, and no additional reports were received. The ACO was notified.

- Served two cite and release warrants on an individual at a
(See Police report, Page 25)

Brandon Brain Buster



Answer: B

If the average weight of all the boxes is 8.5 ounces, then the total weight of all the boxes is $8.5 \times 10 = 85$ ounces. We know that each box weighs 3 ounces when empty, so the boxes themselves contribute $3 \times 10 = 30$ ounces to the total weight, which means that the marbles alone weigh a total of $85 - 30 = 55$ ounces. Since each marble weighs 1 ounce, we must have 55 marbles

in total. And we know that if we list out the numbers of marbles in the boxes, we'd get a list of 10 consecutive whole numbers. So, we need to determine which 10 consecutive whole numbers add up to 55.

If the 10 numbers add up to 55, we have a group of 10 numbers whose average is $55/10 = 5.5$. Because the 10 numbers are consecutive, we know they're evenly spaced. This means that half of the 10 numbers must be

less than 5.5 and half of them must be more. So, 5 of the 10 boxes must have fewer than 5.5 marbles, with the other 5 boxes containing more than 5.5 marbles each.

If no box contains zero marbles and 5 of them must contain fewer than 5.5 marbles, then we must have five boxes that contain 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 marbles, respectively. This means that the other five boxes must contain 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 marbles each. (If you add up these numbers, you will indeed get 55.)

So, the box that weighs the least is the one that contains 1 marble and the one that weighs the most is the one that contains 10. Therefore, the difference is $10 - 1 = 9$.

The answer is B.

Vermont utility regulator recommends tax in place of clean heat standard

BY EMMA COTTON/
VTDIGGER

In a status report to lawmakers, the independent Public Utility Commission has said that the proposed clean heat standard, sought by lawmakers and environmental advocates, “does not make sense for Vermont,” recommending instead pitching a “thermal energy benefit charge,” or a tax on heating fuels.

In 2023, lawmakers gave the commission a blueprint for the clean heat standard — a program that’s intended to reduce emissions that come from heating and cooling Vermont’s buildings — and required the commission to fully design it. Lawmakers plan to consider the commission’s plan in the coming 2025 legislative session and decide whether to put it in place.

Issued Oct. 1, the commission’s status report is the latest in a slew of documents released in recent months as the body reaches the final stages of its process.

Political rhetoric has clouded the clean heat standard’s de-

velopment, and those closest to it have long debated its basic structure, its impacts and its benefits. Gov. Phil Scott vetoed the bill that set up the program in May 2023, fuel dealers in Vermont have organized against it, and Americans For Prosperity — a super PAC founded by billionaires Charles and David Koch — has sent out mailers containing misinformation decrying the proposal.

This time, the criticism comes from the Public Utility Commission, a quasi-judicial, three-member panel that is independent from the executive branch and the Legislature, but whose members are appointed by the governor.

Their concerns are focused on the credit market at the center of a clean heat standard program.

Fuel dealers that import heating-related fossil fuels into Vermont would need to offset the emissions associated with their products by earning credits. Fuel dealers could gain credits in several ways: by delivering cleaner-burning products like biofuels, by helping

to weatherize homes or install heat pumps, or by paying a fee.

The money raised from those fees would go toward switching Vermonters to efficiency measures and other heating systems that pollute less.

“Our work over the past year and a half on the clean heat standard demonstrates that it does not make sense for Vermont, as a lone small state, to develop a clean heat credit market and the associated clean heat credit trading system to register, sell, transfer, and trade credits,” commissioners wrote.

Instead, they proposed returning to an idea the Legislature pitched in 2021: a “thermal energy benefit charge” — in essence, a tax — on the sale of fuel oil, propane, and kerosene.

In setting the rate, the commission would consider “the need to provide sufficient funding to meet the Global Warming Solutions Act requirements,” a law that sets deadlines for Vermont’s greenhouse gas reductions, commissioners wrote.

Commissioners plan to develop the idea in more detail before presenting it to lawmakers.

ers.

Lawmakers who support the program have urged the public not to jump to conclusions about its potential cost or success based on the information available ahead of the new legislative biennium. Rather, supporters have pleaded for Vermonters and decision makers to wait until 2025 to consider the program, when more information is available for lawmakers to debate.

