

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 30, No. 34

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

\$1



## ESTABROOK HOUSE

For 132 years, this historic Brandon house was the village doctor's office. **PG. 2**



## TRIVIA NIGHT

It was a battle of brains at Red Clover's Summer Trivia Series, which drew to a close Friday. **PG. 3**



## DEVIL'S BOWL

Joey Scarborough won Saturday's Charlie Laduc Memorial 54-lap race, making him this season's driver to beat. **PG. 9**



## SILENT MOVIE

Fritz Lang's espionage thriller "Spies" comes to the Brandon Town Hall with live music. **PG. 24**



## U.S. Rep. Becca Balint visits Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Vermont's U.S. Representative, Congresswoman Becca Balint, visited Brandon on Wednesday, August 20, to hold a discussion about democracy at the Brandon Free Public Library and view the flood-mitigation infrastructure that Brandon installed after the devastation of Tropical Storm Irene.

Balint began her visit at Brandon Community Health, where she said she "had a great conversation" with the staff. She then came to the library, where a capacity crowd had gathered to share their thoughts on democ-



U.S. REP. BECCA Balint visited the Brandon Free Public Library on Wednesday, August 20. Photos by Steven Jupiter

racy, specifically in reaction to "Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America" by historian Heather Cox Richardson.

A former middle-school social studies teacher, Balint was in her element leading the discussion of the 2023 book, in which the author describes the dangers currently threatening American democracy.

"I'm not expecting we're all going to agree," she said at the beginning of the discussion. "I'm not looking for group-think, but we need to wrestle with hard ideas."

Attendees expressed their (See Becca Balint, Page 8)

## Brandon SB talks tennis, skateboards, and asphalt

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened on Monday evening for its regular meeting.

With a minimal agenda, the Board was able to complete its business fairly quickly.

After approving agendas, minutes, special-event liquor licenses, a warrant in the amount of \$1,481,519, and a purchase order for winter sand in the amount of \$19,374.65, the Board invited town management to present its reports.

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented his report, the full text of which is reprinted in this issue.

Mr. Hopkins added some updates to his submitted report:

Wilk Paving was in town to grind down the pavement at the intersection of Town Farm Road and Newton Road in preparation for the paving project on Town Farm for which the Selectboard approved use of 1% local options tax funds. No property tax revenue will be spent on this paving. Town Farm Road will not be closed during the project, but Mr. Hopkins urged drivers to obey the flaggers posted on the road.

The oil tank was removed from the basement of Town Hall. The heating system for the building had been converted to propane and the tank was no longer needed. The oil in the tank was pumped out and its value will be credited to the town.

Tim Kingston has stepped down as Bran- (See Brandon SB, Page 6)

## NAMASTE! YOGA OPTIONS INCREASE IN OUR AREA

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Yoga is a set of ancient practices, with origins in the Indian sub-continent thousands of years ago. The word itself means "union" in Sanskrit and is related to the English word "yoke," in the sense of "to join together." One of the main purposes of yoga is indeed to create a union, one of mind, body, and spirit, through physical, mental, and spiritual engagement.

Though the mental and spiritual aspects of yoga are central to traditional practice, most of us are more familiar with the physical aspect, known as "Asana": the notorious joint-stretching poses that sometimes look impossible to non-practitioners. Some of the more famous ones have evocative names, such as downward-facing dog, goddess, and standing firefly.

Yoga has been popular in the United

States for decades now, moving from a counterculture practice associated with the hippie movement of the 1960s to mainstream physical exercise available in many gyms and health clubs.

Over the last few years, options for local folks interested in yoga have increased to the point where everyone can now find a teacher and a class that suit their physical needs, their personal approach, and their schedule. We no longer need to trek to Middlebury or Rutland to work with experienced teachers.

### BRANDON YOGA CENTER

On Route 7, just north of the intersection with Arnold District Road, is Brandon Yoga Center, which was founded by Judit Schneider in 2017.

Originally from Hungary, Schneider moved to Brandon from New Jersey with (See Yoga studios, Page 15)



THE BRANDON YOGA Center, at 1340 Grove Street (Route 7) in Brandon, ushered in a wave of yoga studios when it opened in 2017. Photos by Steven Jupiter



# Fourteenth in a series on Brandon's historic buildings

## The Estabrook House: a doctor's office for 132 years

BY JAMES PECK

It's rare when the same family owns the same house since the mid-1800s, and rarer still when that house was also the village doctor's office for almost a century and a half. The house at 7 Franklin Street is that rarest gem, where three important town doctors lived and practiced medicine to the greater betterment of Brandon.

honors from Castleton Medical College, "then one of the most flourishing institutions of the day" and had practiced a year in Ohio, then five in Salisbury.

