



ALL SIX QUEENS dazzling the audience in St. Albans.

Photos by Paul Gamba

OV Students win awards for acting and stagecraft

Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theatre Company heads to the New England Drama Festival

BY MITCHELL PEARL
Following their performance on April 12th at the Vermont State Drama Festival in St. Albans, Otter Valley’s production of “Queens” was chosen as one of the top two shows in Vermont and will represent the state at the prestigious New England Drama Festival.
The Judges at the Vermont State festival had high praise for the student actors and technical crew of “Queens.” One wrote that it was a “highly ambitious production, and the students pulled it off like clockwork.” Another: “Wow! Such a testament to a strong program. actor (See Drama Festival, Page 7)

Gathering to protect our democracy

BY GEORGE FJELD
BRANDON—Another large effort across the country in part to have 50 demonstrations in 50 states on one day. The event was upbeat and peaceful. No counterprotesters were observed.



JIM LEARY WARNING us what could happen if the Trump deportation plan continues without due process.

crowd, this time 159 people, rallied on Saturday to de-

effort across the country in part to have 50 demonstrations in

“About 150 people turned (See Protecting Democracy, Page 21)

Pittsford SB discusses police body cameras, public nudity, covered bridge cameras, and audits

BY MITCHELL PEARL
Interim Town Manager Ann Reed presented her report. She noted that there was a recent article in the New York Times real estate section about a couple that had moved to Pittsford to start a business. They bought the old Ferraro property on Route 7 and are looking for additional land, possibly to have a destination wedding venue. Ms. Reed noted that she had already met one of the couple.
Ms. Reed noted that the moving of offices went well. A new bookkeeper, Stormy Mae, will be starting soon and will overlap with Pat Johnson so she can learn as much as possible before Ms. Johnson retires. Ms. Reed plans to bring back the employee barbeque, probably in September. Following up on business from the last meeting, banners have been ordered for Vermont Covered Bridge Week.
Ms. Reed also noted that (See Pittsford SB, Page 23)



Brandon builder Tim Shields transforms lives and homes

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Brandon's Tim Shields is nothing short of a magician. While he cannot wave a magic wand and transform a room or house, he does wield a mighty hammer and saw to accomplish some amazing renovations! Shields has performed his magic all over Brandon, from the Brandon Senior Center to the Wesleyan Church to the old parsonage on Park Street. His eye for detail and his imaginative solutions to difficult construction problems lead to very impressive results. I'm sharing two photos of the great room in my house to demonstrate what talent he has. Tim did this project in 2017 and his creativity and fine craftsmanship have stood the test of time. This room is comfortable, functional and beautiful as well as greatly enjoyed by Carol, me, and our family.

Shields got his start at his father's elbow in the Northeast Kingdom. His dad was a builder and talked to and taught his son well. When driving around the countryside, his dad would often say to his mom, "If I had that house, I'd do such and such." Tim, in the back seat, would be listening carefully and making his own plans for houses. He still likes to visualize changes he would make or designs he'd like to build.

The Shields family moved to the Vergennes area while Tim was in high school. He got good grades but hated the classroom. After graduation, Shields sought to pursue a pastoral career in Bible School. The frock didn't fit! Oration/sermonizing for 3-5 minutes was not his thing and he left. He ended his collegiate career at Vermont Technical College studying architecture and building. While most of his classmates went into management or estimating, he couldn't wait to get his hands on a tool. "I didn't want to sit behind a desk," said Shields.

Shields Construction was started in 1984 when Tim's boss laid him off work in February on two days' notice. Lettering on the side of the wooden rack in his truck came the next day. At 21 years old, Tim recalls, "I put my head down and did the work, let somebody else talk about it." Shields was still in Vergennes at that time but it wasn't long before he moved to Brandon. His first Brandon job was the entry way for the Senior Citizens. He still worked in northern Addison County and commuted 45 minutes each way. His son Tim was a wres-

tlar and pretty soon other parents found out he was a builder. I know, I was one of them. I

like to make it work and keep the flavor of the house and its style." Often when working on

digging the hole for your basement and finish by painting and hanging wallpaper. But what he

loves to do is trim work, both inside and outside. He likes to get the details right for the home, consistent with its origins and architecture. Built-in cabinetry is also a favorite and really makes sense in old homes.

Tim built himself a barn at his house on Walnut Street, keeping its design consistent with the character and architecture of his house. He took his time with it, working on it when he had a down day or two when waiting on something or someone on a job. He used his spec flip houses the same way, keeping him and his crew busy.

A couple of his more difficult projects were houses he flipped. On Park Street, Tim found an extension on the back of the house which was unsupported. He thought "Oh no, there goes \$6,000 in concrete work." But he puzzled about it and came up with a way to support a two inch cement floor and added tubing for radiant heat. "It worked perfectly," he recalls. The other dilemma he encountered was a staircase added to an old house built on a Sears and Roebuck plan on Marble Street. It was added in the middle of the house, eliminating the dining room and accessing a single bedroom on the second floor. At only 1,300 square feet, he needed to make use of all the space. It took two

(See Tim Shields, Page 8)



GEORGE AND CAROL'S great room on Wheeler Road after Tim Shields worked his magic. Right: The early 1800s barn before restoration into the great room.

hired him to do some work in my office on Union Street and was really impressed with his work. Pretty soon his commute was over as the local jobs were coming quickly. They haven't stopped.

Tim has worked on many houses in Brandon and Forestdale as well as some surrounding communities. He's done public projects like the Wesleyan Church and the Brandon Town Hall, where the stage and the concession stand are both Tim Shields' work. Tim flipped houses on Park, High, Walnut, and Marble streets. Shields doesn't work alone often. He's never had a partner but usually has employees.

Shields loves designing spaces and the details in them. His love for problem solving comes in handy in his penchant for renovating older houses. "I

a house the project will expand beyond the original scope. We start on one thing and it just grows into another area. "As a builder, I have found that my customers trust me. I can't always explain what I want to do so they'll understand but they'll say go ahead!"

Today, Shields is in high demand and is only taking jobs with people he knows and his neighbors. Presently his lead time is 2+ years! He's proud that he's never advertised beyond a decal on his truck. "And I've been in business long enough to get to work with people I like."

Shields doesn't lay carpet, do slate roofing, concrete, plumbing, or electric, but he will do anything else. That's what his dad taught him years ago. Home builders in the Northeast Kingdom would start by



Vermont beekeepers work to produce future generations of disease-resistant bee colonies

BY IZZY WAGNER,
VT DIGGER

Honey bee colonies worldwide suffered massive losses last year, but University of Vermont researchers and international partners developed a new testing method that may lead to more disease-resistant colonies in the future, including in Vermont.

“It’s incredibly promising. We are all really excited with the results,” said Andrew Munkres, a beekeeper at Lemon Fair Honeyworks in Cornwall.

Beekeepers in the U.S. lost 70-100% of managed honey bee colonies in 2024, according to the nonprofit group Project Apis m. In order to keep honey bee

ences and head of the Vermont Bee Lab, said in a University of Vermont press release.

Alger said the trick to breeding resilient colonies starts with the ability to identify hygienic colonies that can identify and remove diseased brood, which are the hive’s youngest members and include eggs, larvae and pupae.

In a honey bee colony, the queen bee lays one egg inside each cell. As the eggs hatch, nurse bees feed the larvae and eventually cap over the developing cells with a protective wax layer. When nurse bees are stimulated by pheromones to detect sick or dead developing bees,

response.

UBeeO differs from previous hygienic testing methods. Rather than testing the bees’ ability to identify dead brood, it measures the bees’ ability to identify diseased brood, which makes it more “realistic to what bees experience,” Alger said in the release.

The UBeeO method provides a quantitative value of how hygienic the colony is because researchers can count the number of cells that have been manipulated by nurse bees.

“If 60% or more of the cells were manipulated, the colony is considered hygienic, and those are the genetics you want to

tell them is that it’s like one of those multiple choice tests in school.”

Periodic mites, pathogens, temperature disruptions due to climate change and pesticides all contribute to colony losses, he said.

“Even if we were able to populate the state of Vermont with all of these UBeeO tested hygienic bees, we would still have to deal with controlling the pesticides and creating a healthy environment for the pollinators to live,” Munkres said. “If we can get the pesticide use under control, then this type of technology will be huge in terms of helping to boost healthy populations of bees.”

Vermont lawmakers passed a bill last June to restrict the use of some of the most toxic pesti-

cides, called neonicotinoids — some so lethal that using a teaspoon of them could kill every single bee in the state, Munkres said.

Regulators are currently working on a plan to implement Act 182, which bans farmers from using cereal grain seeds treated with neonicotinoids by Jan. 1, 2029.