This latest update is no exception.

“Once again, I’m in the place of saying, before we call the clean heat standard a great or lousy idea, could we please finish gathering all the information that we requested?” Sen. Chris Bray, D-Addison, a lead sponsor of the clean heat standard, said in an interview. “I think it’s worth pausing to say, ‘Wait, we asked all these questions for a reason.’”

In their status update, members of the commission note their work has included hiring full-time staff and appointing members of two technical advisory groups that have been

meeting since December 2023, along with a range of other tasks required by Act 18, which established the process.

However, Bray noted, other than a brief synopsis in the status update, the commission didn’t fully explain why it reached its conclusion on the impracticality of the credit market, and that outside of the legislative session, he doesn’t have the same ability to ask for additional information through testimony.

Rep. Laura Sibilica, I-Dover, who has backed the clean heat standard on the House side, said the commission’s conclusion did not surprise her. She’s tracked the process and the commissioners’ work, she said, and was aware they planned to present alternatives to the program.

“What does it mean, coming from the PUC?” she said. “I think that that’s a thoughtful body. I think that we all need to keep working. This is very hard work.”

Police report

(Continued from Page 24)

residence in Brandon.

- Assisted VSP-Rutland and New Haven with attempting to locate an individual. Officers were unable to locate the individual in question.

- Assisted a man in locating his vehicle, which was allegedly lost in the area of Center Street. The vehicle was later located.

- Assisted a couple in a custody dispute over a child at the Brandon Police Department.

- Assisted a man in reporting ongoing landlord/tenant issues on Union Street.

October 5

- Assisted VSP-New Haven regarding a theft of a dog in Leicester.

- Received a complaint of operating without owner’s consent. Investigation started.

- Assisted a motorist on Park Street with a flat tire.

- Received information about a possible protest involving “Migrant Justice, Milk With Dignity” occurring on October 6 at Hannaford Supermarket.

- Responded to the Brookdale Trailer Park for a report of plastic burning. Upon officers’

arrival in the area, it was found that a tenant within the trailer park was having a closed fire outside; however, the material consisted only of wood and no plastic or other hazardous materials. Officers cleared without incident.

October 6

- Assisted BARS with a medical call on Old Farm Road.

- Assisted Middlebury Rescue with a medical call on Furnace Road in Brandon.

- Received a report of child abuse. Further investigation found that no abuse occurred in the incident.

- Responded to an alarm at OVUHS. It was later found that the alarm was accidentally set off by an employee of the school.

- Conducted a directed patrol in the area of Hannaford Supermarket and Walgreens for a scheduled protest outside of Hannaford Supermarket. The protest was found to be peaceful. No incidents occurred.

- Responded to Deer Run Road for a report that a man’s dog was stolen and was at a residence. The dog was not located.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, typically you enjoy being the center of attention and being gregarious with others. This week you might want to step back and enjoy some quiet time at home.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Just when you thought you wouldn’t hear back from someone you thought was out of your life, he or she turns up again, Virgo. You are not sure how to feel about this.

ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, you might have been thinking about making changes for a very long time. One of the biggest changes could be moving home base. Look at real estate.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, even if you’re not sure what to do this week, you may have to make a decision quickly. Take an innovative approach when mulling your options if need be.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Nothing but pleasant energy will surround you this week, Gemini. Use it to your advantage to get a lot of things done at your own pace. Then you can enjoy a night or two out this week.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Don’t let a cranky beginning to the week ruin the rest of it. There are plenty of days to recover and have a good time with friends and family.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, you are in a home-driven mood, with plans for renovation on your mind. While you are full of inspiration, the only thing holding you back is the budget.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, if someone had predicted last year where you’d be right now, you might not have believed it. But just look at how far you have come in such a short amount of time.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You might be walking on shaky ground, Capricorn. Certain variables are shifting,

and you need to plan for a way to navigate the new situation. Trust your gut.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You are always there for other people when they need you no matter how inconvenient that can be for you, Aquarius. This week someone else steps up and take the weight off you.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, you are in a dreamy mood and everything seems like you are looking through rose-colored glasses. Have fun while it lasts, but don’t venture too far away from reality.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 11 Jerome Robbins, choreographer (d)
- Oct. 12 Dick Gregory, social critic (d)
- Oct. 13 Jerry Rice, football player (62)
- Oct. 14 Hannah Arendt, political theorist (d)
- Oct. 15 Penny Marshall, actor, director (d)
- Oct. 16 Naomi Osaka, tennis player (27)
- Oct. 17 Arthur Miller, playwright (d)



