

# The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 30, No.15

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

\$1

## BRANDON IDOL SOES ALL IN ON ROCK AND ROLL

GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—The Brandon Town Hall was packed with enthusiastic fans to hear the Brandon Idol contestants deliver some good old Rock and Roll tunes. As ever, Bill Moore MC'd the event and the Brandon Idol band consisting of Bryon Billado, Carina Ellis, Kenny Cifone, Ross Edmunds, and guest drummer Jensen Kelly were there backing up the performers.

Kicking the night off was Bill Cotell performing "Rockin' Robin." Cotell wore a bird feather necklace and was backed up by vocalists Bill Moore and Hilary Collier. This was Cotell's last Idol performance as he will be attending his daughter's graduation during the final Idol show.

Next up was Sydney Singh who gave an energetic rendition of "If Looks Could Kill" by Heart.

Singh was very coy and did not give a strong hint about her song for the finals. Journey's "Lovin'

Touchin' Squeezin' " was heartily sung by Hilary (one L) Collier (two L's). Miley Lape gave a

smooth rendition of "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac. Lape divulged (See Brandon Idol, Page 21)



BRANDON IDOL EMCEE Bill Moore and Hilary Collier clap along as Bill Cotell entertains the audience at this week's Brandon Idol competition.

Photos by George Fjeld

## Brandon SB plows through agenda

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Brandon Select Board met Monday in 56 minutes and accomplished all they had on their plate. Initially they approved permits as the Liquor Control Board. The Board switched hats to meet as the Sewer Commissioners where they approved spending \$12,600 on RootX root killer to keep the roots out of the sewer lines without killing the trees. A public questioner asked if this could be a use for the public funds and Town Manager Seth (See Brandon SB, Page 6)



APPRENTICE FALCONER KRISTEN Lee, with Krueger, a young red-tailed hawk.

Photos by George Fjeld

## Meet young Vermont falconer, Kristen Lee

GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Suprisingly, I met Kristen Lee's red-tailed hawk, Krueger, in the post office one day. He was there on a visit

on Lee's day off from her postal route. The hawk had a recognizable shrill call which he demonstrated frequently. Krueger let me touch him and his body

was surprisingly small under his feathers. He is quite regal.

Falconry or hunting with a bird of prey is a sport in Vermont. (See Kristen Lee, Page 9)

## Pittsford SB discusses Covered Bridge Week, police cameras, and public nudity

BY MITCHELL PEARL

The Pittsford Selectboard meeting on April 2, 2025, saw several items discussed but not acted upon due to the absence of two members. The full Report of Interim Town Manager Ann Reed is printed separately. Ms. Reed noted that she had met with representatives from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission regarding several transportation related projects. One of the projects discussed was the installation of rapid blinking lights at the crosswalk at Kamuda's. Another discussion point was slowing traffic that is coming from Route 7 down Elm Street. Also noted was a project to update and upgrade bus stop signage.

The Selectboard reviewed a packet of information from Motorola regarding the police body and cruiser cameras. The computer drives holding data and images from these cameras are currently near full and will require additional space for

the data to be collected. There was discussion of the funding for the first year of a potential 5-year purchase to accommodate this need. Although other suppliers were considered, Ms. Reed explained that Motorola has the "monopoly" on these products in Vermont, and she was hesitant to recommend going with a different, untested company. The Selectboard members present decided to table the issue until there was a full board present.

The Selectboard discussed Covered Bridge Week, which is August 2 – August 9 in Vermont. Though some towns have more, Pittsford is proud to have 3 covered bridges (depending on how Gorham bridge is counted). Ms. Reed has contacted Winning Image Graphics (See Pittsford SB, Page 19)





## Names lost in Vermont, Part 47: Nisun, Tucker, and Bunch

**BY MICHAEL F. DWYER**

Our three names under study do not bear any resemblance to their originals. The first two have in common that they are translations of French phrases. Nisun may look like a brand of car, but the first clue in deciphering it lies in its pronunciation: “nice sun.” A memorial stone in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Middlebury honors the short life of soldier Harold Nisun. We learn the circumstances of

*Their story still  
conceals a mystery.  
A baby named  
Vincent, no last  
name, was  
baptized in Sher-  
rington, Québec.*

his wartime service and death through a clipping from the Burlington Free Press on August 29, 1944. Working backwards, the 1925 obituary of Harold's grandfather, Frank Nissun, identifies him as the immigrant from Canada but does not give any clues to his exact birthplace or his parentage. Bridport's 1900 census entry for Frank's family reveals his mother as Cloyesupp [??] Bousely, age 101 [!]. Her age had to have been seriously exaggerated because she would not have given birth to Frank when she was in her mid-fifties. More on that momentarily. The marriage record on December 30, 1918 from St. Mary's Church in Middlebury of Frank's daughter Mercedes to Thomas Burns provides a key piece of evidence in the transformation of the name. The priest wrote Nisun as Beausoleil [beautiful/nice sunshine]. Throughout New England, Beausoleil often collapsed to Bousley, as we see above in the name of Frank's mother.

Their story still conceals a mystery. A baby named Vincent, no last name, was baptized in Sherrington, Québec, on April 5, 1854, the out-of-wedlock child of Isabelle Beausoleil—father unknown. Vincent's birth date and place line up with all the other facts concerning Frank Nisun. Moving to Vermont in the 1870s, he first went by the name Frank Bell when he

worked as a farm laborer as described in Weybridge's 1880 census. My guess is that Isabelle was Frank's grandmother and in the concealment of a family scandal brought the child to the church for baptism.

On to Tucker, which sounds

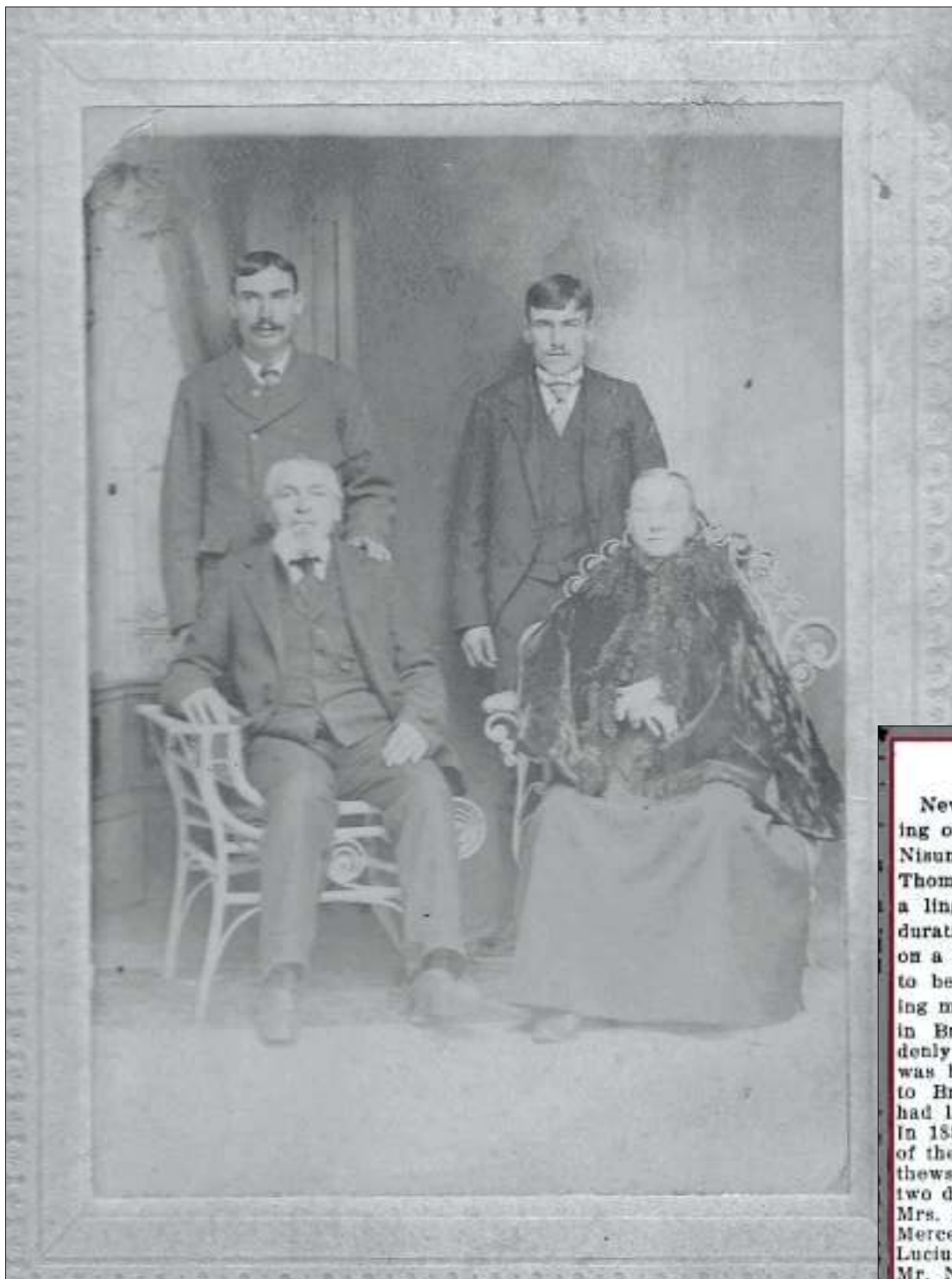
like a common American surname. An obituary from Vergennes Vermont Enterprise and Reporter in June 1913 gives an overview of 87-year-old man Joseph Tucker who lived in Addison for many years but reveals nothing about parents or specif-

ic birthplace. Around 1895, Joseph Tucker, and his wife Lena posed for a studio photograph with two of their sons, Albert and Joseph, Jr. Joseph Jr. married Nellie Parrow on January 7, 1878 as recorded in Addison. Once again, the marriage

register of St. Mary's Church in Middlebury gives us his real name: Beuparlant [smooth talker]! Yes, talker to Tucker. Joseph Sr. was baptized on March 18, 1827 in St. Elisabeth d'Autray, Québec, son of Joseph Beuparlant and Josephthe Ladouceur. His ancestor, Jean Beuparlant, a soldier and tailor, came from Nevers, France, and married Josephthe Moreau in Montréal on January 7, 1734.