About 35% of the world’s food crops — one out of every three bites of food consumed — depend on animal pollinators, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Therefore, it is crucial to pollinator survival, and to global food security, to ensure the neonicotinoid ban is properly enacted, Munkres said.



UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT’S Sam Alger working with bees. Photo courtesy of the University of Vermont

populations stable, beekeepers must breed replacements — but this can be a time-consuming and costly process.

“It’s definitely more desirable for a beekeeper to have bees that are better adapted at taking care of their diseases themselves,” Samantha Alger, a research assistant professor in UVM’s College of Agriculture and Life Sci-

ences, they will uncup the cell and remove the damaged pupa. This is known as hygienic behavior.

That’s where the UBeeO testing method comes in. This screening tool developed at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro tests for hygienic behavior by mimicking the pheromones emitted by diseased bees and measuring the nurse bees’

breed for,” Alger said in an interview.

The Vermont Bee Lab discovered that the UBeeO method detects more pathogen loads than previously thought. This could drastically improve breeding programs, Munkres, a commercial beekeeper, said.

However, the trouble lies in passing on the hygienic behavior to offspring from the disease-resistant colonies.

“Without (hygienic behavior) being more heritable, it’s less useful to test for,” Munkres said.

Alger and other researchers are now investigating the heritability of hygienic behavior and other underlying causes that led to 2024’s massive colony losses.

“People like simple answers, and so they always ask, ‘What’s the reason the bees are dying?’” Munkres said. “What I have to

A new hygienic testing method helps identify bee colonies better at preventing sickness. Now, scientists are working to breed these colonies to generate more resilient hives for commercial and hobbyist beekeepers.

Spotlight On Business CELEBRATION RENTALS



There is nothing quite as magical as a wedding or party under an elegant tent...the possibilities are endless. With over 25 years of experience, our staff has the knowledge and experience to create any event from a wedding of 300, to a dinner party for 10 people a truly memorable experience. We are available to come to your location and share our knowledge of all the details that will make your special event a memorable one.



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Vermont Senate leaders urge Gov. Phil Scott to terminate state agreement with federal immigration officials

BY SHAUN ROBINSON

MONTPELIER—Top Vermont Democratic senators on Tuesday called on the state's Republican Gov. Phil Scott to terminate an agreement with the federal government that allows immigration enforcement agencies to hold detainees at state-owned prisons.

The push by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central; Senate Majority Leader Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden Southeast; and Sen. Becca White, D-Windsor, comes a day after a prominent Palestinian activist — who is a legal U.S. resident — was suddenly arrested by federal agents in Colchester during an interview for U.S. citizenship.

The senators pointed to Mohsen Mahdawi's arrest by masked and plainclothes officers as an impetus for their comments to reporters Tuesday afternoon at a press conference in Baruth's Statehouse office. White, who accompanied Mahdawi to his interview, captured video of Mahdawi's detention that has since been widely viewed.

Mahdawi, a student organizer at Columbia University, was being held at one of the state's prisons — Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans — as of Tuesday afternoon, according to an online database of detainees in the state.

Federal immigration agencies "have lost the trust, we believe, not only in the Senate — but of Vermonters, generally," Baruth told reporters. He also aimed criticism at Scott, contending the governor has not made enough of an effort to push back against federal actions that, in the pro tem's view, are "making our communities less safe."

In a brief statement to VT-Digger Tuesday after the senators' press conference, Scott's

press secretary, Amanda Wheeler, said the governor planned to meet with legislative leadership to discuss their request further.

Scott's office then sent out a press release calling for Mahdawi to be released from de-

tention unless "there is evidence that Mahdawi is a threat to the security of our nation, or Vermont," adding the office was seeking "further clarification of the facts in this case."

"What cannot be justified, is how this action was undertaken," the release continued. "Law enforcement officers in this country should not operate in the shadows or hide behind masks."

At issue is a memorandum of understanding the state signed last August with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the federal agency that is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, along with U.S. Immigration (See Federal immigration, Page 6)

Federal immigration agencies "have lost the trust, we believe, not only in the Senate — but of Vermonters, generally."

— Phil Baruth, Senate President Pro Tempore



The hook is just to eat you more easily!

THIS IS A Loggerhead shrike that was a rare breeder in Vermont. Also known as a butcher bird due to its habit of impaling it's prey on thorns. They are more common in Florida.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Care for our canopy by replanting trees

It seems like it's taken forever, but the tree planting part of the Caring for Canopy grant Brandon was awarded last year has finally arrived. The Town of Brandon and the Brandon Tree Group will be planting 14 trees on Saturday, April 26 starting at 10 a.m. Trees will be planted on Park St., at Green Park (across from Red Clover), and

in the dog park and children's playground on Seminary St.

Trees will be placed close to their planting locations, and holes for planting will be dug by the highway department on Friday.

Volunteers are greatly needed to plant the trees, fill the holes and place "tree bags" around the trunks on Saturday.

Come if you can. Many hands will make the work go quickly. Bring a shovel and/or rake if you have them, but a very few will be available.

We will meet at the dog park at 10 a.m. for an orientation and directions. This is your chance to make a difference in the tree canopy for years to come

— Neil Silins

The REPORTER

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

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Auditions coming up for Brandon Actor's Troupe Youth Company's June to production of "Spaghetti Western"

BY MITCHELL PEARL

Following their successful production of "Treasure Island," the Brandon Actor's Troupe—Youth Company will present "Spaghetti Western" on June 27 and June 28 on the Otter Valley Stage. "Spaghetti Western" is a comic melodrama written by Tracy Wells

which follows the adventures of Grannie Smith and her charming but clumsy granddaughter, Petunia Pearl, who run the Hoot 'n' Holler Hotel. Auditions are open to students in Rutland and Addison County, kindergarten through twelfth grade. Auditions will take place on Monday, April 28 from

5:30 to 7 p.m. at Otter Valley. To sign up for an audition, go to Brandon Actor's Troupe: Spaghetti Western Auditions. For more information, contact Lennon Philo at lennonphilovt@gmail.com, or go to the Brandon Actor's Troupe Facebook page.

(See Auditions, Page 5)

Letters to the Editor

The feeling of love and support will stay with me for the rest of my life as well

What happened that Saturday afternoon at the Café was unfortunate and dramatic not only to myself but for all the people present at that moment including staff members and customers.

I feel so blessed and very lucky to be here today alive and well, considering the violence of the assault. These dramatic moments even if they were brief will be unfortunately with me for the rest of my life. What will also stay with me is the overwhelming feeling of love and support that I received from the Brandon community. To myself personally but also

to Café Provence. The immediate abundance of messages, cards, packages of food, cookies, muffins, and calls from people offering their services for whatever we would need was stunning; I have to confess it brought tears to my eyes.

Although I still have a great deal of healing to accomplish before I can be back to my regular self I am very quickly on the way to recovery and I owe this quick turn around to the quality of the help I received. During the incident I had on one side a voice whispering in my ear: "you are doing great! Don't fall asleep, stay with

us" and on the other side Matt, owner of Morning Side Bakery, pressed on my wounds and gave me comforting words.

I would like to thank the ambulance workers, nurses and doctors of the emergency room in Rutland as well as the UVM emergency room who did a great job to care for all of my wounds.

Thank you Brandon, all my family, friends and Café Provence employees who turned this terrible incident into a wonderful abundance of love.

Robert Barral

Feeling the loss of police presence

Pretty sad when you have a car accident on a Sunday and you can't even call for police assistance because there is no police help in your town and you need to call 911 for help. We were a town with a fully staffed police force now down to one full and one half on M-F 8:00-4:00 if we are lucky. What a shame. Makes one feel real safe.

Submitted by Lucy Rouse

Letters to the editor

Letters Policy: The Reporter will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed.

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge.

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m. Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@brandonreporter.com

With liberty and justice for ALL

I can see it all now. Living the rest of my life in shame because of my cowardly role in not resisting the aggression of a despot and his cabal of one-percenters and not laying it all on the line for the sake of what's decent, just, humane, civil, free, and so much more.

I'm fearful of what I stand to lose should I be deemed an enemy of the state. I am sad for fellow citizens struggling to find their place in this world gone mad. I am concerned about the well-being of those whose lives of public service have been destroyed by the cruelty of a soulless sycophant and what this means for the anarchy yet to come. I fear that we might not ever get back the country we relied on for a chance to dream our own dreams.

Somehow the current state of affairs seems to be the American dream for half of us. This is what they knowingly voted in and believe is the proper way forward. For the other half, it's almost entirely a nightmare, a daily punishing assault on their beliefs, an insult to their morals, a humiliation of their life's

work, a constant sorrow for the fragile future being left for their children.