MICHELLE ACCIAVATTI AT the Vermont Forest Cemetery in Roxbury.

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Vermont's first fully natural burial cemetery is opening this month

BY ERIN PETENKO/
VTDIGGER

ROXBURY—A wooded 56-acre patch of land along a branch of the White River could soon serve as the final resting place for Vermonters seeking a disposition after death that's different from the usual.

When the Vermont Forest Cemetery opens in Roxbury later this month, it will be the first cemetery in the state devoted entirely to natural burials.

Natural burials forgo embalming and traditional caskets. Instead, the body is placed unaltered into the ground, wrapped in a burial shroud or a casket made of biodegradable materials.

At the Vermont Forest Cemetery, which plans to host a grand opening event this Saturday, gravesites will be minimally marked and will not be plowed or mowed. The cemetery's founder, Michelle Acciavatti, explained that both the graves and the bodies beneath will become part of the natural environment of the surrounding forest, which the cemetery plans to conserve for the foreseeable future.

The concept of natural burials has caught on nationally as a way to minimize the environmental impact of death. Acciavatti described it as "our way of giving back to the planet that we take from in life."

But she also sees it as an opportunity to rethink approaches to burials, cemeteries and death in general.

"We really do want the cemetery to be meaningful on many different levels," she said. "It's always a cemetery; people are coming to bury their loved ones there. But this idea of, 'What does the forest offer to you? What can this forest mean to you?'"

A CAREER IN DEATH

Sitting outside her home in Montpelier in early October, Acciavatti wore a black T-shirt that read in big, white letters: "This body will be a corpse."

She has been thinking about death for years.

Acciavatti began her career as a neuroscience and ethics researcher for Boston Children's Hospital, where studying the experiences of terminally ill children led her to wonder if there were different ways to approach end-of-life care.

"I was really struggling with people's experiences. I mean, it's

a child dying. There's no way to make that good, right?" she said.

A friend suggested she become a death midwife, or death doula — people who offer emotional and logistical support to those approaching their deaths. Acciavatti was particularly moved by the stories of nurses during the AIDS crisis who would take their dying friends into their homes to make their final days more comfortable.

Acciavatti took her friend's advice and began working as a death

doula, but she also became interested in the next steps of natural death care, a national movement that also includes home funerals and natural burials. "You keep the body at home, you care for it with your own hands, and then you return the body to the earth in some way," she said.

"I've never enjoyed conventional funerals. I mean, 'enjoy' is the wrong word. But they've never given meaning in my life," she said. She put her professional experi-

ence to personal use last year, when her aunt was diagnosed with cancer. Her aunt had been one of the first clients for whom she'd created a natural death plan, and the entire family came together to put that plan into action on Earth Day.

"It was a really incredibly moving experience for my whole family," she said. The process drew in her father, who now serves as a board member for the new cemetery. Her partner, Paul, is also helping to set it up. Acciavatti joked that it was becoming a family business.

CHANGING THE RULES

Acciavatti was among those who pushed to change state law to allow for natural burial grounds.

Vermont is one of the less restrictive states when it comes to end-of-life options. It is one of 28 states in which aquamation (sometimes referred to as water cremation) is legal and one of five states in which composting human bodies in a facility is legal. The state also allows Vermonters to bury their loved ones on their own property.

Vermont legislators paved the way for natural burial grounds in 2015 when they passed a law that removed certain requirements for cemeteries, such as fencing and maintenance.

Two years later, Acciavatti and others successfully lobbied for re-

moval of yet another restriction on cemeteries: the 6-foot minimum depth of burial, which natural burial advocates said prevented the full decomposition of bodies.

