

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



24 PARK STREET

This historic house in Brandon was home to a Vermont governor and Civil War leader.

PG. 2



CABARET

Ana Guigui will host a new series of musical evenings at the Brandon Inn.

PG. 3



GRANDMA'S BOY

The 1922 silent film comedy will screen at the Brandon Town Hall on July 19.

PG. 4

STEP INTO HISTORY

The Revolutionary War Battle of Hubbardton will be commemorated with a full-scale living history weekend on July 12 & 13 at the Hubbardton Battlefield.

PG. 5



SPEED DEMON

Joey Scarborough did it again, winning the Firecracker 44 at Saturday's Devil's Bowl.

PG. 20

OVUU Board considers new Middle School

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—At a special meeting on Tuesday, June 24, the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) School Board received a presentation from the Board's Facilities Committee concerning the possible expansion of the Otter Valley building to accommodate a separate, new wing for the Middle School.

The Facilities Committee was formed by the Board last fall to begin an assessment of the district's facilities, to determine the scope of work needed to keep existing buildings in good repair and to propose additional facilities if needed. The members of the Facilities Committee are Laurie Bertrand (Committee Chair and Chair of the OVUU Board), Amber Lee, Natalie Steen, Lesley Bienvenue, Mike Markowski, Kevin Thornton, and Donna Wilson.

The Committee chose to begin by revisiting a proposal that had lost steam when the pandemic hit in 2020: the construction of a

(See OVUU, Page 9)



TWENTY-SIX NEW AMERICAN citizens took their Oath of Allegiance in a naturalization ceremony at the Vermont Police Academy on Wednesday, June 25. These new citizens hailed from 18 different countries around the world.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

New citizens sworn in at Policy Academy in Pittsford

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Just a week before America celebrates its creation, twenty-six new American citizens were sworn in at the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford on Wednesday, June 25.

Conducted under the auspices of the United States Court for the District of Vermont, it was the first such ceremony ever held at the facility.

Vermont Criminal Justice Council Executive
(See New citizens, Page 8)

★★ Derrick Cram to be 2025 ★★ Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal

BRANDON—If you've ever limboed or Macarenaed or Cupid Shuffled at the street dance after the Independence Day Parade in Brandon, you've enjoyed the work of Derrick Cram, DJ extraordinaire and this year's Grand Marshal.

Cram operates Jam Man Entertainment, which provides DJs and entertainment equipment for events throughout New England. Weddings, school dances, corporate events, they do it all.

"I've been doing the street dance after the parade in Brandon for as long as I can remember," said Cram in a conversation after his selection was announced. "I remember when



DERRICK CRAM HAS been dropping beats since 1994 and is almost singlehandedly responsible for the beloved downtown street dance after the Independence Day Parade in Brandon. He has been chosen as the 2025 Parade Grand Marshal.

the events were all held at Park Village. I thought, 'This needs a soundtrack.' So, I told the parade committee I'd provide music and they wouldn't have to pay me. It went from being background sound to crowds dancing and getting into it."

"The Parade Committee chose Derrick because of his historic dedication to the Committee's work," said Brandon Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore, who chaired the Committee this year. "It was his idea to have the street dance/nighttime pre-fireworks food and fun and it has proven to be one of the best things about the celebration. And he's never

(See Derrick Cram, Page 7)



Eleventh in a series on Brandon's historic buildings. Vermont Governor & Civil War leader slept here

BY JAMES PECK

Brandon has had its share of famous Vermont individuals, including Stephen A. Douglas and Thomas Davenport. They get most of the attention, due to their prominence on the national stage.

But another man, Ebenezer Jolls Ormsbee, deserves our attention almost as much, as a Civil War hero and the 41st Governor of Vermont, and a man of impact who lived in the heart of Brandon longer than Douglas and Davenport combined.

GOVERNOR ORMSBEE HOUSE

The house at 24 Park Street, now the Vermont Folk Art Gallery and next to what is now the 22 Park Eatery, was where the Governor lived for 50 years, from 1874 to his death in 1925. When a Governor owns a house, that house is often named after him. So it is with the 24 Park house—it's known as the "Governor Ormsbee House," now listed in the National Historic Register as part of the Brandon Village district of 245 buildings.

The NHR describes the house as follows:

"Gov. Ebenezer Ormsbee House. 24 Park Street. 1 1/2 story, clapboarded, framed, gable-roofed, simple cottage with deep eaves. On the west elevation is a wing with a bracketed porch across the front (south) elevation and a polygonal bay window on the west elevation."

There's no historical sign on the house, so tourists and Brandon natives walking by today do not know its significance. It's just another unassuming colonial style cottage. Most see it as the nice art gallery that it is—the Vermont Folk Art Gallery, a showcase for the art of renowned Brandon artist Warren Kimble, Robin Kent, and Medana Gabbard. Kimble, now 90, lives in the brick house next door at #26.

BEFORE ORMSBEE

By 1874, the house already had over 50 years of history. Built sometime between 1822 and 1825, it was the "village

house" of Horace Parmenter, son of Nathan Parmenter, one of Brandon's earliest settlers. In 1851, Luman C. Scott bought it

town, entrepreneur and banker John A. Conant with \$318,000 (approximately \$7,800,000 in today's dollars).

out and was quickly commissioned as a second lieutenant. In 1862, he was promoted to captain in Company G of the

inventor Thomas Davenport, and three other Brandon volunteers—Pvt. Robert Hudson, Pvt. William Cronan and Corp. Jasper Fales. The names of all five are on Brandon's Civil War Monument.

Both Captains, Charles Ormsbee and George Davenport were buried on the Wilderness battlefield for weeks. Finally, their remains were brought home by Ormsbee's widow, Frances Wadhams "Frankie" Davenport, who travelled down to Virginia and persistently searched for their graves.

Meanwhile, Jolls Ormsbee, now a rising lawyer in Brandon, lost his first wife in 1866. While grieving her death and that of his brother, he found consolation in sharing his grief with Frankie Davenport, marrying her in 1867.

For the full story of Frankie's quest to bring her husband home and her subsequent marriage to Jolls Ormsbee, the fantastic film "Death in the Wilderness" by local historian, Dr. Kevin Thornton, is highly recommended and available at Carr's Gift Shop.

In 1874, Jolls and Frankie Ormsbee bought the house and lot at 24 Park Street from Nahum Kingsley for \$5,000 (approximately \$122,000 today). The year before, they had adopted their daughter Carrie.

VERMONT GOVERNOR

In 1870, Ormsbee had been elected State Attorney for Rutland County, serving four years. He was also Brandon's town representative for three years and a state senator for three more, gaining in popularity as a Republican. In 1884, he was elected Lieutenant Governor, then Governor in 1886.

Both Jolls and Frankie were instrumental in ensuring that Brandon's Civil War dead were properly memorialized. Jolls organized and founded the C. J. Ormsbee Post of the G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic), which was composed of veterans, met monthly and conducted the annual Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) exercises of remembrance.

In 1886, Jolls Ormsbee spearheaded the erection of Brandon's Civil War monument in the triangle in front of his home, though he had first wanted it put by the Congregational Church. He was the President of the Day for the large dedication ceremony on May 29, 1886.

Each year, the G.A.R. oversaw the Memorial Day exercises (See 24 Park St., Page 19)



GOVERNOR JOLLS ORMSBEE with his wife, Frankie, and daughter Carrie on the porch of their house at 24 Park Street circa 1910. The house is now the Vermont Folk Art Gallery.

and his name appears by it on the oldest map of Brandon in 1854. Scott was a tailor in the Parmenter's building just a few doors to the west on Park Street.

Scott sold the house and lot in 1864 to Nahum P. Kingsley, a rich merchant who then owned the business block at the corner of Center and Park. On the 1870 census, he is listed at 24 Park with \$29,000 in assets, a goodly sum for back then (approx-



ABOVE: GOVERNOR ORMSBEE, circa 1886. Left: One of Governor Ormsbee's derby hats, courtesy of Colby Smith.

CAPTAIN ORMSBEE IN THE CIVIL WAR

Ebenezer "Jolls" Ormsbee was born in Shoreham in 1834, was educated at the Brandon Academy and became a lawyer in 1861. He enlisted in the "Allen Greys," a Brandon militia company, just as the war broke

12th Vermont Regiment. He saw action in the Washington, D.C. area and at the Battle of Gettysburg, then was mustered out in July of 1863.

Ormsbee's younger brother Charles was also a captain in the war and he was killed in Virginia at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864 along with Captain George Davenport, son of the famous





ANA GUIGUI (LEFT) has begun hosting musical evenings at the Brandon Inn every Friday and Saturday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Ms. Guigui will perform a wide range of music and set aside the latter part of every evening for requests and singalongs. “I want to build a community,” she said. Sid Becar Varela (right), proprietor of the Inn, is hoping Ms. Guigui’s charm and talent will draw regular crowds.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Life is a Cabaret: Ana Guigui hosts musical evenings at the Brandon Inn

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—If you walked into the ballroom at the Brandon Inn last Friday evening, you would’ve heard Ana Guigui at the Steinway piano leading her audience through a range of expertly rendered classics by Simon & Garfunkel, Carole King, Billy Joel, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, and even Journey.

It was only the second weekend of a new feature at the Inn: a musical salon on Friday and Saturday nights. These evenings are being hosted by Ms. Guigui, a musician and actress who is a professor of

voice at Berklee College of Music in Boston and has worked with Grammy-winning artists such as Christopher Cross.

Guigui was born into a musical family with ties to Vermont. Her father, Efrain Guigui, was originally from Argentina but became the conductor of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, which he led for 25 years. Ana grew up in Middlebury and Essex Junction before heading to college at UVM, where she became involved in the local music scene and got to know the members of Phish. She eventually received a

Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California as well.

Yet, Vermont beckoned.

“Three or four weeks ago, I was visiting an old friend in Brandon,” said Guigui in a recent conversation. “I was telling her that I wanted to create a ‘salon’ somewhere, to create a community where people could get together and sing. She immediately suggested we walk over to the Brandon Inn and meet Sid.”

“Sid” is Isidro Becar Varela, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina

(See Ana Guigui, Page 18)

BRANDON ACTORS TROUPE YOUTH COMPANY PRESENTS “SPAGHETTI WESTERN” AT OV TO APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCES

BY MITCHELL PEARL

An energetic cast of 20 youths—kindergarten through twelfth grade ages—entertained appreciative audiences at Otter Valley this past weekend. The Brandon Actor’s Troupe—Youth Company was directed by Lennon Philo and Hayden Hull in “Spaghetti Western,” a comic melodrama written by Tracy Wells which follows the adven-

tures of Grannie Smith and her charming granddaughter, Petunia Pearl, who run the Hoot ‘n’ Holler Hotel. Micheala Newell worked with the students on movement and choreography, and OV’s stalwart costumer, Kelly Connaughton, handled the costumes.

The play was full of laughs, drama, and a wild west adventure . . . with a twist of pasta!

The play also featured audience participation—and, unlike the “spaghetti Western” films from the 1960s and 1970s, actual spaghetti. Grannie and Petunia enter a spaghetti sauce contest to try to win enough prize money to pay the mortgage of the Hoot ‘n’ Holler Hotel.

With enthusiasm for youth theatre high, Brandon Actors (See Spaghetti Western, Page 15)

Spotlight On Business

AIKIDO VERMONT



Aikido is a way of study based in the fighting arts of the Japanese samurai. We study those techniques to better understand how to lead clearly and follow fully, finding the harmony between two roles. Aikido is the study of how to fit better with all the relationships in our lives.

Aikido Vermont holds classes on Monday evenings at Brandon’s Town Hall. Check our website for more information: www.AikidoVermont.org

Tunesdays

Summer Concert Series

JUNE 17 - AUG. 12, 2025

TUESDAYS @ 6PM

42 Elm St., Pittsford, VT
across from Kamuda’s



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

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Need a laugh? Timeless Harold Lloyd film to be screened with live music accompaniment

Classic silent comedy 'Grandma's Boy' at Brandon Town Hall, July 19

BRANDON—The silent film era returns to the big screen at Brandon Town Hall with the showing of 'Grandma's Boy' (1922), a classic silent comedy accompanied by live music.