Dyer was 39 when he started practicing in Brandon and moved into the house, which was built in the early 1800s and had been the Congregational parsonage a few years. His wife, Anna Holt Dyer, and their two children moved in

place, which is one of the most desirable in Brandon." The front fountain and marble curbing were added by Dr. Dyer in 1884 when the old fences, used by all to keep their animals in and others out, were taken down around town.

Dr. Dyer partnered with Dr. Chancey Case, who lived at 42 Park, to buy a 25-acre grape vineyard on Seminary Hill and raise many varieties of grapes. The vineyard was located off what is now East Prospect Street which was known as Vineyard Street at the time. A connecting street is still called Dyer Street today. Dyer also grew award-winning grapes behind 7 Franklin.

At the time, his land extended to Carver Street. The good doctor also raised prize stallions and mares in a big stable out back. He bred them meticulously and raced them on the Brandon race tracks off Grove Street (behind what is now the Brandon Yoga Center).

Mrs. Dyer died in 1891, and for the next 12 years, Dyer's niece, Louise Seeley, acted as the doctor's companion and nurse, often travelling with him in the winter as far west as California and even to the Holy Lands in the Middle East by steamer.

Upon his death in 1903, at age 80 of gastric cancer, he was remembered fondly by all in town. "It is given to few to number so many years of labor, in one of the most exalted of callings, or to display such unflagging enthusiasm for its toils. It is his honor that so many of the poor may remember him as a kind friend."

### THE FIRST DR. ESTABROOK

In his final years, when Dr. Dyer needed help or was on one of his winter trips, Dr. Estabrook, a new physician in town, would take over his practice.



THE ESTABROOK HOUSE as it appears today, near the intersection of Franklin and Park Streets in downtown Brandon.  
Photo by Claire Pate



OLIN G. DYER was a physician who built 7 Franklin Street in the early 1800s. Dyer Street on Seminary Hill is named for him.

The three doctors, one named Dyer and two named Estabrook, likely treated or delivered most of the town's residents from 1851 through 1983, including perhaps you, dear reader, or someone you know (this writer included)! They were on call 24/7, and never refused a patient even if they couldn't pay. And, yes, they all did house calls!

### DR. DYER

The first doctor was Olin Gideon Dyer, who bought the house in 1851 and had his office there for the next 52 years. Dyer came to Brandon from Salisbury at the request of Dr. Anderson Dana, then the town physician who lived in the big house at the east end of Park Street (now 74 Park, the home of Reporter editor Steven Jupiter).

Dr. Dana retired within two years and Dr. Dyer became Brandon's primary physician. In 1844, he had graduated with the highest

with him. Two more were born there, one named Anderson Dana Dyer after Dr. Dana.

In 1858, the local paper praised the new doctor: "He is a gentleman, well known and highly esteemed in our community, both as a man and a physician. For nearly seven years, he has gone night and day among us to bless the sick. A good physician is a great blessing to society."

After the Civil War, Dr. Dyer treated many of the injured veterans and served as the surgeon for those on pensions, for he was also a talented "sawbones."

In 1899, Dyer's biography described the house at 7 Franklin: "The doctor has thoroughly changed and modernized it, so that it has a much more youthful appearance than its age would indicate. Its fine lawns with beautiful hydrangeas and fountains, and the rich marble coping of 100 feet, add much to the appearance of the

Dr. John Wesley Estabrook was born in 1871 on a farm in Shelburne, VT and graduated with honors from the University of Vermont Medical College in 1895. In 1896, he came to Brandon to practice, specializing in children's diseases, and in 1899 married his first wife, Sarah Tiffany. She died of a kidney abscess at 31 in 1901.

Three months after Dr. Dyer died in 1903, Dr. Estabrook married Louise Seeley, Dyer's niece. She bought the house and contents out of Dyer's estate in January of 1904 for \$3,300 and Dr. Estabrook now moved in with her and assumed Dyer's office. For the next 80 years, there would be at least one Dr. Estabrook there.

A daughter, Viola, was born in 1905 and, in 1908, a son, John Seeley. According to "Ripley's Believe It or Not," he was delivered in the 7 Franklin office by his father, the office he himself would later occupy.