Some alternative burials, even when legally allowed, haven't always been a practical option. For instance, years after their legalization, there are still no aquamation or human composting facilities in Vermont. Families who want those options would have to ship their loved ones' bodies out of state instead.

Acciavatti said she thinks natural burials began to resonate with people during the Covid-19 pandemic, when nobody could do the "familiar thing" when it came to funerals. She assisted several natural burials at Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier, which offers some natural burial plots alongside its traditional burial options.

At least three other locations in Vermont are "hybrid" cemeteries, with both natural and traditional plots: Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery in Brattleboro, Hazen Westview Cemetery in North Hero and Robinson Cemetery in Calais, according to Green Burial Vermont, a nonprofit that advocates for the practice.

"Whether we're burying somebody on their own property or in a (See *Natural burial*, Page 28)

Youth and Novice Weekend Hunters Encouraged to Bring Their Deer to Biological Check Stations Oct. 26, 27

Hunters who harvest a deer during Vermont's October 26 and 27 youth and novice deer hunting weekend are encouraged to bring their deer to one of 18 biological reporting stations to help state wildlife biologists gather data on the health of Vermont's deer population.

"We encourage youth and novice hunters to bring their deer to one of these biological reporting stations so they can directly contribute to deer management in Vermont," said the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's deer project leader Nick Fortin. "Examining deer during this weekend is our best opportunity to assess the deer herd because hunters are allowed to harvest any deer, including spike bucks. Biologists will be collecting data on age, weight and antler development to help guide future deer management decisions."

Hunters are required to report deer in person at a big game reporting station during youth and novice weekend. Online reporting will not be available. This requirement allows biologists to collect important information from as many deer as possible over the weekend.

A resident or nonresident 15

years old or younger on the weekend of the hunt and who has successfully completed a hunter education course must purchase a hunting license and obtain a free youth weekend deer tag. The requirements apply to all interested young hunters, including the children of landowners.

A resident or nonresident 16 years old or older on the weekend of the hunt who previously completed a hunter education course and who has purchased their first ever hunting license within the 12 months prior to the novice weekend must obtain a free novice weekend deer tag. The requirements apply to all participating novice hunters, including novice hunters who are also landowners.

In both cases, the hunter must be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 18 years of age who holds a Vermont hunting license. The adult may accompany up to two youth or novice hunters. The law requires the accompanying adult to have direct control and supervision of the hunters, including the ability to see and communicate without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars.

Landowner permission is required to hunt on private land during the youth and novice deer hunt weekend, and the hunters are encouraged to secure permission well in advance. Youth and novice hunters and their mentors are strongly encouraged to wear hunter orange.

A youth or novice hunter may take one deer of either sex on the October 26 and 27 weekend, and the antler restrictions that apply in other deer seasons do not apply. Violation of the youth and novice deer hunting rules can result in a doubled fine that is assessed against the accompanying adult.

The reporting stations below will have a biologist present on October 26 and 27:

- R&L Archery
70 Smith Street, Barre
- Bennington Fish Hatchery
South Stream Road, Bennington
- G&L General Store
2813 Route 22A, Benson
- Wright's Enterprises
48 Community Drive, Derby
- East Corinth General Store
8392 VT Route 25, East Corinth
- West Enosburg Country Store

- 2394 West Enosburg Road, Enosburg Falls
- Russin's General Store
110 School Road, Fletcher
- Emmon's Supermarket
193 US Route 2, Grand Isle
- Smith's Grocery
759 North Main, Greensboro Bend
- Bob's Quick Stop
6196 VT Route 14, Irasburg
- Lead & Tackle
31 Middle Street, Lyndonville
- Crossman's General Store
8 East Street, Middletown Springs
- Rack N Reel
5343 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven

- Keith's Country Store
4085 US Route 7, Pittsford
- Maplefields, 8132 US Route 2 Plainfield
- Back Country Sports
751A Sheldon Road, St. Albans
- The Gun Room
52 Needmore Drive, Thetford Ctr.
- Windsor Fire Department
29 Union Street, Windsor
- Vermont's 2024 Deer Hunting Guide summarizing deer hunting rules is available on Fish and Wildlife's website.