Showtime is Saturday, July 19 at 7 p.m. at the historic Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, 7 Conant Square, Route 7 in Brandon, Vt.

Admission is free; donations are welcome to help defray expenses.

The screening will feature live accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating scores for silent films.

'Grandma's Boy,' starring popular 1920s film icon Harold (See *Grandma's Boy*, Page 11)



On repeat repeat rep

THE AMERICAN REDSTART just about five inches in length can sing several variations of its song. This one has been a regular at Sanderson's covered bridge.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Brandon Actors Troupe: Auditions this Sunday for the musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Whether you're a seasoned speller or new to the stage, the Brandon Actors Troupe would love to see you come to audition. This show is full of heart, humor,

and unexpected surprises. Auditions are open to adults post-high school age.

Auditions are June 29 from 2:00 - 6:00 pm

To sign up, go to the Brandon Actors Troupe Facebook page for more information

Show Dates: September 12 - 14, 2025

Two different Brandon Auctions, explained

While old timers in town are well versed in the two auctions that will simultaneously be held starting this weekend, newcomers might be a bit confused. Here's the story:

BRANDON INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION (BIDCC) SILENT AUCTION

This Auction is held ONLY on JULY 5 from 9 am - 4 pm at the Congregational Church's

Fellowship Hall. This is a silent auction. There are scores of donations - just about everything is brand new or a gift certificate. Each item has a bid card (See *Two Auctions*, Page 9)

BAG Artist of the Month: Joy Oxley

BRANDON—Next up in Brandon Artists Guild 2025 "Artist of the Month" series is Leicester Jeweler Joy Oxley. Learn more about Joy's creative process as she speaks about lampworking and fused dichroic glass jewelry designs on Friday July 11 from 7-8:30.

"Artist of the Month" is a limited 5-part series of talks by exhibiting members beginning in early summer to provide an in-depth look into the process of a working artist. These evening talks are a chance to gather in our beautiful gallery, be inspired, and learn from some of

the regions finest artists and artisans. Come early to chat with other art enthusiasts, meet neighbors and friends and cool off in a beautiful gallery setting. Complimentary treats served before the talk begins.

Doors open at 6pm.

(See *Joy Oxley*, Page 7)

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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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Letters to the Editor

2025 Swiss Roll Eating Contest on July 5 will be one for the record books

The annals of the greatest sports accomplishments of all time evoke fond memories from many athletic disciplines and eras. Joe DiMaggio's 56 consecutive game-hitting streak in 1941. Tom Brady's seven Super Bowl Championships. Tiger Woods winning four consecutive majors in 2000 – 2001. And Nadia Comaneci scoring the first perfect 10 score in the 1976 Olympics (and accumulating an astounding seven perfect scores in gymnastic events during the games). The list goes on and

on...

I respectfully submit that a Brandon resident is on the cusp of joining the above pantheon of greats. Arturo "AJ" Mendiola is the acclaimed 9-time champion of Brandon's Swiss Roll Eating-Contest World Championship. His performances through the years have been breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Most world-class Swiss Roll-Eating Contest competitors have careers lasting a mere 4-5 years, as the grueling demands of the sport unsurprisingly exact a high toll. Yet Mr.

Mendiola hasn't lost a step; indeed, his absolute domination of the sport seems only to have grown over the years.

Mr. Mendiola has never lost a competition and, in my view, his undefeated status is unlikely to change anytime soon. But perhaps there is an up-and-coming competitor who will prove me wrong. Frankly, however, I can't help but wonder who has the courage – nay, the audacity – to challenge Mr. Mendiola at the Swiss Roll-Eating World Championship to be held at noon

on Saturday, July 5, behind the Brandon Inn.

Is the outcome of this year's competition a foregone conclusion? Perhaps. Perhaps not. As I see it, only two things can happen. Either we will witness the greatest upset of all time. Or we will witness Mr. Mendiola's evolution from the GOAT to an outright living legend. In either case, it's gonna be absolutely historic! Indeed, given the historic nature of this year's event, the Guinness Book of World Records, the Swiss Roll Federation,

the Global Consortium of Sporting Events Records, and Snoop Dawg collectively have insisted that three unbiased judges oversee this year's event to confirm the outcome for the sake of posterity.

Hope to see you at noon on Saturday, July 5, behind the Brandon Inn.

Jim Leary, Brandon Swiss Roll-Eating Contest Chairperson

Community Forums Living with wildlife: Bats in your house?

Bats are everywhere! It may feel that way to some of Vermont's human residents. Summer is when some species of bats gather in colonies to raise their young in human-made structures such as houses, barns, office buildings, and bat houses.

"Summer is the time of year when the greatest number of unwanted bat-human interactions are reported," according to Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Small Mammals Biologist Alyssa Bennett, who works on the conservation and recovery of Vermont's threatened and endangered bat species.

"Bats can end up in your living space for many reasons, including young bats that are weak, disoriented or lost while coming and going from the roost, bats moving within a structure to find warmer or cooler roosting space as temperatures fluctuate, and bats being displaced from their roosts due to building repairs and renovations."

Finding and sealing off holes on the inside of your home, such as around attic doors or chimney flues, will keep bats out of your living space and can be done any time of year.

(See Bats, Page 23)

Revolutionary weekend at Hubbardton Battlefield

Join the festivities on Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13

The Revolutionary War Battle of Hubbardton will be commemorated with a full-scale living history weekend on July 12 and 13, 2025, at the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site in Hubbardton. The actual battle took place July 7, 1777 and is the only Revolutionary War battle to be fought entirely on what would become Vermont soil.

Scores of reenactors from around the northeast set up camps to present this history pageant, the largest Revolutionary War living history weekend in northern New England. The main military events will be held

(weather-permitting) on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

The weekend's highlight is Sunday morning's tribute to the battle. Plan to arrive early to secure your spot near the viewing rope line. Troops begin to form around 7:30 a.m. and the battle begins at 8:00 a.m. You'll hear muskets firing in the distance, just before the soldiers emerge over Monument Hill.

In addition to watching the action on the battlefield, guests can walk through the camps and visit with reenactors. There will be special demonstrations of camp life, stations on colonial cooking *(See Hubbardton Battlefield, Page 23)*

Milk & Honey Guild invites quilters near and far

Middlebury—In preparing for their biennial show, the Milk & Honey Quilters Guild (MHQG) invites local quilters to submit quilts to be part of the display. Taking place at the Middlebury Rec Center on October 11-12, 2025, the show will include about 200 quilts made by local quilters, along with a special travel exhibit, Quilts of Valor, raffles, homemade items, vendors, and much more.

All quilts included in the show must be clean, odor free, pet hair free and in good condition. Any

quilt that was displayed in a previous MHQG show is not eligible for this event. All items should be constructed of three layers of fabric (top, middle batting and backing) and secured with quilting or tied.

Exceptions may be made for Cathedral Window and Crazy quilts. Guild-sanctioned special exhibits may include other mediums, such as wood for barn quilts. While this is a non-judged show, there will be Vendor's Choice and Viewer's Choice Awards. Displayed quilts may be offered for sale, with a per-

centage of the sale price going to the guild. Submissions must be received by September 1, 2025. The Milk & Honey Quilters Guild reserves the right to limit the number of submissions per quilter.

For more information about show entries and a copy of the registration form, quilters are invited to visit the guild's website at www.milkandhoneyquilters.com or email them at

milkandhoneyquilt@yahoo.com.



 Indivisible Brandon

**Celebrate Independence Day on July 4
by Remembering These Words:**

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government

- from The United States Declaration of Independence

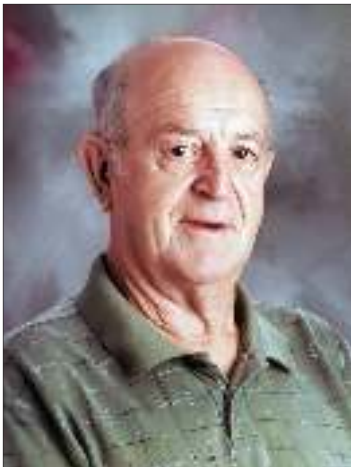
Resources in support of your rights are available at:
indivisiblebrandon.org/know-your-rights

Obituaries

Roland Joseph Desforges, 85, Sudbury

Roland Joseph Desforges, age 85, passed away in his sleep due to complications from progressive supranuclear palsy, on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at his home in Sudbury.

Roland was born in Sudbury on April 18, 1940. He was the son of Leo and Yvette (Larocque) Desforges. He grew up on the family farm in Sudbury, where he received his early education in Sudbury schools. He attended Brandon High School. Afterwards, he was a carpenter before buying, with his brother John, the family farm from his parents. After a few years of dairy farming, they sold the farm and Roland stayed on to become the farm manager for Rocky Knoll Cattle Company for 27 years. He later joined the staff at New England Woodcraft for many years. He had also driven a school bus for Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union for several more years before his retirement. He liked to hunt and fish, and also took pride in caring for his property and vegetable garden.



ROLAND DESFORGES

He is survived by his wife Jaska (Forguites) Desforges of Sudbury, whom he married in St. Monica's Catholic Church in Forest Dale in August of 1962; 3 sons, Kevin Desforges of Shoreham, Brian Desforges and wife Elaine of Bridport, and Thomas Desforges and wife Mary of Pittsford; 2 brothers, Raymond Desforges and Paul Desforges, both of Sudbury; and 1 sister, Yolande Larson of Charlotte. 5 grand-

children, Bailee, Calvin, Jacob, Ava, & Evan, 1 great-grandson, Jase, and several nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents, brothers John and Robert Desforges, and a sister, Shirley Plouffe.

The Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on July 7, 2025, at 11 AM, at Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's Church) in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor will be the celebrant. Following the mass, the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion Post #55, for a time of remembrance.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Whiting First Response % Whiting Volunteer Fire Department, 74 South Main Street, Whiting, VT 05778, or to Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

Brian Robert Lamica, 48, Brandon

Brian Robert Lamica, age 48, passed away June 23, 2025, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Brian was born in Bennington on May 3, 1977. He was the son of Robert and Phyllis (Fielders) Lamica. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1994. He began his working career at Teddy Tire and afterwards at Trees Incorporated. He later worked at Poultney Pools for a few years. He has been working at Specialized Community Care in Middlebury for the past 12 years. He was forced to retire in March of 2023 due to illness. He enjoyed fishing and was very mechanically inclined.

Surviving is his wife Annette (Lovell) of Brandon, whom he married in Killington on November 1, 2008; 2 sons, Christian Robert Lamica and Austin Robert Lamica both of Brandon; his father and step-mother, Robert & Linda Lamica



BRIAN ROBERT LAMICA

of Goshen; and his uncle Bill Fielders of Manning, South Carolina. He was predeceased by his mother.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place on July 8, 2025, at the family lot in Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Foley Cancer Center.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

Brandon-Kyle Anthony Notte, 36, Brandon

It is with very heavy hearts we are saddened to say that Kyle left this world on the Angel Wings of his maternal great-grandmother he affectionately called GG (Joyce Sabourin) on June 19, 2025. Kyle was born in Middlebury on October 30, 1988, son of Rebecca Clark and Anthony Notte.

He received his early education in Brandon and later went to CCV in Rutland, where he received his business degree. He then continued to Castleton State College. He loved outside activities such as skiing, snowboarding, and swimming. He later moved to Florida,

where he pursued his passion for personal training. His expertise in this field was always encouraging to his clients, receiving accolades from them writing "Kyle changed my life for the better and was humble, kind and understanding." Kyle loved to travel, with special interest in gold mining in Colorado. He was looking forward to expanding his knowledge of this art in Nevada and Montana in the near future.

