

The REPORTER

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

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\$1

Patrick Roberts, Otter Valley band leader, to retire after 32 years teaching

BY MITCHELL PEARL

Patrick Roberts led his final concert at Otter Valley last Wednesday, receiving tributes and a standing ovation after thirty-two years teaching music, twenty-five of them at Otter Valley. Pat Roberts came to Otter Valley in 2000, after teaching for seven years in Missoula, Montana. He grew up in Austin, Texas, and studied at the University of North Texas, which is a magnet in that state for those interested in music, and especially Jazz, which was his main interest. Pat had heard the Count Basie Band play live when he was seven, and grew up listening to Maynard Ferguson—who he says inspired a generation of aspiring young musicians to become band directors.

Although Pat had also completed most of a geology degree at the University of Montana, he decided to

stay in music teaching, and followed his brother to Vermont. Otter Valley was his first teaching job in Vermont, and he stayed. At that time, there were separate music teachers for middle school and high school, with each teacher handling both the choral and the band programs in the respective grade levels. Pat Roberts came on first as the middle school music teacher, then shortly moved to the high school program, running both the high school chorus and the band programs for many years. More recently, the music programs were realigned so that one teacher would teach band to students in all the grades, and another teacher would teach chorus. In recent years, Pat has handled the band program and Cameron Wescott has been the chorus teacher. Mr. Wescott will take over the band program after Pat
(See Pat Roberts, Page 15)



PAT ROBERTS CONDUCTING in the band room at OV.



Jess Crossman wins Brandon Idol 2025!

CONGRATS TO JESS and all the contestants in this year's Idol competition. See page 23 for more details! Jess is fourth from the right in the longsleeved pink mini-dress.

Photo by Colleen Wright

Brandon Trustees of Public Funds respond to critics

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Trustees of Public Funds (TPF) convened for a scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 15 at the Brandon Town Hall.

Though less overtly contentious than TPF's meeting on May 1, the May 15 meeting further underscored the divide between TPF's own understanding of its authority and the belief of the Brandon town management and a group of other residents that the Trustees have veered away from their legal obligations under the terms of the trust that they supervise.

The meeting was conducted by Laura Miner and Courtney Satz, the two remaining Trustees. The third Trustee, Tanner Romano, resigned on May 8.

Mr. Romano had been the target of harsh criticism from a group of Brandon residents because of his personal involvement in a project to which TPF had pledged \$20,000 (only \$10,000 was actually disbursed) in 2023.

Mr. Romano and Ms. Miner had also been the subjects of an ethics complaint filed by Brandon resident Brent Buehler alleging that they had misused their positions on TPF to direct money to that project. The Brandon Selectboard had investigated the claim and released a report on Tuesday, May 14, in which they found that a reasonable person could perceive a personal conflict
(See BTPF, Page 20)



MEI MEI BROWN gets affectionate with one of the feral cats she's treated through the Brandon Feral Cat Program, now entering its 20th year.

Brandon's feral cat program turns 20!

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Elusive and skittish, feral cats slip undetected through the night, on the prowl for whatever little critters they can find to fill their bellies. Brandon used to be home to many of these furtive felines, but the Brandon Feral Cat Program (BFCP) has been working diligently for the last 20 years to reduce the population of undomesticated cats in the town.

(See Feral Cat Program, Page 14)



Pitching in to beautify the town
Otter Valley Service Day volunteers help spruce up Pittsford!



VOLUNTEERS FROM JASON Kay's advisory group (top and center left) helped out the Pittsford Village Farm this weekend. Volunteers from Chas Hall's advisory helped out at the Pittsford Congregational Church, where they uncovered some broken gravestones that had been used as steppingstones at the church parsonage. THANKS TO ALL who helped out this weekend!

Photos provided





LET'S TALK ABOUT SUNFLOWERS AND THE 4TH OF JULY

BY JANET MONDLAK

I'm not a gardener but I do love sunflowers and that's why I'm especially excited for this year's Independence Day celebration in Brandon. Why? Because the theme for the parade is sunflowers and I can't wait to see how all the creative float makers and marching units tie this iconic summertime flower into their creations.

Brandon's own Ethan Nelson is one of the best sunflower growers in the state of Vermont. He currently holds the state record of the Vermont Giant Pumpkin Association for tallest sunflower, which was officially measured at 21 inches tall! It will be exciting to see how he does this summer!

I'll paraphrase from Google AI about sunflowers in general. Interpret this information as you like as you imagine your parade float.

"Sunflowers are a common type of flowering plant, typically known for their large, bright yellow petals and edible seeds. Sunflowers are grown for both their ornamental beauty and their practical uses, including oil extraction and food production.

Appearance: Sunflowers have a distinctive appearance with large, bright yellow ray florets (petals) and darker yellow or maroon disc florets in the center.

Growth: They can grow very tall, with some varieties reaching 12 feet or more, while others are smaller,

like dwarf varieties suitable for containers.

Edible Seeds: Sunflower seeds are a valuable food source, often eaten as a snack or used to produce sunflower oil.

Sunflower Oil: Oil extracted from sunflower seeds is widely used in cooking and other applications, and the remaining cake is used for animal feed.

Symbolism: Sunflowers are often associated with positivity, happiness and loyalty.

Sunflower Emoji: The sunflower emoji is used to represent happiness, warmth and loyalty, often in relation to friendships.

Hidden Disability: The sunflower is also a globally recognized symbol for non-visible or invisible disabilities."

Applications to be a part of the Parade are available at the Brandon Library and also the Town Office. It's easy, fun and a great way to be a part of the action.

As a recap, this year's Independence Day celebration will be held on Saturday, July 5 with free events planned all day. Activities include the grand parade at 10 a.m., bands in the parks, contests, beer garden, auctions, street dance and fireworks at dusk. Lots of food, games, children's activities and surprises are in store.

To help out and be a part of the magic, contact Bill Moore at the Brandon Town Office at bmoore@townofbrandon.com or by calling 802-247-3635 ext 213.



THE BRANDON IDOL 2025 competition wrapped up on Friday night with some dynamite renditions of classics and new hits. Jess Crossman (pictured here with Emcee Bill Moore) won the season with her version of "Pink Pony Club" by Chappell Roan. Congrats, Jess!

OTHER PERFORMANCES: SYDNEY Singh with "The Giver" by Chappell Roan; Miley Lape with "Back to Black" by Amy Winehouse; Calvin Ladd with "Flagpole Sitta" by Harvey Danger; Hilary Collier with "I Can't Make You Love Me" by Bonnie Raitt; Trace Warobe with "All About Tonight" by Blake Shelton; Bethany White with "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston; Donald Clinton with "Maxine" by Travelling Wilburys; Peggie Sue Rozell with "Proud Mary" by Tina Turner; Sophie Moore with "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves.

Guest singers: 2024 Brandon Idol Winner Miranda Snyder with "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims; 2025 Kids Idol Winner Owen Lewis with "Sunroof" by Nicky Youre, Dazy; and a surprise rendition from Bill Moore of "Mack the Knife" by Bobby Darin.

Thanks to the incomparable Brandon Idol band: Bryan Billado, Carina Ellis, Kenny Cifone, Ross Edmunds, and Special Guest Cameron Wescott.

Drink service: Mae's Place; **Concession:** Dallas Ladd; **Tickets:** Sue & Brittney Danforth, Patty Moore; **Judges:** Dennis Marden and Andy Doaner.

Brandon Memorial Day Parade

Brandon's Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 26th at 10 a.m.

Line up will be at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Park and High Street.

It will proceed to Central Park for our Memorial Services.

If you need further information, please contact Jean Lamarre at 465-8013 or jlamarre183@gmail.com.



Spotlight On Business LACED IN LAVENDER, MASSAGE THERAPY



Savanna Montoya is a certified massage therapist and owner of Laced in Lavender Massage Therapy located in Brandon Vermont. She specializes in Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, and sport therapy massage. Savanna's space is inclusive and ensures that everyone who steps into the studio and gets on the table feels comfortable in their body and in their skin.

Savanna offers 60 minute (\$90) or 90 minute (\$110) sessions. Please text or call to schedule: 802-558-5791



BRANDON REPORTER

Letter to the community

I am resigning from the
Brandon Trustees of Public Funds

It has been a privilege to serve on the Trustees of Public Funds these past 6 years. I wholeheartedly believe that our board upheld the duties of the Trust and maintained alignment with nearly 70 years of history of awards from this fund. I appreciate the support received from some Selectboard members, members of the community, and past Trustees. Unfortunately, at this point I can see no path forward given the speculative and angry climate surrounding any conversation of the Trustees. In light of the constant harassment and impasse I feel exists, I have made the decision to resign from the Trust.

While this has been a decision I've struggled to make, when my personal character

comes into question, the answer is clear. Those of you who know me, and the history of my life here in town, know that there could be nothing more hurtful than to be accused of being "fraudulent" or acting in "malfeasance."

I stand by the decisions and work that our board has done. I am happy to know there are many groups and establishments in our town that have benefited greatly from awards bestowed, and I am sorry that I am unable to continue this good stewardship.

I plan to continue my civic involvement in other areas for the betterment of the community and to absorb the positivity that so many other folks here contribute.

Courtney Satz



Go north, life is peaceful there

THIS WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW stopped by our yard on its way to northern Canada.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

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Community Forums

The Green Mountain National
Forest invites visitors to recreate
safely this Memorial Day weekend

MENDON—Just in time for the long holiday weekend, camp sites on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) will open this Friday May 23. The forest offers several recreational opportunities including picnicking, camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, boating and biking. The

National Forest provides Vermonters and visitors with a quality and memorable experience. In the past several weeks employees and partners have been working to prepare campsites and other recreation facilities for the visiting public.

The Forest Service has listed up to date information on road and

trail conditions as well as recreation "hot spots" on its website and considers the safety and enjoyment of all visitors a top priority. Important status information and office hours are provided below:

IMPORTANT LOCAL SITE
INFORMATION:

(See Recreate safely, Page 8)

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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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The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur. SJ

Turtles on the roadway need your help

Vermont's turtles are on the move, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for the public's help in keeping them safe.

Female turtles will soon be looking for places to lay their eggs, and they sometimes choose inconvenient or dangerous locations. For example, turtles often lay eggs in gravel parking lots and driveways and along road shoulders, which puts

them at risk of being hit by motor vehicles.