Restaurant guide



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St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church

Sunday 10 a.m.
19 Conant Square, Brandon

Brandon Congregational Church

Sunday 10 a.m.
1 Carver Street, Brandon

Brandon United Methodist Church

Sunday 11:15 a.m.
1 Franklin Street, Brandon

Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic Church
Saturday 4 p.m., & Sunday 11 a.m.
38 Carver Street, Brandon

Brandon Baptist Church

Sunday 11 a.m.
13 Champlain Street, Brandon

One Church Brandon

Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
97 Frog Hollow Road, Brandon, VT

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

Sunday 9 a.m.
2918 US 7, Pittsford

Living Water Assembly of God

Sunday 11 a.m. via Facebook Live
76 North Street, Brandon

Forest Dale Christian Fellowship

Sunday 10:30 a.m.
1895 Forest Dale Rd, Brandon

Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church

Sunday 9 a.m.
3325 US Route 7, Pittsford

Pittsford Congregational Church

Sunday 10:15 a.m.
121 Village Green, Pittsford

Church of Wildwood

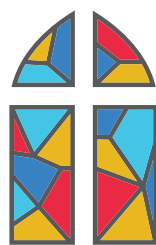
Sunday 11 a.m.
347 Holden Road, Chittenden

Union Church of Proctor

Sunday 10 a.m.
5 Church Street, Proctor

St. Dominic Catholic Church

Sunday 9 a.m. Feb, Apr, Aug
45 South Street, Proctor



CHURCH Directory

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday 9 a.m.
5 Gibbs Street, Proctor

St. Bridget/St. Dominic/St. Stanislaus Kostka

Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Masses rotate monthly between the West Rutland/Proctor Parishes. 2023 February - St. Dominic; March - St. Stanislaus-Kostka; - April - St. Dominic; May - St. Bridget; June - St. Stanislaus; July - St. Bridget; August - St. Dominic



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Natural burial

(Continued from Page 26) cemetery, (my experience) is that when people see how different it can be and how much more meaningful it can be, that they're really drawn to it and want to do that," Acciavatti said.

MORE THAN A CEMETERY

When setting up her own cemetery, Acciavatti ran into a number of complications — everything from navigating the Act 250 process to addressing local concerns that delayed town approval.

The cemetery land also had to be prepped for burials and configured for physical accessibility, a step that took almost another year. But Acciavatti said that accessibility —

both physical and financial — was a priority for the cemetery, which is a registered nonprofit.

The cemetery has set the cost of burial at about \$2,400 per person, which includes \$1,000 for the plot and \$1,400 to open and close the grave.

It's hard to say how that compares to the average cost of a burial in the area because few funeral homes or cemeteries advertise their prices. (The federal government is currently debating whether funeral homes should be required to publish their prices online.)

The National Funeral Directors Association said in 2021 that consumers on average spent \$2,500

on a metal casket and \$1,600 on a burial vault — expenses that could be reduced or eliminated in natural burial. Online estimates of the cost of a burial plot and interment range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 or more.

Acciavatti said the cemetery board is still figuring out ways to make its burials more affordable, such as setting up a donation fund for people who can't afford the full cost.

She has an ambitious vision for what the cemetery could become — a center for art, research, historic preservation and even climate resilience. (The property didn't suffer at all in the recent flooding; Acciavatti called it a "sponge.")

All these different uses would contribute to making the cemetery more beautiful for people who are grieving, she said.

"Grief is a way of loving, but we don't love individually. We're communal creatures. We do things in society. We do things together," she said. "And so all the ways that people can come together and love and celebrate this piece of land is all in service of always going back to the burial."

The cemetery's first burial last year was Acciavatti's dog, a 120-pound German shepherd who she said served as the "neighborhood ambassador" and was known to befriend rabbits. Her family car-

ried his body half a mile into the woods to bury him.

But Acciavatti has found that she never feels the need to visit the exact spot where he was buried. "It feels like he is everywhere in the cemetery now," she said. "And literally, he is."

She recounted a conversation between two of her clients, who were discussing whether they needed to buy burial plots next to each other. Referring to underground fungal networks that run among trees, one said, "Well, we'll always be connected by the mycelium."