Kyle's boyish smile and contagious laugh, along with his gift for articulate conversation, drew people into interesting and profound discussions. No

matter what the topic, he loved having amazing dialogue and exchanging ideas and thoughts.

Kyle is survived by his parents, Rebecca Clark and husband Kevin of Leicester, VT, Anthony Notte and wife Susan of Conway, South Carolina; sister, Shelby Alexander and husband Jacob and two beautiful nephews Emmett and Elijah of Ft Belvoir, VA; his uncle Christopher Hayes of Benson, VT; loving grandparents Marie and Dick Hayes of Brandon, VT; and dear friend Jessica Altrui of Jupiter, FL. Kyle will be forever missed and always in our hearts.



BRANDON-KYLE NOTTE

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at

10 a.m., at Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's Catholic Church) in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor will be the celebrant. The graveside committal service and burial will follow, in the family lot at Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon.

Following the graveside ceremony, the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion Post #55, for a time of remembrance.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers, may be made, in his memory to Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.



BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

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

(802) 483-2811  Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory 



Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?

are on page 16!



EVERY YEAR, DERRICK Cram gets the crowd moving at the Street Dance after the Independence Day Parade. This is a scene from last year's dance, when folks kept dancing despite the erratic weather, testament to Mr. Cram's skills as a DJ.

Derrick Cram

(Continued from Page 1)

charged us."

When the festivities moved from Park Village to downtown, Cram kept up the fun. The post-parade street party always draws huge crowds who dance for hours until the sky is dark enough for fireworks. Young, old, and everything in between get their groove on. After 30 years in the events business, Cram knows how to get people on their feet and keep them there.

Originally from Leicester, Cram was raised in the music business: his father owned Music World in Brandon in the 80s and provided music for local events.

"He used to do dances at the Leicester School," recalled Cram. "I thought it was cool and wanted to do it too. I started DJing in 1994, when I was still in middle school. I did elementary-school dances. I went all over the state with the 4-H club. I started doing colleges like UMass, University

of Maine, and the University of Rhode Island. It went from a hobby to a business."

Jam Man had as many as 15 DJs, including Cram's brothers Nathan and Justin, going into the pandemic. The business took Cram all over the world. He's DJ'ed events as far away as China. Aside from special events, Jam Man has a regular DJ gig at the Pickle Barrel in Killington.

The Parade Committee asked Cram to be the 2025 Grand Marshal at last year's street dance, though the decision wasn't announced publicly until recently.

"I turned to my wife and asked if I could do it," he laughed. His wife is Kayla, who was one year behind Derrick at Otter Valley. (They graduated in 2000 and 2001.)

"I was surprised," he continued. "They usually ask older folks to be Grand Marshal. I asked myself, 'Am I one of those older folks now?' But it was a bit of a humbling moment. I didn't know what to

say. It rendered me speechless, which is pretty rare for me."

The Crams now live in Randolph with their two children, Rylee, age 5, and Aidan, age 3. Cram also works a "day job" at Middlebury College, managing the school's retail operations at the golf course and ski facilities. He's currently helping build two new websites for Midd's ski areas.

"I'll be sporting festive colors for sure," Cram replied when asked if he'd chosen an "official" Marshal outfit yet. And he'll be in the DJ booth at the street dance after he's completed his Marshal duties.

"We don't have fixed play lists," he said. "We read the room to figure out where the crowd is ready to go. So, you can be sure this year's dance won't be the same as last year's."

Bill Moore added, "Despite him having left Brandon to live in Randolph, Derrick still takes the time to make our community a great place. Without his youthful enthusiasm and dedication, the best Independence Day celebration in Vermont wouldn't be the same."

Congratulations, Derrick! Thanks for all the years of fun and great memories. We all look forward to many more.

Joy Oxley

(Continued from Page 4)

We wish you breezy days in this high tide of the season and hope to see you on July 11 from 7-8:30 as we highlight Joy's work and enjoy learning more about her techniques both in glass and in metals. Please join us for this free and open to the public event.

The Brandon Artists Guild is a non-profit artist-run gallery with 30+ exhibiting members with addi-

tional supporting members located in downtown Brandon, VT. As a 501(c)3 non-profit cultural organization we are dedicated to supporting the visual arts and artists through exhibitions, demonstrations and community art initiatives. Membership dollars and gallery sales help us to fund an annual student art show and make grants to our local art teachers for materials and supplies.



Thursday, July 3rd ~ Saturday, July 12th

In the Brandon Town Hall

Thu, July 3rd: 11 am-7:30 pm

Fri, July 4: 11 am-7:30 pm

Sat, July 5: 11 am-9 pm—

also Brandon's 4th of July celebration & Parade!

Sun, July 6: 11 am-5 pm

Mon, July 7 thru Thu, July 10: 11 am-7 pm

Fri, July 11: 11 am-7:30 pm

Sat, July 12: 8 am-2 pm (Auction Closes!)

Sun, July 13: 10 am-2 pm (For pick up of items only)

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND A GREAT AUCTION THIS SUMMER, MAKE IT THIS ONE. The Chamber has found a PERMANENT HOME, the beautiful Brandon Town Hall!

The Chamber is in our 3rd year in our beautiful Brandon Town Hall! It will be staffed by volunteers for 10 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding and eBay style "Buy It Now" format so you can walk out the door with your treasure!

The Auction offers antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, Vermont-made items, and surprises & treasures from attics and barns. Featuring work from many of our famous local artists and lots of gift certificates to local businesses including restaurants, brew pubs, fuel oil, massages, services, and much more!

802-247-6401 info@brandon.org

Go to www.brandon.org for more info and pictures.



PIZZA BY THE POND

Wood-fired pizza from our outside hearth in the quintessential summer setting!

WALK-INS WELCOME BUT RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED

www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza Thursday July 10, 5-8 PM

Next concert:
O & Schu



New citizens

(Continued from Page 1)

Director Christopher Brickell welcomed the assembly to the Academy and the new Americans to their chosen home.

“This has been a journey rooted in responsibility and shared values,” said Mr. Brickell. “We’re honored to share this milestone and welcome you all to the American family.”

Over 800,000 people naturalized as American citizens in 2024, with only 500 or so of them in Vermont, making the Green Mountain State one of the smaller recipients of new citizens. The new citizens at the Academy last Wednesday came from all over the state and represented 18 different countries:

Australia, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Honduras, Ireland, Nepal, Norway, Senegal, Sudan, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, the United King-

dom, and Vietnam.

For many of the 26, the ceremony capped a long, difficult process, and the joy on their faces was unmistakable as they took the Oath of Allegiance to their new country. New citizens must fulfill certain requirements, including at least 5 years as a legal permanent resident (i.e., Green Card holder) in the U.S. for most of them. They all came to this point via their unique paths, choosing the U.S. for political, economic, and/or personal reasons.

Representatives from Senator Sanders’ office, Senator Welch’s office, and Representative Balint’s office all were present at the ceremony as well.

The legal formalities of the ceremony were overseen by Sharrah LeClair, the U.S. District Court’s Naturalization Deputy, and by the Honorable Mary Kay Lanthier, U.S. District Judge. Ms. LeClair



THE NEW CITIZENS, their families, and government representatives filled the gymnasium at the Vermont Police Academy for the naturalization ceremony last Wednesday.



did a roll call of the applicants before Judge Lanthier administered the Oath.

The text of the Oath is as follows:

“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.”

Once the Oath was taken, the path to citizenship for these 26 new Americans was complete. The new citizens were then asked to make



TOP LEFT: NEWLY sworn-in citizens receive their naturalization certificates from a receiving line. Top right: Florent Lulanga Akili, formerly of Congo (Kinshasa), addresses his new compatriots. Above: More new citizens receive their certificates. Left: Judge Mary Kay Lanthier of the U.S. District Court in Vermont.

and, most importantly, their naturalization certificates designating them full citizens of the United States of America, with all the rights, privileges, and obligations that citizenship entails.

Judge Lanthier offered the new Americans an opportunity to address the assembly. Two chose to

(See New citizens, Page 21)

Golf Course

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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.

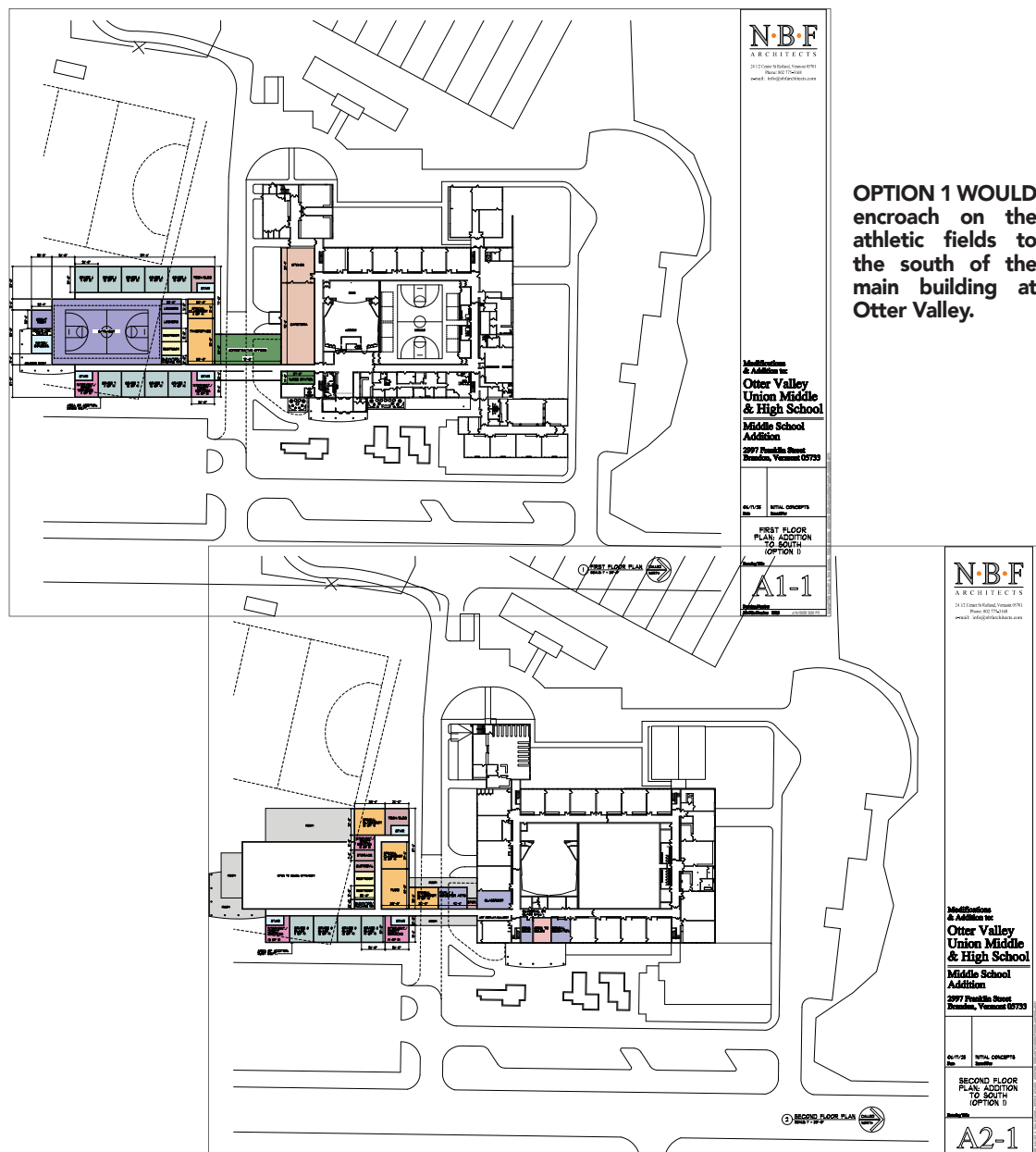
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OVUU

(Continued from Page 1)

new Middle School. At the time, a community survey had indicated broad support for such a project among OVUU voters.