"Turtles commonly cross roads as they move to nesting sites and summer foraging habitats," said Luke Groff, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "Many of the turtles killed on roads are mature breeding females, so not only is the female taken from the population but so are her future offspring. Turtles grow slowly and females of some species

(See Help turtles, Page 9)

Letters to the Editor

We must remain civil when holding public officials to account

As has been publicly disclosed, I have performed legal work on behalf of the Brandon Trustees of Public Funds from time to time. I attended the May 15 meeting of the Trustees and listened to a cogent and reasoned explanation from Town Manager Seth Hopkins to the effect that the intent of Shirley Farr's will is that all of the income generated by the Trust must now be applied to sewage disposal. I have also reviewed a relatively recent e-mail from another Brandon official to the effect that Ms. Farr intended that the Trust income be used for a different purpose. Specifically, following her review of the will and contemporaneous news articles, Town Clerk

Sue Gage opined by e-mail to the Trustees dated May 19, 2021 that "it is quite evident that [Miss Farr] intended these funds to be used to offset mosquito control." Not necessarily exclusively, as Sue explained to me, but as one of the permitted uses of the fund. Why do I bring up these competing conclusions by our town officials? Merely to demonstrate that respected, intelligent, reasonable, and well-intentioned persons can disagree about the underlying intent of Miss Farr's will. Just something to chew on.

An attendee at the May 15 meeting apologized to the Trustees for her conduct at the prior Trustee meeting (on May 1). She later cavalierly

impugned my professional integrity, without any proof or support. Naturally. The gentleman seated directly behind me, evidently agitated by the whole affair, was childishly muttering aloud, thereby distracting me (and others too I expect) from the ongoing discussion. Do we really want these sorts of antics, and the histrionics on display at the May 1 meeting, to become a normal part of our public discourse? I don't. And I expect that the rest of Brandon feels the same, though admittedly there appear to be a few exceptions.

Do I believe that our public officials should be held to account? Or that the public has a right to question them about

decisions made and actions taken? Absolutely. One hundred percent. But there is a right way of going about this. And a wrong way. I respectfully submit that baseless allegations, vitriol, personal attacks, and plain mean-spiritedness are the wrong way. We have seen such toxic tactics become pervasive elsewhere and, if allowed, they can take root in Brandon as well. In my view, responsible citizens share a common obligation, for ourselves and future Brandonians, to ensure that this does not happen here. Otherwise, capable, qualified, and civic-minded persons will be disinclined from accepting or running for any number of volunteer or elected positions

that, collectively, make the town run and create a better quality of life for all of us. We all lose. Regrettably, from what I understand this already has happened.

What then, is the right way to bring our concerns to public officials? Perhaps the best answer to that question lies in Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey's introduction at the beginning of each Selectboard meeting. It is simple and to the point. To those who are curious, and to those who need a refresher, consider attending the next Selectboard meeting.

*Jim Leary
Brandon*

Public servants deserve respect and civility even with scrutiny

Public service is not easy, and it's made significantly harder when the same accusations and suspicions are aired repeatedly without new facts or constructive solutions. Recent posts on Front Porch Forum continue a pattern we've seen before—portraying our town's public servants as untrustworthy and dismissing efforts made in good faith. When answers are given but not accepted, it becomes less about seeking truth and more about fueling mistrust.

It's important to distinguish between healthy civic engagement and ongoing adversarial behavior that assumes the worst of people who have stepped up to serve. Our Selectboard and volunteers show up, lis-

ten, work within the bounds of law and process, and deserve a baseline level of respect, even from those who disagree with them.

The Trustees of Public Funds and the Farr bequest is a perfect example. Disagreements over interpretations of wills are not uncommon, and that's why legal guidance is sought. To imply misconduct or hidden motives—without evidence—is not fair to those doing the work or helpful to the broader community.

It's also important to acknowledge the toll that repeated accusations take on morale. Public servants are human. When they are constantly met with suspicion, interruptions, and personal insinuations, it

discourages others from serving and creates a toxic atmosphere. If we truly want good people to step up, we have to be willing to engage with them in good faith—not from a place of constant confrontation.

Constructive criticism is essential in a democracy—but it must come with a willingness to listen, collaborate, and let go of personal narratives when facts don't support them. Let's encourage participation, yes—but let's also respect those who are already doing the hard work of governing. They deserve our scrutiny, absolutely—but also our civility and trust until proven otherwise.

*Sue Gage
Brandon*

Community Forums continued 'Join or Die' screening at Rutland Free Library on June 11th

Join Vermont Public at Rutland Free Library for a mini film screening and social hour! First, dive into a 45-minute excerpt of the highly acclaimed 2023 documentary *Join or Die* by Pete and Rebecca Davis. *Join or Die* is a film about why you should join a club—and why the fate of America depends on it. Joined by Hillary Clinton, Priya Parker, and

others, Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, will explore three urgent civic questions: What makes democracy work? Why is American democracy in crisis? And, most importantly... What can we do about it?

Following the screening, join us for a social hour to practice what we've learned. Whether

you're passionate about your favorite pastime and want to connect with others or just looking to meet new people in your community, we'll have prompts and icebreakers to help spark authentic connections.

This event is part of a series of *Join or Die* screenings and community-building mix-
(See "Join or Die", Page 8)

Community Forums continued Open House at the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland on May 24th

The Chaffee Art Center invites you to our Open House with artist demos & free activities on Saturday, May 24th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come celebrate with us! It's Vermont Open Studio Weekend presented by the Vermont Crafts Council!

Join us for artist demos of wood carving and painting on canvas in many mediums! Visit with artists as they demo: Michelle Hartline, Jen Rondinone, Christine Townsend and Evie Towsley. Browse their kiosk areas of art for sale.

Plan to stop by for our free Mak-erie Activities for all ages (while supplies last):

- Clothespin Art
- Bead Art
- Door Prizes
- Plus...FREE For Kids: Create with food

While you relax and experience

the artist demos and free activities surrounded by art and the beautiful architecture of our 1890s Queen Anne Victorian Mansion, be sure to enjoy the free refreshments (while supplies last).

Explore our Gallery Shoppe with a special 10% off items on 5/24 only. It is filled with unique, affordable, handmade items for gift giving...or for yourself!

Not able to make it, plan to visit and enjoy a hot cup of tea or some old-fashioned candy while you browse, or plan to meet a friend and cozy up in one of our many seating areas. Free Wi-Fi available. While here, picture your next special event, bridal or baby shower, wedding, birthday, meeting or retreat being held in our beautiful mansion, fondly known by its first owners as Sunny Gables. Hours:
(See Chaffee Art Center, Page 9)

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.
news@brandonreporter.com

Senator Bernie Sanders raises alarm on cost of health care in Vermont and nationwide

BY OLIVIA GIEGER/
VTDIGGER

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., joined a group of state legislators, health care officials and advocates in Burlington Monday morning to raise the alarm on what they called Vermont's health care affordability crisis.

"Everyone knows that our health care system, nationally and in the state of Vermont, is broken. It is dysfunctional, and it is wildly expensive," Sanders said.

The press conference at Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport was set against the backdrop of Congress's attempts to push through a mega spending bill that is expected to include

work requirements for Medicaid recipients and limit the extent to which state governments can use health care provider taxes to cover their portion of Medicaid funding.

Back at home, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont sits in financial jeopardy, having lost \$152 million over the past three years. The nonprofit insurer has asked the Green Mountain Care Board to approve double-digit percentage increases to the premiums of plans sold in 2026 on the Vermont Health Connect — the state-run federal Affordable Care Act marketplace.

"I'm not sure how anybody is going to be able to afford that,"

Sanders said.

While he did not touch on the specifics of how the state or federal governments can support the state's only Vermont-based health insurer and protect it from insolvency, Sanders outlined areas where he thinks further investment can lead to lower health care costs for Vermont in the long term. Those included expansions of primary health care facilities and of nursing education programs that allow the state to rely less on traveling nurses, as well as increased support for home health care and nursing homes. He cited efforts to reduce the cost of prescription drugs as a key area that can lower costs for hos-

pitals, and thus, reduce the costs that get passed onto insurers and individuals.

All of this falls under a need for a broader cultural change, Sanders said, from a health care system that is focused on profit to one that supports health care as a human right.

"It's a culture that says (if) we want people to stay in Vermont, we're going to work day and night to lower the cost of health care, provide health care to all of our people. It's a different culture," Sanders said. "We've got to radically reorient our priorities."

Lisa Ventriss, co-chair of the newly formed advocacy group Vermont Health Care 911, put a finer point on it at the press conference: She suggested that shifting spending to patient care, rather than to administration or management, would open up "ample room for savings in Vermont," while curbing the "gob-smacking" premium rate hikes the state has seen.

Sen. Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden Southeast, and Rep. Alyssa Black, D-Essex Town, who chair the health care committees in their respective chambers, also touted the bills that lawmakers are trying to pass this session to reduce health care costs in Vermont.

Namely, the legislators highlighted S.162, which seeks to

from insolvency. We're stabilizing access to primary care, family medicine," Lyons said. "We are now working to allow people to access food, rent and health care without having to make choices for one over the other."

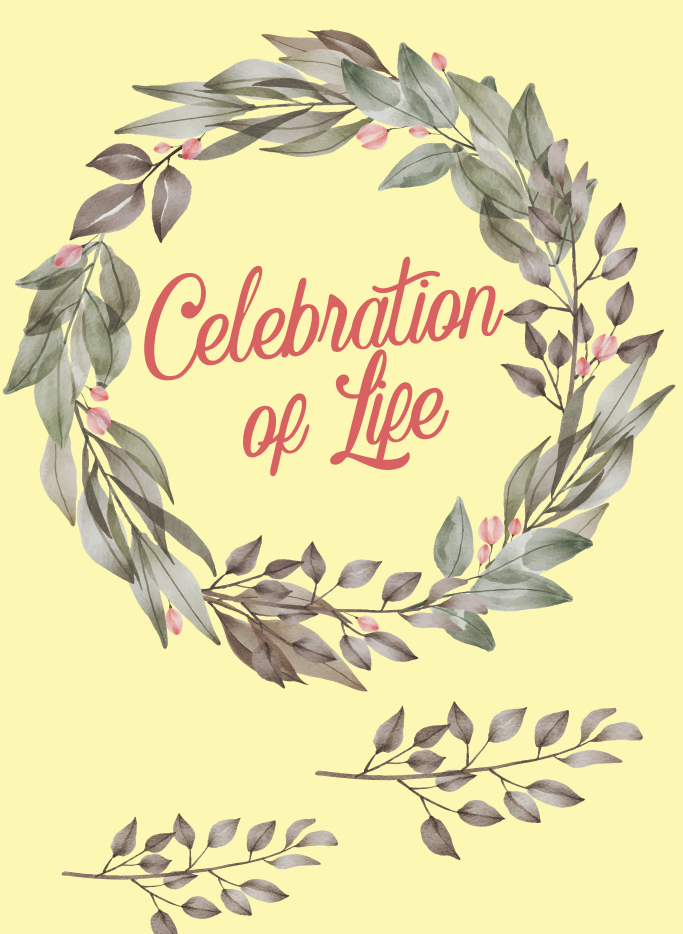
Still, progress at the state level is quickly dwarfed by the potential threat of federal changes to Medicaid. Most worrisome, Black added in an interview following the press conference, is the threats from President Donald Trump's administration to undo the so-called 1115 waiver program. That waiver gives states the ability to cover services beyond what federal statute outlines as required coverage under Medicaid. Vermont has become a particular leader on finding innovative ways to use this waiver.