Motivation to vote

(Continued from Page 5) can sometimes manifest as hatred or

disdain toward candidates, whether for their policies, their past actions,

or even who they are personally.

It's not uncommon to hear voters express seemingly superficial reasons for their choices. I've heard people, even my mother-in-law, admit to voting for a candidate simply because they liked the sound of his voice or his appearance. Others reject candidates because they don't seem "nice." In an age of constant information bombardment, it's no easy task to navigate through campaign performances, slogans, and political propaganda. It requires time and effort to look beyond appearances and carefully consider what's truly at stake.

When deciding who to vote for,

it's essential to focus on what matters to you and your community. Do the research—find out what each candidate has done in the past to improve the lives of the people they represent. What do they stand for? Who is most likely to defend your fundamental rights, such as community safety, freedom of speech, bodily autonomy, and healthcare choices?

Ask yourself, where do you stand on key issues like the safety of your community and country, dealing with drug addiction, the sovereignty of your own body, the freedom to speak your mind, the right to self-defense, and the rights of women to end human life when it comes to repro-

ductive choices? These are not easy questions, but they are vital ones.

Ultimately, when voting, it's crucial to consider a candidate's track record, not just their personality or charisma. Politics can be messy, and it's easy to get caught up in the spectacle of it all. But don't let political divisions come between you and your family, friends, neighbors, or business relationships. Respect the beliefs of others, and when you vote, make your decision based on actions and accomplishments, not presentation or performance.

Aida Nelson
Brandon



Golf Course

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Just in time for Halloween, classic silent horror flick starring Lon Chaney shown on the big screen 'Phantom of the Opera' with live music at Brandon Town Hall on Sat., Oct. 19

BRANDON—Get into the Halloween spirit with a timeless silent horror film! 'The Phantom of the Opera' (1925), the silent big screen adaptation of the classic thriller, will be shown with live music on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations. The screening, the latest in the venue's silent film series, will feature live accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating music for silent films. The show will allow movie-goers to experience the silent 'Phantom' the way it was intended to be seen: on the big screen, with live music, and with an audience. 'The Phantom of the Opera,' starring legendary actor Lon Chaney in the title role, remains a landmark work of the cinematic horror genre. To modern viewers, the passage of time has made this unusual film seem even more strange and otherworldly. It's an atmosphere that silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis will enhance by improvising live music on the spot for the screening. "The

original 'Phantom' is a film that seems to get creepier as more time passes," said Rapsis, who accompanies films at screenings throughout the nation. "It's a great way to celebrate Halloween, and also the power of silent film to transport audiences to strange and unusual places." 'The Phantom of the Opera,' adapted from a 19th century novel by French author Gaston Leroux, featured Chaney as the deformed Phantom who haunts the opera house. The Phantom, seen only in the shadows, causes murder and mayhem in an attempt to force the opera's management to make the woman he loves into a star. The film is most famous for Lon Chaney's intentionally horrific, self-applied make-up, which was kept a studio secret until the film's premiere. Chaney transformed his face by painting his eye sockets black, creating a cadaverous skull-like visage. He also pulled the tip of his nose up and pinned it in place with wire, enlarged his nostrils with black paint, and put a set of jagged false teeth into his mouth to complete the ghastly deformed look of the Phantom. Chaney's disfigured face is kept covered in the film until the now-famous unmasking scene, which prompted gasps of terror from

the film's original audiences. "No one had ever seen anything like this before," Rapsis said. "Chaney, with his portrayal of 'The Phantom,' really pushed the boundaries of what movies could do." Chaney, known as the "Man of a Thousand Faces" due to his versatility with make-up, also played Quasimodo in the silent 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' (1923) and circus performer 'Alonzo the Armless' in Tod Browning's 'The Unknown' (1927). The large cast of 'Phantom of the Opera' includes Mary Philbin as Christine Daaé, as the Phantom's love interest; character actor Snitz Edwards; and many other stars of the silent period. 'The Phantom of the Opera' proved so popular in its original release and again in a 1930 reissue that it led Universal Studios to launch a series of horror films, many of which are also regarded as true classics of



the genre, including 'Dracula' (1931), 'Frankenstein' (1931), and 'The Mummy' (1932).