Currently, OV Middle and High Schools share a single building. The proposal is to construct a new wing that will house classrooms and a gymnasium specifically for the Middle School. The proposal also envisions a suite of new offices for RNESU administration, which would allow the Supervisory District to shed the Central Office building it currently uses on the campus of the old Training School.

The Committee engaged NBF Architects of Rutland to prepare two possible layouts for the new wing: Option 1, which expands the existing building southward and encroaches on existing athletic fields, and Option 2, which expands the existing building northward and leaves the athletic fields undisturbed (see floor plans accompanying this article).

Both options create classrooms dedicated to grades 6 through 8, since the proposal

also contemplates moving grade 6 to the Middle School from the district's three elementary schools.

The Committee's presentation identified several considerations in favor of a new Middle School:

- 1) Current facilities are overcrowded and inefficient
- 2) There is roughly \$10 million in deferred maintenance in the existing OV building
- 3) The current Central Office is dated and removed from school operations

The Committee, the Board, and school administrators favored Option 2, which leaves the athletic fields untouched, expanding the building northward instead. Option 2 also moves the current kitchen and cafeteria, which are original to the 1960s building and need to be updated regardless. The new location on the west side of the building would make deliveries to the kitchen much easier. There would also be easier access to bathrooms from Markowski Field.

No dollar estimates were given (See OVUU, Page 24)

Two Auctions

(Continued from Page 4)

with it. When you register and get a number, you write that number on the items you want to bid on. You can bid once or keep checking back throughout the day to see how your item(s) is doing and bid again! You will be expected to pay for your winnings as soon as possible and you will be contacted soon after 4 pm on July 5. This auction is a huge part of the BIDCC's fundraising efforts which helps pay for so many of the day's events that we all enjoy.

BRANDON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BACC) AUCTION

This Auction opens on Thurs, July 3 at 11 am and closes on July 12 so it LASTS 10 DAYS. It is held at the Brandon Town Hall. There are two formats of buying and this auction features hundreds of donated items both new and old from antiques, collectibles, brand new art, gift certificates, brand new gift baskets and furniture. Every item will be available for silent auction bidding or as an ebay style "Buy It Now" format so you can walk out the door with your treasure! Again, if you want to bid as a silent auction, you write your bidder number

on the bid card associated with the item you want. You can bid once or a number of times. You can check back daily for all the days that the auction site is open, or just come back on the last day. BEWARE: You might put in a silent auction bid on something you really want but someone else could come along and buy it at the BUY IT NOW price. So if you really want it – you'll have to buy it at the listed price. The majority of bids start at \$5 and every item will all have a Buy It Now price. Auction hours for each day are varied and can be found on the Chamber's website at brandon.org. On July 5, the auction site will be open from 11 am – 9 pm (just after the parade until the fireworks start). Unless you Buy It Now, pick-up for your winnings will be on Sunday, July 13 from 10 am – 2 pm. As with the BIDCC silent auction, the BACC auction is a huge part of Chamber of Commerce's fundraising efforts for the year. Both auctions are the result of our neighbors volunteering and donating to enhance the quality of life in Brandon and they each provide real value for shoppers. The organizations appreciate your support.

HAPPY JULY 4TH SALE!



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OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Britta Nelson

GRADE: 3 (going into grade 4)

SCHOOL: Neshobe

MEDIUM: Scratchboard

TEACHER: John Brodowski



Grandma's Boy

(Continued from Page 4)

Lloyd, tells the story of a cowardly young man who seeks the courage to battle a menacing tramp terrorizing his small hometown.

Audiences loved 'Grandma's Boy' when it was first released, and the picture helped establish Lloyd as a major star for the rest of the silent film era.

In revival, 'Grandma's Boy' continues to delight movie-goers and serves as a great introduction to the magic of silent film. It also provides a marvelous window into small town American life as it was lived a century ago.

Despite his mega-star status in the 1920s, Lloyd is largely unknown to today's audiences, mostly because he retained control of his films in later life and refused to let them be shown on television.

"People today remember Charlie Chaplin, but the silent era had many popular stars," Rapsis said. "Harold Lloyd's 'average American' character was immensely popular in the 1920s, not just in the U.S. but around the globe."

With the release of Lloyd's films on DVD, audiences are rediscovering his timeless genius. The reissue sparked a demand for screenings in theaters, where the Lloyd films continue to cast their spell on audiences.

worldwide audience, and their universal themes haven't lost any relevance," said Rapsis, who has performed music for silent films in venues ranging from the Donnell Library in New York City to the Kansas Silent Film Festival.

Using original themes, Rapsis improvises the music live as the films are shown.

"When the score gets made up on the spot, it creates a special energy that's an important part of the silent film experience," said Rapsis, who uses a digital synthesizer to recreate the texture of a full orchestra for the accompaniment.

It's the 14th year of the Brandon Town Hall silent film series, which gives residents and visitors a chance to see great movies from the pioneering days of cinema as they were meant to be shown—on the big screen, with an audience, and accompanied by live music.

Screenings are held once a month, generally on Saturday nights starting in May and running through November. Admission is free; donations are encouraged to defray expenses.

Over the years, silent film donations have helped support projects including handicapped access to the 19th century building; renovating the bathrooms; and restoring the structure's original slate roof.

MAPLE COWTM by Matt Aucoin



Shown in a theater with live music, Lloyd's features maintain their power to delight movie-goers.

"Times have changed, but people haven't," Rapsis said. "The Lloyd films were designed to be shown in a theater with an audience, and to appeal to a

Other films in this year's Brandon Town Hall silent film series include:

- Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, 7 p.m.: "Manhandled" (1924) starring Gloria Swanson. Uproarious comedy from silent screen legend Swanson tells the story of a down-on-her-luck salesgirl

who climbs the social ladder by pretending to be a Russian countess.

- Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, 7 p.m.: "Spies" (1928) directed by Fritz Lang. Director Fritz Lang's tale of espionage was the forerunner of all movie spy sagas, packed with double agents, hi-tech gadgets, beautiful (and dangerous) women, and an evil genius with a plan to take over the world, mwah-ha-ha-ha!

- Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, 7 p.m.: "The Magician" (1926) starring Paul Wegener, Alice Terry, directed by Rex Ingram. Just in time for Halloween: a scientist uses an ancient spell to reanimate a dead body. The secret missing ingredient is, of course, the blood of a virgin, making it a good bet for all kinds of creepy goings-on.

- Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, 7 p.m.: "Seven Chances" (1925) starring Buster Keaton. Buster is about to be saved from bankruptcy by an unexpected inheritance of \$7 million—but only if he gets married by 7 p.m. that very day. Can Buster somehow find the girl of his dreams while being pursued by an army of women eager to marry a soon-to-be millionaire?

'Grandma's Boy' (1922), a classic silent comedy starring Harold Lloyd, will be shown on

Saturday, July 19 at 7 p.m. at the historic Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, 7 Conant Square, Route 7 in Brandon, Vt. Admission is free; donations are

welcome to help defray expenses.

For more info on the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.

BRANDON YARD SALE DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025 REGISTRATION FORM

☐ Name and address listing: \$10 OR

☐ Enhanced listing: \$15

\$15 buys you 25 words to describe your yard sale's "special" items plus your name and address in a boxed ad.

For ALL LISTINGS:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

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ADDRESS: _____

For ENHANCED LISTING:

ADD 25 WORDS:

(separate sheet of paper)

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BRANDON, VT 05733

OR DROP OFF AT CARR'S GIFTS.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:

July 30, 2025

Go to Brandon.org for more info!



Calendar of events

July

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes
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.

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.

Live at Kennedy Park

Saturdays from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

July 12
Wyatt Watterman, Keyboard Extravaganza
July 19
Kevin Kareckas, Singer/Songwriter
July 26
Mark Van Nostrand, folk/rock covers

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!

Great Brandon July

Our great indoor location Hall will be held for 9 days up for silent auction bidding. It Now" format, so if you out the door with your treasures now in its 36th year, is open afternoon of Fri., July 5 and 13. See our website for examples offers antiques, collectibles, surprises and treasures from lots of gift certificates to businesses incl. restaurants, businesses, services and much more include dressers, beds, to kitchen table sets, household parquet dance floor! Original of Brandon's famed artist's collection of interesting and eclectic bid and buy!

Come on into Brandon to bid and buy treasures and revitalized downtown. Be sure to check your bids and see what has been donated. Keep watching. For more info call 802-247-Brandon.org.

Hours of operation

Thu, July 3 : 11–7:30pm
Fri, July 4: 11–7:30pm
Sat, July 5: 11–9pm– also Brandon's 4 th of July celebration!
Sun, July 6: 11–5pm
Mon, July 7 thru Thu, July 10: 11–7pm
Fri, July 11: 11–7:30pm



46 on-

Join us for a friendly Middle July 13 The Fe and co on the Enjoy " from 12 break e In the e light up through Dance Free ac

Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center
First Saturday of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library
Join us every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for picture book storytime.

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!
Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com
“The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue.”

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

Friday 4th

July 4 Birthday Party — Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site
The historic village of Plymouth Notch will celebrate the birthday of President Calvin Coolidge and the United States on July 4th. The party kicks off at 9 a.m. with a reading of the Declaration of Independence and moment of reflection in the Union Christian Church. At 12 p.m., join us for a processional to the town cemetery (a 0.4 mile



walk) led by the Vermont National Guard. In a brief commemorative ceremony, a wreath will be laid at the president's grave, and readings will be offered by the president's descendants. The ceremony will be emceed by the 80th Vermont Governor, James Douglas. Special to the 2025 celebrations, John Masko will conduct a 13-piece orchestra at 1 p.m. under a marquee. The orchestra will perform George Gershwin's Three Preludes, Arthur Foote's Night Piece, Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring, and John Philip Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever. Throughout the day, the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation will host the Coolidge Cup, a national speech and debate competition. Members of the public are encouraged to listen in as young orators from across the country make their voices heard. Competition events will take place in tents throughout the grounds.
For additional information, please visit <https://coolidgefoundation.org/debate/coolidge-cup/> From 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, 3780 Vermont 100A, Plymouth.

Saturday 5th

Brandon Independence Day Celebration – Brandon's Favorite Day of the Year!
To celebrate Independence Day, Brandon will be featuring a parade, music in the parks, contests, beer garden, street dance and fireworks at dusk right from downtown.
If you are going to pick one Vermont town to visit on Saturday, July 5, 2025, you'll want to choose Brandon. This small town knows how to throw a party and there are free events planned from morning to night and for everyone in the family.

Brandon has been celebrating Independence Day with a grand parade for decades. This year, besides the procession there will be bands in the parks, the Heritage train giving rides up Park Street and two auction sites where you can take home winnings on the same day. Additionally, there will be a beer garden, music in the parks, our world-famous Little Debbie Swiss Cake Roll Eating Contest, an evening street dance and fireworks at dusk that can be seen from up to a mile away. With its newly revitalized streetscape, multiple downtown pocket parks and waterfalls, gorgeous historic architecture, quaint shops, and multiple lodging options and restaurants, Brandon is a top choice for visitors from all over and for all ages.

For more information and times, visit brandon.org. Check the website for schedule. Parade starts at 10 am! <https://brandon.org/events-and-happenings/brandon-independence-day-celebration-brandons-favorite-day-of-the-year/>

Bandwagon Summer Series: Lakou Mizik — Robertson Paper Company Field
Lakou Mizik is a powerhouse collective of Haitian roots music with a soulful energy and a mix of styles that feels mystical and familiar at the same time. In the wake of Haiti's devastating earthquake, the band came together to show the world that their country was much more than the sum of headlines that were being shot around the globe. Today with their positive messages and roots revival music, they have become one of Haiti's hottest

Free Medical Care for Adults
Wednesdays in July 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 July 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 7/1 (9-12), 7/7 (3-6), 7/15 (1-4) and 7/21 (3-6). For appointments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.

exports and have gained an international following with their critically acclaimed debut album “Wa Di Yo” and their mystical, soulful, dance party inducing live shows.
The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family- friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from May through September. Performances including a diverse group of musical styles will take place at ballfields, farms and parks throughout Putney, Brattleboro and Bellows Falls. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold onsite, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails, and food from Smokin' Bowls. Bring a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts. From 6–8 p.m. at Robertson Paper Company Field, 21 Island Street, Bellows Falls. \$22-25.