"It's a huge amount of our Medicaid spending," Black said.

Sanders said he and Senate Democrats are trying to do "everything that we possibly can, in every possible way, to defeat this awful piece of legislation," with regard to the spending bill's impact on Medicaid in Vermont.

He called the congressional bill a "Robin Hood proposal in reverse."

"You take from the poor and you give to the very rich. This is a disastrous piece of legislation, we've got to defeat," he explained. The real solution, he sug-




ANN MARIE FORD, 90, BRANDON

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial, for Ann Marie Ford, age 90, who passed away December 29, 2024, will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., at Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church (St. Mary's Church) in Brandon.

Rev. Albert "Skip" Baltz, will be the celebrant.

The graveside committal service and burial will follow the mass, at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.



ANN MARIE FORD



SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS held a press conference alongside Vermont healthcare leaders on May 19, 2025 to advocate for programs and policy to make healthcare more affordable in the state.

Photo by Olivia Gieger/VTDigger

keep hospital charges in line with Medicare reimbursement rates (called "reference pricing"), and H.482, which would give the Green Mountain Care Board the ability to lower reimbursement rates paid to health care providers by an insurer in danger of insolvency.

"We're saving our Blue Cross and Blue Shield domestic insurer

gested, is guaranteed health care for all, but for now he lauded the state's efforts in "trying to begin to address this crisis."


"What we're doing today is trying, at least to develop a sense of urgency in the state of Vermont. The status quo cannot continue. It is failing — failing small business. It's failing patients. It's failing everyone," Sanders said.



BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

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(802) 483-2811





Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory




Otter Valley Annual Art Show draws a crowd!



OTTER VALLEY HELD its annual district-wide art show on Wednesday, May 15 at OVUHS. Almost the entire building was given over to a wide array of art-work from all the district's schools. Pretty much every kid in the district had something on display. The school was jam-packed with students and their families admiring the fantastic art. Lothrop and OCA art teacher Matt Aucoin said, "It's really great to see what everyone in the district is doing. And I get to catch up with my former students, who are all making cool art now at Otter Valley." Kudos to the kids, Mr. Aucoin, Neshobe art teacher John Brodowski, OV art teacher Tiffany St. Michaud, OV art teacher Dakota Rivers, and Barstow art teacher Jennifer Hogan. Well done!



'Join or Die'

(Continued from Page 5)
ers throughout Vermont this spring.

When: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 | 6–8 p.m.

Where: Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St, Rutland, Vt.

Admission: Free, reservations required

- Doors open: 5:30 p.m.
- Screening begins: 6 p.m.
- Social Hour begins: 7 p.m.
- Event ends: 8 p.m.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Vermont Public is committed to providing access and accommodation for individuals with disabilities at our events. To request accommodations, please email events@vermontpublic.org or call us at 802-655-9451

at least 7 days in advance of the event.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please let us know by emailing events@vermontpublic.org if you are not able to join us so that we may release your tickets to someone else.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

Rutland Free Library 10 Court St, Rutland, VT 05701

EMAIL

By RSVPing or joining the waitlist for this event, you agree to receive timely news and updates on events, films, and special offers from Vermont Public.

Other questions? Email us at events@vermontpublic.org.

Vermont State University Class of 2025 graduates with purpose, possibility, and impact recognition

MONTPELIER—This past weekend, Vermont State University (VTSU) proudly celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2025—an inspiring cohort of nearly 1,400 students from 231 Vermont communities and beyond. These graduates exemplify the heart of VTSU: resilient, purpose-driven and committed to making a meaningful impact.

Notably, more than 40% of this year’s graduates are the first in their families to attend college—a powerful reflection of VTSU’s mission to expand access and opportunity. That commitment is also evident in the 224 graduates who completed their degrees entirely online, balancing education with work, family and other responsibilities.

“The Class of 2025 is a powerful testament to what can be achieved when opportunity meets determination,” said VTSU President David Bergh. “At Vermont State University, we’ve been proud to grow alongside these remarkable students—adapting to their needs, championing their ambitions and celebrating their successes. As they step forward into the world, I am confident they will lead with purpose, empathy and the kind of bold courage that drives meaningful change. Their future is bright, and their impact will be profound.”

Spanning 109 academic majors, the Class of 2025 reflects the university’s broad academic offerings and student-centered approach.

Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success at VTSU, remarked, “At Vermont State University, student success is at the heart of everything we do—and the Class of 2025 exemplifies what it means to thrive in the face of change. These graduates have embraced innovation, over-

come challenges and supported one another every step of the way. Their journey is a testament to the power of education and the strength of our VTSU community. We can’t wait to see what they accomplish next.”

OF THE CLASS OF 2025:

- 466 studied critically-needed healthcare fields; including 414 in nursing, 10 in dental hygiene, 15 in radiology, 6 respiratory specialists, and 21 paramedical

- 73 earned degrees in engineering or construction management—fields critical to Vermont’s infrastructure and housing goals

- 66 completed education-related programs, including early childhood education and teacher certification.

- 135 received business or technology credentials, supporting Vermont’s manufacturing and innovation sectors.

- 217 completed programs related to business or resort management, on track to careers supporting Vermont’s economy

- 36 trained in mental health-related fields, helping to address urgent workforce shortages

Jamia Danzy, Dean of Students at VTSU, shared, “The Class of 2025 has left an indelible mark on Vermont State University. Their time here has been defined by perseverance, collaboration and a deep commitment to community. As Dean of Students, I’ve had the privilege of watching these students grow into thoughtful leaders and compassionate citizens. We are proud to send them into the world equipped with the values and vision that define VTSU.”



Golf Course

LONG IRON RESTAURANT
Open Wednesday–Sunday

Wednesday—Wing night
Thursday—Burgers and Beer
Friday—Dinner Specials
Saturday—Lunch
Sunday—Brunch

The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor seating options, with stunning views of the golf course and surrounding mountains. The indoor seating area features large windows that allow guests to take in the beautiful scenery while they dine.

Follow us on Facebook for updates and daily specials

.....

The golf course is now open for the season!!

Simulator hours:
Wed–Fri 10–8, Sat 10–4, Sun 10–2
Price:
\$34/hour except Wed–Fri 10–4 is \$25/hr

<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

Recreate safely

(Continued from Page 4)

- Moosalamoo Campground—Currently there is no potable water at the Moosalamoo Campground. People should bring their own water until further notice.

- Lincoln Gap Parking Areas - This area will undergo reconstruction in July and limited parking will be available for a two to three week period.

- Warren Falls Recreation Site - Improvements have been made to provide safer access to the lower falls and enhance resource protection.

- Texas Falls Observation Site / Picnic Area - This site will be closed for an extended period of time over the summer while renovations are being conducted. Please pay close attention to all sign postings.

- Grout Pond Camp Loop Trail - The trail will undergo reconstruction in May through June. The construction project will impact parking in the lower parking area and visitors will likely see construction equipment traveling between

the parking area and Camp Loop. Walk-in campsites remain open for public use.

- Hapgood Pond - Two pavilions will undergo renovations over Memorial Day weekend and into early June—both will be unavailable for reservation at that time. The bathhouse may also be closed early in the season due to ongoing renovations.

- Forest Road 71 - This road is currently closed due to a culvert washout. Staff are developing a plan to repair the damage as quickly as possible. Dispersed camping on this road, as well as Forest Road 86 and Forest Road 83 will be affected by the closure.

OTHER RESOURCES AND OFFICE HOURS:

- Camping and cabins: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/gmfl/recreation/camping-cabins>

- Recreation site resources: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/gmfl/recreation>

- Road status list: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/gmfl/conditions>

- Offices hours: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/gmfl/offices>

About the Forest Service: The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology—and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

Senior spotlight A chat with Jeffrey Booth Williams

Jeffrey Booth Williams was born on October 28, 1936, in Norwalk, Conn. His father, John Edward Williams, was an electrician at Bromley Mountain for many years, while his mother, Sarah Comstock, was a librarian and a homemaker. He attended Wilton Elementary School in Wilton, Conn. and graduated from Westport High School. After graduation, he worked for the town road crew in Wilton then in a factory in the shipping and receiving department in Conn. He then moved to Vermont and worked with the US Forest Service for 30+ years. When asked what was the best thing that ever happened to him, his response was moving to Vt. and working for the Forest Service. Jeff didn't admit to ever having an embarrassing thing happen to him! Go Jeff!! His hobbies and interests include reading and studying music. He stated that he enjoyed astrology, as well, and esoteric studies. His favorite thing to do is reading. The most exciting experience that he was willing to share was that when he was stationed in Germany in the

US Army in 1952, he attended a concert with the Vienna Philharmonic in Karlsruhe, Germany. "It was fantastic," he stated. "Something very few people ever get to experience."



Brandon Senior Center's "Spotlighted Senior"
Jeffrey Booth Williams



Legislative Report

Update from Montpelier

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives: 104 That the General Assembly recognizes May 2025 as National Foster Care Month in Vermont, and be it further. H.C.R. 110 That the General Assembly designates April 2025 as Black Maternal Care Awareness Month in Vermont, and be it further. That the General Assembly recognizes May 2025 as National Tennis Month in Vermont, and be it further. H.C.R. 128 That the General Assembly designates May 6, 2025 as Homelessness Awareness Day in Vermont. Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment S. 51 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit. S. 56 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans S. 87 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to extradition procedures. S. 63 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board S. 125 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to workers' compensation and

collective bargaining rights. House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed: H44 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements, H. 230 House bill, entitled An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife, H. 248 House bill, entitled An act relating to supplemental child care grants and the Child Care Financial Assistance Program, S. 117 Senate bill, entitled An act relating to rule-making on safety and health standards and technical corrections on employment practices and unemployment compensation, H. 46 House bill, entitled An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council. Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Bill Delivered to the Governor Forthwith H. 493. This bill may be referred to as the "BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act." Rep. McCoy of Poultney provided the following vote explanation: "Madam Speaker: I commend the conferees of the Committee of Conference for getting to a

place everyone could agree. I believe this budget is the first budget in my time here that, while higher than the Governor's recommend, is closer to the Governor's recommend than either the House or Senate recommends. Congratulations, conferees and well done." Report of Committee of Conference Adopted; Bill Delivered to the Governor Forthwith H. 494, An act relating to capital construction and State bonding. Governor returned without signature and vetoed a bill originating in the House of Representatives of the following title: H.219 An act relating to establishing the Department of Corrections' Family Support Program I am available Sundays 12:30pm to 2 pm at united methodist church food shelf to discussions. Todd Nielsen toddnielsenforvthouse@gmail.com. Facebook: Todd Nielsenforvthouse Todd4vt.com

Chaffee Art Center

(Continued from Page 5)
Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge. A donation would be appreciated.