Bunch only has in common with its original name its first letter B. Peter Bunch first shows up in Vermont in Vergennes 1860 census with his wife Mary and four children. Ten years later, Peter gets written as Joseph, Mary as Zoa, but it's the same family! Their son Joseph Bunch married Mary Garland in Middlebury on February 28, 1881, the church record disclosing his true name as Boesierre [variant spelling], and the names of his parents Peter and Zoa. These names, Pierre Labossière and Zoe Fortin are confirmed in their marriage record from Napierville, Québec, in September 1839. It was the second marriage for each of

(See Names lost, Page 15)



**A STUDIO PHOTOGRAPH c. 1895 of Joseph and Lena Tucker, along with their sons, Albert and Joseph.**

[illegible]

~~BRIDPORT~~

### Obituary.

News was received Thursday morning of the sudden death of Frank A. Nisun at the home of his son-in-law, Thomas Burns, in Middlebury, after a lingering illness of several years' duration. Mr. and Mrs. Nisun were on a visit and as Mr. Nisun appeared to be better, arrangements were being made for his removal to his home in Bridport, when death came suddenly in the night Wednesday. He was born in Canada in 1854, coming to Bridport when a small boy and had lived here nearly all of his life. In 1884 he married Minnie, daughter of the late Louis and Elizabeth (Matthews) Delphia, who together with two daughters and a son survive him, Mrs. Edith I. Case of this town, Mrs. Mercedes Burns of Middlebury, and Lucius G. Nisun of Sandy Hill, N. Y. Mr. Nisun was a farmer and owned several hundred acres of land. In 1894 he purchased the farm known as the David Hill Black Hawk stock farm, where he and Mrs. Nisun resided. The funeral service was held from St. Mary's Catholic church in Middlebury Monday morning at nine o'clock, Rev. T. J. Leonard officiating. The bearers were G. R. Walker, C. L. Parrish, former residents of town, Isaac Lavonche, jr., of Middlebury, Elmer Cowles of Weybridge, Daniel Sullivan of Shoreham and W. W. Briggs of this town. The interment was in the family lot in St. Mary's cemetery.

### THE 1925 OBITUARY of Frank Nisun.



# Nifty Thrifty is still going as strong as ever at 50!

**BY LAURA PETERSON**  
BRANDON—On April 14 of 1975, a group of like-minded Brandon women opened a thrift shop in town, the Brandon Thrift Shop, a.k.a. Nifty Thrifty. It began as a consignment shop and opened three days a week with a team of 95 volunteers. The original Steering Commit-

ited merchandise to “only what two women could carry.” In the newspaper they were referred to as Mrs. John Doe, not Jane Doe. As further evidence that it was a different era, within a month of opening, they hired a cleaner, a manager, and a bookkeeper, and paid a man to audit their books once a year. By the end of their

second year, they had \$2000 in the bank and had given away \$175.

In August of 1980, the thrift shop was on the move again. This time, the move was around the corner to 47 Center Street, between Red Clover Brewery and the door to the upstairs of the Town Office. Neshobe

Falls Insurance Agency is in this storefront right now. This space was teeny tiny, but it had a nice front window for display. The hours were extended to five days a week, 10 to 1.

The '80s might be considered their Glory Days. By the early '80s, they were averaging a monthly income of \$500. They were giving five \$200 scholarships to graduating Otter Valley seniors and another \$3,400 to community projects like Little League, library summer programming, free movie nights, Children's Day Care Center, and Brandon Area Arts Council. By 1981, they had given a total of over \$10,000 back to the community. They thought they might be able to raise their prices, and they were desperate for new volunteers to handle their thriving business.

Nifty Thrifty moved again

in February of '82, two doors down to the vacated Williams Insurance Agency storefront (41 Center Street) with the bay window. The area is now part of Morningside Bakery.

In 1988, the Brandon Thrift Shop earned \$11,622.25 and awarded eight \$200 scholarships to Otter Valley seniors. But there, their bubble seemed to burst. Perhaps it was the location. Although the shop was right on Center Street, the space was tiny and dark and never had a properly working toilet, a screened door, or adequate heat. It seems they were in constant debate with the landlord about the heat. They were always cold, but their heating bill was enormous!

By '91, they only had 17 willing workers, and they discussed how to increase their profits.

(See Nifty Thrifty, Page 14)



**RIBBON CUTTING** at the opening of the original Brandon Thrift Store below what is now the Blooming Bungalow. Guesses are Bobbie Torstensen and Sally Greene are holding either end of the ribbon.

tee consisted of Sally Greene, Harriet Davis, Susie Parry, Carol Fowler, Bobbie Torstenson, and Bette Moffett. The shop found a home in the basement of Barnes TV Store, under 22 Center Street. (That is where Blooming Bungalow is now.) The owner, Bill Brooks, said they could use the space for free until they felt they could afford rent, and then they could pay \$50 a month. A year later, the Brandon Thrift Shop moved to the upstairs of the town offices, a '4-room suite' which included the former police headquarters and Tom Whittaker's real estate offices. Entry was by way of the back porch near the hardware store, now Sister Wicked. It was twice the space but twice the rent.

Nifty Thrifty was conceived as a consignment shop, but it also took donations. They were open three days a week (Thurs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri. 9 p.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-noon) and had three volunteers on duty for each three hour shift. They lim-



**THE BAY WINDOW** of the Morningside Bakery which used to house the thrift store in the 80s—too small, but a great window row display.

## Spotlight On Business MILLER & KETCHAM FUNERAL HOME



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- Pre-arranged and pre-paid funeral services.

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BRANDON REPORTER

# Volunteer week is coming

## Brandon's Restorative Justice Committee (BRAVO) seeks new volunteers

**BY MITCHELL PEARL**  
BRANDON-Restorative Justice is a growing movement which offers some offenders and the community an alternative path to the criminal justice system. In the court system, the focus is on adjudicating guilt or innocence and punishing offenders. By contrast, the restorative justice model seeks to identify the harms caused by wrongdoing—to individuals and to the community—and to put right those harms as best as possible.

B R A V O (Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders) was founded years ago by Art Doty, Lance Mead, and Debbie Boyce. Currently BRAVO consists of a five-member advisory board and small group of volunteers trained to participate in restorative justice panels. BRAVO is currently seeking additional volunteers willing to undergo training, and potentially to sit on the advisory board. This board meets once a month to do necessary business; it recruits volunteers and ensures that they have proper training, and a member of the board—the coordinator—handles the logistics necessary to schedule panels when cases are referred.

BRAVO handles local matters

before formal charges are filed in court. Appropriate cases are referred by Brandon Chief of Police, David Kachajian. Three BRAVO panel members then meet with offenders, harmed parties, representatives of the community, and with parents or guardians of juvenile offenders. Together, they create a plan to address the harm done, the

needs of parties harmed, and the needs of the community at large. The offender's participation is entirely voluntary and offenders must accept responsibility for their actions. Restorative Justice plans often involve

restitution, letters of apology, and community service. The process itself can be healing for the people involved. In addition to local cases, our trained volunteers now also work with the restorative justice programs serving all of Rutland County.

Restorative Justice is not something new—it has been practiced around the world and by indigenous communities here for as long as anyone can remember. But Restorative Justice is now becoming more popular and “mainstream,” and new Vermont legislation seeks to expand access to Restorative Justice statewide. In the future,

(See BRAVO, Page 9)

*Restorative Justice is not something new—it has been practiced around the world and by indigenous communities here for as long as anyone can remember.*



### Just kicking around

**CORRECTION:** DUE TO an editing error, last week's caption accidentally misidentified the bird pictured: it was a fox sparrow, not a white-crowned sparrow. Ms. Wetmore's reputation as a birder remains intact.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums Chamber of Commerce Otter Valley prize award available

The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce it is now accepting application forms for their annual Chamber \$500 Prize Award. Junior or Senior students at Otter Valley may apply.

The Chamber Prize Award will be presented to a student who is well-rounded, has participated in school and community activities, who may be pur-

suing higher education through college or technical schools, planning a career in business or aspiring to be entrepreneurial. Please submit a short essay on your various hopes and dreams for life after high school! If you have worked for a business in the OV communities or elsewhere, please indicate how that might have influenced you in planning your future endeavors

and what life skills you derived from your experience.

Interested students should contact the Guidance Office for applications.

The deadline for applying is May 15. For more information, you may also call the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or email to [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org).

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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.**

**Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator**

**Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733**

**Postmaster, send address change to The Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753 • Phone: 802-388-4944 Email: [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com), [ads@brandonreporter.com](mailto:ads@brandonreporter.com)**

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT.  
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55  
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## Brandon History Museum and Stephen A Douglas Birthplace Community Center needs your help

### We need YOU!

Interested in history and the Brandon area? Enjoy sharing your knowledge with others?

Or do you like to give back to our community but would rather work alone?

We can use some extra hands

in several areas:

- Providing local and regional info to visitors—inside (See Brandon Museum, Page 20)



## Community Forums

# Vermont Fish & Wildlife is offering introductory fishing clinics

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is holding a series of free introductory fishing clinics this spring open to people of all ages and levels of experience, including those who are completely new to fishing.

Equipment will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own rods and to dress for the weather.

The Free How-To Fishing Clinics are listed from a link on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website home page and on the events calendar.

Subjects covered include:

- Bullhead Fishing—April 24, Stonebridge Dam, Panton
- Fly Fishing—April 26, Bristol
- Targeting Trout, Salmon and Walleye—April 26 at Kehoe Conservation Camp, Castleton
- Bullhead Fishing—May 15, Hoyts Landing, Springfield
- Fly Fishing—May 17, Sycamore Park, Bristol.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited to the first 30 registrants, so sign up as early as possible.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Please



send an e-mail to [corey.hart@vermont.gov](mailto:corey.hart@vermont.gov) or call 802-505-5562 (voice), 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).



## Rutland County Audubon presents “Underground Allies: The Crucial Relationship Between Trees and Mycorrhizal Fungi”

On April 23, Jordon Tourville, plant ecologist, will present a program titled: “Underground Allies: The Crucial Relationship Between Trees and Mycorrhizal Fungi.”

Mycorrhizal fungi form mutualistic symbioses with >94% of all plant species, yet research around their impacts on forests is still in its infancy. Using examples from mountain forests in the Northeast, we'll discuss how these relationships

work and what we still need to understand about these unlikely allies. Dr. Jordon Tourville is a forest, plant, and mycorrhizal ecologist working for the Appalachian Mountain Club. His main research interests focus on how climate change will impact forest and plant communities, particularly on mountains in the Northeast.

At Grace Church Conference Room at 6:30–8 p.m. Free and open to the public.

## Spring wildflower walk on Mount Independence, April 27

ORWELL—Come to the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont, on Sunday, April 27, 2025, for the annual spring wildflower guided walk. The program runs from noon to 2:00 p.m. Amy Olmsted, a nursery professional for over 25 years, is your guide. Olmsted is a horticulturist with Rocky Dale Gardens in Bristol, Vermont.

Olmsted will show you early wildflowers, how to identify them, and discuss their habitat. You'll learn their common and Latin names. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, dress for the weather, be prepared for walking the trails (some of which may be wet), and bring water if you like. Learn a little about the Revolutionary War history of the site as well.

This special event brings you to this historic site before the of-



ficial opening on Friday, May 23.

The program, co-sponsored by the Mount Independence Coalition and Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, is open to the public. The walk fee is \$5.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children ages 6 to 14, free for children under 5, and free for members of the Mount Independence Coalition. Meet by noon outside the Museum. Restrooms will be available before the start of the

walk. Call 802-759-2412 for more information.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site, one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archeological sites in this country, also is well known for its natural resources. 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. Starting May 23, the site will be open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily through October 19.