Monday 7th Friday 11th

Theater Improv Camp — Chaffee Art Center
Campers will learn the fundamentals of improv through theater exercises, games & workshops. This camp is intended to be a fun and positive introduction to theater exploration and developing acting and performance skills such as character development and presentation, stage awareness, storytelling and working collaboratively. We will use long form improvisation to create a short play of a story chosen by the participants which will be performed for parents on the last day of the camp. Instructor: Cathy Archer; Minimum 5. Must pre-register at <https://chaffeeartcenter.square.site>. From 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Ages: 6-12. Cost: \$150.

Tuesday 8th

Alzheimer's Support Group — Community Health North Main, Rutland
Monthly Alzheimer's support group for caregivers and family members to share feelings, thoughts, and experiences. Led by a Community Health Care Manager. The hour-long monthly caregiver support meetings start at 4 p.m. and are for caregivers who care for a person with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Participants come to the meeting to support one another and share their stories and advice. It's a safe space where caregivers help caregivers. At Community Health North Main, 231 North Main Street, Rutland.

Monday 14th

Pizza by the Pond—Blueberry Hill Inn
Celebrate a beautiful evening with wood-fired pizza from the outside hearth accompanied by live music in the quintessential summer setting: the edge of a pond. Pizza starts at 5. Music from 6 to 8. Includes all-you-can-eat pizza, lemonade /iced tea, live music and tax. Optional salads and ice cream. Make your reservation online: brandonpubliclibrary.org or in person at the library. Limited tickets available at the door. \$35/person or \$80/family. Kids under 12 free.

Brandon Auction
5th

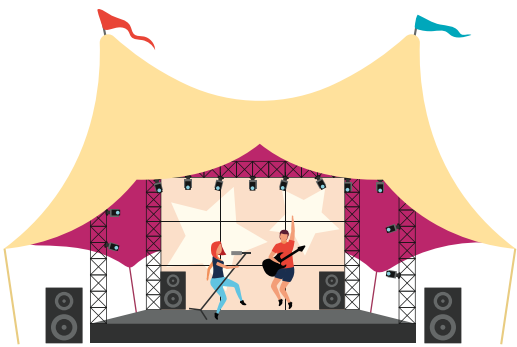
at the Brandon Town Hall, and items will be set up in an AND Ebay-style “Buy it now” can't wait, you can walk through the treasures! The Auction, open daily, starting the morning and closing on Sat., July 5th, exact hours. The Auction will feature new merchandise, items from attics and barns. Also, dozens of local businesses, brew pubs, stores, masquerade, and more! Other donations include tools, art, chairs, trunks, tools, and tools—even a collection of original artwork from many artists. And our usual selection of eclectic items. Nine days to go!
Starting July 5th to donate, and enjoy our beautiful collection. Be sure to come often to see what new treats have arrived. Check for pictures and news. 802-774-6401 or email info@brandon.org

Sat, July 12: 8am–2pm (Auction Closes!)
Sun, July 13: 10am–2pm (For pick up of items only)
Bernie Carr– 802-236-8120 info@brandon.org
Go to www.brandon.org for more info and pictures.



46th Annual Middlebury Summer Festival
On-the-Green — Village Green, Middlebury
July 13–19

For a delightful week of free, family-friendly performances at the 46th Annual Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green, July 13–19.
The festival offers a unique blend of music and community spirit under the big white tent at Middlebury, Vermont, Village Green. “Brown Bag” programs weekdays 12-1 p.m., perfect for families and lunch-entertainment.
Evenings, live musical performances from 7-9:45 p.m., Sunday through Saturday culminating in a Street Dance with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble. Admission; donations welcomed.



Events take place rain or shine. Info: <https://www.festivalonthegreen.org/>

Pizza By The Pond

July 14th, 5-8pm

At Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen

LIVE MUSIC

Celebrate a beautiful evening with wood-fired pizza from the outside hearth accompanied by live music in the quintessential summer setting: the edge of a pond. **Pizza starts at 5. Music from 6 to 8.** Includes all-you-can-eat pizza, lemonade /iced tea, live music and tax. Optional salads and ice cream. Make your reservation online: brandonpubliclibrary.org or in person at the library. Limited tickets available at the door. \$35/person or \$80/family. Kids under 12 free.

The event is brought to you by the Friends of Brandon Free Public Library.



Restaurant guide

Café Provence

From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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

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

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

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FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

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

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

25 North Street, Proctor 802-459-3320

Ad design included in pricing
Call 802 236-4662, or email george@brandonreporter.com for more information

A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE

BY LYN DESMARAIS

Unlike other flowers, the rose has so many poems written about it and by so many authors, famous and otherwise, that it is very hard to pick just one; however, pick one I must, and so I give you this portion of a poem about a white rose, hoping it's new to you:

White Rose by Gillian Clarke
Outside the green velvet sitting room
white roses bloom after rain.
They hold water and sunlight like cups of fine white china.

In 1986, the rose was made the official flower of the United States.

According to PlantSnap and the Encyclopedia Britannica, the rose has been loved, venerated, fought over, lent its name to a war or two (think War of the Roses), had all sorts of parades, carnivals, sporting events and festivals celebrating it. What is it about this flower that unites so many of us at present and across the millennia?

Although I have never learned how to hybridize plants, I am told that roses are easy to hybridize and therefore it actually makes their exact origin hard to trace. The current cultivated varieties of roses, it is believed, came from about 10 species of roses from Asia, and there are also native roses of Europe, North America, and Africa. Fossilized remains of a rose date back 35,000,000 years. It evolved before we humans walked the earth, by tens of millions of years. I certainly have fallen victim to the belief that if they are easy to hybridize, they must be fairly easy to grow. I certainly see them in many gardens. But I have never found them easy to grow in my gardens. I have never seemed to have the right soil or to be in the right hardiness zone. And then there is the issue of thorns.

We are drawn to the rose's beauty and scent, thorns notwithstanding. Some varieties do bloom all summer long, another huge plus. David Austin roses, out of the UK, develop all sorts of new colors and fragrances off of old-fashioned stock (varieties of rose). Their origin story and how they grow roses is worth looking up and reading. In addition to looking at roses in gardens humans still do use them. You can eat roses and rose petals, use them and their seeds, or rose hips, in medicines, perfumes, beauty products, even rose water in baked goods. Today's perfect roses from professional growers use all sorts of chemicals to make them thus. More than 80% of the roses we purchase in the United States are now grown in South America and Africa. So, if you feel a yearning to chomp on one, eat a bouquet instead of looking at it, or make things from rose hips you might want to grow your own roses first. Although I have never had such an urge to eat roses, I've known a few horses who have.

Whatever the reason, roses worldwide have been connected by humans to love among humans. Curiously, in a world of fragmented interests, fractured ideologies, and growing hostility to others, there seems to be one thing that humans do seem to agree upon and that is we all love a rose and we all associate roses with love, Or Moses if you are old enough to recognize this ditty:

*Moses supposes his toes-es are roses
But Moses, supposes erroneously.
Moses, he knows-es his toes aren't roses,
As Moses supposes his toes-es to be. ...
As Moses supposes his toeses to be!
A Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose is
A rose is for Moses as potent as toeses
Couldn't be a lily or a daphi daphi dilli
It's gotta be a rose cuz it rhymes with mose!
-Singin' in the Rain*

And there you have it. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, yes William Shakespeare, but if it had been given a name, like mugwort or iris, perhaps it would not have had as many songs or poems written about it. After all, pulmonaria and forget-me-not are not as easy to rhyme with as rose, a critical point when poems rhymed, and when songs still often do.

There are roses for every corner of your garden, ones that are miniature, climbers, scramblers/ramblers, shrub form, individual tea roses and more. Some gardeners here put them in a pot and treat them like an annual, although if it survives a pot all summer, I'd be tempted to plant it come fall. They do need sun and pruning and some care. Look for disease-resistant rose varieties. You'll be happier, even if the rose isn't. I have climbers that don't have much to climb on so they kind of attempt to get taller, and often fall along the ground. I should actually do something about that!



Spaghetti Western

(Continued from Page 3)

Troupe plans two youth productions next year, with more information to be announced. These performances provide an opportunity for area youth to learn the theatre arts, especially those in the younger grades before they arrive at Otter Valley. Younger students also have the opportunity to perform on the Otter Valley Stage, and as a result may find themselves more comfortable in the Middle and High School building.

Looking ahead, the Brandon Actors Troupe will be presenting the musical, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” in September. Auditions are on Sunday, June 29th from 2-6 p.m. and are open to adults post-high school age. For more information and to sign up, go to the Brandon Actors Troupe Facebook page.



Charlie Murphy - 3 to 7 Weekdays



MUD

RADIO

The Roots of American Music



Mim's Photos

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

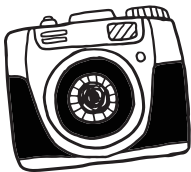


E-mail
kate@brandonreporter.com if you can identify
someone in these photos.

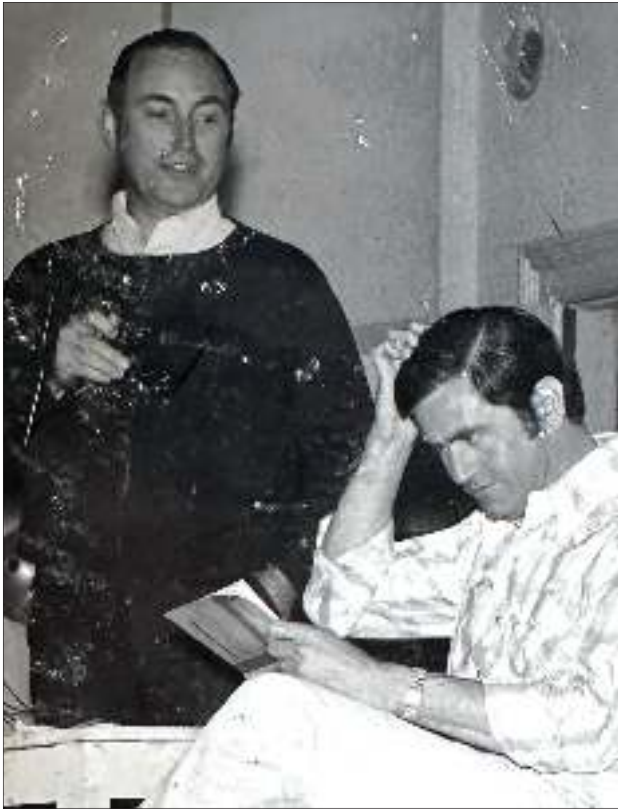
Or call us at 247-8080



Recognized



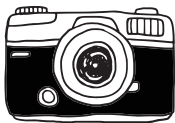
Dolores Davis (né White) recognized this photo of her parents Betty Lou and Richard (Dick) Smith from our 6/4 issue. When the photo was identified in our 6/11 issue by many who fondly remembered the couple, we noted that it was taken at Mr. and Mrs. Smith's 50 th anniversary. However, Ms. Davis explained that it was actually taken at their 25th anniversary.



Terry Ferson recognized Brandon lawyer Frank Bunting (left) and John Meyers (right) in this photo, which he believes was taken during a play.



Louise Marrier and Luanne Merkert recognized Andy and Bev Partington with their daughters Amy (left) and Sarah (right). Ms. Merkert notes that the Partingtons "had the Charlie Chip route when they first moved to Brandon in the 1980s. Andy still lives in town."