The unabashedly powerful have finally fomented what they always wanted: A citizenry conflicted to its core, at war with one another instead of marching in unison for what is right. This is our undoing, voted in by us, unchecked by others we put in office, and ignored whenever legally challenged.

They have purposely made this all a daily matter of the haves versus the have-nots, of them versus us, of human depravity versus human decency, of rich versus poor, of white versus all other skin colors, of abortion wrongs versus abortion rights, of what it means to be a citizen versus being an "illegal," of some set of prescribed sexual "norms" versus all other sexual orientations and preferences, of ignorance versus education, of fables versus science.

However, our fight is not with each other, cannot be with each other. It is with those making a mockery of us, those dividing

us, those bullying us, those restricting our well-earned freedoms. We know better, were raised better, can do better . . . are better than this.

So why not unify here in Brandon? We should be standing up FOR the rights of ALL citizens and not just for a select few. We should be lending helping hands to our at-risk neighbors instead of shunning them for being different than us. We should be open to the fact that hurting someone else doesn't make us stronger; it makes us both weaker.

Do you want to live in a town divided or a town united? I hope you want to be united and give us all an opportunity to set an example for the rest of the country and show strength in numbers and in friendship and in peace. The only way we're going to move forward is together. Otherwise, we're going to fail collectively. The time is now for our rebirth. We can do it!

Jeff Sachs

Auditions

(Continued from Page 4)

The name of this play, "Spaghetti Western," is a nod to the more general term, "spaghetti Western," which refers to a sub-genre of Western films produced in Europe starting in the mid-1960s. The term

was used by foreign critics because many of these Westerns were "low budget," and they were produced and directed by Italians. In this "Spaghetti Western" play, Grannie and Petunia enter a spaghetti sauce contest to try to win enough

prize money to pay the mortgage of the Hoot 'n' Holler Hotel. Will they succeed, or is it "Mission Impossible"?

Performances are planned for Friday June 27, at 7:30 and Saturday June 28 at 2 p.m.

Leicester News

Test your luck, and help your neighbors

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., May 10, at 1:00 p.m., at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome.



Plans are coming together for Green Up Day, May 3.

Many folks have agreed to clean up particular road segments in town. Several areas remain unclaimed: Fern Lake Road from Route 7 to the Delorm/Shackett Road intersection, Delorm Road from the Brandon town line north to 777 Delorm Road. If



you are interested in helping, contact Diane Benware at 802-458-7234. A free lunch for volunteers will be held at the Four Corners from 11:30 to 1:00, on May 3. Your lunch ticket doubles as a raffle ticket. Restaurant gift cards, syrup, garden tools are some of the prizes.

Community Forums Upcoming guided history walk at Mount Independence

ORWELL—The Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont, is offering a spring guided history walk on and off the trails on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from noon to 4:00 pm to learn about and see the traces of the Revolutionary War defenses. This is a great time of year to explore before all the leaves come out. Revolutionary War expert Mike Barbieri, Mount Independence Coalition president Stephen Zeoli, and

site administrator Elsa Gilbertson are your guides. The focus is on areas and features normally not seen. It's a special opportunity before the site opens for the 2025 season on Friday, May 23. Meet for orientation in front of the museum; restrooms will be available at the start of the program. The fee is \$5.00 for adults, \$1 for ages 6 to 14, and free for children under 6 and Mount Independence Coalition (See Mount Independence, Page 9)

Obituaries

E. Rhodes Wyman, 87, Brandon

E. Rhodes Wyman, age 87, passed peacefully on Monday, April 21, 2025, at The Pines in Rutland.

Rhodes was born in Burlington on February 6, 1938. He was the son of Frederick and Myrtle (Hill) Wyman. He grew up in Brandon where he received his early education and graduated from Brandon High School class of 1957. In his earlier years Rhodes had farmed on the family farm. In 1967 he joined his father in the timber industry. They owned and operated the Wyman-Frasier Sawmill in Brandon for many years. After retiring from the timber industry, he began working as an equipment operator for Markowski Construction Company until finally retiring in 2012. He was an Honorary Member of the Old Time Fish & Game Club and was founding member of the Neshobe Sportsman Club. He was a former member of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge and of Cairo Shrine. He and his family sponsored the an-



E. RHODES WYMAN

nual fishing derby at Wyman's Ponds for many years.

He is survived by his son Tracy Wyman and his wife Harriet; and his daughter Kelly Wyman Carter (Buzz); sister Sally Ryan (Terry) and brother Peter Wyman; grandchildren Lauren Wyman Martelle (Jeremy), Jonathan Wyman (Katie), Edward Carter (Jenna), and Michael Carter (Emily); and brother-in-law Herb Spaulding and sister-in-law Bernadette

Wyman; and his special care-provider Bobbi Jo Quenneville (Bebop). He was predeceased by his wife Donna Lee (Spaulding) Wyman in November 2014. They were married in Pittsford on June 17, 1961. He was also predeceased by his brother William "Billy" Wyman, sister-in-law Nina Flood, and son-in-law Harry Carter.

A private funeral service will take place, at a later date, at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral home in Brandon.

A private graveside committal service and burial will be held on the family lot at Pine Hill Cemetery.

A gathering "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on Friday, April 25, 2025, from 3-5 p.m. at the Brandon American Legion Post.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Pittsford First Response Squad, 256 Arch St. Pittsford, Vt., 05763.



ROGER LYNAM, 78

Roger Lynam, who was a long-time resident of Brandon, passed on from this life on March 2, 2025. There will be a gathering to honor his memory and to celebrate his life on May 4 at the Brandon Town Hall at 1:00 PM. All who knew Roger are welcomed and encouraged to attend. There will be music (of course) and a chance for everyone to share their memories and stories as well as any songs that they want to share.



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

Federal immigration

(Continued from Page 4)

and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. The agreement also requires the state to provide medical care for people detained by the feds as if they were in state custody.

Under the memo, which was first reported by VTDigger earlier this month, the state receives \$180 per night from the federal government per person held.

That fee is less, however, than the actual cost to hold someone, according to corrections leadership.

The agreement does not specify how long detainees can be held in state prisons but does allow prison superintendents to "refuse admittance due to capacity." The state's role in housing federal detainees has ramped up

significantly in the months since President Donald Trump took office for a second time, VTDigger has reported.

The agreement is in effect until this August. It requires Vermont to provide at least 120 days' notice of its intent to pull out, which, from Tuesday, would run into mid-August.

The senators' press conference

Tuesday appeared to jolt debates over whether the agreement should be nixed into the public sphere after such conversations had been brewing behind the scenes in the Statehouse, even on Tuesday morning.

Baruth told reporters he was aware of at least one committee chair in the House and one in the Senate who had been in conversations with Scott's administration about steps the state could take to "renegotiate" its memorandum with the feds, but "those talks seem to have hit a wall." He suggested the governor's office was slow-walking negotiations with lawmakers, which prompted him to take his case to the press.

Pressed by reporters, Baruth also said he had not personally asked the governor to cancel the agreement outright. Rather, "I am asking that right now," he said, referring to the press conference.

Two members of the House Corrections and Institutions

Committee had written to Scott's chief of staff, Jason Gibbs, on Tuesday morning asking for a meeting about legislation aimed at ending the agreement with the feds, according to an email obtained by VTDigger. The two lawmakers — Rep. Troy Headrick, I-Burlington, and Rep. Conor Casey, D-Montpelier — wrote they were "committed to making this work and to providing the cover your office may need" to support the proposal, the message reads.

Gibbs wrote back around the time the senators' press conference ended that Scott's office would be communicating with House leadership "on all matters of importance to the people of Vermont," though did not provide further details, according to a separate email obtained by VTDigger.

In a separate written statement after the press conference took (See Federal immigration, Page 20)



BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.



3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • www.barnardfuneralhome.com

(802) 483-2811  Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory 

Drama Festival

(Continued from Page 1)
after actor coming out with such vocal strength and commitment, such honest emotion...just fabulous!" And, "The costumes were intricate and beautiful. The set was imaginative and effective. The music was beautiful. Jester's makeup was gorgeous!"

In addition to the production's selection to represent Vermont, several Otter Valley students were recognized for their outstanding contributions both on stage and behind the scenes. Winning acting awards were: Oliver Lavelle as a Fool; Sophie Moore as Anne Boleyn; Elyse Singh as Jane Seymour; Kaylee Maloy as Kathryn Howard; and Calvin Ladd as Henry VIII. Winning a technical award was Andrew Easter for excellence in sound.