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





# Obituaries

## Judy Gail Lubinski, 78, Leicester

Judy Gail Lubinski, age 78, passed peacefully, in the care of her daughter, on April 8, 2025.

Judy was born in Smithfield, N.C. on January 6, 1947. She was the daughter of Henry and Louise (Parrish) Peedin. She received her education in Smithfield and graduated class of 1965. Following graduation, she joined the United States Air Force and served four years. November 20, 1969, she married Michael Lubinski in Smithfield, N.C. They made their home in Leicester. Judy had worked more than 34 years at Vermont Tubbs as a woodworker, handling assembly and finishing work. She was an avid league bowler in Middlebury and Rutland. She



JUDY GAIL LUBINSKI

enjoyed yardwork and her flower gardens. She filled her home with over a hundred wooden

puzzles of dragonflies and other various animals.

She is survived by her daughter Michelle Lubinski of Leicester; a grandson, Jayme Kenyon of Cape Coral, Fla.; a granddaughter, Danielle Kenyon of New York; and two sisters, Lorna Blalock of Clayton, N.C. and Mardie Batten of Spring Hope, N.C. She was predeceased by her husband, Michael Lubinski; two brothers, Joseph and Julian Peedin, and two sisters, Betty Carter and Jackie Ralston.

Respecting her wishes, all funeral services will be private. Burial will be in Brookside Cemetery in Leicester.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

## Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

Hopkins thought it could be so.

The Board reconvened as the Select Board and approved the minutes of March 24 and the warrant for \$280,630.04. A presentation by CornerstoneHousing Partners was postponed.

Mr. Hopkins gave his town manager report, a copy of which is included in this paper.

Briefly, he announced that the road crew is on summer schedule: 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday. Road sweeping will occur Tuesday and Wednesday nights. A downtown lamppost was struck by a motor vehicle and a string of lights had to be turned off. A delinquent property tax collection letter went out and achieved its desired ef-

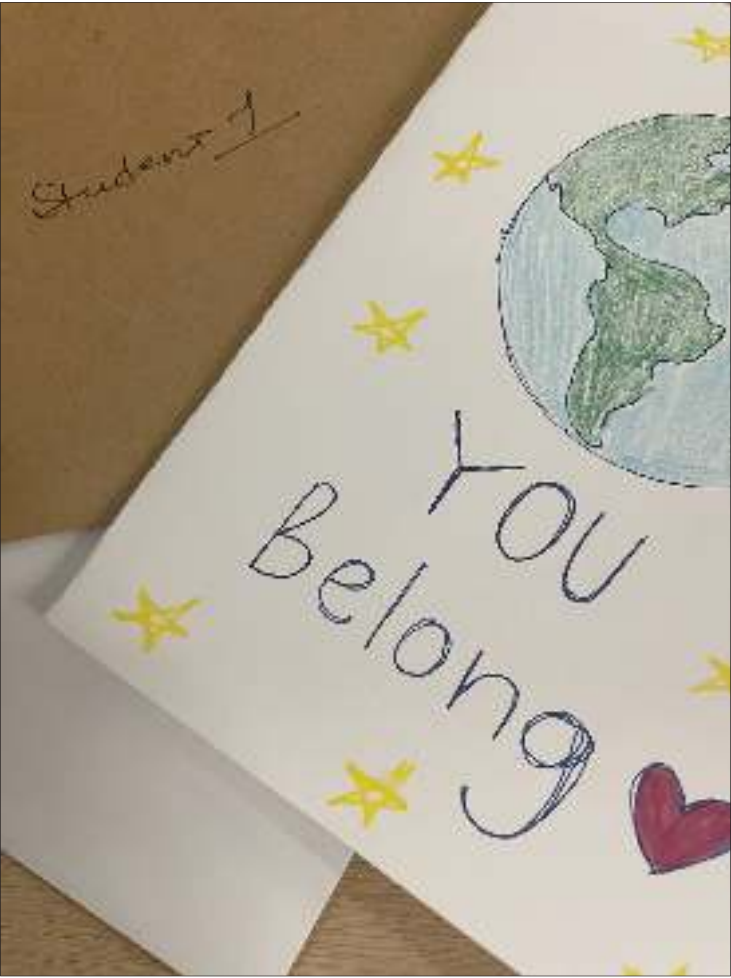
fect: more than 30,000 dollars have been collected in the first week. The auditor's report was filed with a clean/unmodified statement.

Mr. Hopkins reported that he went to a capital forum for Vermont towns and received a lot of good information that can be used to establish a capital fund in the next budget cycle. Five grants have been applied for, including almost \$500,000 for paying to the state and \$20,000 to the Trustees of Public Funds for sewer monitoring equipment.

Bill Moore presented the Community Development report. Highlights are Town Hall events: April 18th-Wildlife, April 26th-Wrestling, Summer and fall-Silent Movie. May 2 will be Halfoween with a witches parade down Park Street. The owners of 191 Newton Road accepted a FEMA buy-out. The Town Hall is expected to be reroofed in May.

The Board designated the Chair or Vice-chair to sign payroll warrants between meetings. The compliance for Town Road & Bridge Standards and Network Inventory was certified. The annual plan for the town highways was approved.

Road crew chief Jeremy Disorda suggested purchasing a used Case tractor for \$16,500 to be used for roadside mowing, freeing up the grader for other uses. This will be paid for with the funds from the sale of the unusable dump truck (due (See Brandon SB, Page 8)



**STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY** members have made cards in support of the two Nicaraguan Champlain Valley Union High School students facing expulsion from the country by the end of April. Photo courtesy of Christina Daudelin

## Champlain Valley Union High School students face expulsion from the US

BY OLIVIA GIEGER/  
VTDIGGER

Two Champlain Valley Union High School students are being forced to leave the U.S., after an order from the Department of Homeland Security suspended a legal parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans.

The two Champlain Valley teenagers are originally from Nicaragua and have been in the U.S. for less than a year under the program, which the Department of Homeland Security prematurely ended March 25, giving people 30 days to leave the U.S. The program is set up to allow for two years of legal residence in the U.S.

The students' family plans to comply with the order and exit the country by the end of the month, according to Christina Daudelin, a student and community engagement facilitator for the Champlain Valley School District. Because the

*"It's a human rights issue. Even if you can take politics out, we decide who the community is. These students are our community, and they are us."*

— Christina Daudelin, Student and community engagement facilitator for the Champlain Valley School District

students are minors and the specter of returning to Nicaragua poses additional safety concerns, the school has not shared the students' names or identifying details.

Otherwise school has been "operating as normal" to preserve a sense of balance, Daudelin said. The

school is planning an early graduation ceremony to take place next week so the students (See Student deportation, Page 23)

## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com).

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

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# KIDS IDOL SOARS AT BRANDON TOWN HALL

**BY COLLEEN WRIGHT**

**BRANDON**—Brandon continues to stun Rutland County with talent, and Kids Idol brought out the best young singers in and outside of town! Friday at the Brandon Town Hall they got onstage and wowed the crowd.

Owen Lewis came in first with a fast rendition of “My Shot” from the Broadway Show Hamilton! Aila Malay sang “Mine” by Taylor Swift with a sweet voice and big style. And Nikya Rozell, a last minute entry, came

in third with a powerhouse rendition of “Valarie” by Amy Winehouse.

Korbin Laughlin won the first Lori Keith Fan Favorite award! The Lori Keith award will be presented to the top fan favorite by voting at each Idol. Lori was one of our first big fans, and a tremendous support for all of the activities through Brandon Rec.

All of the singers were amazing and it’s hard to know how the judges were able to decide. Look for more opportunities to sing in Beautiful Brandon!



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Korbin Laughlin, Remi Barry, Josie Fox, Lani Heitmann, Nikya Rozell, Maggie Hooker, Aila Malay and Owen Lewis; Lani Heitmann; Nikya Rozell; Josie Fox; Maggie Hooker; Owen Lewis; Remi Barry; Aila Malay (center).



# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 6)  
to a rusted frame), \$16,700. The proposal was approved.  
The closure of Park Street for Halfoween's Witch Walk on May 2 was approved 4-1. The board's concerns of insurance and flagging were responded to by organiser Colleen Wright. She expects about 75 marchers and will have a Monster Mash behind the Brandon Inn following the walk. Bernie Carr from the Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor, as did Aturo Mendola  
The Board approved a working group/ad hoc committee to update the Brandon Workbook dealing with the downtown aes-

thetic. Dennis Reisenweaver from the Historic Preservation Committee proposed a group of not more than eight members. The plan is to include Forestdale. He expects this could cost as much as \$15,000 and has applied for grants to meet that obligation.  
In the public comments, Claire Astone congratulated the Board on their thrifty spending for roadside mowing. Hopkins said it was the work of Jeremy Disorda from the road crew. Shirley Markland appreciated the town-wide updates during and after the attack on Chef Robert in Café Provence.

## Brandon Town Manager's report, March 22–April 9

There are several public works related agenda items tonight which are reflective of our current focus on capital equipment efficiencies and infrastructure maintenance. The Town Highway Department has been working on the seasonal evolution to mild-weather operations including clean up of the downtown, equipment changeover, etc. They will go to their summer schedule of four ten-hour days starting next week. Street sweeping has been announced on the Town website and on Front Porch Forum.

A motorist knocked down a triple-globe lamp-post on March 26th. The motorist himself did the right thing and alerted the authorities. He spoke with me at the town office, and our police connected with him to fill out the report. The replacement will be against the driver's insurance.

A temporary part-time position as admin assistant at the police station has been posted due to an advised leave of absence. <https://www.townofbrandon.com/temp-position-police-secretary/>

The Town's attorney has issued the collection letters to delinquent taxpayers. This letter reflects current Vermont law as amended by the Legislature last session. As collector of delinquent taxes, I am happy to report that the Town's outstanding delinquent tax balance has been reduced by more than \$30,000 in the first week since the letter. Some taxpayers have established repayment plans per the Town's delinquent tax collection policy, requiring repayment in full within one year. Jackie Savela calculates the repayment schedule and prepares the plans for the taxpayers.

I worked with the Rutland County Humane Society and the chiefs of the various Town and Independent agencies to advance the Act 250 review of the Society's relocation to Brandon. I also finalized the Town's clearance per DRB decision in support of Segment 4 (south of OVUHS).

I worked with trustees of the Congregational Church regarding incorporating repainting of the

for an attendee after the event. Thank you to all who ensured this constitutionally-protected public assembly was safe and peaceful.