Terry Ferson, Luanne Merkert and Sue Wetmore recognized Maxine Thurston in the center of this photo, wearing glasses and a dark cardigan. Ms. Wetmore also recognized Governor Richard Snelling on the left.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notes
- 6. Long-haired dog breed
- 12. ESPN's nickname
- 16. Spanish be
- 17. Disadvantage
- 18. Of I
- 19. Actor Pacino
- 20. On your way: __ route
- 21. Fifth note of a major scale
- 22. Companies need it
- 23. News agency
- 24. Faces of an organization
- 26. Ponds
- 28. Samoa's capital
- 30. Partner to "Pa"
- 31. Adult male
- 32. Cool!
- 34. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 35. No No No
- 37. Hosts film festival
- 39. British place to house convicts
- 40. Made of fermented honey and water
- 41. Chief
- 43. College army
- 44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 45. Consume
- 47. One point north of due east
- 48. For instance
- 50. Brews
- 52. Alaskan river
- 54. Not soft
- 56. Atomic #22
- 57. "The Golden State"
- 59. "The world's most famous arena"
- 60. Larry and Curly's pal
- 61. One billion gigabytes
- 62. Conducts inspections
- 63. Malaria mosquitoes
- 66. Unit to measure width
- 67. Features
- 70. Affairs
- 71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Follower of Islam
- 2. Trauma center
- 3. French young women
- 4. Norse god
- 5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Peyton's younger brother
- 8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
- 9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- 10. "Pollack" actor Harris
- 11. Stuck around
- 12. Put on
- 13. Influential Norwegian playwright
- 14. Christian __, designer
- 15. Fulfills a debt
- 25. Style
- 26. More (Spanish)
- 27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 29. Remedy
- 31. Disturbance
- 33. "The Martian" actor Matt
- 36. Express delight
- 38. Brooklyn hoopster
- 39. 1900 lamp
- 41. Motionless
- 42. One's mother (Brit.)
- 43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 46. Compels to act
- 47. Gardening tool
- 49. Ancient country
- 51. Frightening
- 53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
- 54. Popular plant
- 55. Database management system
- 58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 60. Where soldiers eat
- 64. Tenth month (abbr.)
- 65. Illuminated
- 68. Atomic #18
- 69. Adults need one to travel

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13	14						15
16				17								18	
19			20			21				22		23	
24		25			26				27		28	29	
	30			31				32		33		34	
		35	36						37		38		
	39								40				
41					42			43					
44				45		46		47				48	49
50			51		52		53				54		55
56			57	58		59				60			61
62			63		64				65				66
67		68										69	
	70							71					

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 .

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Booms, Bangs & Runaways: Fireworks Safety for Pets

The Fourth of July can be exciting for people, but sometimes frightening and dangerous for pets. Fireworks, unfamiliar guests, and open doors during social gatherings often lead to a surge in lost animals. Keep pets indoors, provide a quiet space, and ensure they have up-to-date ID and microchip information. Give your pet plenty of exercise earlier in the day and speak with your vet if they experience severe anxiety. If your pet goes missing, call the Rutland County Humane Society at 802-483-6700. Wishing everyone a fun and safe Fourth of July!

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



MEET TATER TOT - 3-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PIT BULL TERRIER MIX. TAN.

Meet Tater Tot, a spirited and strong-willed pup with a heart full of potential! Brought in as a stray, Tater Tot is still figuring out the ropes of home life but shows incredible promise. He's a big boy who doesn't always realize his own strength, but he's very responsive to gentle corrections and eager to learn. With the right guidance, Tater Tot could blossom into an amazing, well-mannered companion. Tater Tot would do best in a home without other dogs or cats, as he prefers to be the star of the show. He might thrive with dog-savvy kids who can match his playful energy and help him channel it positively. If you're looking for a project pup with loads of potential, Tater Tot is ready to meet you! With love, patience, and some training, he's sure to become a loyal and loving member of your family. Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

MEET IVY - 4-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. WHITE WITH BROWN.

Ivy is a shy but sweet girl with a gentle heart. She loves to lounge on dressers or bask in the sun by the window, keeping an eye on the world. Once she gets to know you, Ivy's affectionate side shines. She loves face and chin rubs, stroking down her back, and scratching on her favorite scratch pads. She'll lovingly follow you around, rubbing against your legs until she gets the attention she craves, rewarding you with the sweetest purrs. If you're looking for a quiet companion with a lot of love to share, Ivy is ready to meet you! Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



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



New DVDs:

The Handmaid's Tale Season Four

June continues her journey to rescue her daughter Hannah and the other handmaids from Gilead.

Call the Midwife Season 14

The midwives enter the 1970s, which brings with it new challenges for Nonnatus House - and to British society. Amid the poverty and uncertainty of life in a declining Docklands, the midwives must also face cases of manic depression, gonorrhea, spina bifida, abortion - and an apparently immaculate conception.

The Crown Season 6

A relationship blossoms between Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed before a fateful car journey has devastating consequences. Prince William tries to integrate back into life at Eton in the wake of his mother's death as the monarchy must ride the wave of public opinion. As she reaches her Golden Jubilee, the Queen reflects on the future of the monarchy with the marriage of Charles and Camilla and the beginnings of a new Royal fairytale in William and Kate.

Novocaine (rated R)

When the girl of his dreams is kidnapped, everyman Nate (Jack Quaid) turns his inability to feel pain into an unexpected strength

in his fight to get her back.

The President's Wife

Long the woman-behind-the-man Bernadette Chirac arrives at France's presidential Elyse Palace in 1995 frustrated, and all but cast off by her newly elected husband, Jacques. Having worked in his shadow during his ascent to the presidency, Madame Chirac now expects to finally get the place in the political elite she believes she deserves.

The Monkey (Rated R)

When twin brothers Bill and Hal find their father's old monkey toy in the attic, a series of ghastly deaths commence. The brothers decide to throw the toy away and move on with their lives, growing apart over the years.

Sneaks (Rated PG)

Sneaks follows the adventures of Ty, a misguided designer sneaker who doesn't know life outside the comforts of his velvet-lined shoe box. After his sister is stolen by a shady collector, Ty must venture into NYC to find and rescue her. In his adventure, Ty meets a rag-tag group of footwear friends from all walks of life who help him find the courage to step outside of his shoe box and find his 'sole-mate.'

A Minecraft Movie (Rated PG)

A group of misfits who are transported from their everyday

ther's Day—was a success and she and Sid decided to try out Friday and Saturday nights. The evening is arranged so that from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ana "freestyles" at the piano, playing and singing a mix of original compositions and known pieces in her own lovely, sweet voice. Then from 8 to 9:30 she plays songs intended to be sung together with the audience. Individual audience members are welcome to stand at the piano to sing solo as well.

Rock, pop, folk, R & B...Guigui is comfortable playing across multiple genres. And if she doesn't already know the requested song, she'll pull up the chord chart on her iPad and wing it along with the audience, as she capably proved a few times last weekend.

The hope is to create a space

DID YOU KNOW?

Pizza by the Pond is back at Blueberry Hill, Monday July 14th from 5-8 pm. \$35 per person, \$80 for a family.

Summer Reading Programs every Tues - Sat through August 1. Reading prizes for all ages!

lives into the imaginative, blocky world of Minecraft. As they navigate this new environment, they must learn to master its challenges and search for a way back home.

Large Print books donated by Brenda Whittaker

Beach Reads and Deadly Deeds by Allison Brennan, donated in memory of Marion Philipsen

A risk-averse bibliophile gets in over her head when strange notes in a book draw her into a real-life investigation.

The Death Mask by Iris Johansen, donated in memory of Ann Livak

Eve is forced to recreate a sculpture of an Egyptian death mask for a nefarious client who threatens her loved ones.

where people feel comfortable dropping in for a drink, listening to some great music, and perhaps even singing along. Themed nights, such as "Spanish night," are in the planning stages as well.

"Vermont is such a great place for artists," said Guigui, who spends half the week here and half in Boston. "I've had a great career. I've done a lot of what I set out to do professionally. I want to build a community now. Let's create something."

Guigui will host these evenings in the ballroom of the Brandon Inn every Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. Food and drinks are available at the Inn's bar.

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.

June 23

- Received a report that a wallet was stolen from a shopping cart at Hannaford Supermarket. Incident under investigation.

- Received a report of a larceny at Walgreens Pharmacy on Union Street.

- Received a scam complaint from a resident of Park Street involving someone impersonating the FBI. The matter is under investigation.

- Responded to the parking lot of the Hannaford Supermarket for a report of two small children left unattended in a car. The area was checked, but the vehicle had left prior to the responding officer's arrival.

- Dispatched to a 911 hang-up call at a residence on Park Street. Officers spoke to the homeowner and were able to determine that the phone call was accidental and due to phone issues.

- Responded to the area of Frog Hollow Road for a report of an individual driving recklessly on an ATV. The area was checked, but the ATV was not located.

June 24

- Received a walk-in complaint about harassing/threatening text messages that an individual has been receiving.

- Responded to a 911 hang-up call at a residence on Franklin Street. It was later determined that the property was vacant and no one was residing there.

June 25

- Received a 911 hang-up call from a vacant residence on Franklin Street.

- Traffic stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.

- Conducted a welfare check on an individual on Conant Square. The individual was lo-

cated and determined to be safe and in good health.

- Responded to a family disturbance call on Maple Street.

- Received a request for assistance from VSP-New Haven in serving a restraining order on an individual allegedly residing in Brandon on Wood Lane. It was later determined that the subject was living in Salisbury, not Brandon.

- Performed a civil assist on Mulcahy Drive regarding the return of property purchased online.

June 26

- Responded to Estabrook Park for a report of a man who had been sleeping in a truck for a few days and defecating in the area behind the outbuilding. The individual, who appeared to be homeless, was located, advised, and then moved along without incident.

- Dispatched to Neshobe Elementary School for a building alarm. Officers determined that the alarm was accidentally set off by staff members.

- Responded to a traffic hazard on Forest Dale Road where a tractor trailer knocked down phone lines. The traffic hazard was removed and Green Mountain Power and Comcast were contacted.

- Responded to a single-car rollover crash on Long Swamp Road.

- Received a request for a welfare check by an individual on his ex-girlfriend and their children, whom he believed reside in Brandon.

Conducted a ride-along.

June 27

- Received a complaint of a social media scam from a resident on Mount Pleasant Drive.

June 28

- Received a complaint of a pick-up truck getting hit with eggs on Carver Street.

June 29

- Received a report of a single-car crash at the intersection of Union Street and Indian Springs Drive. VSP-Rutland and Brandon Fire Department responded to the scene.

- Received a 911 hang-up call from the Lilac Inn on Park Street.

Ana Guigui

(Continued from Page 3)

who bought the Inn two years ago with his wife, Carolina.

"I thought, ok, we'll go over there and I'll pitch myself to Sid," recalled Guigui. "As soon as we walked in, I saw that grand Steinway and thought, 'Oh my God, this place is amazing.'"

The two Argentinians hit it off, with Ana playing tango for Sid on the Steinway.

"Everyone got excited by the possibilities," said Guigui.

"Ana is an accomplished artist who not only creates exquisite music but also brings enthusiasm and charm, fostering a delightful atmosphere that unites everyone for an evening of joy and sophistication," said Sid.

Ana's first event at the Inn—Fa-

24 Park St.

(Continued from Page 2)
cises which always culminated at the monument. Flowers were strewn around the monument, at first by the uniformed G.A.R. officer of the day, but around 1902, by young Brandon girls dressed in white. According to Dr. Thornton, it was most likely Frankie Ormsbee who started this Brandon tradition, still conducted each year.

In 1875, Frankie had also helped form the Brandon Citizens and Soldiers Association also to make sure Brandon remembered its lost soldiers.