Check out www.chaffeeartcenter.org and the Chaffee Art Center

Instagram and Facebook pages for updates on events, summer camps, classes for all ages and more. Call 802.775.0356, info@chaffeeartcenter.org, or stop by the Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, Vt.

Help turtles

(Continued from Page 4)
may not reproduce until 10 or even 17 years old. So, for small, isolated populations, the loss of mature breeding females may have population-level effects."

Turtle nesting activity peaks between late May and June, and drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles on the road—especially when driving near ponds, rivers and wetlands.

"Turtles are usually slow to move, so they have a tough time safely crossing roads. If you spot a turtle on the road, please consider helping it across but be sure you're in a safe spot to pull over and get out of your car. Human safety comes first,"

said Groff. "If you're going to move a turtle off the road, always move it in the direction it was traveling. They know where they're going."

Most turtles can be picked up and carried across the road. However, snapping turtles have long necks and a powerful bite, so people should be alert and know what the species looks like. If the turtle is large or if it lacks colorful lines, spots, or other markings, then it may be a snapper. Instead of picking up snappers with your hands, try gently lifting them with a shovel or pulling them across the road on cardboard or a car floor mat.

Spring Flowers Are Here! Now Open for the Season!

This week's special, \$5 off all mandevilla plants: red, pink, yellow and white

Hanging Baskets
Annual Flowers
House Plants
Perennials
Fruit trees
Veggie & Herb
Starts • Bushes &
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Frog Potting Soil •
Moo Doo Mulch

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**Mim's
Photos**
Like all things vintage?

are on page 16!

STUDENT: Chase Pockette

GRADE: 4

SCHOOL: Neshobe

TITLE: Infection

MEDIUM: Paper, pencil, paint, and markers

TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM CHASE:

This is from a game called Gorilla Tag. It was supposed to be called praise the stick but now it's called destroy the stick. The Gorilla in the picture is the lava monkey and that is why the stick is on fire.

STATEMENT FROM MR. B:

Video games can inspire creativity in the Art room. For this project Chase took inspiration from a favorite video game and turned it into a really cool drawing.

Yellow buoys mark the wrecks' locations, and divers can follow their lines down to submerged signage identifying each.

Lake Champlain shipwreck program to expand access to non-divers

BY NOAH DIEDRICH/
VTDIGGER

Noah Diedrich is a reporter with the Community News Service, a University of Vermont journalism internship.

Those large yellow buoys floating atop Lake Champlain aren't for monitoring the weather, nor are they for decoration. Instead, they mark the final resting places of centuries-old ships that wrecked on the lakebed.

The floats are part of the Underwater Preservation Program, a 40-year-old initiative run by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum that aims to uphold the federal Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987. The act looks to prevent historic wrecks from being disturbed by treasure hunters and salvagers.

The museum oversees shipwrecks on Vermont's side of the lake.

"This preserve system is one of the very first in the nation," said Chris Sabick, the museum's executive director. "It really is a mechanism for the state to achieve its mandated goals of preservation and access to shipwreck sites."

Vermont's system, implemented in 1982, has been a model that other states have replicated, Sabick said. The old ways of locating shipwrecks were hazardous to the wrecks themselves — a method the museum wants to avoid.

"They would drag their anchor along until it snagged on something,

(See Shipwreck program, Page 24)

MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin



BIPOC Youth Fashion Show in Bennington, Celebrating Identity, Culture, and Style Rutland Area NAACP to Host 'Rock Your Crown' May 25th

BENNINGTON—The Rutland Area NAACP is excited to announce the inaugural "Rock Your Crown" BIPOC Youth Fashion Show, a transformative event celebrating the creativity, confidence and beauty of BIPOC youth across Vermont. This empowering fashion show will take place on Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Bennington Merchants Park, and is free and open to the public.

The "Rock Your Crown" Fashion Show is designed to give BIPOC youth—from kindergarten through twelfth grade—a platform to express themselves through fashion and self-affirmation. With a focus on showcasing a diverse range of looks, the event is a celebration of identity, culture and self-expression in all its forms. The runway will feature ten talented youth models, each presenting a unique, one-of-a-kind look that highlights their individuality and roots.

"Rock Your Crown is more than a fashion show—it's a declaration of identity, pride

and belonging," says Rutland Area NAACP president, Mia Schutlz. "We created this space so that BIPOC youth could not only see themselves reflected but also celebrated for exactly who they are. When our young people walk that runway, they're not just showing off style—they're reclaiming their power, their voice and their joy."

The "Rock Your Crown" Fashion Show will feature a vibrant mix of styles, with models representing an array of cultural backgrounds, genders and stories. From bold curls to colorful couture and sneakers, every step on the runway will tell a story of pride, strength and joy. This event is more than just a fashion show—it is an affirming cultural celebration of BIPOC youth and their power to define their own narrative.

PRE-EVENT HAIR CLINIC:

On Saturday, May 24, 2025, the Rutland Area NAACP will host a BIPOC Youth Hair Clinic in collaboration with the Alliance for Community Trans-

formations (ACT) at the Bennington Multicultural Center. This clinic will provide free, culturally responsive hair care services to all participants, ensuring they feel empowered and prepared before stepping into the spotlight.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

The show will also feature live entertainment, generously sponsored by the Vermont Student Anti-Racist Network (VSARN). Performances will include:

Rajni Eddins - Opening the event with empowering spoken word poetry

• Just Cauz - Lifting spirits with conscious hip-hop and community vibes.

• Omega Jade - Delivering bold storytelling through poetry and rap.

• DJ Divine - Providing rhythm and soul to keep the runway alive.

The fashion show's runway looks and model coordination will be managed by Gloria Sheela of Sheela's Mobile Braiding. Sheela's attention to detail and dedication to em-

powering youth will ensure that each model walks out with confidence and love, ready to own the runway.

This event is not only a celebration of BIPOC youth but also of the wider community. Attendees will enjoy live music, poetry, raffles and more. The "Rock Your Crown" Fashion Show aims to create a joyful, inclusive space for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ youth, fostering a sense of pride, belonging and empowerment.

The "Rock Your Crown" Fashion Show is more than a performance—it is a movement, reminding youth that their crown is not something they earn, but something they have always possessed. Now is the time for them to rock it.



Calendar of events

May

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!

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.

Friends Zone

Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the Friends Zone. Open Wednesdays 2-5 p.m. 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 at vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or 802 345-4125.

Upcoming events at the Brandon Free Public Library

Saturday, May 31

Accordion Book Making with Jane Ploughman from 1-3:30 p.m. Join us at the library for a fun bookbinding workshop and learn how to create your own accordion fold book! All materials provided, no experience needed. Please register via info@brandonpubliclibrary.org

Saturday, June 7

Sensory-Friendly Art Time from 1-3:00 p.m. This monthly drop-in event (on the first Saturday of every month) is a space for children with sensory needs to relax and create. We provide the art supplies and a calm, quiet space. Ages 6+, parents/guardians will need to stay with your children.

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

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 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 a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

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, 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!

Free Medical Care for Adults Wednesdays in May 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 Wednesday in May 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 5/1 (9-12), 5/5 (3-6), 5/13 (1-4), 5/19 (3-6), 5/27 (1-4) and 5/29 (9-12). For appointments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.

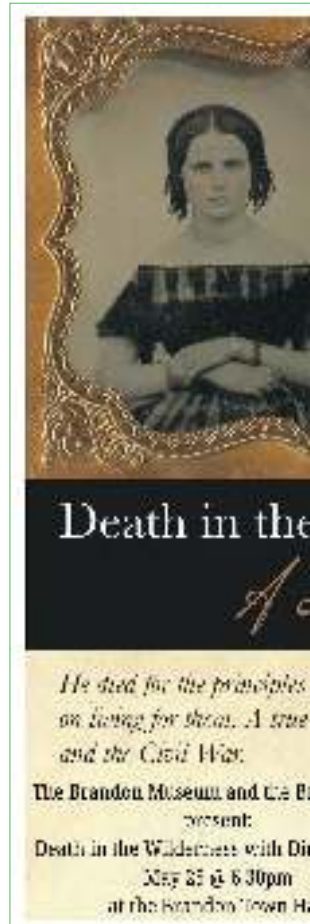
Saturdays

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.



202

Saturday
Lake Champlain
1609. The British
the British
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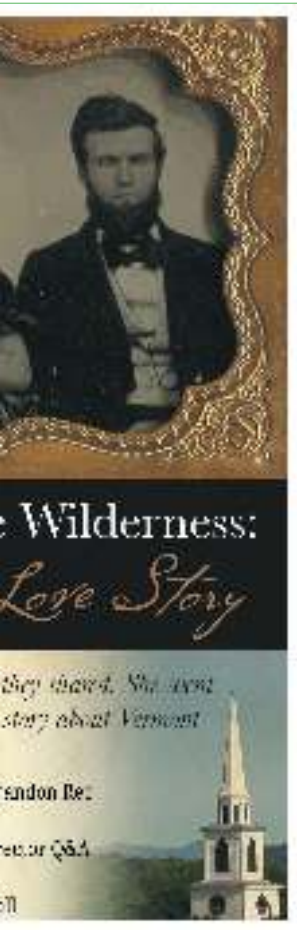
Sundays

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.

Wednesday 21st

Jazz Cafe — Stone Valley Arts

The Jazz Cafe at Stone Valley Arts returns on May 21 at 7 p.m. featuring Harry Drum on sax, Ron White on bass, Dan Noto on guitar and Gary Schmidt on piano. If you're looking for a place to listen to great music and maybe even dancing a bit of swing, SVA's jazz night is the place for you to relax and enjoy!

The Jazz Cafe at Stone Valley Arts offers a unique, intimate setting to hear and enjoy live jazz music performed by professional and upcoming Vermont musicians. The Jazz Cafe is free, open to the public. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill is a community art center

located at 145 E. Main St., Poultney, Vt. For more information check out the calendar at <https://stonevalleyarts.org>.

Thursday 22nd

Be Bear Wise!

Learn how to avoid bears raiding your trash, chickens, or bird feeders at 6 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall. Discussion will include preventing bear and human conflicts, bear biology and behavior, bear conservation, and how to keep bears wild. Bear attractants and human behaviors that lead to potential conflicts can be minimized through knowledge of things that encourage bear conflicts. The workshop will be led by Tom Gieder, a USDA Wildlife Specialist and hosted by Jennie Masterson, Vermont Converts Volunteer Bear Ambassador. Tom will also discuss USDA Wildlife Services' new role in combating human and wildlife conflicts and the other services he provides to the public. Questions? Call 802-779-5825.

Friday 23rd

Dutch Experts w/ Haitlin and Wicked Louder — Underground Listening Room

Dutch Experts was born out of the Covid Pandemic amidst the crumbling of societal infrastructure. This destruction mirrored singer/songwriter Hannah Hoffman's own experiences during lockdown.