Our whole town was shaken by last Saturday afternoon's stabbing of a beloved community member, Chef Robert Barral of Café Provence. We all join in wishing Chef Robert a full and swift recovery. I sent a letter of appreciation to the Vermont State Police for their response and ongoing protection of our community in a time of diminished local capacity. The Town's emergency opt-in text alert system was activated twice, once to advise the public to the suspect-at-large and then a short time later to the suspect's capture. Those who would like to be included in very infrequent emergency text messages from the Town may sign up here: <https://www.townofbrandon.com/opt-in-emergency-text-alerts/>

The Town's external audit was submitted on time to the Federal clearinghouse, the state grants administrators, and published on the Town website. This is, once again, a "clean" or "unmodified" audit with no findings of weakness of its financial management or deficiencies in the Town's internal controls. The "Summary of Auditor's Results" page is provided with this report. Sue Gage and Jackie Savela work closely with the auditors to answer questions, explain the Town's procedures and funds, and generally facilitate the ability of the independent auditors to conduct their work in the most thorough manner.

Following up on the clarifiers at Wastewater: Bill Moore and I, to gether with our Wastewater Operators, met onsite with the project engineer and the president of A+E. The new south clarifier had not been adversely impacted. The north clarifier has been satisfactorily repaired under warranty. Photographs were taken which A+E feels will be helpful to establishing the conditions that caused the middle clarifier to suffer damage. As determinations are made, I'll update you.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$482,043
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated	\$336,376
Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated	UNION STREET
Delinquent property taxes (prior years)	\$460,654 (was \$493,642)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years [over 120 days])	\$214,604 (was \$216,680)

Town Clock into the church's planned steeple project. The clock is the Town's responsibility, and having the work done in conjunction with the church's work will be the most efficient use of public funds for this required maintenance. The clockworks itself still needs repair. A member of a local family who have been Brandon's clockkeepers for many decades has been put in contact with the NH steeple clock specialist identified by the Town to inspect and propose a solution.

Chief Kachajian provided on-scene coverage in case any assistance was required at Saturday's event in the park. Public safety was maintained throughout, and he reported that the only assistance required of him was to help jump-start a car


I had many meetings with residents, town officials, staff, and filled a number of requests for information. As of this writing on Wednesday, I have planned to attend the Vermont Bond Bank Capital Planning Forum in Barre (Thursday, April 10).

Respectfully submitted,

*Seah M. Hopkins*

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# Kristin Lee

(Continued from Page 1)  
mont that not a lot of folks know about and even fewer practice it. Falconry dates back at least 4,000 years and was a critical food producer for gathering meat. There are only 11 licensed falconers and only 4 active falconers in Vermont. It is more widely practiced in much of the

As an apprentice falconer with the help of a mentor, she captured the young wild red-tailed hawk last September and has trained him to hunt. Krueger is a young male who weighs about 2.5 pounds and stands about 20 inches tall. He's just reached his first birthday (about) and will be released back into the wild in



**KRUEGER FLYING INTO roost on Lee's gloved hand.**

Photos by Kristen Lee



**KRUEGER POSING FOR his picture with Kristen.**

last year. Females are preferred as they are larger and more aggressive, making them easier to train. Krueger was easy to capture.

Lee trapped Krueger last September just down the road from her house using a snare trap called a Bal Chatri. The trap was baited with a small rodent and tossed from a slow moving car in the vicinity of the young bird who was sitting on a wire hunting a field. Krueger was quick to take the bait and suffered no injuries. He was on the skinny side indicating he wasn't getting a lot of food and might not have survived the fall and winter. Red-

tailed hawks hatch in the spring and fledge (leave the nest) in late spring/early summer. By the end of June the parents drive them out of their native territory to live on their own. More than 75% of fledglings don't make it past the first year, which is typical for all birds of prey.

Krueger was quick to train and caught mice, moles, and a snake but no larger prey like squirrel or rabbit. Initial training for 1-2 hours a day enabled Krueger to sit on Lee's leather gloved hand and get fed there. He became quite accepting of the attention of strangers as well as household noises and domes-

ticated animals like dogs and cats as he accompanied Kristen on her daily travels.

Training a falcon is a time intensive process. Two to three times a day the bird must be fed and exercised. Initial training involves getting on the leather glove and being fed there. Next is hopping to the glove followed by short flights to the glove. Lee was able to accomplish that in her basement in about 2 weeks. Outdoor flying is done initially on a leash called a creance, 100 yards of paracord tied to the leg of the bird. Krueger went on his first flight off the creance after about 3 weeks of training.

Falconers keep close track of their bird's weight. A fat bird can't fly and a well fed bird won't hunt, so keeping close account of the weight is critical. Weights are usually taken 2-3 times a day. Flying weight is higher than hunting weight as a hungry bird is motivated to hunt.

According to Beebe's book, North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks, falconers are permitted to take only passage hawks (which have left the nest, are on their own, but are less than a year old) so as to not affect the breeding population. Passage red-tailed hawks are also preferred by falconers because they have not yet developed the adult behaviors that would make them more difficult to train.

Lee fully expects that Krueger is very likely to survive to adulthood. He is not expected to remain around after being released. Kristen expects to get her general falconry license this summer.

rest of the world.

Kristen Lee knows a bunch and is learning more every day from her hawk, Krueger.

the next week or two. Krueger lives with Kristen and her partner and is her second hawk. Lee captured and trained a female

## Vermont leaders pan the GOP-led federal voter ID bill for harmful rhetoric

BY SHAUN ROBINSON  
VTDIGGER  
"A DANGEROUS STEP"

Speaking to reporters this week with her colleagues from two other states, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas used those three words to describe a federal bill that would require people to show documents proving their U.S. citizenship when registering to vote. She said the SAVE Act, which passed the U.S. House Thursday with support from Republicans and four of the chamber's Democrats, could lead to

millions of Americans being disenfranchised.

GOP leaders say the bill is meant to keep noncitizens from voting. Among other measures, it would require people to prove citizenship using an ID plus another form of documentation, such as a birth certificate or passport. But that could make it harder for married women, whose last names are often different from their names at birth, to register to vote, Copeland Hanzas said.

She was speaking about the legislation on a joint video call

Thursday morning with the secretaries of state in Maine and Colorado, both of whom are also women.

"They bring out the SAVE Act and cloak it in this rhetoric of 'election integrity,' when what it really does is, it pushes women out of the democratic process. And it's not a coincidence," Copeland Hanzas said. "It's part of a strategy to make voting harder — to sow distrust in our elections."

Vermont's Democratic U.S. Rep. Becca Balint voted against (See Voter ID bill, Page 11)

## BRAVO

(Continued from Page 4)  
it is likely that there will be greater coordination between BRAVO and neighboring and county-wide programs.

The BRAVO volunteers believe that they help to support a safe community by listening to and addressing the needs of victims, offenders, and the community at the earliest possible

time. We are actively looking for several more members. If you are interested in participating in BRAVO's work, please consider joining. For more information, please see <https://www.townofbrandon.com/town-committees/bravo/>. You may also contact Mitchell Pearl at [mitchpearlvt@gmail.com](mailto:mitchpearlvt@gmail.com).

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# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Landon Euber  
GRADE: 7  
SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School  
TITLE: Untitled  
MEDIUM: Tempera Paint  
TEACHER: Tiffiny St. Michaud





# Pittsford Town Manager's report

Interim Town Manager Ann Reed reported the following:

- There will be an online presentation with regard to the Open Meeting Law. Members interested in attending should sign up with the Interim Town Manager.
- Met with the Fire Department during their training session review the Employee Assistance Program that is available to all town employees.
- Met with Chad Eugair and Ethan from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission regarding transportation related projects. One of the projects discussed was the installation of rapid blinking lights at the crosswalk at Kamuda's. Another discussion point was slowing traffic that is coming from Route 7 down Elm Street. Finally, there was discussion of possibly taking over Route 7. Ethan will be looking into the financial implications and will be discussing concerns with the State of Vermont.
- Attended the Regional TAC meeting, which discussed Marble Valley Regional Transportation aka The Bus. There is going to be a roll-out of new signage for their stops, as well as trying to improve the stops. Routes and schedules have changed a bit for 2025 to save money with minimal impact to ridership.
- There was a sewer line break on Route 7, which was discovered after a resident was having issues that were snaked from the house to the main line. Markowski Excavating will be assisting with the repair, as the sewer line is down approximately 9' in this area along Route 7.
- Attended the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will be holding the hearing on the Enhanced Energy Plan on May 15. Their next meeting will be held on April 24 at 6:30 p.m. The Planning Commission would like to make sure that the public is aware that these meetings are open to the public for comment. The Planning Commission will be working on the Zoning bylaws starting in April, as well as the Subdivision bylaws leading up to a Town Plan rework for renewal.
- The paving bid opening was held for FY 2026. This topic is on the agenda for further discussion.
- Delinquent Water/Sewer and delinquent tax bills were sent out on March 28, 2025.
- The Consumer Confidence Reports for water customers will be mailed to the water customers in the very near future. These are annual reports that notify the customers of the quality of the Town's water.
- Interim water meter readings are currently taking place. Customers with higher than usual readings will be contacted.
- Silloway is working on the Police Department server and will be replacing 5 computers within the municipal office structure in the near future.
- RHR has submitted their next contract. There has been talk between Town Clerks that there have been concerns of being able to get an audit firm. Sullivan & Powers has been contacted and have not responded as yet.
- Chad Eugair would like to put the F550 up for sale. It was recommended he use the GovBid system previously used to sell Town vehicles.

## MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin



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# Voter ID bill

(Continued from Page 9)  
the bill, saying in a video posted to her social media channels this week that it could also “put voting out of reach” for some married women because of the cost of getting a new birth certificate that would reflect their name

change.  
The legislation now heads to the U.S. Senate, where it faces an uncertain future as Republicans’ majority is too slim to overcome a filibuster that would almost certainly block its passage.  
(See Voter ID bill, Page 19)



# Calendar of events

## April

### 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](http://www.AikidoVermont.org)

**Maclure Library Yoga -**  
Gentle to moderate Kripalu yoga. Class includes physical movement, breathing techniques & meditation. Please bring a mat & any props you practice with. At 6 pm, \$10 fee. Sign up by emailing Paula Liguori at [pali36@aol.com](mailto:pali36@aol.com)!

### Tuesdays

**Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup**  
Jessica Abbott from the Rutland County Parent Child Center hosts a weekly family program at the Library from 10 am–12 pm, geared towards kids ages 5 and under with singing, dancing, stories and crafts!

## Sports Card Show Fundraiser for Colbi Clark

Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Rutland Moose Club

Come join us for a Sports Card Show to support Colbi Clark! Last year, Colbi, a high school student at Fair Haven, was paralyzed in an accident involving a drunk driver. Colbi suffered severe injuries and now requires 24-hour care. All proceeds from this event will go to Colbi and his family to help with their expenses. Tables are available for \$40 and admission is \$3. Under 16 free. Donations are welcome.

**Friends Zone**  
Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the Friends Zone. Open Tuesdays 12–3 pm at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Meet with old friends and make new ones. Play cards, cribbage, or Yahtzee. Put a puzzle together or bring your arts, crafts, and hobbies to work on. Snacks and beverages provided. All are welcome to attend.  
For more information contact pastor Vicki Disorda ([vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto:vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125).