This will be the 5th time Ot-

ter Valley has been selected to perform at the New England Drama Festival. Walking Stick's last occasion was in 2019, with the play "The Last Firefly." The New England Drama festival will be held this year in Wolfeboro, NH, on May 1, 2, and 3. Otter Valley will be performing on Saturday, May 3, at 10:00 am. In the interim, "Queens" will continue to rehearse and will present a one-night encore performance at Otter Valley on April 30 at 8:00. Free will donations will be accepted at this performance to help support the cast and company's travel to the festival in New Hampshire in May. Congratulations to the cast and crew, and all who work with them to make these extraordinary performances happen. Good luck in New Hampshire!



TOP: CENTER, ALYSSA Raymond as Kathrine Parr; Right, Calvin Ladd as Henry VIII (Actor Award)

MIDDLE: LEFT, THE Three Fools--Emil Dardozi, Oliver Lavelle (Actor Award), Raul Soto; Center, Sophie Moore as Anne Boleyn (Actor Award); Right, Elyse Singh as Jane Seymour (Actor Award)

BOTTOM: LEFT, DANI Polli as Anne of Cleves; Center, Kaylee Maloy as Kathryn Howard (Actor Award); Right, Jordan Bertrand as Catherine of Aragon, with Ladies in Waiting.



Tim Shields

(Continued from Page 2)

weeks but Tim came up with a design to make the downstairs functional with a living room, kitchen, dining room, bedroom, and a bathroom with a staircase to access two bedrooms and a bath upstairs. Perhaps he used his wand on that project.

When asked if he might retire, Shields had a ready answer, "I'd like to manage jobs

for other carpenters who don't like the management end of the business and do a few jobs at my own pace. Maybe I'll build smaller houses that could be for older retired folks or function as starter homes for young folks." Luckily for his loyal customers, it doesn't sound like he'll be closing up shop anytime soon.



Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?

are on page 16!



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Legislative Report

BY TODD NIELSEN

Update on bills passing in Montpelier

BILLS PASSED

S. 30 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107 836

S. 3 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust

H. 293 House bill, entitled An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements

S. 18 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to licensure of free-standing birth centers.

S. 28 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services

454 House bill, entitled An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems

There were many explanations given by representatives for voting yes or no. These can

be found in the House Journal dated April 11. A few of them are:

Rep. Bartley of Fairfax provided the following vote explanation: "Madam Speaker: A constituent asking me to vote no said it best. 'We can do better but few can do more. H.454 has been touted as a step forward. In reality, it's a baby step when Vermonters need a leap. This bill does not rectify the mistakes of the past. It doesn't address the deep economic injustices that our students have endured for decades. And it certainly doesn't reflect the urgency of the moment. We were elected to this body, and it is our duty to uphold that responsibility. It is unacceptable to expect another body to correct our mistakes.'"

Rep. Berbeco of Winooski provided the following vote explanation: "Madam Speaker: I'm voting yes for Winooski

kids and educators and families. More than 20 languages are spoken in our school by the only minority-majority student body in the State. Multi-lingual supports are essential to us. I'm voting yes because my community has hope that these will be protected in the evolution of this legislation.

FROM GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT STATEMENT ON HOUSE PASSAGE OF H.454:

"This bill is nowhere near perfect due to the cost, timeline and more. However, we all agree that education transformation is needed this session. In order to accomplish that, the passage of this imperfect bill by the House so it can move to the Senate is an important procedural step toward achieving that goal."

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Maiden Vermont Women's Chorus seeking members

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We are now learning music for our November show at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, so it is a great time to consider joining us.

If you would like to learn more, please check out our website: <https://www.maidenvermont.com> or feel free to call Barbara Marlow at 802-989-0355.



Spring has sprung up—and it's delicious

WILD RAMPS POKING through the forest floor this spring.

Photo by Dale Christie

Mount Independence

(Continued from Page 5)
members. Wear sturdy boots, be prepared for off-trail walking, and dress for the weather. Bring your lunch to enjoy ahead of time if you like, and bring water. Co-sponsored by the Mount Independence Coalition. The site and museum will be open from May 23 through October 19, 2025. Regular hours will be daily, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Call 802-759-2412 for information about the hike.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site is a National Historic Landmark and is one of the best-preserved Revolutionary War archeological sites. It is located at 497 Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersections of Vermont Routes 22A and 73 near Orwell village. Carefully follow the signs. For more information about the Vermont State-owned Historic Sites, visit: www.historicsites.vermont.gov.

READER COMMENTS



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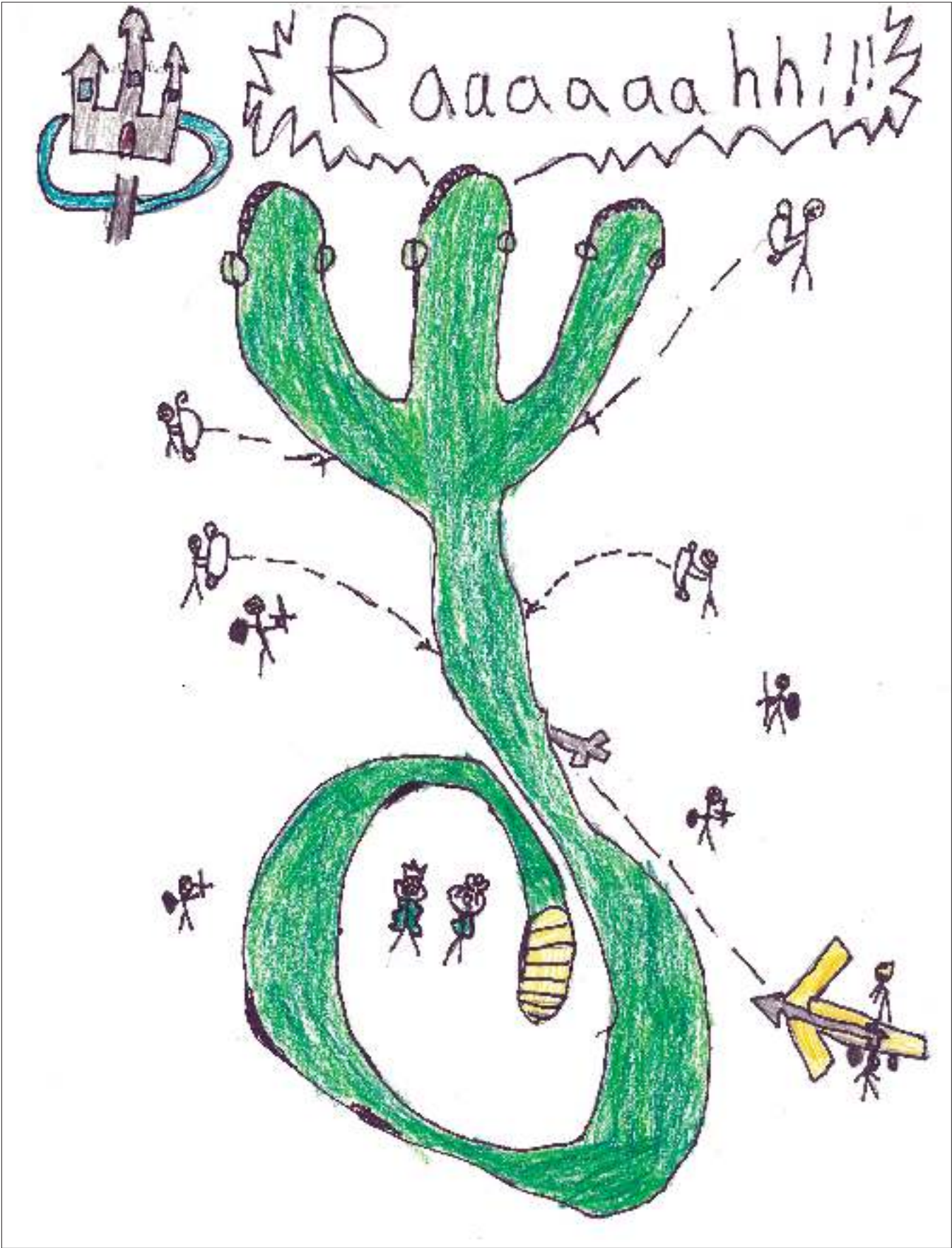
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STUDENT: Gary Brodowski
GRADE: 3
SCHOOL: Neshobe
TITLE: Hydra Attack
MEDIUM: Paper, pencil, marker, colored pencils
TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM GARY:
I made a hydra that captured the king and queen. Now the kingdom is mad.

STATEMENT FROM MR. B:
Gary is calm, thoughtful, and creative in art class. His drawings often feature unique characters with an interesting and fun story to tell. In case you didn't already guess from the last name, I am Gary's dad! I really enjoy seeing him every week in art class!