Turning one of her lowest and most challenging points into a revisitation of her approach to sound, Hoffman began experimenting with layering synths and electronic drumbeats in Garageband, creating a sonic landscape that bore the fruits of Dutch Experts. Inspired by her personal challenges, the gothic landscape of The Cure, and melodic choices informed by Kate Bush and Cocteau Twins, Hoffman locked into a sound that became uniquely modern yet captured an 80s sonic sensibility: synth pop with a darkwave edge. Dutch Experts' debut EP, "Bound By This" released on February 24, 2023, available both digitally and on vinyl.

Haitlin, aka Caitlin Baucom, is a composer and performer. They have performed and held residencies around the United States and Europe; and co-founded longtime performance series, TREVORSHAUS, in their Brooklyn loft. Along with hundreds of living room shows, they curated programs at MoMA PS1, Knockdown Center, Wythe Hotel and more. They make electronic music and brief operas.

As the progenitor of the solid mass musical style, Wicked Louder incorporates forty plus years of alternative music into an approach that is thoroughly modern. Crafting guitar and synth driven songs with heartfelt lyrics about real life experiences, this Thetford, Vermont based one man band puts on a unique live performance.

Advance: \$14 (+fees) // Day of show: \$17 (+fees). Doors: 7 p.m. // Show: 7:30 p.m. BYOB (21+). All Ages.

Saturday 24th

Annual Plant, Candle and Bake Sale — Brandon Congregational Church

Brandon Congregational Church's Annual Plant, Bake and Candle Sale will be held May 24, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., in front of the Church and inside Fellowship Hall at 1 Carver Street, Brandon.

Perennial and annual plants, veggie starters and house plants will be offered.

Back by popular demand will be the FREE children's planting project. Baked goodies will include homemade pies, cakes, brownies, sweet breads and cookies. Beautiful handmade beeswax candles of unique designs, sizes and colors will provide visual and gift-shopping opportunity.

Questions? Please contact Phyllis Torrey, pltorrey@gmail.com or 802-247-3251, for plant information; Ellen Knapp, 802-247-3674, for baked goods; and Reverend Sara Rossigg for general questions, brandoncongregationalchurch@gmail.com or 802-247-6121. All proceeds will benefit the Steeple Repair Fund.

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.

Brandon Area Food Shelf changing day & time

The Brandon Area Food Pantry and Friend Zone will be changing day and time in May.

Beginning Wednesday, May 7, the community time of socialization known as the Friend Zone will be moving from Tuesday afternoons to Wednesday afternoons 2-5 p.m. All welcome to attend.



The Brandon Area Food Shelf will also be changing hours from Tuesday afternoons to Wednesday afternoons 2-5 p.m.

The Food Shelf is also open on Sunday afternoons from 12:30-2 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact pastor Vicki Disorda at (802)345-4125 or vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com.

Vermont 3rd Annual Homeschool/Alternative Prom — Brandon

Save the date! Saturday, May 24, 6 p.m.–10 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall. All Vermont kids from ANY school, ages 12–19, are welcome to this free event.

We will have music, dancing and a photographer. This event is potluck style, so please bring food or drinks to share. Dancing is upstairs; a quieter space is available downstairs. There is NO need to bring a date, or to know anyone before you come! Meet new friends and have this coming of age experience.

Goodwill, Facebook marketplace, Nifty Thrifty, and multiple groups collect dress up clothing for all genders. These kids are welcoming and open minded, please come!

Saturday 31st

Community Dinner — Brandon United Methodist Church

Come join us from 4:30–6:30 p.m. for a dinner of Pork Roast, Roasted Potatoes, Stuffing, Broccoli with Cheese Sauce, Cauliflower with Cheese Sauce, Rolls and Cherry Squares for Dessert.

Free Will Offering
All Welcome to Attend
2 Union Street, Brandon

June

Sunday 1st

WWI Event — Brandon American Legion

The Goshen Historical Society is sponsoring an event honoring WWI area Veterans from 2–4 p.m. at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, Franklin St. Rt.7 South.

Displays, information, refreshments, 50/50 raffle & door prize. All welcome.

Friday 6th

PhotoPlace Gallery Exhibition — Middlebury

PhotoPlace Gallery is pleased to present Dreams and Imagined Realities, a juried exhibition exploring the spaces where imagination and reality intertwine. Juror Emma Powell selected 35 images for display in the gallery and an additional 50 for the Online Gallery, assembling a powerful collection of work that invites viewers into the realm of the surreal and the visionary.

The exhibition opens in our Middlebury gallery on Friday, June 6, with an opening reception from 4-7 p.m. All selected images can also be viewed online on our website. Exhibit runs June 6-27, 2025. 3 Park Street, Middlebury.

25 Crown Point Road Association Outings

ay, June 14

Champlain was so named by the French in 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.

Feral Cat Program

(Continued from Page 1)

“When we started in 2005, there were a lot of feral cats in downtown Brandon,” said Mei Mei Brown, a Brandon resident who is now the President of the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) and has been working with BFCP since its inception.

“Brandon was the second-largest contributor of feral cats in Rutland County,” she added. “Only Rutland City had more. They were getting into garbage and dumpsters. It was becoming an issue for the Chamber of Commerce and the town.”

RCHS received a grant for \$2,500 from Petco for feral-cat control and thus was born BFCP.

“I was just about to retire and this fell into my lap,” said Brown.

Christi Koch, another Brandon resident who has worked with BFCP since the beginning, recalled a large colony of ferals that had to be extracted from the old Dean farm on Union Street. Though the program follows the principle of “TNR” (trap, neuter, and return), 17 of the cats from that colony were in such poor health that they had to be put down.

“It was the program’s first real year,” said Koch. “We processed 71 cats in all. Money rolled in that year because the cats had been a blight on the town. People were happy to see something being done.”

Since then, the program has trapped, neutered, and returned 252 feral cats, found forever homes for 94, and euthanized only 4.

“Feral cats often have respiratory infections, distemper, and other health issues,” said Brown. “Their lives in the wild are rough and short. They generally only make it a few years.”

The idea behind the program is to sterilize those feral cats that they’re able to trap in order to reduce the population. Cats in their care receive medical treatment and are returned to the streets with a notched ear, to let BFCP workers know that they’ve already been neutered or spayed.

Though BFCP has placed a good number of ferals in forever homes, the goal is to control the population, not to domesticate. And it’s important to remember the distinction between “feral” and “stray.” A feral cat has not been socialized to humans. It’s essentially a wild animal. A stray cat, by contrast, can be a domesticated cat that has run away from home, so to speak, or has been abandoned by its owners.

Some feral cats adjust to life with humans, but many never acclimate to indoor life and never accept contact with people.

“A lot of ferals will bond with a single person, maybe someone who’s given them food for a while,” said Brown. “But generally, if a kitten hasn’t been so-



CHRISTI KOCH HAS been involved with the feral cat program for years. Feral cats suffer from myriad ailments (distemper, respiratory infections, even leukemia). “It’s a terrible life for them,” said Koch. They try to keep the feral population low and healthy through neuter/spay programs and medical care.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

cialized around humans by the time it’s 10 weeks old, it will probably never adjust to life with them.”

Brown and her husband, Bruce, have fostered numerous ferals over the years. Some come out of their shells and interact sociably. Some remain convinced that every human is

a mortal enemy.

“We tend to think of cats as ultimate predators,” said Brown. “But in the wild, cats are prey animals themselves. Around here, they’re prey for coyotes in particular. Feral cats are extremely self-protective.”

In fact, one of the Browns’ foster ferals is still so unap-

proachable that it has to be “caught” in order to be transported with them to Arizona for the winter. Other foster ferals of theirs are relatively docile, even playful.

But BFCP is not an adoption or rescue service. RCHS always has plenty of domestic cats, (See Feral Cat Program, Page 21)

Charlie Murphy - 3 to 7 Weekdays





PAT ROBERTS INTRODUCING the Middle and High School Band.

Photo by Barbara Ebling

Pat Roberts

(Continued from Page 1)
retires, and another teacher has been hired to teach vocal music in all grades.

Pat Roberts has seen some changes and some challenges in his many years of teaching. He counts the COVID pandemic as the greatest challenge and still feels its effects. Teaching music was particularly difficult during the pandemic, as students could not play band instruments, or, at first, do any singing. Most students first start learning their band instruments in elementary school, so those students were delayed for two years or more in learning their instruments. Because of this, when they got to Otter Valley, they were still those years behind, and had not yet learned the skills or gained the experience needed for ensemble playing.

While students affected by the COVID restrictions worked hard to “catch up,” many simply would need more “practice, practice, practice” to achieve the level of musicianship that would normally be expected at their grade levels. According to Mr. Roberts, this year’s seventh grade class is the first class in years that was not affected by the pandemic. Despite these challenges, Mr. Roberts credits a supportive administration and community for keeping the music program intact. It would have been easy to simply limit the number of students or eliminate programs, but the school

board, the community, and, of course, parents saw the value of these programs. It didn’t hurt that OV’s principal and vice-principal also have music experience.

Pat Roberts believes that one of the biggest changes over the years has been the increasing pervasiveness of technology. According to Pat, technology has both “invaded and enhanced” the music world, and the music teaching world. And while technology can be useful as an educational tool, you have to be careful. Otter Valley does have a subscription to a good self-paced music theory educational program, and they do use music notation software, but he feels that many students gravitate naturally to the “old fashioned” analogue methods—i.e., writing in pencil on music staff paper. This is because despite the pervasiveness of technology, many students are feeling “digital burnout.”

Mr. Roberts has positive things to say about his current crop of students: “The kids are alright;” indeed, they’re “fantastic!” Whatever we hear from the current purveyors of doom and gloom, Pat will have none of that. The kids that he works with are “hardworking, sensitive and polite.” They have a lot of hope for the future, and, even, “long attention spans.” Illustrating the point, last week’s concert also featured the annual High School Music Awards and Honors. Students who have

played in regional and all-state festivals were honored, along with the OV Music Department’s own awards.

Pat Roberts is thoroughly grateful for the amount of support he has received over the years. He has had an endless succession of favorite times, though feels that perhaps this year has been one of the best. He has loved teaching and remembers countless moments when the light goes on and a

student “gets it.” He is especially grateful for the amount of support the music program at OV has received from the students, parents, administration—and above all the community. For his legacy, among other things Pat can consider the numerous students that have become life-long music lovers and players, among them a number of professional musicians and music teachers. Pat is also optimistic about

the future of the music program at OV. His successor, Cameron Wescott, has his full trust and confidence. Mr. Roberts has few immediate plans for retirement. He’ll continue playing in the local band “Satin and Steel,” work on some personal projects, and he’ll be available to spend more time with his wife. We wish him the best of luck, and thank him for his many years of service to the students and OV community.

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 <p>2020 FORD EXPLORER XLT, 4cyl Turbo, AWD, Loaded, 118k miles \$19,895</p>	 <p>2017 SUBARU CROSSTREK Premium, AWD, Sunroof, Loaded, 75k miles \$18,995</p>	 <p>2017 SUBARU FORRESTER AWD, Loaded, Only 77k miles! \$18,995</p>

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Mim's Photos

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



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



Recognized



Gene Childers, Michael F. Dwyer and Terry Ferson recognized Gloria Emilo in this photo. Ms. Emilo was a special educator at Neshobe Elementary School for many years.