**Pokémon Club at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
3–5 pm. Ages 7+.

**Magic the Gathering at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
5–7pm

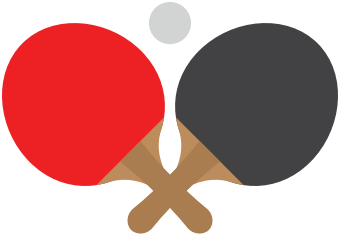
**Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
Drop in from 5:30–7:00 pm, and bring your projects to work on.



**Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
5–6 pm

### Wednesdays

**Ping Pong**  
The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).  
Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.  
If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"



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

**Crafternoons**  
Join us from 12 –2 pm at Maclure Library every Wednesday & bring your craft projects & supplies for an afternoon of art. Share tips, get ideas & inspiration for new projects with fellow crafters!

**Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
5–6 pm

## Saint Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church upcoming events

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6 p.m., Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar.  
Good Friday, April 18, 10:30 a.m.  
Good Friday service, Noon - join Christians in Brandon for Walk of The Cross from center of town to Saint Mary's Church. Easter Vigil.  
Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m.  
Easter at St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury.  
Sunday, April 20, 10 a.m.  
Join us in festive celebration of the Risen Christ.



**Yoga Prana Shakti Zoom & Studio Chair Yoga, Gentle, Wednesdays**  
From 10:30–11:30 am 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 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.

## Goings around

## 2025 Spring Rutland Area April 26 & 27

The Rutland Area Chorus and Festival Orchestra are excited to present Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's final masterpiece, Requiem in D minor, K626, for their 2025 spring concert. Mozart was commissioned to write the Requiem in 1791 by Franz von Walsegg in memory of Walsegg's wife, Anna, but Mozart died after writing just a few of the movements. However, from sketches left behind, the work was completed by his student, Franz Xaver Süssmayr. Although the work was com-

missioned in memory of Anna Walsegg, Mozart came to believe he was writing his funeral mass. The work was performed in 1793. Rutland Area Chorus (RAC) in collaboration with Grace Festival Orchestra (dir. Alan Stout), University of Vermont Concert Choir and Catamount Singers (dir. Nat Lew) and VTSU Castleton University Male and Chamber Singers (Sherrill Blodgett) will perform Mozart's Requiem. Directed

### 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.

## Upcoming

**April 18**  
Wildlife Encounter at Town Hall! Come learn about our exotic animals, the ecology of our area. 6:30 p.m. \$5 per person. Under 2 are free. All are welcome.

**May 2 & 3**  
Halloween in Brandon celebrates with its sister city.

**May 2**  
Beginning with down Park Street





**Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon**  
Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

**Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library**  
Starts at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories and bubbles!

## Coming events in Brandon

enters at the Brandon  
ne and learn about  
see them up close,  
environment and  
the world!

r person, children  
e! Snacks available!  
e!

Brandon, Vt.! Bran-  
Halfoween along  
ty Salem, Mass!

a Witches Walk  
et at 6 p.m. We

encourage everyone to dress up  
and join in! Vehicles welcome!  
Party following the parade behind  
the Inn with live music and bounce  
houses by Whirlies World! Horror  
movies at Barn Opera from 5 p.m.  
on, and a haunted house at 6:30 at  
the Brandon Town Haunted Hall!  
Haunted Hall is \$10.

**May 3**  
Mystical Market at Central Park in  
Brandon - Vendors of handcrafts,  
tarot readings, psychics, meta-  
physical items, crystals and more!  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Haunted Town Hall  
at 6:30, \$10. Masquerade Ball at 8  
p.m., Brandon Inn, \$25 per person.

## Fridays

**Chaffee Art Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3-5**

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

One free book per student will be given  
weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our  
partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult  
must accompany children under age 4.

Must pre-register by Wednesday each week.

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

## Brandon town

## Chorus Concert

anna Sherrill Blodget with soloists:  
Soprano Evangelia Leontis,  
Alto Lorna Jane Norris, Tenor  
Ryan Matos and Bass David  
Rugger.

There will be two performances:

- **Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm**  
at Casella Theater, VTSU  
Castleton (ticketed event)
- **Sunday, April 27 at 4 pm** at  
Grace Congregational UCC,  
Rutland (freewill offering)

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## 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 Sat-  
urday 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.

## 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."

**Chess**

Join us at The Greenhouse Dispensary on Conant  
Square in Brandon for a few casual games of chess on  
Sunday mornings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All experi-  
ence levels are welcome. Free and open to adults 21  
and older only.

## Monday 21st

**Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center (BHOC)**

An afternoon of danceable  
live music by The Grift to  
support the Blueberry Hill  
Outdoor Center!

Join us in Goshen and  
spend the afternoon surrounded by nature, commu-  
nity, and music by local favorites, The Grift. Whether  
dancing in the field or relaxing in the shade, you'll  
support our mission of keeping our trails and building  
well-maintained and open to all. Arrive early to enjoy  
a scenic hike, walk, or run on the trails before the  
music kicks off.

We'll have delicious snacks and refreshing cold drinks  
(alcoholic and non-alcoholic) to keep you refreshed,  
including local beer from our friends at Red Clover  
Ale. Please leave personal alcohol at home for this event.

Donation + Tickets: Like access to our trails, this  
event is by donation only. Upon arrival, you'll have  
the opportunity to donate. We suggest \$30 per adult,  
but pay what you are able. Please bring cash though  
Venmo + checks are an option too. From 3:00 - 6:00  
p.m., "doors" open at 2:00 p.m.

Please sign up in advance to help us plan food and  
parking. [https://www.blueberryhilltrails.com/fund-  
raisergrift](https://www.blueberryhilltrails.com/fund-raisergrift)

## Thursday 24th

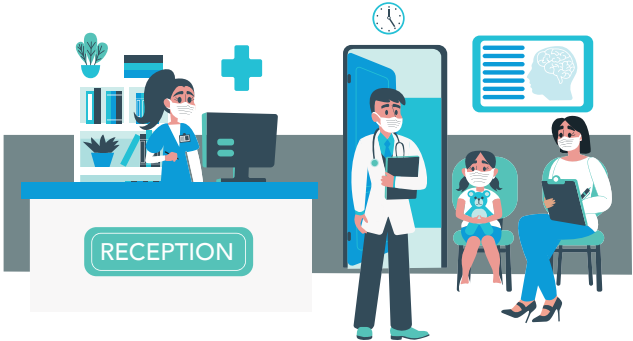
**Spring Cleaning: Organizing and Decluttering**  
— Brandon Free Public Library



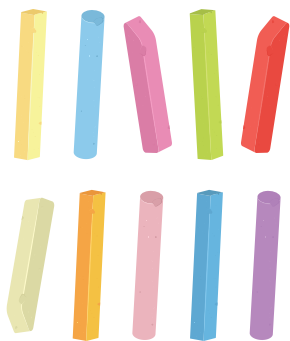
## Free Medical Care at Rutland County Health Partners

Wednesdays in April from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

A free walk-in healthcare clinic for uninsured or underinsured  
adults in Rutland County will be offered by the Rutland County  
Health Partners (formerly Rutland Free Clinic) every Wednes-  
day in April from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at our offices at 204 North  
Main Street, Rutland, Vt. No appointment is necessary. Clinics  
(with recommended appointments) will also be held April  
21 (3-7 p.m. with the last patient seen at 6 p.m.). For appoint-  
ments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.



Professional home organizer Kris Harmelink will guide  
workshop participants through helpful tips and sys-  
tems for a successful spring clean. 5-6 p.m.



## Saturday 26th

**The Vermont Pastel Society Presents: The Vermont Palette Mem-  
bers' Exhibition**

The Chaffee Art Center  
and The Vermont Pastel  
Society are thrilled to  
announce The Vermont  
Palette: VPS Members'  
Exhibition, an inspiring  
showcase of creativity

that runs from April 11 to May 22, 2025, at the re-  
nowned Chaffee Art Center in Rutland. This exhibition  
invites participating artists from the Vermont Pastel  
Society to challenge themselves and transcend their  
artistic comfort zones. The exhibition highlights the  
rich and diverse palette Vermont offers, serving as  
a muse for artists to embrace experimentation and  
innovative expressions in pastel. Each piece in the  
exhibition tells a unique story of artistic exploration,  
inviting viewers to experience the creative journey  
alongside the artists.

Opening reception the 26th, from 2 to 4 p.m. For  
more information about the exhibition and the Ver-  
mont Pastel Society, visit [http://www.vermontpastel-  
society.org](http://www.vermontpastel-society.org).

**Community Dinner at the Brandon United Methodist Church**

Join us from 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
for a taco bar with cookies for  
dessert. Free will offering.

All welcome to attend. Bran-  
don United Methodist Church,  
2 Union Street, Brandon.



## Sunday 27th

**Spring Wildflower Walk — Mount Independence, Orwell**

Come to the Mount Independence State Historic Site  
in Orwell, Vermont on Sunday, April 27 for the annual

spring wildflower  
guided walk. The  
program runs from  
noon to 2 p.m.

Amy Olmsted, a  
nursery professional  
for over 25 years, is  
your guide. Olmsted  
is a horticulturist with  
Rocky Dale Gardens  
in Bristol, Vt.

Olmsted will show  
you early wildflowers,  
how to identify them,  
and discuss their  
habitat.

Wear sturdy shoes or  
boots, dress for the  
weather, be prepared  
for walking the trails

(some of which may be wet), and bring water if  
you like. Learn a little about the Revolutionary  
War history of the site as well.

The walk fee is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children ages  
6 to 14, free for children under 5, and free for  
members of the Mount Independence Coalition.  
Meet by noon outside the Museum. Restrooms  
will be available before the start of the walk. Call  
802-759-2412 for more information.





# Nifty Thrifty

(Continued from Page 3)  
They needed cash.  
Frank Sullivan became their treasurer in 1995, and he told them that the shop had to earn \$100 per week just to meet their expenses. While he was the treasurer, the shop met their yearly expenses only because of an unexplained donation that showed up in the annual financial report, which evened things out nicely. For example, in '96 the shop's yearly expenses were \$5,175 for rent, heat, insurance, electricity, and scholarships, and remarkably, their yearly income was \$5,175 because of a \$225 donation. Could Frank Sullivan have been underwrit-

ing the shop through these lean times?  
The few remaining Volunteers went into fund-raising mode, arranging for a Beanie Baby raffle, a dinner with Fred Tuttle from A Man with a Plan, and a raffle for 'Lunch with Santa.' They also wrote to New England Woodcraft, Omya, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, and individual donors, asking for donations to support their scholarship program. They could barely scrape together two \$200 scholarships at this point.  
Dark days followed. They may have thought their 25th Anniversary in 2000 would be

their last, but the best was yet to come.  
On Sept. 8 of 2004, the Brandon Thrift Shop posted a sign that announced, "Everything is FREE until Dec. 1, 2004." Jim and Nancy Leary had bought the whole Conant Block, which included the thrift shop, and understandably wanted to bring it up to code, which would mean turning off the heat, water, and electricity while massive repairs were made. Bette Moffett had heard that Liza Myers and Jim Germond had bought the building in whose basement the Brandon Thrift Shop had begun, 22 Center Street, and were moving their art business out of the Briggs Building. Without much fanfare, Nifty Thrifty left 41 Center Street with their desk and their racks and not much else. On Dec. 1 they moved into the Briggs Building (where The Bookstore is now), and on Dec 6 they opened with inventory they had collected since Dec. 1. On that first day, they sold \$140 of merchandise, which was about what they had been earning in a WEEK at the previous location.