Jolls Ormsbee was a great orator and would deliver the Memorial Day address each year and speak at many important Brandon events, including the 4th of July, a visit from President Teddy Roosevelt in 1902, and the dedication of the Stephen A. Douglas Monument in 1913.

The Governor always wore one of his trademark Derby hats, one of which survives to-day in a private collection.

Death of the Ormsbees
Frankie died in 1916 at 88 and the Governor at 89 in 1924. The house then went to their daughter Carrie who already

lived there. Carrie was a Smith College graduate with a degree in German and Art, studied mu-

Unfortunately, Carrie became progressively mentally ill, diagnosed as manic depressive, and didn't get the help she needed.

In 1937, the house then went to a cousin, Edgar "Cap" Jolls Wiley, the director of admissions and personnel at Middlebury College. He made \$3,800 in that position in 1940,

In 1963, Leon and Una Gay bought the house, moving from 28 Park, only two doors away. When they auctioned off the many contents of #28, they stated that they had "given up



LEFT: FRANKIE AND Jolls Ormsbee, circa 1868. Above: 24 Park Street, circa 1895, courtesy Phil Marks.

In 1936, she committed suicide in the house by drinking Lysol at age 63.

OTHER OWNERS

one of the highest salaries in town at the time (approximately \$87,000 today). The Wileys lived there only a dozen years before moving to Middlebury.


The next owner was a widow named Helene Luther, who continued renting an apartment there.

the burdens of a fourteen-room residence and have purchased a smaller 'all in one floor' home.

Leon Gay was a historian at heart, but had been in politics before moving to Brandon in 1952. He was the town rep from Cavendish and the state senator from Windsor County. He then became the President of the Vermont Historical Society and (See 24 Park St., Page 20)



A MEMORIAL DAY commemoration in the early 1900s. Flower girls in white can be seen toward the right side of the image, courtesy Phil Marks.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

inclined to take it. This is something that is out of your wheelhouse, but you'll make the most of it.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Leo, trusting someone else right now is something you might find challenging. It could be because you don't trust your instincts. You'll have to find a way around these feelings.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, you haven't been available for some key people, and you'll find they've pulled away. You may miss their presence, but you can mend fences if you hope to.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Libra, you have been making excuses for someone in your life in the hopes that the relationship could be salvaged. But the other person must make an effort as well.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Scorpio, you have been putting your goals aside due to overwhelming circumstances and general procrastination. Now is the time to get things back on schedule.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
It's time to engage with the activities that you are passionate about, Sagittarius. There is never a "right" opportunity to get

things started; you just need to take that first step.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Someone who understands you may enter your life, Capricorn. It may feel like you already know and understand this person, even though you have just met.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
It's possible that you might feel stuck with someone in a situation that is not to your liking, Aquarius. You can be a catalyst for change if you start taking action.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
You are about to have a eureka moment, Pisces. Everything you have been fretting about will then fall into place. It will be some smooth sailing afterwards.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

July 4 Calvin Coolidge, U.S. President (d)
July 5 Chuck Close, artist (d)
July 6 Frida Kahlo, artist (d)
July 7 Michele Kwan, figure skater (45)
July 8 Beck, musician and producer (55)
July 9 Tom Hanks, Actor (69)
July 10 Mavis Staples, singer (86)

24 Park St.

(Continued from Page 19)
very active in Brandon's society. In 1961, Leon was the chief editor of "Brandon, Vermont—A History of the Town" which covers the town's first 200 years of history. This book is available at the Brandon Museum.

The Gays lived at #24 until their deaths in 1972 and 1975. In 1976, the house was sold out of Leon's estate to a couple who quickly flipped it, then that buyer sold it in 1984 to Warren and Lorraine Kimble.

Of course, most in town know Warren and Lorraine. Warren is the most renowned artist in town, as all know. According to Warren, the Kimbles have owned 19 separate properties in town, both residential

and commercial, the latest being their current residence at 26 Park, next door to the Ormsbee House.

In 1987, Warren sold 24 Park to real estate broker Hanford Davis, who set up his office there for the next 31 years. He was very prominent in Brandon.

In 2018, Davis sold the house to Medana and Karl Gabbard and it became the Vermont Folk Art Gallery. Today, it exhibits Medana's art as well as that of Warren Kimble and Robin Kent. Tucked in a corner is an old photo of the Ormsbee family—Carrie, Jolls, and Frankie—sitting on the porch around 1910, a small reminder of the house's history.



At Devil's Bowl

Joey Scarborough wins Firecracker 44 in front of packed house at the Bowl

WEST HAVEN—Race fans were treated to a little bit of everything at Devil's Bowl Speedway on Saturday night. Primary sponsor, the McGee Automotive Family, powered the annual spectacular fireworks display and held a Thomas Rhett concert experience giveaway. And there were plenty of explosive moments on the track as well, with all six of the weekly divisions plus a 50-lap Enduro on the card at New England's fastest half-mile dirt track.

The main event of the evening was the Firecracker 44 for the headline division, Sunoco Sportsman Modifieds. Joey Scarborough charged from the 16th starting position to pick up his third win of the season and the \$2,000 winner's purse. Polesitter Josh LeClaire set the early pace and led until lap 26 when the caution flew. Kevin Chafee took the lead after the restart and threatened to pull away, but a pileup in turn four on lap 35 took out several contenders and reshuffled the deck. Soon after the restart, Scarborough wrestled the top spot away from Chafee and cruised to the checkered flag to secure his perch atop the point standings. Derrick McGrew Jr. slipped past Chafee for second, with Chafee finishing third to maintain a spot on the podium. Vince Quenneville and Dave Camara rounded out the top five. Camara earned the Elmo's Pit Stop "Hard Charger Award" of \$100 after gaining 20 spots from the 25th position in the lineup.

In the 25-lap O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman feature, New Hampshire native Kamden Duffy took advantage of a late race melee to capture his second win in the last three weeks. The Granite-stater started eighth and quickly moved into contention, patiently waiting for the right op-

portunity. Cody O'Brien dominated the early laps and appeared to be poised to take his first win of the season, but William Lussier, Bobbi Hults, and Matt Wade were in hot pursuit. Past winners Duffy, Marty Hutchins, and William Duprey were also weaving their way through traffic. O'Brien still led with three circuits remaining when caution flew, forcing the field to stack back up. On the restart, the field bunched up coming out of turn two, leading to a multi-car pile-up on the backstretch that ended O'Brien's chances and sent Lussier to the pits. When the green flag ignited the field for the final time, Duprey held the lead, but Duffy scooted around him down the back chute and held on to claim the checkered flag. Duprey crossed the line second, followed by Hutchins, Hults, and Logan Denis.

Queensbury, New York's Raelin Dunham has been knocking on the door of victory lane all season long at both Devil's Bowl and Airborne Park. It was finally Dunham's night as she grabbed the lead late and rolled to her first win of the season. Trevor Hurlburt and James McLellan led the field to the green, with both leading the pack during the early stages. Winston Forbes powered past McLellan on the backstretch on lap six as Dunham was surging toward the front. An incident on lap 7 took out three of the frontrunners, and Dunham restarted second. With Forbes guarding the low line, Dunham shifted up a lane, drove past the leader off of turn four on lap 13, and drove off for the win. Forbes held on for second. Rob Steele, Rob Steves, and Matt Cram completed the top five.

Defending track champion Gage Provencher took control early and cruised to an impressive

win in the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint feature. Jordan Zakrzewski led briefly from the pole, but once the driver known as "Pig Boy" found his way to the point, there was never a challenge as the 20-lap event went flag to flag. Destin St. Clair had a strong second-place run, followed by Ray Hanson, who advanced from the 10th spot on the grid, Quinn Quenneville, and John Smith.

After a one-week hiatus, Eric Friend returned to victory lane in the 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic feature. It was the third win of the season for Friend at "The Bowl," and fifth overall. Elisabeth Dupont controlled the pace early and battled to hold off Friend before settling for second. Chad Merrill, Norm Morrill, and TJ Knight also enjoyed top-five finishes.

The Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stocks ran split 15-lap features with a pair of first-time winners visiting victory lane. Jeremy Brownell Jr., whose father is a two-time winner, added to the family trophy case with a win in the first feature, fighting off Jake Mallory, who drove from the back of the grid to place second. Early leader Jon Jordan recovered from a mishap to finish third, followed by Caleb Sprague and Ryan Patch. Tyler Bell cashed in on the long trek from Peru, NY, to claim the second feature. Bell outdueled Kaleb Shepard, who led much of the contest. Jake Fountain, the senior Jeremy Brownell, and Chris Charboneau followed the top two past the flagstand.

Sunoco Sportsman Modified defending champion Tim Laduc traded his open-wheel machine for a full-fendered ride and made it look easy in the 50-lap Enduro. Laduc started 23rd and eased to the front in the early stages and (See Devil's Bowl, Page 23)

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New citizens

(Continued from Page 8)
speak.

The first to do so was Brie Gelinas, originally from Australia. Ms. Gelinas has lived in the United States for 13 years, 5 of them in Vermont, where has worked helping farmers adapt to climate change.

“It means a lot to hear so much about democracy,” said Gelinas. “It’s a beautiful day to celebrate both my new citizenship and my birthday.”

The second to take the podium was Florent Lulunga Akili, originally of Congo (Kinshasa). Mr. Lulunga Akili came to the U.S. through a resettlement program and has been in America for 6 years.

“It’s such a privilege to create a home here,” he said. “I was born in a refugee camp in Tanzania. This is such an incredible feeling. I don’t really



have words to describe it. For the first time I feel like I belong somewhere.”

The ceremony concluded with the twenty-six new Americans reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time as citizens. The Grace Church Sanctuary

Judge Lanthier had begun the ceremony with a story about a childhood friend whose mother had naturalized and how most Americans don’t realize the many hurdles that need to be cleared in the process of naturalization.

“There’s an extraordinary amount of work on the path to citizenship,” said Lanthier. “As new American citizens, you now enjoy all the rights this country guarantees. Democracy is fragile. This experiment requires constant vigilance to maintain its ideals. Take an active role in it.”

FROM TOP: AMERICAN Legion Post 31 with flags; first Pledge of Allegiance; Grace Church Sanctuary Choir; Reception cake; Brie Gelinas; Christopher Brickell.



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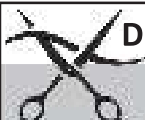


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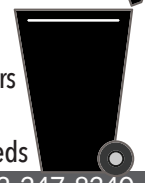
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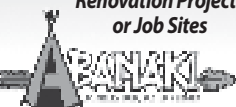
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Bats

(Continued from Page 5)

However, during the summer when bats have flightless young, you should not attempt to seal holes on the outside of the house where bats come and go, a practice which can result in more bats in your bedroom at this time of year.

“Waking up to a bat flying in your bedroom or suddenly uncovering a dozen bats roosting behind a rotting trim board during home repairs can come as quite a shock,” adds Bennett. “But don’t fear, because there are answers to your burning bat questions on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website using the search term—bats.”

Living with wildlife means considering the health and wellbeing of both the public and these fragile wildlife species. Although rarely detected in the general bat population, rabies is a deadly disease and should be taken very seriously.

If you are concerned that you have been in direct contact with a bat, have found a bat in a bedroom while sleeping or in a room with an unattended child, a pet, a person with a cognitive disability, or an intoxicated person, please call the Rabies Hotline at 800-4RABIES (1-800-472-2437). If the hotline staff or your health care providers

determine there is no concern for rabies exposure, the bat can safely be released outside.

Instructions for safely capturing, containing and releasing a bat found inside can be found on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website, including an instructional video.

“Living with wildlife doesn’t mean that we have to share our homes with bats in order to protect them,” says Bennett. “Our main concerns are avoiding human contact by safeguarding the living space, evicting bats from structures safely and providing alternative habitat for displaced bats.”

Fall and spring are the times to safely and effectively evict bats from structures where they are not wanted by following the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s Best Management Practices. These practices and a list of professionals who perform safe evictions are available on Fish and Wildlife’s website, by calling 802-353-4818, or by emailing Alyssa.Bennett@vermont.gov.