Michael Tatro recognized Laura and Jack Quirk in this wedding photo.



Terry Ferson and Patsy Lowell Hill recognized Gene Childers, second from the left, in this photo. Mr. Childers, meanwhile, not only recognized himself, but also helped to identify the other musicians in the photo: (left to right) Louis Donnet, of Rochester; Gene Childers; William Brislin, then of Rutland; and Paul Sutherland, of Proctor. The photo was taken during a performance for a Christmas celebration.

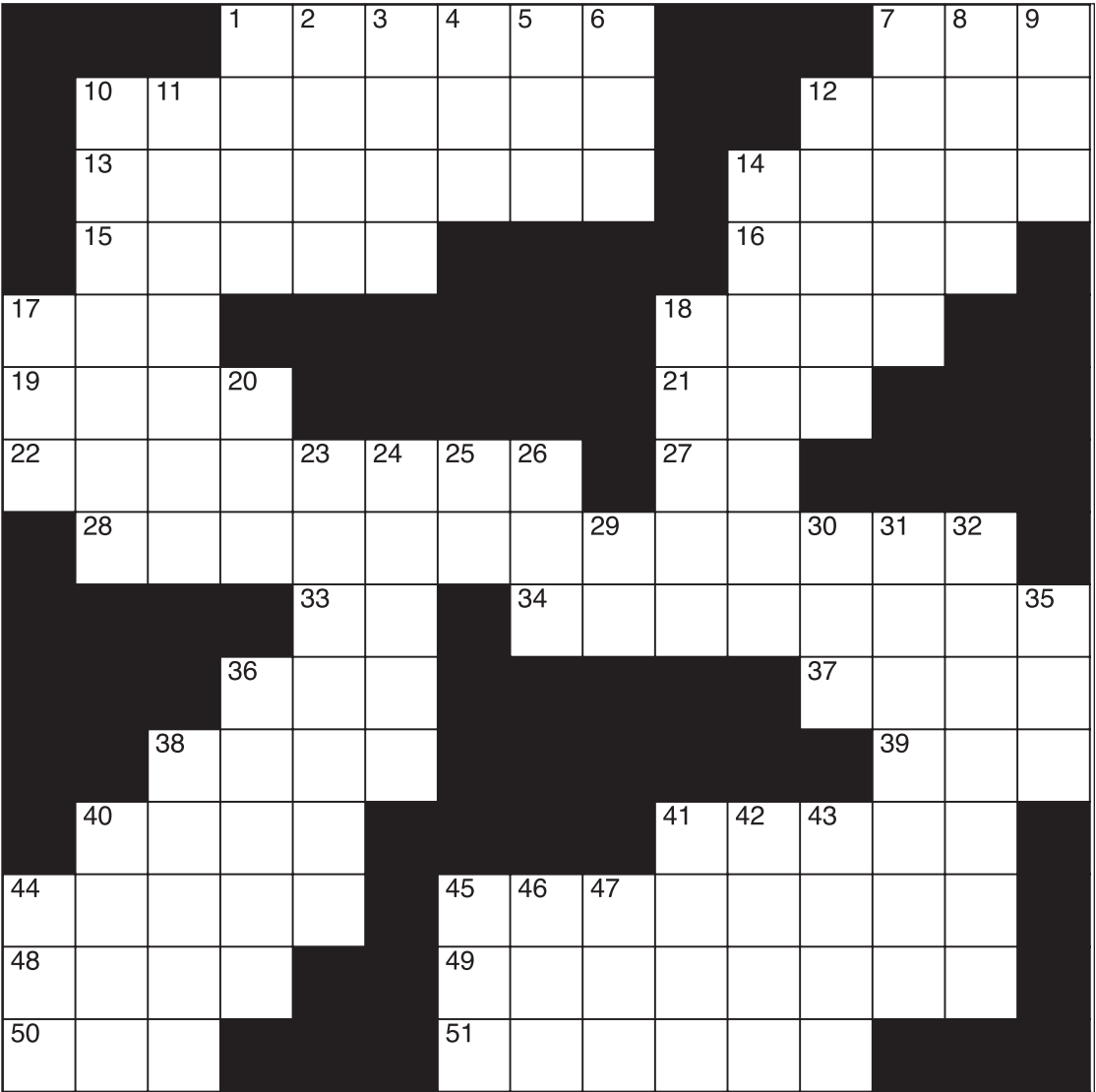
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bring up
- 7. Child
- 10. Formal written defense
- 12. Bangladeshi currency
- 13. Burial site
- 14. In the lead
- 15. Large recesses in a church
- 16. Count on
- 17. Defunct phone company
- 18. Golf scores
- 19. Afflicts
- 21. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 22. Prominence
- 27. "The Great Lakes State"
- 28. SoCal ballplayer
- 33. Location of White House
- 34. Magnificence
- 36. Hip hop songstress
- 37. Capital of Yemen
- 38. ___ Blyton, children's author
- 39. Bomb
- 40. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- 41. Pinkish-violet color
- 44. A way to make right
- 45. Monument to one buried elsewhere
- 48. Region south of Dead Sea
- 49. Acts out against
- 50. Harsh cry of a crow
- 51. Formal title for a woman

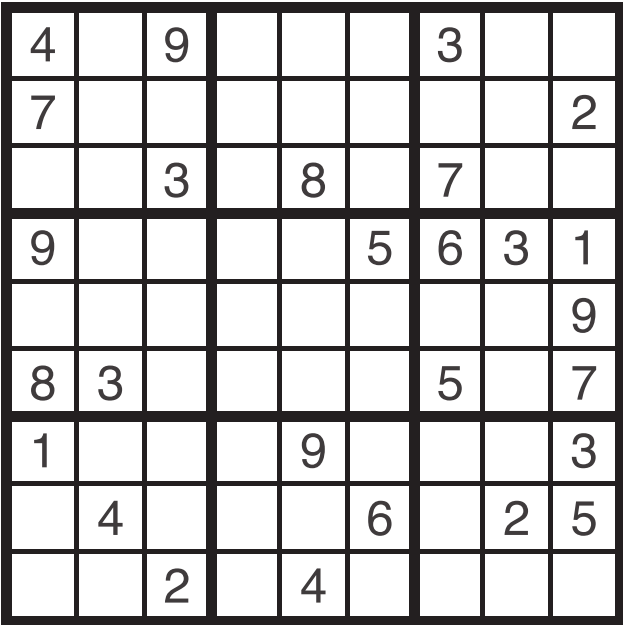
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Kitchen devices
- 2. Wings
- 3. Mythological birds
- 4. Everyone has one
- 5. Matchstick game
- 6. Bar bill
- 7. Weights
- 8. Satisfactorily
- 9. Small amount
- 10. Tree types
- 11. Small protuberances
- 12. Equivalent of 100K BTU
- 14. Type of horse
- 17. More (Spanish)
- 18. Argentinian province
- 20. A bad act
- 23. Moving in a circular way
- 24. Battery type
- 25. Atomic #58
- 26. Popular breakfast food
- 29. An alternative
- 30. Tooth caregiver
- 31. A way to conform
- 32. Disfigured men
- 35. Cool!
- 36. Genus of mosses
- 38. Body part
- 40. Kashmiri people
- 41. Round water pot
- 42. Something to purchase
- 43. Emit coherent radiation
- 44. Indicates 10
- 45. Advertising metric
- 46. Pitching stat
- 47. Head movement



Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

Rutland County Humane Society is Hiring a Development Director

The Rutland County Humane Society is seeking a passionate and experienced full-time Development Director to lead fundraising efforts and support our mission of caring for homeless animals of Rutland County. This position is responsible for developing multi-channel fundraising strategies, managing donor relationships, and overseeing major initiatives, including a capital campaign. The ideal candidate is a strong communicator with experience in donor cultivation, event planning, and nonprofit fundraising. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to executivedirector@rchsvt.org. To learn more, visit: <https://rchsvt.org/about-us/join-our-team/>

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



MEET JAY - 5-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER. BRINDLE. This sweet boy has a heart of gold, but he can be a bit shy sometimes! Once he warms up to you, he will be your best friend. He is a handsome boy who has so much love to give (and receive!) Jay has lived with other dogs and did well, but it will be important to do a meet-and-greet to ensure they get along. Jay was recently brought back because he was too much for the cat in the home, so he can't go home with cats. Jay also gets along well with kids! 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, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MEET TORTELLINI - 8-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. ORANGE TIGER. This sweet, snuggly girl is full of love and personality. She adores being close to her people and never says no to playtime with her favorite toys. Tortellini has tested positive for feline leukemia (FeLV), a condition that affects her immune system. While this means she'll need to be an indoor-only cat and she is more susceptible to illness, she doesn't let that slow her down. Like any cat, regular vet care and a healthy lifestyle are important, and with a little extra attention, she can live a happy, comfortable life. If you're looking for a loving companion whose equal parts cuddle bug and playmate, Tortellini may be the perfect fit. Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., to meet her.



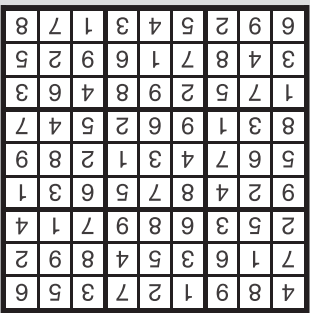
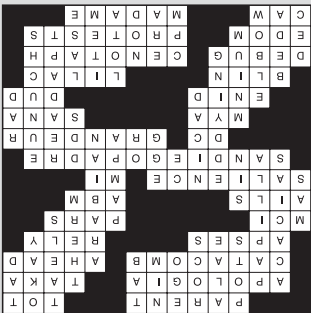
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**OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN
TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM
11AM-4PM.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS





The following large-print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

Three Days in June
by Anne Tyler,
donated in memory of
Marion C. Sawyer

Gail Baines is having a bad day. To start, she loses her job. Her daughter, Debbie, is getting married, and she hasn't even been invited to the spa day. Gail's ex-husband, Max, arrives unannounced on her doorstep. But the true crisis hits when Debbie shares with her parents a secret she has just learned about her husband to be. It will not only throw the wedding into question but also stir up Gail and Max's past.

The Wedding People
by Alison Espach,
donated in memory of
Frances Brown-Close

It's a beautiful day in Newport, Rhode Island, when Phoebe Stone arrives at the grand Cornwall Inn wearing a green dress and gold heels, not a bag in sight and alone. She's immediately mistaken for one of the wedding people. Phoebe is here because she's dreamed of coming for years with her husband, only now she's here without him, at rock bottom, and determined to have one last splurge on herself. Meanwhile, the bride has accounted for every detail and every possible disaster the weekend might yield except for Phoebe—which makes it that much more surprising when the two women can't stop confiding in each other.