The Briggs location was bright and open, and Bette made it a priority to lure in younger volunteers. The hours expanded (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), and new policies were put into place about donation filtering and inventory rotation. Afternoon hours one day each week attracted students and working people. The shop became strictly donations, no consignments. They gave up the telephone, the cleaner, the bookkeeper, and joined the Chamber of Commerce. The

shop was better advertised and had special sales and themed sales events, like the Mother's Day Jewelry Sale, the Craft Sale, and for several years running they hosted a Ballgown Boutique to sell donated prom dresses at very affordable prices. The annual scholarship money reached \$1,000 apiece for ten Otter Valley graduating seniors.  
August 28, 2011 changed everything. Tropical Storm Irene rolled in, and the Briggs Building became an island in the thundering Neshobe River torrent. Although not a drop of flood water came under the door, the shop was unreachable because of the canyons the flood carved out all around the building. Nifty Thrifty was on the move again. This time, the shop found a home in the

north end of the Ayrshire Building. Dr. Arden Hayden and Dr. Ben Lawton owned the building and generously gave the shop a reasonable rent for the suite of rooms that fronted onto Union Street. An optometrist had used the space last, and it still had the eyeglasses racks all around the walls of one of the tiny rooms.  
This location was convenient, being right across the street from Hannaford and Walgreens, but it was an awkward layout with tiny rooms like a rabbit warren. It was not handicapped accessible, had no dressing room, and the heat was inconsistent.  
Since the late '80s, the shop had focused its contributions on giving money to post-secondary education for Otter Valley  
(See Nifty Thrifty, Page 20)

## Restaurant guide



**Café Provence**

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*De la Provence à Vous*

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 Sunday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

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THE CURRENT HOME of Nifty Thrift on Conant Square.



INSIDE NIFTY THRIFTY in the early years.



# Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

them. In the reverse of most scenarios that we have studied wherein the greater the distance in time from Canada we see that families settled into the Americanized versions of their name. In the case


of their bachelor son, Henry Bunch, who died in 1926, who is buried with his parents, their Labossière gravestone in St Peter's Cemetery in Vergennes inscribes their names with all the correct French spellings and accent marks. Obviously, the stone dates after Henry's death and leaves me pondering who felt strongly enough to rehabilitate the name from Bunch? I

suspect that Pierre and Zoe's grandson, Rev. Charles Leo Napoleon Pontbriand (1870-1950), a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Burlington, had a hand in this as his parents are buried in the same cemetery.

The Burlington Free Press  
Tue, Jul 11, 1944 Page 2

## Sgt. Harold Nisun Lost When Plane Plunges to Ocean

Sgt. Harold Nisun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Nisun of Middlebury, was reported missing by the war department in a telegram to his parents. He is listed as missing while on a routine flight at Charleston, N. C., where he has been an instructor. Following this telegram, another came saying that the plane came down into the ocean and after searching for some survivors, all hope had been given up.



Harold Nisun

HAROLD NISUN'S DEATH at sea, as described in the Burlington Free Press, 1944.



THE GRAVESTONE OF Harold Nisun.

## ADDISON.

### OBITUARY.

Joseph Tucker, aged 87 years, one of the oldest residents in town, passed away Sunday morning at his home here. Mr. Tucker was born in Quebec and was married in Montreal to Miss Lena Baker 60 years ago. Forty-five years ago he came to Addison to reside, being engaged in farming. He purchased the farm where he died about 25 years ago. He had been in vigorous health up to last fall. Mr. Tucker was a man of quiet habits and unostentatious manner, devoted to his family and his work. He was the father of ten children, six of whom survive, four sons, James, Edward, Ezra and Frank Tucker, and two daughters, Mrs. Alexander Commé and Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain. Funeral services were held at St. Peter's church, Vergennes, Wednesday morning, the Rev. L. A. Vezina officiating. Burial was in the Catholic cemetery in Vergennes.

OBITUARY FOR JOSEPH Tucker, who died in 1913.

1847	Bunch Joseph	70 m m	Tag laborer			Canada	1	1
	—	607	in kitchen house			"	1	1
	—	11 m m				Montreal	1	1

CENSUS RECORDS OF the Bunch family.

Joseph Tucker	32 m m	Laborer				Canada
Celia	25 f f					"
Joseph	8 m m					se
Albert	1 m m					"

CENSUS RECORDS OF the Tucker Family.

# It's MUD Season!



# MUD

# RADIO

The Roots of American Music





# Mim's Photos

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

## Recognized



Terry Ferson, Brian Fillioe, and Sue Wetmore recognized Welland Horn on the left in this photo.



Terry Ferson and Brian Fillioe recognized Barb and Gordon "Gordy" Lee in this photo. The Lees lived on River Street in Brandon for many years.

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**[kate@brandonreporter.com](mailto:kate@brandonreporter.com)**  
**if you can identify someone in these photos.**  
Or call us at 247-8080





# Crossword

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dark blacks
- 7. Construct a wall to confine
- 13. Most inappropriate
- 14. A type of board
- 16. Sacred Hindu syllable
- 17. Flatterer
- 19. The Granite State
- 20. Tears down
- 22. China's Chairman
- 23. Former Houston footballer
- 25. Periods of time
- 26. Expressed pleasure
- 28. World alliance
- 29. A Brit's mother
- 30. Television network
- 31. Brother or sister
- 33. Type of spirit
- 34. \_\_\_ Ladd, actor
- 36. A medium oversees it
- 38. One time province of British India
- 40. Wrong
- 41. The highest parts of something
- 43. Insect
- 44. Baseball stat
- 45. A way to use up
- 47. Where wrestlers compete
- 48. It helps elect politicians
- 51. As fast as can be done
- 53. Genus of legumes
- 55. Samoa's capital
- 56. Monument in Jakarta
- 58. Former French coin
- 59. Exploiters
- 60. College sports official
- 61. Uninterrupted in time
- 64. Stephen King story
- 65. Marked by no sound
- 67. Weathers
- 69. Denouncements
- 70. More beloved

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Winged nut
- 2. It cools a home
- 3. Kisses (French)
- 4. Oxford political economist
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Leaf pores
- 7. Agrees with publicly
- 8. Not around
- 9. Czech city
- 10. Muscle cell protein
- 11. Greek letter
- 12. Movements
- 13. Ned \_\_\_, composer
- 15. Popular series Game of \_\_\_
- 18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 21. Helper
- 24. Gift
- 26. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 27. Treat without respect
- 30. Trims
- 32. Slang for lovely
- 35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
- 37. Guitarists' tool
- 38. Island nation
- 39. Delivered in installments
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Cooking vessel
- 46. Gets in front of
- 47. Wounded by scratching
- 49. More breathable
- 50. Medical dressings
- 52. Indiana hoopster
- 54. Married Marilyn
- 55. An ancient Assyrian city
- 57. Congressmen (abbr.)
- 59. Approves food
- 62. Ventura's first name
- 63. Between northeast and east
- 66. Atomic #71
- 68. Email designation

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17				18						19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

# 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 .

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

Level: Intermediate

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

# Spring Into Volunteering

Looking for a Way to Give Back This Spring? Rutland County Humane Society is always looking for compassionate, dedicated volunteers to help care for the animals and support shelter operations. Whether you enjoy walking dogs, socializing cats, helping with laundry, helping with transporting animals, or lending a hand keeping the shelter grounds clean, there's a place for you on our volunteer team. Just a few hours a week can make a big difference in the life of an animal in need. Learn more at [rchsvt.org](http://rchsvt.org) or call 802-483-6700.

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

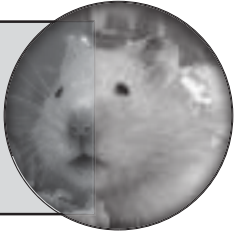


#### MEET IZZY- 2 1/2-YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. PITBULL TERRIER/BOXER

**MIX. BROWN/WHITE.** Izzy is a social gal who is always excited to see people. She was surrendered to RCHS when her owners were no longer able to give her the attention she needed. Izzy previously lived with children and loved them! She also did well with cats but didn't get along with the other dog in her previous home. Izzy is a busy girl who will want an active family to play and explore with before taking any afternoon naps. Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., to hang out with her and giggle at her adorable antics!

#### MEET GROVER- 6-MONTH-OLD. MALE. HAMSTER. CREAM.

This cutie arrived at RCHS on 4/4 because his previous owner could no longer care for him. He is a sweet little guy who enjoys being handled and loves to explore. Whether he's running around or snacking on his favorite treats, Grover is sure to bring joy to any family! If you're looking for a tiny, lovable companion, come meet him at the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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**OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN  
TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM  
11AM-4PM.**



OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS

New Fiction

The Impossible Thing  
by Belinda Bauer

1926. On the cliffs of Yorkshire, men are lowered on ropes to steal the eggs of the sea birds who nest there. The most beautiful are sold for large sums. A small girl—penniless and neglected by her family—retrieves one such treasure. Its discovery will forever alter the course of her life. A century later, in a remote cottage in Wales, Patrick Fort finds his friend, Nick, and his mother tied up and robbed. The only thing missing: a carved case containing an incredible scarlet egg. Doggedly attempting to retrieve it, Patrick and Nick discover the cruel world of egg trafficking, and soon find themselves on the trail of a priceless collection of eggs lost to history.

Passing Through a  
Prairie Country  
by Dennis E. Staples

For decades, a dark force has terrorized the Languille Lake reservation. Spoken of only in whispers as “the sandman,” he lurks in the Hidden Atlantis Lake Resort and Casino, leeching its patrons’ dreams and preventing the ghosts that linger there from moving on. Fleeing a breakup, Marion Lafournier falls afoul of the sandman, an encounter he barely escapes through the timely intervention of his cousins who both work at the casino and are intimately aware of the sandman’s power.

The Get Off  
by Christa Faust

Tagged as a cop killer when a mission of vengeance goes wrong, Angel Dare finds herself on the run, with an unexpected burden: she’s pregnant. Her desperate

flight takes Angel across the American west, where cattle barons lock horns with rodeo bullfighters and life can end suddenly and brutally. A renegade couple living off the grid near the border might offer a chance of escape—but can Angel reach them in time?

The Maid’s Secret  
by Nita Prose

Molly Gray’s life is about to change in ways she could never have imagined. As the esteemed Head Maid and Special Events Manager of the Regency Grand Hotel, two good things are just around the corner. When Molly brings in some old trinkets to be appraised on an antiques appraisal show, one item is revealed to be a rare and coveted artifact worth millions. Molly becomes a rags-to-riches sensation but on auction day, the treasure suddenly vanishes. The key to this mystery lies in the past, in a long-forgotten diary written by Molly’s Gran.