Photo by Clarence Boone

MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin

MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin

Maple, no ice cream for breakfast!

But, Mama, it's coffee ice cream.

Absolutely not.

SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS
news@brandonreporter.com

Union Street Grocery broken into

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Last Tuesday night the front door of the Union Street Grocery was shattered and a burglar entered the store. According to owner Jaime Quenneville, the subject attempted to break into the Lotto machine without success and fled with two twelve-packs of beer into a waiting automobile driven by another person. She got it all on her cameras and has posted the pictures on Facebook. Apparently one person has turned themselves in and the other is still at large.

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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

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!

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!



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 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

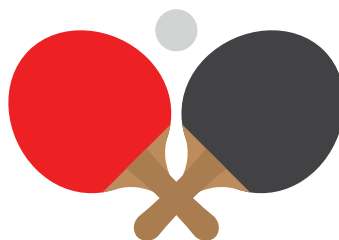
Ping Pong

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.



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!

depicting the Green Mountain Boys' council of war that was held before seizing Ticonderoga. We will carry our CPRA banner in the parade, staff an info & sales table, and join others to honor Rev. War patriots buried right there. For info, call Tom at (802) 388-2967.

Saturday, June 14

Lake Champlain was so named by the French in 1609. The Crown Point Road was so named by the British in 1759. Both were used by the indigenous people for millennia.

We will explore this history at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's Abenaki Heritage Weekend. Meet at LCMM at 10 a.m. (4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes).

Bring lunch; admission free. For more info visit www.lcmm.org or call Barry at (802) 492-3573.

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 Conscious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on

Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

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

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

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

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

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

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

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

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Starts at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories and bubbles!

Fridays

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

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

Free Medical Clinic County Health

Wednesdays in April

A free walk-in healthcare clinic for adults in Rutland County will be held at the County Health Partners (formerly Rutland County Health Partners) on Wednesday in April from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at 100 Main Street, Rutland, Vt. No appointments or any questions, please call (802) 255-1234.



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 Senior Center Game

Day
Come join us every Friday at 2:00 p.m.

Cards, darts, puzzles, board games, coloring.



Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center
By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2–4 p.m. Play with whomever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center
First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the

Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join us every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for picture book storytime.

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 experience levels are welcome. Free and open to adults 21 and older only.

Upcoming events in Brandon

May 2 & 3

Halfoween in Brandon, Vt.! Brandon celebrates Halfoween along with its sister city Salem, Mass!

May 2

Beginning with a Witches Walk down Park Street 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, metaphysical 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.

Thursday 24th

Common Ground Video Screening and Community Conversation —

Castleton University
By fusing journalistic expose with deeply personal stories from those on the front lines of the food movement, the movie Common Ground unveils a dark web of money, power, and politics behind our broken food system. The film reveals how unjust practices forged our current farm system in which farmers of all colors are literally dying to feed us. The film profiles a hopeful and uplifting



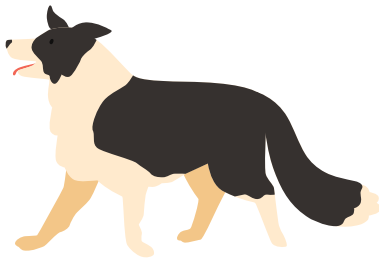
Sunday 4th

Spring Fling! — Pittsford Village Farm

It's time to celebrate spring! Join us from 2-4 p.m. at this free, family event at Pittsford Village Farm. We will have games, seed planting, treats and loads of fun. Games include bird bingo, hula hoop contest, seed matching, horseshoes and more—with prizes. Special guest Tom Joyce the Magician will be there!

Thursday 8th

Woof! Workshop with GoldStar Dog — Brandon Free Public Library
This popular, long-running dog communication and safety lecture is a multi-media



2025 Spring Rutland Area Chorus Concert

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 own funeral mass. The work was first performed in 1793.

Rutland Area Chorus (RAC) in collaboration with Grace Festival Orchestra (dir. Alastair Stout), University of Vermont Concert Choir and Catamount Singers (dir. Nat Lew) and the VTSU Castleton University Chorale and Chamber Singers (dir. Sherrill Blodgett) will perform Mozart's Requiem. Directed by

Sherrill Blodgett 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)

movement of white, black, and indigenous farmers who are using alternative “regenerative” models of agriculture that could balance the climate, save our health, and stabilize America's economy—before it's too late. Please join us for a conversation of the overlap between regenerative farming, climate change, personal and public health.

Hosted by VTSU faculty/staff—Reese Boucher, Katy Culpo, Mary Droege, Andy Vermilyea, and guest Susan Feenick, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Jeffords Auditorium.

extravaganza. Participants will also enjoy exclusive free access to a carefully curated online resource of supplementary learning materials. From 6-7:30 p.m.

Saturday 10th

Bird Walk with Sue Wetmore — Pittsford Village Farm

Local birding expert Sue Wetmore will lead a guided bird walk, starting at 8 a.m. from Pittsford Village Farm and walking along the adjoining trails. With Sue, you will spot and identify many more birds than on your own. On the last walk, Sue identified 23 species of birds! Bring binoculars if you have them. This is free and open to everyone.



Goings on around town

Flo Meiler setting track world records at 90 years-old

BY SHELBURNE NEWS

This story by Briana Brady was first published by the Shelburne News on April 17.

Flo Meiler pointed with her foot to a line on the ground at the University of Vermont's indoor track last Friday.

"I forgot my tape today, but this is usually where I jump from," she said.

After marking her spot, Meiler walked away from the sand pit, further and further back, until she had enough room to run. The 90-year-old Shelburne resident then sped down the track, arms pumping, and with a hop, a skip and a jump, landed her triple jump in the sand.

Meiler isn't just a casual hobbyist when it comes to track events — she's still competing.

At last month's Masters Indoor World Championships in Gainesville, Fla., Meiler brought home eight gold medals in her age category. She smoked the competition when it came to the triple jump, the hurdles and the pentathlon.

Although she regularly competes in 10 or so events, she said the pole vault is her favorite, partly because she finds it the most challenging. Meiler likes a challenge.

In addition to her gold medal wins at the Masters championship, Meiler added another four

world records to the 35 she had already amassed over the years. This time, she set the record for pentathlon, 60-meter hurdles (24.87 seconds), triple jump (14'9¼"), and pole vault (4'6") for women ages 90-94.

Meiler didn't initially set out to be a track champion — she didn't even try her first event until she was in her 60s. The way she

tells it, she was playing tennis with her husband when long-time South Burlington athletics coach, and track star in her own right, Barbara Jordan, approached her.

"She said, 'Flo, I would like you to come and try the long

muscles doing chores. That strength served her in basketball, as well as in cheerleading, and then after high school, competitive waterskiing.

"We even put on ski shows, and I was part of a pyramid. I was on the bottom. We used to try to get the smallest girl we could find to put on our shoulders," Meiler said.

These days, Meiler is something of a celebrity in the track world. When she goes to meets, she said, people are always coming up to her to take photos together. Lately, she's been asking that people email her a copy of the photos they take

ten at UVM's indoor track or at South Burlington High School. There's a 15-minute warm up that she does at home. Then she spends another 15 minutes stretching at the track. There's more warmup running. Then training for her events. In total, she spends about an hour and a half to two hours each time she trains.

Taking the time to warm up properly is important at her age, she said. Training and competing can take a toll on the body as you age.

Three years ago, she hit her left ankle on a hurdle. Her entire leg turned black and blue. It took her months to get back to the track, and even now, she still has to walk over the hurdles rather than jump.

"I always come back," she said.

She trains six days a week, often at UVM's indoor track or at South Burlington High School.

Restaurant guide



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SHELBURNE NONAGENARIAN FLO Meiler a world track and field record with her 4'6" vault at the Masters World Championships last month in Gainesville, Fla.
Photo by Rob Jerome/Shelburne News



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jump when you're done with tennis," Meiler said. "I went and tried the long jump, and that was 30 years ago, and I'm still going."

Meiler's competitive streak goes much farther back. Unlike other schools at the time — 20 years before Title IX would drastically increase girls' access to sports — Meiler's high school in upstate New York had a girls' basketball team.

"I went to school at St Mary's Academy, and they had a boarding school also, and we happened to have the best girls' basketball team in the area," she said.

Meiler grew up on a dairy farm in Champlain, New York, where she said she built up her

with her — she wants to make a book full of them.

"It feels really warm when that many people come up to you and say, 'Oh Flo, you are such an inspiration,'" she said.