The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore,
donated in memory of
Marion Philipsen

Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. As a panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds.

New Adult Fiction:

My Name is Emilia del Valle
by Isabelle Allende

In 1866 San Francisco, Emilia del Valle—born to an Irish nun and a Chilean aristocrat—defies societal norms to pursue a writing career, eventually becoming a journalist drawn into a civil war in Chile. There, she confronts her past, uncovers her heritage, and finds love amid danger and self-discovery.

Disco Witches of Fire Island
by Blair Fell

Summer, 1989. After losing his boyfriend to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Joe and his friend Ronnie set out to work at Fire Island Pines for the summer. The two friends are quickly taken in by a pair of quirky, older house cleaners. It turns out Howie and Lenny are members of a coven tasked with protecting the island—and young men like Joe—from the relentless tragedies ravaging their community. The only problem is, having lost too many of their fellow witches to the epidemic, the coven's protective powers have been seriously damaged. The Disco Witches need to find help—fast—if they're to save Joe and the island from the Great Darkness.

A Fashionably French Murder
by Colleen Cambridge

American expat Tabitha Knight has found a new life in postwar Paris, along with a delightful friend in aspiring chef Julia Child. Tabitha and Julia join a friend for a private showing at an exclusive fashion atelier. The event goes well, but when Tabitha returns later that evening to search for a lost glove, she finds the lights still on and the couturier dead. The shop manager suspects a jealous rival (Dior?). Tabitha dismisses that idea, but when another body is found, it's apparent that someone is targeting employees of Maison Lannet.

The Story She Left Behind

by Patti Callahan Henry
Decades after Clara's mother's disappearance, a stranger named Charlie contacts her from London claiming to have

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discovered a handwritten dictionary of a lost language that her mother created and published when she was 12. Skeptical but compelled for answers, she travels with Wynnie only to arrive during one of London's most deadly natural disasters--the Great Smog. With asthmatic Wynnie in peril, they escape the city with Charlie and find refuge in his family's retreat nestled in the Lake District. It is there that Clara must find the courage to uncover the truth about her mother and the story she left behind.

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.

May 12

- Provided assistance to a woman who flagged down an officer on patrol, requesting help in getting back to Rutland City. The officer assisted the woman in obtaining a bus pass, and she left without further issue.
- Received a call from the Green Mountain Market to report that a pick-up truck had apparently been abandoned in their parking lot. The complainant was advised that the business was in its legal right to have the vehicle towed from private property since the truck had been abandoned there.
- Responded to a vehicle complaint on Champlain Street for a vehicle off the roadway. Officers stood by while the vehicle was towed.

- Received a call concerning ATVs riding around the area of the Citgo Gas Station on McConnell Road late at night with their lights out.

May 13

- Received an after-hours call about suspicious men walking around the area of Birch Hill Road with flashlights late at night, possibly casing homes to break into. The VSP were asked to check the area.
- Received a late report of suspicious activity on Franklin Street in which some individuals were observed walking around Too Much Storage with flashlights late at night and then running off.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a medical call on Mulcahy Drive.
- Assisted BARS with a medical call on Hacks Sawmill Road.
- Received a complaint regarding four wheelers riding around in the area of Carver Street and Nickerson Road.

May 14

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at the intersection of Arnold District Road for failing
(See Police report, Page 19)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, this week your dreams might be a tool for gaining insight on what you want to accomplish. Although dreams can't predict the future, they may reveal some of your subconscious desires.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Follow your instincts this week, Taurus, even if you're more prone to reason than whimsy. Let the chips fall where they may and go with the flow.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

This week can be all about feeding your mind, Gemini. Walk around a bookstore and pick up the first book that catches your eye, regardless of its subject matter.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Something may be worrying you lately, Cancer, but you can't exactly put your finger on it. Talk about your feelings with

others as another person may have a different perspective.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, seize an opportunity to pursue the things that you want most of all. Use this week to map out a plan and then get started on all of the steps before you reach your goal.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Check out ways that you can advance your career or education this week. The energy around you is favoring growth, so now is the time to take advantage and learn a new skill.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Others trust your opinions because your intuition tends to be spot on, Libra. When a friend comes to you this week asking for some advice, you will not hesitate.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Use your creativity to make things happen this week, Scorpio. This may not produce a finished product, but it could be about an innovative way to approach a task or problem.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Figure out some new ways to expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. Iden-

tify means to personal growth, including educational opportunities.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

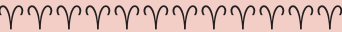
Capricorn, it is important to step out of your routine every so often to increase your knowledge and expand your horizons. This is one of those weeks to do so.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Are you satisfied with your career, Aquarius? If you have been mulling a career change, this could be the week to start moving your chess pieces around.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, don't worry too much about the changes that lie ahead this week. You have a more adaptable nature than you might realize. As changes come your way, embrace them.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- May 23 Carl Linnaeus, botanist (d)
- May 24 Bob Dylan, singer-songwriter (84)
- May 25 Octavia Spencer, actor (55)
- May 26 Miles Davis, musician (d)
- May 27 Rachel Carson, marine biologist (d)
- May 28 John Fogerty, musician (80)
- May 29 Annette Bening, actor (67)

The Maclure Library Cookbook Club will kick off summer with a picnic on June 16th at Pittsford Village Farm

BY ELIZABETH SIMPSON
There are few things so pleasant as a picnic eaten in perfect comfort.” — W. Somerset Maugham

The Maclure Library Cookbook Club has started a tradition of welcoming summer with a picnic outing. This year, we gather on June 16th at 5:30 at the Pittsford Village Farm Pavilion. Attendees are welcome to bring a favorite picnic food or to choose a recipe from the cook-

book on display at the library in Pittsford.

The pleasure of eating outdoors heightens all our senses; no matter what’s on the menu, food just tastes better when eaten outside!

Beverages are an important component of picnics but can be an afterthought, filling the category of “did we

bring something to drink?”

With that in mind, here is a recipe from the Paris Pic-

nic Club Cookbook (Shaheen Peerbhai and Jennie Levitt) for a refreshing pineapple-and-mint

lemonade. It is simple to make and may be prepared well in advance of an event. I imagine it would taste great combined with sparkling water or perhaps even Prosecco. You can garnish the lemonade with a mint sprig or pineapple slice to make it look pretty.

Pineapple and Mint Lemonade

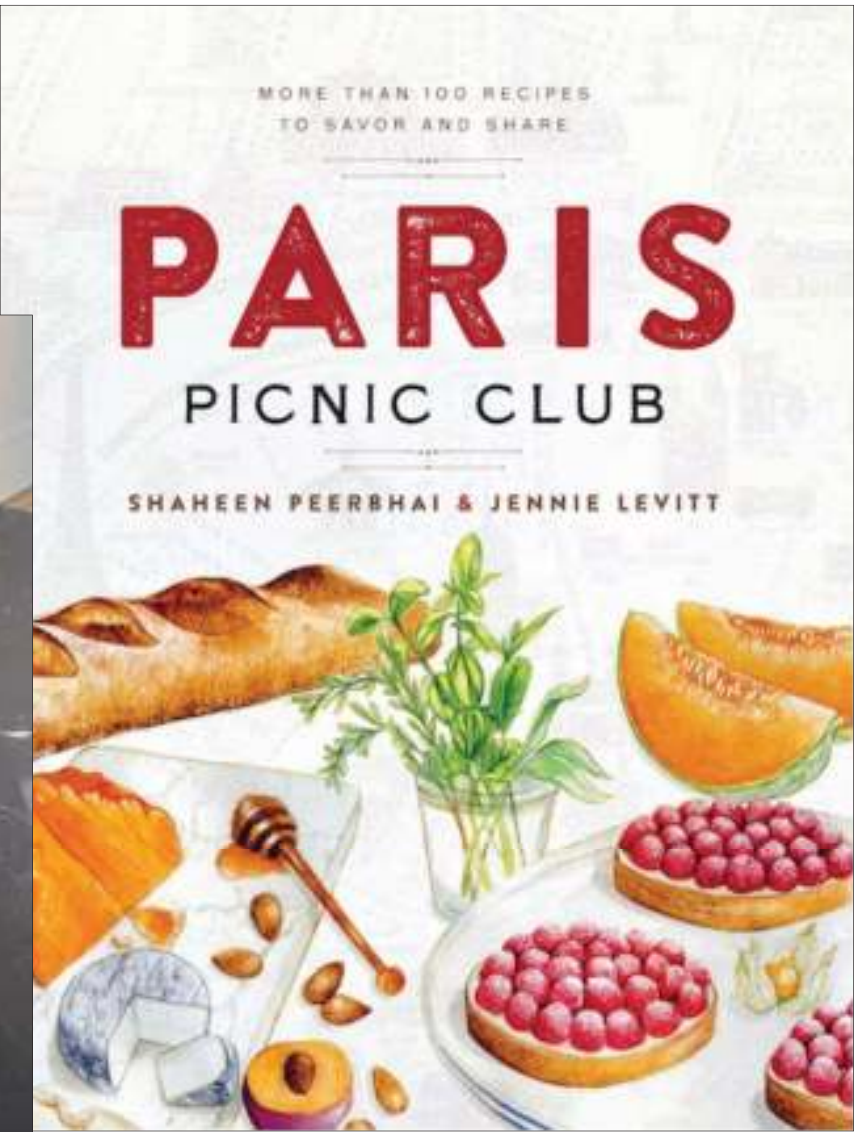
Combine 1/4 cup (50g) sugar and 1/4 cup (60 ml) water in a small saucepan over high heat and bring to a boil. When all of the sugar has dissolved, remove the pan from the heat. Stir in a handful of fresh mint leaves (no stems) and set the pan aside to cool. Once the mixture has cooled, strain out the mint and add the juice of one lemon to the syrup. Refrigerate.

To serve, combine 3 cups pineapple juice with the lemon-mint syrup to taste. Add 1 cup cold water and serve over ice. Makes 1 quart (1 liter) of lemonade.

Note: the authors advise steeping the mint for only 15-20 minutes, otherwise the syrup will become cloudy.

New members are always welcome at our cookbook club. If you would like more information, please contact me at esimpson675@gmail.com.

Happy cooking!



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

to yield to oncoming traffic. Warning issued.

- Responded to a residence on Pine Tree Drive for a domestic disturbance in progress between a man and woman. The man, who had damaged his own property at the home, left the scene prior to the arrival of the police. No crime was determined to have been committed. The woman was advised as to her legal options going forward.

- Assisted BARS with a medical call on North Street.

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Forest Dale Road in the area of Town Farm Road. During this time one traffic

stop was conducted.

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for a cell phone violation. Warning issued.

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

May 15

- Received a report of a traffic hazard in the middle of the roadway on Grove Street. The item was subsequently removed by the responding officer.

- Received a Temporary Relief From Abuse Order to serve on an individual in Brandon.