Large colonies of bats living in structures can also be reported on the department’s website to help find rare colonies of endangered little brown bats, which are eligible for free bat houses.

Hubbardton Battlefield

(Continued from Page 5)

and gunsmithing, and presentations by reenactors and historians. There will also be activities for children, a colonial shopping experience, and food available.

Revolutionary Weekend at Hubbardton Battlefield runs Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$8.00 for adults, \$1.00 for ages 6 to 14, and under 6 get in for free. The museum is open all weekend and features a shop with a selection of books and other items relating to the American Revolution.

This annual event is the result of collaboration by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, reenactor groups, and the Hubbardton Historical Society with support from other local organizations and businesses. Call 802-273-2282 for Revolutionary Weekend schedule details.

The Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site is regularly open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays to Sundays through October 19. For further information and event listings, visit us online and on Facebook at Vermont State Historic Sites.

Devil’s Bowl

(Continued from Page 20)

was never challenged. Dan De-forges was second, Jason Porter third, early leader Brett Wilbur fourth, and Jim Henry fifth.

The action continues at Devil’s Bowl on Saturday, July 5th, with

the “Mid-season Championships” with double features in all divisions and driver autographs at intermission. The 358 Modifieds will also be on hand for their second appearance of the year.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE 335 Deer Run Road, Brandon, Vermont

By virtue and in execution of a Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Teresa A. Dorr to Vermont Federal Credit Union dated June 10, 2019 and recorded in Book 243, Pages 195-207 of the Town of Brandon Land Records, of which Mortgage Federal National Mortgage Association is the owner and Vermont Federal Credit Union is the servicer.

Also by virtue of a Certificate of Non-Redemption dated October 14, 2024 and a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale entered April 9, 2024 in a matter entitled Vermont Federal Credit Union, As Servicer for Federal National Mortgage Association v. Teresa A. Dorr, et al., Case No. 23-CV-04351, both documents recorded in Book 262, Pages 311-318 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.

TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC SALE: For breach of the conditions of and for the purpose of foreclosing said Mortgage, and also for the purpose of effectuating said Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale, the property described in said Mortgage will be sold at **Public Auction on July 15, 2025 at 11:00 am at the property address of 335 Deer Run Road, Brandon, Vermont.**

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further Court order, and without publication of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: The property being sold is all and the same lands and premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

- Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Teresa A. Dorr by Warranty Deed of Barbara Watters dated June 10, 2019 and recorded June 13, 2019 in Book 243, Page 191 of the Town of Brandon Land Records, and being more particularly described as follows:
- Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Michael Watters and Barbara Watters by Warranty Deed of Concrete Forming Systems, Inc. dated December 8, 1989 and recorded at Book 103, Page 288 of the Town of Brandon Land Records and being more particularly described as follows:
- “Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Concrete Forming Systems, Inc. by William E. Brooks, by Warranty Deed dated April 29, 1988 and recorded in Volume 98, Page 474, of the Brandon Town Land Records, and described ... as follows:

- ‘Lot #57 of Forrest Brook Development as depicted on a plan of said Development drawn by Norman R. Smith, Inc. Resource Managers, of Rochester, Vermont, and, A Part of Forrest - Brook, Brandon, Vermont, dated May 11, 1984, and more particularly described as follows, viz:
- ‘Beginning on the northwesterly edge of a development road at an iron pin situated at the northeasterly corner of Lot #58; thence going N 35° 28’ E 115.5 feet along the northeasterly (sic - actually northwesterly) edge of said development road to an iron pin set in the southeast corner of Lot #56; thence N 60° 11’ W 191.5 feet along the southerly boundary line of said Lot #56 to an iron pin set in the southwesterly corner of said Lot #56; thence going S 36° 18’ W 115.5 feet to an iron pin set in the northwest corner of Lot #58; thence going S 60° 08’ E 193.1 feet to the place of beginning...
- The premises herein conveyed are a portion of those lands and premises conveyed to the herein Grantor, William E. Brooks, and Robert Forrest by Burton and Cornelia W. Baker by deed dated July 17, 1973, recorded November 12, 1973 in Book 82, Page 84 of Brandon Land Records.
- Reference is hereby made to Deed from Robert Forrest to the herein Grantor dated November 12, 1980, recorded in Book 85, Page 407 of Brandon Land Records.
- Together with a right of way, to be used in common by the Grantor, the Grantees, their heirs, successors and assigns, and other lot owners having the right to use the same, said right of way being for access, ingress and egress and utility line service to Lot #57 in the Forrest Brook development presently owned by the Grantor. Also conveyed is the right to construct, maintain and repair a roadway and utility lines within the right of way limits. Said right of way shall follow the course of the existing roadway proceeding from the end of the public highway which leads from Vermont Route #53 to Lot #57 and shall be 25 feet on either side of the center line of said roadway. Grantor herein, for himself, his executors, heirs and assigns, covenants and agrees to maintain the aforesaid roadway until such time as the same is accepted by the Town of Brandon as a public highway, in a manner favorably comparable to the standards exercised by said Town.
- Also conveyed is the right, in common with the Grantor, the Grantees, their heirs, successors and assigns, and other lot owners having the right to use the same, to take water from the existing well which is a common water source for Lot #57 and other lots in the Forrest Brook Development, and together with the right to construct, maintain and repair such pipe lines and other appurtenanc-

es as may be necessary in order to supply Lot #57 with the water from said well. Also conveyed is the right in common with others, via existing pipelines to enter on the Grantor’s lands in the area of said well for purposes of maintenance and repair.”

- Reference is hereby made to a Quit Claim Deed of Michael J. Watters to Barbara Watters dated November 24, 2004 and recorded in Book 171 Page 484 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.
- Reference is hereby made to said deeds and their records and to all prior deeds and their records for a further and more complete description of the lands and premises herein conveyed.
- The description of the property contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of typographical error in this publication.

TERMS OF SALE: To qualify to bid, prospective bidders must tender to the auctioneer before the sale the amount of \$10,000.00 (the “Bid Qualifying Deposit”) in cash, certified funds, bank check, or other primary bank obligation, unless the parties agree on some other amount. The property shall be sold to the highest bidder, and the successful bidder’s Bid Qualifying Deposit shall be held as a non-refundable deposit. All other Bid Qualifying Deposits shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders who supplied them.

The successful bidder will be required to sign a “no contingency” purchase and sale agreement at the conclusion of the auction. The sale is “AS IS, WHERE IS,” subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, municipal assessments, and other matters which take precedence or priority over the Mortgage. The closing shall be held, and the balance of the purchase price shall be due and payable in cash, certified funds, bank check, or other primary bank obligation, within fourteen (14) days after the sale has been confirmed by the Court, unless such date is mutually extended by the parties.

Other terms to be announced at the Public Auction. Inquiries may be made with the Thomas Hirschak Company, 1878 Cadys Falls Road, Morrisville, VT 05661. Telephone: 802-888-4662.

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By: Renee L. Mobbs, Its Attorney
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OVUU

(Continued from Page 9)

for the project, as it's still in the earliest phases of development. In a later conversation with The Reporter, Laurie Bertrand stated that it will be at least a year before the district seeks any bids on the project, and ground will not be broken for at least 5 years. The project will ultimately need to be funded largely through a school bond, to be approved by district voters.

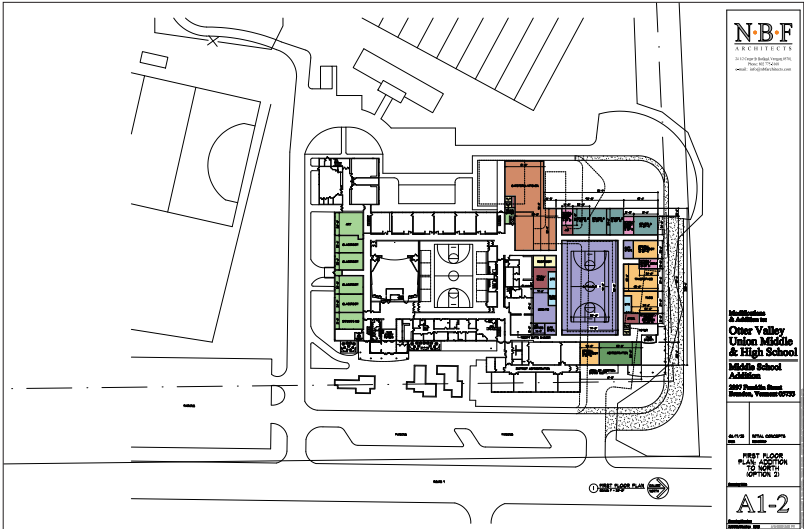
Ms. Bertrand also made clear that the bond, if approved by voters, will be carried by the entire state and not just by OV residents, meaning that the impact of the bond on individual tax liabilities will not be as significant as a bond taken out by a town, for example. As is the case with school funding generally, the state collects education taxes from across Vermont into a single pool and disburses money to districts according to their approved budgets. If OV voters approve a bond for the Middle School, the cost of that bond would be carried by all Vermont taxpayers. According to Ms. Bertrand, this is how Winooski and Burlington are financing

their new school facilities.

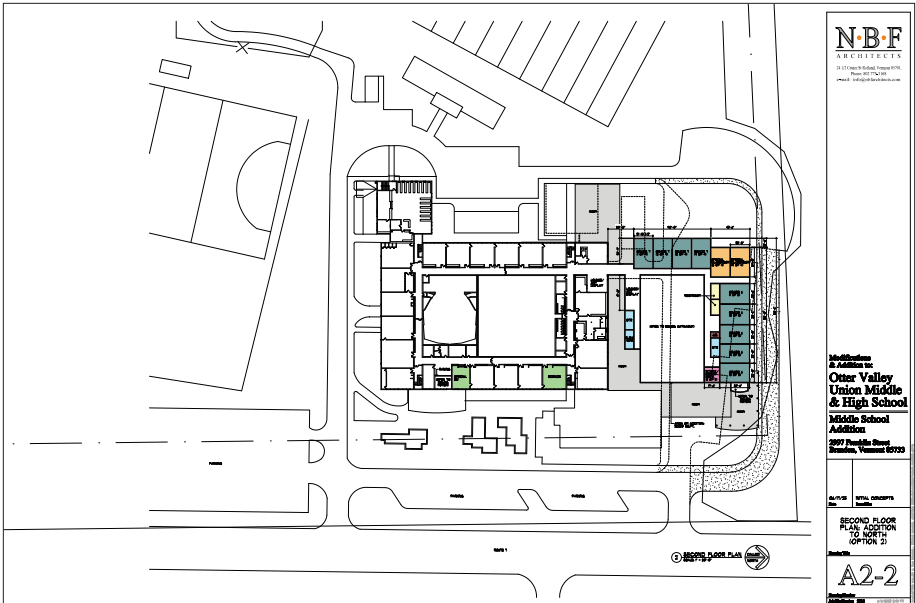
Ms. Bertrand also stated that the Committee and Board were especially eager to explore this expansion as a way to protect OVUU in the coming years, as Governor Scott has proposed consolidating Vermont's 52 Supervisory Districts into just 5. Scott's proposal would almost certainly necessitate the closure of smaller schools around the state.

"If we have plans in place to expand Otter Valley, the state is much more likely to keep OV open compared to smaller schools," said Bertrand. "We'd rather have students come to us than have to send our students to Rutland or Middlebury. We want to be prepared for whatever comes down the pike."

The OVUU Board is now on hiatus until August, said Bertrand. When the Board convenes again, it will begin reaching out to the community for feedback on the proposal, likely through public information sessions where OV voters can ask questions and express preferences before additional steps are taken.



OPTION 2, PICTURED here, would erect a new wing to the north of the building, sparing the athletic fields to the south. This option was favored by the Facilities Committee, the OVUU Board, and the school administration.



Celebrating the red white & blue



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