It's not just strangers. Meiler said that her husband of 64 years, Gene, always sneaks little notes into her bags when she goes away to a meet.

"He writes me a little note almost every time that I go and puts it in my luggage. 'Good luck, and I'm so proud of you.' My husband does that all the time," she said.

According to Meiler, not many people her age are interested in spending the amount of time that she does on exercise. She trains six days a week, of-

On Friday, she practiced her hammer throw, swinging a five-pound ball at the end of a wire around and around above her head before releasing it behind her into the net. Nearby, a couple of college athletes stretched and chatted. Sometimes, Meiler said, the UVM coach will invite her to practice with the girls.

Clearing up, Meiler piled her things into the same red wagon she said she used to pull her children around in when they were little. It might be old, she said, but it still gets the job done.

From Stanford to Harvard, more than 1,000 international students across 160 colleges have had their visas or legal status revoked since March, according to the AP US revokes a lawful international student's visa at Middlebury College

BY AUDITI GUHA,
VT DIGGER

The U.S. government has revoked the visa of a Middlebury College international student, leaving the person at risk for deportation.

University spokespeople declined to comment or identify the people involved. They shared an announcement sent to faculty, staff and students Wednesday notifying them that a Middlebury student and three alumni from the Middlebury Institute recently had their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System records terminated by the U.S. government, effectively revoking their visas.

Representatives from student affairs are working with them to determine next steps and to provide support, the Wednesday post states.

"Middlebury must abide by federal laws and regulations related to student and faculty visas and immigration status. We are taking steps to protect our community through legal pathways," the announcement states.

From Stanford to Harvard, more than 1,000 international students across 160 colleges have had their visas or legal status revoked since March, according to the Associated Press.

Concerned about the growing federal reach into college

campuses and recent detentions of international students nationwide, Middlebury College has signed on to an amicus brief for

Professors challenging the detentions and deportations happening on college campuses.

Middlebury College is com-

nouncement states, and hosted an online discussion with an immigration attorney Monday to discuss recent policies and

cation of visas is a troubling trend at U.S. colleges and universities and want to express our commitment to supporting our international students, faculty, and staff. Our international community is absolutely integral to Middlebury and inseparable from our identity as an inclusive global community," the online post states.

College leadership encouraged international students with questions about their immigration status to contact International Student and Scholar Services and continues to monitor the status of sponsored international students and scholars, the announcement added.

Middlebury also posted an FAQ this week stating that while the college "will not voluntarily provide personally identifiable information about students, faculty or staff to the federal government," it cannot prevent federal immigration enforcement officers from entering public spaces on campus.

The announcement comes two days after an Upper Valley resident with legal residency status was detained by masked, plainclothes federal agents during a scheduled citizenship interview at the Colchester field office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Mohsen Mahdawi, 34, re-
(See Visa revoked, Page 19)



SEVERAL HUNDRED DEMONSTRATORS gather outside the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans on Wednesday, April 16, to protest the detention of Mohsen Mahdawi. Photo by Sepi Alavi

a lawsuit filed by the the American Association of University

mitted to its international community, the Wednesday an-

traveling abroad.

"We are aware that the revo-

It's MUD Season!





Mim's Photos

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

E-mail
kate@brandonreporter.com
if you can identify someone
in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080



Recognized



Betty Brilyea, of Shoreham, identified Beatrice Rowe, of Brandon, in this photo.



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. English TV station
- 4. It fuels cars
- 7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Midway between northeast and east
- 12. Small Milky Way constellation
- 13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist
- 15. A Brit's grandmother
- 16. Colombian city
- 19. Visualize
- 21. Charged
- 23. People's assets
- 24. Informative books
- 25. Jeer
- 26. You can do it with your horn
- 27. Agents of your downfall
- 30. Central Uganda city
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Type of tree
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dishwasher soap brand
- 45. Hall where military eats
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Speaks incessantly
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Extreme greed
- 55. Adopt or support
- 56. Fantasy writer Russell
- 57. Seize
- 59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 60. Noted pet detective Ventura
- 61. Automobile
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Color opposite green
- 64. Amount of time
- 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sheep sound
- 2. Some can be emotional
- 3. Inflammation of colon lining
- 4. Origins
- 5. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 6. Perceived by the senses
- 7. A place to play ball
- 8. Occur before
- 9. Animal body parts
- 13. Thanksgiving dessert
- 14. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
- 18. Promotional materials
- 20. One point east of northeast
- 22. Piers Anthony protagonist
- 27. Popular sports league
- 28. Cologne
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. Constrictor snake
- 32. Not good
- 33. Supplement with difficulty
- 37. Hug with fondness
- 38. Enforced again
- 39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
- 40. Substance
- 41. Anterior parts of the brain
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships load cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. "___ humbug!"
- 48. Monetary unit of Macao
- 49. Popular children's book elephant
- 51. Glutinous
- 52. Function
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

		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		

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Spring Into Safety— Is Your Pet Microchipped?

With the warmer weather here, pets are spending more time outside—and that means the risk of getting lost increases, too. Now is the perfect time to make sure your pet is microchipped and your contact information is up to date. Microchipped pets are over 2 times more likely to be reunited with their families, and for dogs, that number jumps to more than 2.5 times according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). At RCHS, the very first thing we do when a stray arrives is scan for a microchip. It's one of the fastest and most effective ways to get a lost animal back where they belong. All RCHS alumni leave our shelter microchipped, giving them a lasting link to safety and home. So this spring, take a moment to check—is your pet microchipped, and is the information current? A tiny chip can make a big difference.

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



MEET MAIZY *FOSTER-TO-ADOPT- 3 ½-YEAR-OLD. FEMALE. GREAT

PYRENEES. WHITE. Meet Maizy! This sweet girl arrived as a stray on 3/24, nervous and in need of some TLC. Since then, she's been warming up to the shelter staff and is ready to bond with her new family! Maizy has a charming mix of curiosity and devotion—she'll explore her surroundings before dashing back for a cuddle, then quickly resume keeping watch. Because she was a stray, we don't have any history of how she does with dogs, cats, or kids, so a meet-and-greet with the whole family (including any dogs) will be important. Maizy is currently heartworm positive and will be a foster-to-adopt until she completes her treatment. She can't wait to settle into a loving home—Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., to meet her and see if she's the perfect fit for you!

MEET FANTA 5-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. ORANGE.

This handsome orange boy is both independent and curious. He would love to spend his days gazing out the window with the occasional pet, but is happy just being near his feline friends or near his people. He gets along with other cats and is enjoying his time in our Community Cat Room. If this boy sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11a.m. to 4 p.m.



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TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM
11AM-4PM.



Large Print books recently donated by Brenda Whittaker

Overkill by J.A. Jance in memory of Doris A. Whittaker

Chuck Brewster, the former business partner of Ali Reynolds's husband B. Simpson, once carried on an affair with Clarice, B.'s first wife. So when he's found murdered with Clarice standing nearby covered in blood, it seems an open and shut case. But Clarice swears she's innocent and begs for Ali's help. At the same time, someone is targeting Camille Lee while she's on the road for High Noon. Ali is swiftly running out of time to find the real killer and keep her employee safe.

The World's Fair Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini in memory of Matilda E. Whittaker

The Elm Creek Quilt Camp remains the most popular quilter's retreat in the country, but unexpected financial difficulties have beset them and the Bergstrom family's stately nineteenth-century manor. Summer Sullivan—a founding Elm Creek quilter—arrives to discuss an antique quilt that she wants to display at the Waterford Historical Society's exhibit. But the quilt's makers, two estranged sisters, are reluctant. As one sister reluctantly retraces her quilt's story for Summer, she makes an unexpected discovery—one that restores some of her faith in this unique work of art, and helps shine some light on a way forward for the Elm Creek Quilts community.

New adult fiction

This Monster of Mine by Shalini Abeysekera

Eighteen-year-old

Sarai

doesn't know why someone tried to kill her four years ago, but she does know that her case was closed without justice. Hellbent on vengeance, she returns to the scene of the crime as a Petitor, a prosecutor who can magically detect lies, and is assigned to work with Petrarch Kadra. Ice-cold and perennially sadistic, Kadra is the most vicious of the four judges who rule the land—and the prime suspect in a string of deaths identical to Sarai's attempted murder. Certain of his guilt, Sarai begins a double life: solving cases with Kadra by day and plotting his ruin by night. But Kadra is charming and there's something alluring about the wrath he wields against the city's corruption. So when the evidence she finds embroils her in a deadly political battle, Sarai must also fight against her attraction to Kadra—because despite his growing hold on her heart, his voice matches the only memory she has of her assailant.