Harriet Tubman:  
Live in Concert  
by Bob the Drag Queen

In an age of miracles where our greatest heroes from history have magically, unexplainably returned Harriet Tubman is back, and she has a lot to say. She wants to create an album and live show about her life, and she needs a songwriter to help her. She calls upon Darnell, a once successful hip-hop producer, who has no idea what to expect when he steps into the studio, only that they have a short period of time to write a legendary album. Over the course of their time together, they not only create music that will take the country by storm, but confront the horrors of both their pasts, and learn to find a way to a better future.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have professional organizer Kris Harmelink coming April 24 at 6 pm to help you get started with Spring Cleaning! Free to attend.

Say You’ll Remember  
Me by Abby Jimenez

Xavier Rush might just be perfect. A gorgeous veterinarian giving Greek god vibes—all while cuddling a tiny kitten? Immediate yes. That is until Xavier opens his mouth and proves that even sculpted gods can say the absolute wrong thing. Of course, there’s nothing Samantha loves more than proving a jerk wrong... unless, of course, he can admit he made a mistake. But after one incredible date, Samantha is forced to admit the truth, that her family is in crisis and any kind of relationship would be impossible. Samantha begs Xavier to forget her. Only no amount of distance or time is enough to forget what’s between them.

Brandon  
Police Report

Note from Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian: The Vermont State Police (VSP) are covering the Town of Brandon for emergency calls from 4 pm/6 pm until 8 am, 7 days a week, due to the staffing shortage at the Brandon Police Department (BPD). This log may not reflect calls that VSP receives during the time Brandon officers are off duty.

April 10

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for failure to stop at a stop sign. Warning issued.
- Assisted BARS with a medical call on Mulcahy Drive.
- Received assistance from the Middlebury Police Department in serving a Restraining Order at a residence on W. Seminary Street. The order was served in-hand.

April 11

- Received a call from a concerned citizen that she had observed an eight-year-old child in the roadway on Park Street. The child, who was with two other boys, was located by the responding officer, standing with a deceased squirrel in the road. The boys told the officer that they didn’t want the squirrel to get run over, so they were in the road to make sure that no passing cars hit it. The officer, observing that the squirrel was already deceased, moved it out of the road to alleviate the young boys’ concerns. The boys were advised to stay out of the traveled portion of the road in the future.
- Responded to the area of Forest Dale Road in the vicinity of the Forestdale Post Office (See Police report, Page 19)

April 7

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a medical call on Town Farm Road.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Assisted BARS with a medical call on Town Farm Road.

April 8

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Franklin Street.
- Conducted a welfare check on an individual on Forest Dale Road.

April 9

- Responded to a reported burglary on Mulcahy Drive. Investigation is ongoing.
- Took fingerprints for a blasting license.
- Took fingerprints for foster care.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21–April 20

Spending time with new friends and those you’ve know for years can be a satisfying way to pass the week, Aries. Try to plan some activities that you can enjoy together.

TAURUS April 21–May 21

Taurus, this week you may choose to tackle some necessary, albeit time-consuming, chores. They may take a few hours, but then you’ll have time to unwind.

GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, certain information that you have been looking for may finally come to the surface. Once you have your answers, you might be able to move on to other tasks.

CANCER June 22–July 22

Cancer, emotional matters that emerged over the previous few days might soon be settled with all parties feeling satisfied with the results.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Leo, confusion with loved ones can be easily cleared up with a little, honest communication between you and the other people involved. Embrace this chance to be open and honest.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, you may be especially motivated this week and feel a need to get as much done as possible. Try not to race through tasks without focusing on doing things right.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Libra, you are operating at peak efficiency and ready to handle many of the less exciting tasks on your to-do list. Tackle the grunt work and the fun will follow.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

You have the stamina and energy to get a lot of chores taken care of this week, Scorpio. But you may be short on time. Enlist other people to help if an opportunity presents itself.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Don’t be surprised if you spend a lot of your time on the phone this week, Sagittarius. There are many things on your to-do list and tackling them one by one is essential.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Financial paperwork and money matters fill the docket for you the next few days, Capricorn. Paying bills, balancing a checkbook and building your nest egg are your top priorities.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

This week you could be feeling industrious and on the lookout for a new project, Aquarius. You will be an asset to anyone who needs extra assistance.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Particularly vivid dreams could have you wondering what your mind is trying to tell you, Pisces. You might come up with some interesting interpretations, but the answers remain unknown.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 18 Easter Afua Ocloo, founder of Women’s World Banking (d)
- April 19 Ali Wong, actor, comedian, (43)
- April 20 Tito Puente, musician (d)
- April 21 John Muir, naturalist (d)
- April 22 John Waters, filmmaker (79)
- April 23 Lee Miller, photographer (d)
- April 24 Barbara Streisand, singer (83)

Sharpen your mind  
with our puzzles.

See page 17



# An Easter tradition continues with the Ecumenical Good Friday Cross Walk

BY VICKI DISORDA

This April will be the third year since the onset of Covid-19 that community members will march down Carver Street in an ecumenical parade known as “The Cross Walk.” Each year on Good Friday at noon, a crowd assembles in front of the Brandon United Methodist Church to honor the memory of the crucifixion of a human being called Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Though born and raised in the Jewish tradition two thousand years ago in Israel, Christ was an outcast who became to his followers “the chief cornerstone” of a (then) new religion.

The followers of Jesus knew him as a prophet and healer who claimed he was not from here (Earth). Often using a term meaning “born of a woman,” Jesus referred to his father as “Heavenly.” Some scholars might call this a demi-god, but believers call Christ the “Son of God” or the “Word.” The Bible states, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Jesus said that if one wanted to do right by God, which is to say, live justly, all one had to do was “pick up their cross and follow me.” Whether one is a believer or not, the sym-

bol of the cross means something. In Christ’s time, it was in itself “the most vile and repulsive of objects,” according to Unger’s Bible Dictionary.

The website biblestudytools.com writes, “The cross was far more than an instrument of capital punishment. It was a public symbol of indecency and social indignity. Crucifixion was designed to do more than merely kill a man. Its purpose was to humiliate him as well. The cross was intended not only to break a man’s body, but also to crush and defame his spirit.”

According to pastor and author, Sam Sterns, “Any attempt to understand the sufferings of Christ must reckon with the fact that ‘two thousand years of pious Christian tradition have largely domesticated the cross, making

it hard for us to realize how it was viewed in Jesus’ time’ (Carson, 573). Both the painful and shameful aspects of crucifixion have become blurred, and no matter what we may think we know about this manner of execution, it simply does not mean the same thing for us as it did to those living in the first century.”

For those who honor its sig-

cross was adopted as a Christian emblem. However, on the tombstones of early Christians it was a sign of victory and hope. Today, the Brandon ecumenical cross walk honors the death of Jesus Christ, who promised his followers eternal life and salvation.

Father Maurice Moreau of the Brandon (and Pittsford) Catholic Church traditionally heads up the Brandon Good Friday event. It begins with a prayer in accordance with the Christian tradition, which emerged from Christ’s life, faith, and death on the cross. The procession then slowly strolls down Carver Street to Saint Mary’s Church in silence. If traffic is light, one can hear the birds chirping on the spring day.

Each person is offered the

opportunity to touch, carry and transfer the symbolic cross. Its size may be intimidating, but the cross, which is adorned with three spikes, is actually quite light. According to Jeannine Griffin of St. Mary’s, the spikes “are the exact size of the nails used to crucify Jesus.” The nails were researched and made by Jeannine’s son, Mark, who did so to honor his now deceased father, Gary. The late Mr. Griffin was an ordained deacon of St. Mary’s Church. The cross walk, Jeannine said, has been a tradition in Brandon for at least twenty years.

The silent march is followed by a brief ceremony at Saint Mary’s Church, then food and fellowship across the street in St Mary’s Fellowship Hall. Typically, in spite of the solemnity of the occasion, all leave smiling in anticipation of the coming Easter Sunday resurrection celebration. The entire activity lasts about an hour.

This year the Good Friday commemoration will be on April 18. There is no need to sign up, all one needs to do is show up. One also does not need to be a member of a religious organization to participate. All are welcome to attend.



THE 2024 ECUMENICAL Cross Walk.

## Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

who has proposed a banner for the Town Green advertising this event, which measures 10’ X 3’ and includes a QR code which would provide a link to maps and potentially other information. The cost for this banner is \$240. A Motion passed unanimously to purchase the banner, as well as individual banners for each bridge with links to information. Discussion was had regarding coordination with the Historical Society and other groups to make additional information about the bridges available.

Following up on discussion at a prior meeting, the Selectboard reviewed the town of Brattleboro’s ordinance for public nudity. Ms. Reed stated that there have been complaints received from neighbors on Furnace Road and on the public sidewalks. It was noted that the ordinance would not affect breastfeeding, which is specifically exempted from the ordinance. If the ordinance was approved by the Selectboard, there would be a 60-day period for public review and comment before it became final. This topic was tabled to a future

meeting.

Another topic discussed were concerns with overnight parking and camping at some of the town trailheads and parking spaces due to the discontinuation of the Hotel/Motel Voucher program. The Selectboard discussed posting “No Overnight Camping” signs at various locations, but noted that an ordinance would be necessary for the prohibition to be enforceable. Ms. Reed noted that very few other municipalities appear to have “no camping” ordinances, but she will look at the issue further. The

Selectboard agreed that the first step was to update the sign ordinance, and will look at the matter further in a future meeting.

Ms. Reed stated that she met with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission because the Town Plan and the Subdivision Regulations are required to be completed prior to the end of the year due to stipulations in certain grants. While the Town Plan is due for renewal prior to February 2026 in any event, it was agreed that the town should complete the work before the end of 2025

to avoid having to repay grant monies. It was noted that for certain items, notice to adjoining towns had to be given, and that Pittsford actually borders nine other towns! Members of the Selectboard struggled (just a little bit) to name all nine towns, but ultimately succeeded.

The Selectboard entered executive session to discuss pending or probable civil litigation and to discuss employment matters with no action taken.

## Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

for a report of a black Mitsubishi Eclipse that had been driving down the sidewalk. The surrounding area was checked, but the vehicle in-question was not located.

## Voter ID bill

(Continued from Page 11)

At the same time, though, President Donald Trump — who’s made election integrity a signature issue — called for a citizenship requirement in a sweeping executive order last month, which also included other election-related changes. The

order is now facing several court challenges, including a multi-state lawsuit of which Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark is a part. It’s the eighth lawsuit against the Trump administration Clark has signed onto in recent months.

It is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections,

and according to NBC News, the practice is extremely rare. (Three Vermont cities — Montpelier, Burlington and Winooski — allow noncitizens to vote in local elections, a practice that has nevertheless been upheld in court.)

“Even viewed in the most charitable light, this is a solution look-

ing for a problem,” Clark said in a press release announcing the litigation last week, adding she is “deeply troubled by this naked attempt to disenfranchise voters.”