May 16

- Responded to the Neshobe Elementary School for a student that was refusing to leave

the school grounds with his foster parents after being disruptive. The juvenile was later placed under arrest for unlawful trespassing and resisting arrest after he continued to refuse to leave. The juvenile was later released on a juvenile citation to DCF and/or his foster parent(s).

- Received a call regarding a two-vehicle crash on Pearl Street, with no reported injuries involved. Because the officer on duty was tied up with a juvenile arrest, no officer could respond. Dispatch advised the operators to exchange insurance information as there was no officer available to assist them at this time.

 **The Proctor Memorial Day Parade will be held on Sunday May 25th at noon. The parade will end at Main Street Park with a program and a BBQ.** 

Call 247-8080 for details.

Yard Sale?



Advertise it in the Reporter!

BTPF

(Continued from Page 1)
of interest between Mr. Romano's involvement in the project and his position on TPF. The report did not find any conflict regarding Ms. Miner. The full report is available on the town website under "News & Notices."

The May 15 meeting began with a statement read by Ms. Miner in which she said the Trustees were prepared to engage in constructive dialog but that the meeting was not a platform for "slander or personal attacks." Attendees at the May 1 meeting had demanded the resignations of all the Trustees and stated that TPF had engaged in "malfeasance," among other criticisms.

Ms. Satz read a summary of TPF that was meant to "educate the community" about their activities. The full summary can be found under the Trustees of Public Funds in the Town Committees section of the town website. The summary gives the history of the trust from its creation after the death of Shirley Farr to its present configuration.

The Trustees then responded to a list of 10 questions that they had

been asked on May 1 but did not have a chance to answer at that meeting.

1) Where can information on TPF be found? Answer: On the town website and TPF's Facebook page.

2) How was the award to OVAA valid under the terms of the trust? Answer: The Trustees were acting in alignment with the same practices they'd used since the trust was first established. Shirley Farr's will allows grants for the general improvement of the town in ways not sufficiently provided for by taxation.

3) Why was the award to OVAA "done secretly?" Answer: The award to OVAA was discussed at a public meeting on March 3, 2023.

4) Can copies of the feasibility study (for the OVAA project) be provided? Answer: OVAA provided invoices in the fall of 2023 for architectural services. \$10,000 of the \$20,000 pledge was disbursed at that time.

5) Please clarify the amount granted to OVAA. Answer: A \$20,000 pledge, of which \$10,000

was actually disbursed.

6) Why have funds not been award to sewer-related projects? Answer: Until April 14 of this year, TPF had not received any requests for such funds.

7) How will monies that were given for projects unrelated to sewage and sanitation be repaid to TPF? Answer: TPF will not seek repayment of those awards.

8) Should TPF's procedures be reviewed by the Attorney General or an attorney that specializes in trusts? Answer: TPF will not seek any additional review, as they believe their process is in line with the trust.

9) Why aren't TPF meetings more accessible? Answer: The Trustees have heard the feedback and will accordingly schedule meetings at times and in locations more in line with residents' availability.

10) How does TPF justify giving awards to non-sewer/sanitation-related projects? Answer: The will gives TPF the authority to fund projects for the general improvement of the town.

The Trustees then addressed Mr.

Romano's resignation, asking that the town include the Trustees in the selection of Mr. Romano's replacement. Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins was in attendance and replied that state law grants sole authority to the Selectboard in this matter. He cited a state statute, which he later emailed to the Trustees and to The Reporter.

Ms. Satz asked whether the Trustees will be allowed any input at all, to which Mr. Hopkins said it would not be appropriate to consult the Trustees in the selection.

Mr. Hopkins had also told the Trustees on May 1 that the town interpreted Ms. Farr's will to prioritize sewer and sanitation

cal year beginning on July 1, as they had already reached their maximum for the current year.

The second pending request was from the Brandon United Methodist Church for \$10,750 for repairs to its bell tower. The church was seeking funds toward its 50% match for

a \$28K grant. The Methodist Church occupies a 19th-century building in downtown Brandon.

Some attendees expressed concern that a grant from TPF to a church would violate the separation of church and state. Vicki Disorda, pastor at the Methodist Church, was in attendance and argued that the Methodist Church serves

On May 15, Ms. Satz and Ms. Miner rejected Mr. Hopkins' reading of the will, noting that their awards had been in line with the criteria that TPF had used for the previous 65 years. Ms. Satz said that Mr. Hopkins' reading of the will would effectively "dissolve the trust."

the community in multiple non-religious ways.

Despite continued opposition from some attendees, the Trustees voted to award \$5,000 to the Methodist Church. Ms. Satz said that the award was to preserve an historic building. Ms. Miner explained that because of the \$20K it had pledged for the vacuum samplers, it could not give more than \$5K to the project.

The remainder of the meeting was given to public comment, most of which focused on increased public scrutiny of TPF's activities and increased transparency in TPF's processes.

An attendee suggested creating a submission period for grant applications rather than accepting them on a rolling basis, as is their practice now. The Trustees agreed that it was a reasonable request.

Another attendee suggested that TPF require applicants to demonstrate that they have already sought funding elsewhere and are not relying entirely on the trust.

The Trustees thanked those in attendance for their feedback and reiterated their belief that their practices were in line with the previous 65 years of TPF activities.

Because the Trustees have traditionally met only when there are grant applications to review, they adjourned without scheduling their next meeting.

[Editor's note: As this issue was going to press, Courtney Satz submitted her resignation from the Trustees of Public Funds. Her letter of resignation can be found on page 4 of this issue.]



'Reading on the Road' a big success!

ANDREW GRADZIEL AND his parents, Marianne and David, enjoy the success of their first—but hopefully not last—bookfair at the Vermont Police Academy on Monday. Congratulations to the Gradziels and thanks to the recruits of the Academy for all of their hard work and participation.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Feral Cat Program

(Continued from Page 14)

for anyone looking for a feline friend. The program really is designed to keep the feral cat population healthy and low.

And Brown notes that although the program has been successful, it's an ongoing effort. A female cat can produce up to 4 litters per year, with up to 4 kittens per litter. That's potentially 16 new ferals on the mean streets of Brandon every year.

"People should bring unwanted domestic cats to the Humane Society," said Koch. "Don't release them into the wild. They'll only live a year or so. It's a horrible life."

Microchipping your cats is recommended so that runaways can be identified and reunited with their owners.

Anyone who needs to report a feral cat can contact the program through the Humane Society.

"It's ok to put food out, but call the program," advised Brown.

"It's been an amazing, rewarding experience," she added. "The incidence of feline AIDS and leukemia are way down. The animals are a lot healthier. Whether you are a fan of cats or not, it's been a good, successful program."

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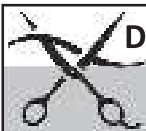
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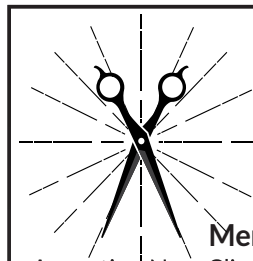
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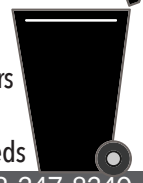
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Neshobe Spring Concert delights the audience

THE 5TH AND 6th-grade classes put on their Spring Concert at Neshobe on Tuesday, May 13. Both the Band and the Chorus performed, delighting the audience with pieces like "Royal Crown March" and "Danny Boy." Well done!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
Adoption of Town of Pittsford
Public Nudity Ordinance**

This ordinance includes the Town of Pittsford authority, definitions, public nudity prohibited, severability, and effective date. A full copy of the ordinance is posted on the town website. Please reach out to the Town Manager with questions at PO Box 10 Pittsford, VT 05763 or by telephone at (802) 483-6500 ext. 200. Citizens have a right to petition pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973 for a vote on the Ordinance.

**BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Request for Proposals**

The Brandon Fire District No. 1 is requesting proposals to implement energy efficiency improvements to the Fire District Office and the Fire Department Station. The tasks are based on an energy audit previously performed for the Fire District. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on 28 May 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Brandon Fire Department, located at 61 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733. Sealed bids are due by 12:00 noon, 8 July 2025. This will be a fixed price bid. **A public opening of bids will be during a Prudential Committee meeting on 10 July 2025.**

The Tasks to be performed include:

1. Supplement the current heating system with heat pumps
2. Perform air sealing and add insulation as needed
3. Upgrade interior and exterior lighting to LED
4. Replace water heaters
5. Replace thermostats
6. Obtain all required permits

Copies of this RFP can be obtained from K. Pinkham at kpinkham@brandonfiredistrict.org

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Shipwreck program

(Continued from Page 11)
and then they would dive down and see what that was,” Sabick said. “If that happened to be a shipwreck, it might take a piece of the shipwreck with it when you recovered the anchor or when the wind started blowing and pulled the shipwreck apart.”

The current system provides a much less invasive technique. The yellow buoys mark the wrecks’ locations, and divers can follow buoys’ lines down to submerged signage identifying each wreck and providing pointers on how to observe without impacting the sites.

The wrecks range from steamships to schooners, with most dating back to the early 1800s. A popular wreck is the Burlington Bay Horse Ferry, which is exactly what it sounds like — a horse-powered ferry that sank around 1814.

The preserve program, now in its 40th year, is looking to expand access to the shipwrecks for non-divers, Sabick said. One such addition is taking visitors to wreck sites by boat and using remote-operated vehicles to transmit a live feed of the wreck to a TV screen on deck.

The museum also created composite 3D models of the wrecks from digital images taken of the sites, which can be viewed on its website from anywhere with an internet connection.

“It’s just broadening the access to these sites, even for people that aren’t local or aren’t divers,” Sabick said.

H.494, a capital bonds bill, would allot \$46,000 to the Underwater Preserves Program, an annual appropriation that goes toward site inspections and maintenance. The yearly sum increased from \$36,000 in the past few years as the program added two new shipwreck sites.

The bill has already passed through the Vermont House and now sits in the Senate. A committee of conference reported on Tuesday that it is recommending the upper house withdraw its recommended amendment.

The proposed changes do not affect the allotment to the preserves program.

Laura Trieschmann, state historic preservation officer, said the museum has been a tremendous partner that brings life to the wrecks.

“They’re not just manning the



A DIVER SWIMMING along part of the steamboat Phoenix in Lake Champlain.

Photo courtesy Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

wrecks with buoys and getting the permits,” she said. “They’re researching the stories of these places so that they’re not just a pile of wood on the bottom of the lake.”

About 600 divers visit the wrecks each year, which contributes greatly to the continuation of the preservation program, Trieschmann said.

“They’re not going to be

around forever,” she said, “(considering) the nature of where they are and mussels and things like that could damage them, as well as boats. We definitely want to showcase them while we can.”

Happy Retirement!

Happy retirement and best wishes to Yvette Fontaine who has been a part of our office staff for over 23 years! We appreciate her years of dedication and wish her all the best!







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