The silent film version of 'Phantom' also paved the way (See 'Phantom of the Opera', Page 32)

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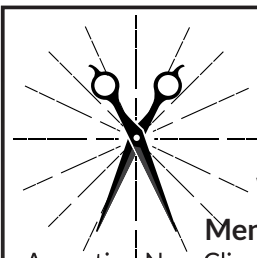
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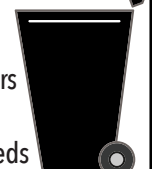
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Endangered Canada lynx sightings continue in western Vermont

BY KLARA BAUTERS/
VTDIGGER

Canada lynx has been spotted again in Vermont. And again, and again.

Biologists from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department said they've received multiple photos and videos of what they believe is the same cat spotted in southern Vermont earlier this summer.

"We've had 15 confirmed lynx sightings since August and signs point to these all being the same

dispersing juvenile male," said Brehan Furfey, a wildlife biologist with the department, in a press release Friday.

The lynx was first reported in August, spotted walking along a road in Rutland County. It marked the first reported sighting in the state in six years.

The cat has now traveled about 60 miles north into Addison County, according to the department.

"That's a conservation success in its own right because

Vermont's network of protected lands is what makes this journey possible," Furfey said. "Vermonters can be proud that decades of land protection and management for connected habitats have allowed this rare wild cat to make its way through our state."

Juvenile lynx will often travel long distances searching for new territory, a behavior known as "dispersal," the press release explained.

The lynx currently being spot-

ted by Vermonters appears skinny but healthy and is not a threat to people, according to the press release. The cat is likely stressed by being in unfamiliar habitat and needs to be allowed to continue on its way without disturbance, the release stated.

"The rule of thumb is always to keep a respectful distance from any wildlife you're observing. If they are changing their behavior in response to you, then you're too close," Furfey said in the release.

She encouraged residents to learn how to distinguish lynx from the more common bobcat, and to send photos or videos of possible lynx sightings to the state Fish and Wildlife Department.

"We're rooting for this lynx to keep heading north where it will find more young forest habitat and plenty of snowshoe hares to eat," Furfey said.

Election lessons

(Continued from Page 5)

undercut all of its competitors." (Source: britannica.com)

Similarly, a passage of the Clean Heat Standard in January of 2025 will empower Green Mountain Power to undercut all its (energy) competitors via a system of complicated Carbon Tax "Credits."

In 1764 the British Parliament passed the Sugar Act, taxing sugar. The Americans used sugar to make rum. When it became clear that rum was going to be more expensive, Americans objected. (source: history.com)

When it becomes clear that heating our homes will be more expensive, Vermonters will object to the Clean Heat Standard too. History is a continuum and ought to be studied by all who run for public office and by those who vote.

The Parliament repealed the Sugar Act. But it was soon followed by the Stamp Act, which taxed virtually every piece of printed paper. "You really didn't want to be a stamp collector at this point in American History. All the hatred was taken out on them. They had their houses attacked; rocks thrown at their windows." That too was repealed before Parliament passed the Townshend Act then the Tea Act, which gave Britain's own tea merchants a significant advantage in the colonial marketplace. (source: history.com)

The Clean Heat Standard will give Green Mountain Power a significant advantage in the home heating market. By the way, electricity is a secondary energy source, meaning that it is derived from other primary sources of energy, such as fossil fuels and nuclear power, in addition to solar power, wind power, hydropower, etc. These primary sources of energy are converted into electrical energy, which will likely spur ac-

quisition by and allow for Green Mountain Power to monopolize the energy industry in Vermont. (Source: electrical4u.com)

Over forty years ago the federal government settled a lawsuit with American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AT&T), prompting the breakup of one of the largest and most powerful monopolies of the 19th and 20th centuries. "AT&T was truly a vertically integrated organization that, for many years, flexed its considerable might to bully and acquire smaller regional companies." (Source: historyfactory.com)

Many Vermont small fuel and propane dealers will be forced out of business or acquired by Green Mountain Power. Individuals who are our friends and neighbors, not to mention their employees who, will become unemployed.