The lawsuit, brought by Democratic attorneys general in 18 states other than Vermont, is pending before a federal judge in Massachusetts.



# Brandon Museum

(Continued from Page 4)

er knowledge about lodging, meals, interesting shops, great hikes and fishing holes, scenic drives, covered bridges, and, of course, local services for travelers in need

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FLOODING FROM TROPICAL Storm Irene in 2011 washes out Briggs lane.

## Nifty Thrifty

(Continued from Page 14)

seniors only. The recipients' names were drawn from a hat and announced at the awards night. To receive the \$1,000, the awardee had to send Nifty Thrifty their first semester transcript to prove that they had actually attended college or trade school, and then a \$1,000 check would be written in their name.

After years of chasing down kids for MONTHS to give them their thousand-dollar check and then never receiving a thank-you note, the Brandon Thrift Shop decided to change directions. They asked themselves, "Is this the best use of our resources? Are we helping our community in the best way possible?" And the answer was no. Encouraged by Bette Moffett's words—"Welcome change! Seek it out. It's the only way to remain relevant." —Nifty Thrifty rebranded itself as Community Benefactor in 2016.

The contributions started as a modest \$500 donation each month to community projects, programs, events, activities, organizations, groups, or ideas. Nifty Thrifty wanted to support education, recreation, the arts, commerce, culture, infrastructure, and quality of life for the local community. This felt right! This felt good! Along with giving money to the Food Shelf, the Senior Center, free concerts, the Fourth of July Parade, the after school program, the Toy Project, the Music Fund, Walking Stick Theater, the dog park, OV Senior Banners, etc., Nifty Thrifty scraped together a check for \$6,000 to

help rebuild the Gazebo in Central Park after Segment 6 came crashing through town.

A year after the Haydens and Lawtons sold the Ayrshire building to a young dentist couple, Drs. Derek and Jillian Snare, Nifty Thrifty got a notice to vacate the premises in 90 days. This was in April 2019. Although it was not entirely a surprise, it was disheartening. At this point, the town of Brandon was looking so good and doing so well that there were no cheap, accessible, and available storefronts available. Once again, Nifty Thrifty had to welcome change and seek it out.

This time, it was St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church that stepped up. They had the foresight to think outside the box and turn their unused rectory into a commercial space and rent it to the Brandon Thrift Shop. The rectory is a big, brick house with a long and gracious history. The rooms are airy and bright, there is convenient parking, the heat works, there's an accessibility ramp, there is room for storage and sorting, and the thrift shop has the same mission as their landlords: to help people. On July 1, 2019, Nifty Thrifty opened in the rectory of the Episcopal Church at 19 Conant Square, its seventh and hopefully permanent location.

Even though the pandemic descended eight months after the shop moved in, the business was doing well enough to give the Brandon Free Public Library \$15,000 for their reconstruction a year later. Nifty

Thrift joined the 21st century and now has a presence on Facebook, Instagram, and eBay. They got a new sign and a new logo. The monthly donations have jumped from \$500 to sometimes thousands of dollars. Their total give-back to the community in their 50-year history is approaching \$400,000. Nifty Thrifty was chosen to be the Grand Marshals in the Fourth of July parade in 2019. The Town of Brandon's Annual Report was dedicated to Nifty Thrifty a couple of years ago to recognize all they do for their community.

One of the most amazing things is that with all the changes in the past 50 years, the prices at Nifty Thrifty are almost the same! In 1975, a woman's dress at Nifty Thrifty cost \$5, the same as today. Men's pants were \$2.50, today, they are \$3. Women's tops were \$2.50, now they are \$2. At Nifty Thrifty, children's clothing in 1975 cost about the same as adult clothing. Today, Nifty Thrifty charges almost nothing: 50¢ to \$1.00 for almost everything in the children's department.

At 50, the Brandon Thrift Shop is in its prime! Business is booming. The shop is warm and welcoming, clean and organized. You can tell the customers and the volunteers are having a great time. Prices are low, stock is always changing, and thrifting is trending at the moment. Besides all that, the community needs a fairy godmother right about now. Cheers to Nifty Thrifty turning fifty!



# Brandon Idol

*(Continued from Page 1)*

that she would be performing an Amy Winehouse song in the finals next month. Last up before intermission was Bethany White with a clear and bright rendition of “More than Words” by Extreme. White got intimate with the audience, sitting down on the stage steps and engendering a phone light spectacle. White will showcase her high vocal range for her song in the finals.

Bedazzling in a frilled shirt and tailed tuxedo top, Donald Clinton energetically blasted out Tom Petty’s “You Wreck Me.” Clinton claims to have 37 years left in his singing career. Perennial performer Peggy Sue Rozell swooned “House of the Rising Sun” by The Animals to the delight of the audience but especially her daughter. Rozell promised a mind blowing final song next month. Emily Doty got the crowd rocking with “I Love Rock and Roll” by Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. She, unfortunately, will miss the finals for her future sister-in-law’s bachelorette party.

The last contestant of the evening was Trace Worobe whose high energy performance of Springsteen’s “Glory Days” featured an audience echo and rhythmic clapping. Worobe’s family was in town from the state of Washington to see the show. He’ll do a country song by Blake Shelton in the Finals.

While votes for fan favorite were being tallied, Bill Moore filled in admirably for Jess Crossman doing “Come Together” by the Beatles. The special guest performance was none other than true rocker Doug Ross, livin’ his best life and pounding out “Surrender” by Cheap Trick.

Much to her surprise, Bethany White won the Lori Keith Fan Favorite award. She was most appreciative. Get your tickets early for the finals on May 16th; it promises to be a great show.

**FROM TOP LEFT: Bethany White, Doug Ross, band members Carina Ellis and Kenny Cifone, Sydney Singh, Miley Lape, Donald Clinton, Peggy Sue Rozell, Trace Worobe, Hilary Collier, Emily Doty.**





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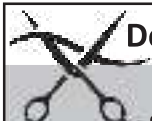
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# Student deportation

(Continued from Page 6)  
will have their diplomas before they have to leave.

"This is really personal for a lot of us. We have personal relationships with the students, and we are feeling helpless and caught up in something we can't change," she said.

Adam Bunting, the superintendent of the school district, shared the news with community members in an email Wednesday.

"These students are not political operatives. They are not criminals. They are not threats," Bunting wrote. "They are young people who have found safety and meaning in our community. They've made friends, joined clubs, and played in the snow here for the first time. They've done what all teenagers do: tried to figure out who they are, where they belong, what they care about."

"Now, because of a shift in federal policy, their lives are being upended—again," Bunting went on. "When we talk about immigration, we must remember that there are people behind every policy—in this case young people who dream of going to college."

The humanitarian parole designation that allows the students to be here is not a legal status, rather a permission to enter the country, according to Brett Stokes, the director of the Center for Justice Reform Clinic at Vermont Law School. Essentially it's a way for people to live in the U.S. while they are looking for more permanent routes for residency and work eligibility.

"It doesn't replace the need or eligibility for asylum or other programs," Stokes said. Many people simultaneously apply for asylum while they are in the U.S. under humanitarian parole. Though he is not familiar with the specifics of the two students' cases, those routes could be open to them in the future.

"Do I think this termination of parole is legal? No, probably not," Stokes said. "My interpretation is that the goal here, really, was to scare a lot of people into self-deporting."

Though President Donald Trump's administration has tried to expand expedited removals — that is deportations without due process — it flies in the face of existing statute, Stokes said.

"I know that is illegal," he said.

The school's decision to broadcast the news of the students' terminated parole and

decision to leave was a fraught one, as the school hoped to protect the students' safety and privacy, but administrators decided it was best to get the word out.

"We wanted to give families an ability to make meaning of this situation," Bunting said in an interview. "We think every family deserves a chance to have that discussion."

He also stressed the importance of realizing that the impacts of federal action are being felt locally.

"I think when people are thinking of federal policy, they're thinking of headlines in universities and big cities, that this isn't something that happens here. There are impacts in our community, to our kids and to the values of Vermont," he said. "I was upset with myself and my own ignorance of what our colleagues are dealing with across the state and country."

Bunting said Champlain Valley is coordinating with other districts in the state and working with the Vermont Superintendents Association as part of its response. He planned to meet with Education Secretary Zoie Saunders on Thursday afternoon.

It's not lost on Bunting that this news comes in the middle of an ongoing dispute over whether the state should certify its schools as complying with a federal nondiscrimination

requirement, Title VI, following an April 3 letter from the U.S. Department of Education claiming noncompliance could result in the loss of some federal funding.

"It's hard to separate this from the ongoing stuff surrounding Title VI," Bunting said. "We have some hard decisions to make about what we will do when our values are being compromised and challenged."

He sees this as a moment for the community to rearticulate and commit to its values of supporting one another. How exactly that will look is still being worked out.

"We're still trying to find a meaningful way to respond that isn't reactionary," said Becky Gamble, the founder and co-leader of Champlain Valley Indivisible. "These moments do call for recognition of what really are our values and as a community, what we are willing to stand up for. We're having a reckoning with what really matters to us."

Since the school district made the information public, it has received an outpouring of support and desire from community members to help. Daudelin has been sharing resources for people to call state and federal legislators to advocate for state-level deportation defense funding and to ask that Vermont's delegation oppose the new deportation process.

She has also invited people to drop off cards at the school and said that she would soon have more information about a potential in-person show of support.

"It's a human rights issue. Even if you can take politics out, we decide who the community is," she said. "These students are our community, and they are us."

Bunting said he wished people in decision making positions could sit with the students, as he did Wednesday. They'd see two highly motivated students who care deeply about their education and the state that they now call home, Bunting said.

They are "nothing short of inspirational," he added, but, like any teenager would be, they are scared of not knowing what's awaiting them.

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# A Glimpse into the Past - Alice and Alma Farmer

**BY JANET MONDLAK**  
Alice and Alma Farmer were twins born on October 14, 1899 in Salisbury, Vt. We know that neither married and that they were members of the Congregational Church. We've been told they lived in an apartment over First Brandon National Bank (now Bar Harbor Bank).

Their parents were Charles Ira Farmer and Winnie Jannie Bly. Their grandfather was George Farmer (1842/3-1926). This photo came with a little paperwork with the name Mr. Clough on it. Mr. Horace E. Clough (1842-1933) and George Farmer both

fought in the Civil War. Their relationship is unclear.  
In 1888 Clough moved to the Soldiers Home in Bennington, Vt. While he was there he corresponded with Alice and Alma, who were in Brandon. The collection of letters as well as many of other of Clough's books, letters, diaries, accounts and important papers were donated to the Vermont Historical Society in 1992 by Alice.  
Alma died November 16, 1986. Her twin sister Alice died September 2, 1994. Various sources sent us information about the photo and the lovely sisters.

PHOTO TAKEN IN The Moody Studio in Brandon in 1913, when Alice and Alma were 14 years old. This photo can be seen at Across the Street antiques in downtown Brandon.



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