Flesh by David Szalay

Teenaged István lives with his mother in a quiet apartment complex in Hungary. Shy and new in town, he is a stranger to the social rituals practiced by his classmates and soon becomes isolated, with his neighbor as his only companion. But as these periodical encounters shift into a clandestine relationship that István himself can barely understand, his life soon spirals out of control, ending in a violent accident that leaves a man dead.

Usual Desire to Kill by Camilla Barnes

Miranda's parents live in a dilapidated house in rural France that they share with two llamas, eight ducks, five chickens, two cats, and a freezer full of old food. Miranda's father is a retired professor of philosophy who never loses an argument. Miranda's mother likes to bring conversation back to "the War," although she was born after it ended. Married for fifty years,

DID YOU KNOW?

May 8th 6-7:30p, Woof! Workshop. All about the communication of dogs. Test your skills in this multimedia presentation!

Reminder: this Thursday, 6pm, Spring Cleaning: Organizing and Decluttering with Kris Harmalink.

they are uncommonly set in their ways. An often hilarious, surprisingly moving portrait of a long-married couple, seen through the eyes of their wickedly observant daughter—for fans of A Man Called Ove and The Royal Tenenbaums.

For our school-aged kids we now have all of the Golden Dome award nominees available for check out!

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 p.m./6 p.m. until 8 a.m., 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 14

- Observed a suspicious vehicle parked in front of OVUHS near the intersection of Franklin Street and Hawk View Road. The officer made contact with the subject and determined that no criminal activity was taking place.
- Responded to a hold-up alarm at Neshobe Family Health on Court Drive. The alarm was determined to be accidental.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failing to stop at a stop sign. During the traffic stop, the officer determined that the operator had two outstanding warrants for their arrest. The operator was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment.

- Received a report of a citizen dispute on Center Street.

April 15

- Served a Temporary Relief From Abuse Order on an individual on Center Street.
- Observed two suspicious men with hooded sweatshirts looking around a residence and into a parked car, while on patrol on Wood Lane. The officer spoke with both subjects and the homeowner and determined that they had been hired by the homeowner to work on her residence.
- Received a report of a domestic disturbance between a man and woman at a residence on Spellman Way. The woman subsequently left the residence with a child.
- Served a Relief From Abuse Order on Spellman Way.

April 16

- Received a report of a burglary at the Union Street Market on Union Street. Upon further investigation, both suspects were identified with one being cited and the other still being sought by the police. Investigation ongoing.

(See Police report, Page 19)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



this week you might need to take a new approach. Work with others and listen to suggestions.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Leo, you often are the life of the party, always ready to find something to do and be with other people. This week you might need to slow down and enjoy some alone time.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, you could be especially energized this week and feel the 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

The news that comes your way isn't what you had hoped. Libra. Roll with the punches and embrace the challenge. Soon there will be blue skies again and everything will settle.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, you will meet up with someone you haven't seen in a while and it will be like no time has passed whatsoever. Be prepared for a coincidental situation to bring you together.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

The universe will put you in touch with

someone who is reputable and diligent, Sagittarius. This way you can both tackle what you need to get done reap the rewards of your hard work.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

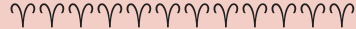
Capricorn, a little competition never hurt anyone. Embrace an upcoming chance to see how you stack up. Give your best effort, as always.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

This is a good week to play things safe and keep your cards close to the vest, Aquarius. Consider each situation carefully before engaging.

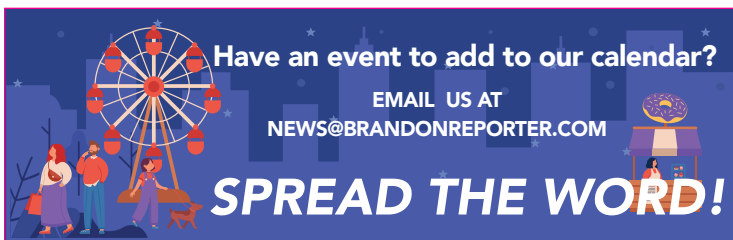
PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Pisces, you are a sociable person and ready and willing to chat up others. This week you might not be up for any social interaction and prefer a few days of solitary time spent.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 25 Edward R. Murrow, journalist (d)
- April 26 Ma Rainey, musician (d)
- April 27 August Wilson, playwright (d)
- April 28 Terry Pratchett, author (d)
- April 29 Michelle Pfeiffer, actor (67)
- April 30 Willie Nelson, musician (92)
- May 1 Joanna Lumley, actor (78)





Sunny skies, cheerful flowers, and signs of spring
BLOODROOT FLOWER NEAR Beaver Pond in Proctor. Did you know that it can be used as an orange dye?

Photo by Dale Christie

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

- Took fingerprints for a school chaperone.
- Took fingerprints for employment.

April 17

- Responded to a residence on Hacks Sawmill Road in Brandon for an untimely death. The cause of death was determined to be due to natural causes.
- Responded to a residence on Forest Dale Road for a citizen dispute between three parties.

No crimes were determined to have taken place.

April 18

- Received a complaint of fraud and larceny from the Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street in Brandon. Investigation opened and ongoing.
- Received a visit at the BPD from a property owner on Forest Dale Road who brought in a trespass notice to be placed on file that he had served via certified mail on an individual he no longer wanted on his property.
- Received a request for assistance from the Rutland City Police in serving a citation on a resident of Brandon.

April 19

- Received a report of a citizen dispute on Mulcahy Drive regarding the complainant's neighbor's children throwing things and banging on his door.
- Received a request from a homeowner on Florence Road to speak with an officer about messages he received from a woman asking him for money.

April 20

- Responded to a burglary alarm activation at the Green Mountain Market on Franklin Street.

Visa revoked

(Continued from Page 15)

mains detained at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans as his lawyers work to prevent his deportation. A judge has issued a temporary restraining order to prevent his removal from Vermont or the United States.

Vermont's congressional delegation has condemned the arrest, and 67 House Democrats have signed a letter demanding answers from the federal government.

A former student at Columbia University who helped organize protests and spoke out against the alleged crimes committed by Israel against Palestinians, Mahdawi was born in the West Bank and has been a lawful permanent resident of the United States for 10 years.

“Unlawful terminations”

Colleges across Vermont are warily watching the news and working with campus organizations to support international students.

While St. Michael's College has not been affected by immigration enforcement efforts, “We have also been working with our own campus community members to ensure they feel supported and have the information they need if faced with a similar situation,” Gretchen Galbraith, vice president of academic affairs and provost said in an emailed statement.

Adam White, a University of Vermont spokesperson, declined to say whether students

with visas have been targeted. International students, faculty and staff may contact the Office of International Education with questions specific to their individual situations, he said in an email.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which has been fighting cases pertaining to students and other legal residents who have had their legal status revoked, condemned the targeting of students and wrote in an emailed statement that “such arbitrary administrative action flies in the face of due process and our shared democratic values.”

“Across the country — and now in Vermont — we are seeing students who are lawfully present in the U.S. to pursue an education have their F-1 statuses abruptly terminated, and their liberty and academic futures threatened,” Hillary Rich, senior staff attorney at the ACLU of Vermont, wrote in an email. “These unlawful terminations are part of the Trump administration's coordinated attack on students and institutions of higher learning.”

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Federal immigration

(Continued from Page 6)
place, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, called Mahdawi's arrest "completely unacceptable" and said she has "been having thoughtful and strategic conversations about next steps that are within the bounds of the Legislature."

She added, "that means ensuring we understand the full legal and operational scope of the MOU with ICE and making

sure any and all action we take does not unintentionally impact the individuals we are trying to protect."

The state Corrections Department has previously told VT-Digger that it believes it's able to provide better care for people held by immigration authorities than they would receive in federal detention centers. In at least one case, attorneys for another recently detained college stu-

dent — Rümeyssa Öztürk — have asked a federal judge to consider moving their client to a detention facility in Vermont, among other options, rather than allow her to continue being held in a facility in Louisiana.

Öztürk is one of several students ICE has held at the Louisiana facility in recent weeks, a strategy that, according to NPR, attorneys say the government is using to have the students' immi-

gration proceedings heard before more conservative courts.

Asked about that concern Tuesday, the senators said that recent arrests around the country, and rhetoric from the Trump administration, have pushed them to seek limits to the state's involvement with federal immigration enforcement as much as possible. Baruth said a judge would still be able to order a federal immigration detainee to be held in a

Vermont prison, if the facts of a given legal case allowed it.

"We have already been asking members of the (Scott) administration to look at our responsibility being a pathway for people being abducted from other states to land here and then be sent onward," Ram Hinsdale, the majority leader, told reporters. "That is not something we should have done in our name."