March 5th, 1770, hundreds of men who lost their jobs and blamed the British gathered on Kings Street and "flung snowballs, ice and oyster shells at a British sentinel guarding the Boston Customs House." Reinforcements arrived and the most formidable army in the world opened fire on an unarmed crowd, killing five and wounding six. "Britain eventually repealed the taxes it had imposed on the colonists except the tea tax. It wasn't about to give up tax revenue on the nearly 1.2 million pounds of tea the colonists drank each year." (source: history.com)

The Clean Heat Standard will force Vermonters to switch to electric heat by 2030 and, ready or not, begin to penalize us financially for not using electric heat in January 2026. In just over a year from now, us, the more than 70% of Vermonters who use fossil fuels to heat their homes and other buildings, will be forced to pay extra to continue to heat as we are

at this moment. (Source: vermont-public.org)

On December 16th, 1773, in retaliation to the Tea Act, the colonists dumped ninety thousand pounds of tea into the Boston Harbor. The British pushed back "with laws designed to show just who was boss." The colonists called them the "Intolerable Acts." One, called the Quartering Act, forced colonists to give food and bedding to British soldiers. "The British figured that they were going to make a statement. We are the people that run this place, not you." (source: history.com)

In 2023, the supermajority in the Vermont legislature overrode five of the governor's six vetoes.

"The Quartering Act and the other Intolerable Acts were really a test of strength to see who was stronger, who was going to govern in American. The British said 'it's us', and the Americans increasingly said 'no its not.' The Intolerable Acts really sparked an American us at a really early critical point of what comes to be the American Revolution." (source: history.com)

No to more taxes is the platform this country was founded on.

My vote will be for Todd Nielsen. A person of American values, he is for us, the people of Brandon and Forest Dale who currently heat with fossil fuels.

"On April 19th, 1775, us versus them became reality as the American Revolution began with a shot heard around the world at Lexington Common." (source: history.com)

Personally, I'd vote for Todd twice if I could.

Please, vote. Our vote is our voice... and the only peaceful solution to this grave injustice to the American people of Vermont. Don't let the supermajority dictate choices for us. If you are not registered to vote, you can register online at olvr.vermont.gov, at the Brandon Town Office or at the Brandon American Legion dur-

ing polling hours on the day of the election. All you need is one of these acceptable forms of I.D.:

- Valid photo ID (driver's license or passport)
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Another government document

First time Registrants in VT must take the voter's oath. The oath may be self-administered. You must be 18 to take the oath:

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For more information please visit: sos.vermont.gov or contact Sue Gage at the Brandon Town Offices, (802) 247-3635. Freedom—and peace—are only a vote away. Namaste.

God bless Todd Nielsen for stepping up for us. Thank you.

*Vicki Disorda
Brandon*

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Let this serve as notice that Personnel Records of employees who were employed at Barstow Memorial School, Lothrop Elementary School, Neshobe School, Otter Creek Academy (formally known as Leicester Central, Sudbury Country and Whiting Elementary Schools), or Otter Valley High School in the 1993 and 1994 school years are being destroyed in accordance with Federal, State and Local Guidelines.

Anyone who would like their record should call Kayla Emerson at the RNESU Office at (802)247-5757 prior to December 31, 2024 to make arrangements to pick it up.

Brooke Dahlin
Human Resources Coordinator

Phantom of the Opera

(Continued from Page 29)

for numerous other adaptations of the story, up to and including the wildly successful Andrew Lloyd Webber musical from 1986 that continues to run on Broadway and in productions around the world. The screening is sponsored by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust and Andrew and Bethany Menkart. The final films in this year's Brandon Town Hall silent film series will be: • Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, 7 p.m.: "Barbed Wire" (1927) starring Pola Negri, Clive Brook. During World War I, the French government commandeers a family farm for use as a camp for German POWs, setting the local population at each other. Intense drama about forbidden love and the human condition, with a special holiday twist. 'The Phantom of the Opera' (1925) will be shown on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations. For information, visit www.brandontownhall.com. For info on the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.



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