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What's the Easter Bunny's favorite exercise?

BRITTA AND WREN complete a 1000-square hopscotch course in downtown Brandon.

Photo by Mitch Pearl

Protecting Democracy

(Continued from Page 1)
out in Brandon, Vermont for a peaceful rally lasting about an hour with the church bells playing We Shall Overcome at the end. Awesome.”
“We had a good turnout. More people are realizing that we need to rally frequently and in ever increasing numbers if

we hope to keep our democracy.”
Indivisible Brandon is a non-partisan group dedicated to preserving our democracy. More events are proposed by the group and they can be found at IndivisibleBrandon.org. There is a weekly Zoom meeting on Tuesday.



BRANDON BROUGHT ITS sign game to the gathering on Saturday in Central Park. Creativity reigns!

Photos by George Fjeld and Helyn Anderson

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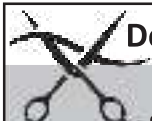
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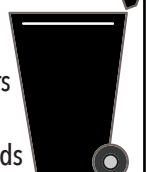
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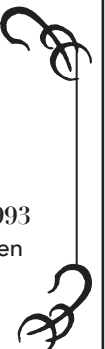
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Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)
Belden Construction has poured concrete for bridge 108 and is looking toward June for a potential traffic switch over. Ms. Reed also announced that Attorney Peter Cady’s widow has all the files and records from Attorney Cady’s office, and old clients are encouraged to contact her to pick these up. Ms. Reed has the contact information available for anyone who needs it.

A discussion was had concerning damage to the new pavement on the Truck Route from heavy equipment being used to install a new solar farm. Ms. Reed said that she would have the area inspected and contact the responsible party.

A discussion ensued regarding cooperation with other towns in borrowing and lending, or co-owning, certain equipment. This was brought up at the regional selectboards gathering. There was general agreement that co-owning equipment can be problematic, but that cooperation should be considered as needed.

Turning to old business, the Selectboard proceeded to take up several items that had not been acted upon in previous meetings due to the lack of a full board. All board members were present at this meeting on April 16. The board approved a purchase with Motorola for police body cameras and cruiser cameras, along with necessary storage and training, in the amount of \$74,500. This would be paid over five years, and solves current problems with outmoded equipment and lack

of available data storage. Interim Town Manager Ann Reed noted that the materials and installation would come directly from Motorola, and that they were the only company to have a track record in Vermont.

The Selectboard again reviewed a proposed town ordinance on public nudity. It was noted that state law only prohibits “disrobing” in public, but that if one leaves their home without clothes, state law does not prohibit this. Towns, however, are allowed to prohibit public nudity as such by means of an ordinance, but only three towns in Vermont have done so. The proposed ordinance under review is based on the Town of Brattleboro’s ordinance, with some tweaks. It was decided to further edit the draft to ensure that nudity that occurred in a private space but that was clearly viewable to the public would be prohibited. Ms. Reed will make that change and run it by the Town’s attorney before bringing it back to the board.

Ms. Reed noted that she has not yet found an alternate Zoning Administrator.

The Selectboard re-voted to adopt amendments to the Otter Creek Insect Control District, as a former vote had been premature since the matter then presented was still in draft form.

Under new business, the Selectboard discussed purchasing web cameras to place at the town’s covered bridges. It was noted that there have been multiple instances of damage caused to bridges by vehicles,

and the cameras would record license plates. T-Mobile has proposed certain equipment, and a discussion ensued as to placement of the cameras, cell coverage, and issues of how the data would be accessed. Ms. Reed will get further information and the matter was tabled.

It was noted that the alternate representative to the Otter Creek Communications District has resigned. Brett Mullin was reappointed as representative and does expect to be able to attend most meetings, but if anyone is interested in serving as an alternative, they should contact the Town Manager.

A discussion regarding a Zoning Board of Adjustment resignation was moved to Executive Session.

Ms. Reed noted that the FY 2024 Audit was received and a contract with the firm RHR for next year, FY 2025 was to be considered. It was noted that there were very few firms in Vermont that do municipal audits and that while it would be good to change audit firms regularly, it would make sense to go with RHR again this year due to time constraints. Ms. Reed noted that she has taken over the assets lists and depreciation schedules from prior auditing firms, and that she would work with the auditors to get the job done for the next audit before current bookkeeper Pat Johnson retires. Motion made and passed to accept the proposed contract with RHR for \$26,400, though members noted that they should be looking to go with another firm in the future. Selectboard mem-

bers questioned whether it would be possible to do audits every two years, or switch to another system. Ms. Reed noted that USDA grants required yearly audits and that while some towns do in-house audits, the quality of such might not be sufficient. Members noted that the current audit firms regularly delivered their product late, and that other options should be considered.

A discussion was had about sidewalk parking and it was noted that cars can be ticketed for parking on the sidewalk even if there are no signs specifically prohibiting it. In a related matter, certain existing signs had not gone through a

proper state approval process before posting. Ms. Reed will begin this process so the signs can be considered valid.

Orders and payroll were signed. It was noted that public signing was required.

The board reconvened as The Liquor Control Board and approved a First Class Restaurant/Bar License for Rollin Rooster, LLC. It was commented that they were open for brunch, which was delicious.

The board then reconvened at the Selectboard and voted to enter executive session to discuss employment/personnel matters to include the Interim Town Manager. No action was taken.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF PITTSFORD Notice of Planning Commission Public Hearing

- 1) The purpose of the hearing is to adopt the Town of Pittsford's Enhanced Energy Plan addendum to the Town Plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117.
- 2) The geographic area affected are all areas in the Town of Pittsford.
- 3) Town of Pittsford Enhanced Energy Plan – Table of Contents:
 - Goals
 - Introduction
 - Impacts of Fuel Use
 - Current Conditions
 - Future Targets
 - Policies
 - Actions
- 4) The full text of the proposed Enhanced Energy Plan addendum to the Town Plan can be reviewed at the Town of Pittsford Town Office or on their website at pittsfordvermont.com.

On May 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the Town of Pittsford Municipal Offices, 426 Plains Road Pittsford, VT 05763.

Pittsford Town Manager's report for April 16, 2025

- Moving of offices was done April 3rd. A huge thank you to our highway department for taking the day to help with the massive move. We have had one major computer hiccup from this, which Silloway is working on.
- I attended the Town Manager/Administrator luncheon at RRPC on 4/10/2025. We discussed shared assets among towns as well as projects upcoming in each town.
- Delores Gecha started as assistant town clerk/payroll administrator on 4/7/2025
- The new bookkeeper will be starting 4/21/25 to learn as much as she can from Pat before Pat’s retirement.
- The staff have asked to bring back the

- employee BBQ at the rec at the end of the summer, so we will be working on plans for this.
- Banners have been ordered for the VCBS Covered Bridge Week in August. I will be working with Winning Image for the one for the Village Green area.
- Belden was able to pour the concrete for Bridge 108 and it is in the curing stages now.
- Markowski Excavating has been working on hooking up all of the lines to the new sewer main on Plains Road. Plains Road has had daytime road closures due to this construction.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

WE’RE SEEKING LIKE-MINDED, enthusiastic people to help us to round out our team, providing genuine hospitality for the 2025 season. Ideal candidates are individuals with a passion for local foods and cooking, and hospitality and creativity. Works well both as a team and independently and is available for at least 1/2 of each weekend. We are looking for someone with culinary experience who loves to cook pizza, a server and housekeeper and those that might like a little bit of everything. Part and full time options. More info +application - <https://www.blueberryhillinn.com/jobs>.

RESPITE CARE BRANDON. Currently seeking respite caregiver to provide care for an elderly developmentally disabled individual in your home. Currently daytime hours available and some overnight shifts. This position is per diem with excellent pay. For more information please email me at respit2022@yahoo.com text/call 802-398-5657.

BRANDON MOTOR LODGE is seeking a dedicated housekeeper to join our small team. The right candidate will be self-motivated, have an eye for cleanliness, and enjoy being active and on the move! We are a small, family-run motel with a fun and relaxed work atmosphere. This part-time position (20-30 hours/week) will begin in May. If you are interested, please call 802-247-9594 or email us at brandonlodge@hotmail.com.

C hef R ober t gets serenaded by his community



BRANDON—AT NOON ON Saturday a well wishing group of locals surprised Chef Robert and his patrons at Café Provence with a musical serenade. The group, organised by Lisa Peduso and Colleen Wright, sang “You’ve Got a Friend” and “Lean on Me” to the delight of Chef Robert and Line Barral. The entire restaurant erupted in applause when they finished. It was another great example of Brandon coming together as a community.

Photos by George Fjeld

Addison County's Hometown Dealer





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