Over the years, John and Louise Estabrook were pillars of the town. The doctor was very active in community organizations, including the Rotary Club and the Masons. He was a director at the First National Bank and the Brandon Country Club and served in both school and Congregational church positions. Louise was active in the

Monday Club, at the church, and as a founder and staunch supporter of the library.

### THE SECOND DR. ESTABROOK

Their son "Seeley" graduated from UVM Medical School in 1929, did post-graduate at Mass General Hospital, then joined his father in practice at 7 Franklin Street. He married his first wife, Evelyn Greene, in 1934 and they rented the new house behind his parents at 10 Carver Street, from which Seeley could walk a few feet to the office. Their daughter Penelope was born later that year.

Now there were two Doctor Estabrooks in town, so the new one was called just "Seeley" or "Doctor Seeley" and his father was called "Doctor John" by most in town. Their office was in the north end (right side) of the house, where it had been since Dr. Dyer started his practice in 1851.

Back then, they would charge only \$15 for delivering babies, either in people's homes or in local hospitals. An office visit that had cost only 50 cents back when Dr. John started now was \$2. Like Dr. Dyer, they both worked 24/7 and treated patients regardless of their ability to pay. Neither doctor was in it for the money, nor did they get rich.

In 1946, Dr. Seeley divorced Evelyn. In 1951, he married Betty Moore Aines, who brought along her two teenaged children, Linda and John Aines.

Like his dad, Seeley became deeply immersed in community activities, at the church, golf club, Rotary and Masons, a 50-year member at each. He was a director of the Brandon National Bank and head of the school board. As a  
(See Estabrook house, Page 7)

**J. W. Estabrook,**  
Physician, Surgeon  
and Oculist

Telephone, 8 ring 11      Office Hours: 11 to 2, and 6 to 8 P. M.

7 Franklin St.      Brandon, Vt.

A BUSINESS LISTING for Dr. J. W. Estabrook, who married the niece of Dr. Dyer, the original owner.



# Red Clover Summer Trivia Series brings out the best—and the worst

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The only thing more insufferable than trivia nerds is trivia nerds who play in competitions. The winners' self-satisfaction and mockery of rivals can be a fetid mix. And the losers' descent into self-flagellation and self-excuse can be almost as hard to bear. All of it was on display during the first annual Red Clover Summer Trivia Series, which ended last Friday.

For six weeks, an agglomeration of eggheads turned Friday evenings at Red Clover Ale Company in downtown Brandon into a bubbling brew of esoterica and smack talk under the expert stewardship of "Baby" Jeff Haylon, former Jeopardy! contestant and kingpin of Brandon's trivia community.

Though the number of teams fluctuated from week to week, a solid handful of obsessive geeks stayed the course throughout the entire run, determined to prove to the world that they had nothing better to do on a Friday night.

The competition was broken down into weekly wins, with an overall series champion at the end. The various teams' fortunes ebbed and flowed, with rankings rising and falling, as Haylon's chosen categories meshed or clashed with team

members' strengths and weaknesses. The strongest teams comprised a range of expertise, like a gang of thieves planning a Vegas heist.

Yet, these teams weren't trying to stick up a casino but rather to face down their fellow dweebs and exclaim, "I am so smart! S-M-R-T!"

The 4th-place series finishers were Province 11, made up of trivia regulars Fiona Slattery, Steve Lohrenz, and Kas Singh. With one weekly win under their belts, they were underdogs going into the final and they remained underdogs when it was all over.

"Jeff Haylon is a b\*!locks," said Lohrenz afterwards in a dazzling show of grace in defeat.

In 3rd place was Goonlight in Vermont, a team composed of some of Brandon's trivia royalty: Andrew Cliver, Mat Clouser, Miranda Jane, Shelby Glaser, and Andy Gates. Goonlight was a strange-bedfellows team, composed of sometime-rivals who have separately competed in, and won, the Vermont Trivia Championships at the Brandon Carnival over the last few years. They joined forces to compete in the Red Clover series.

The goonlight wasn't bright enough, however. Although they won 2 of the weekly



throwdowns, they couldn't pull out the series win.

Goonlight member Andrew Cliver blamed it on the booze.

"We were overserved," said Cliver, clearly forgetting that teammate Andy Gates is one of the owners of the brewery. "A perfectly reasonable game of trivia was ruined by vice."

Taking 2nd place for the series was Rock Hudson Rules, (See Trivia, Page 11)



BRANDON'S TRIVIA IMPRESARIO, "Baby" Jeff Haylon, at Red Clover Ale Company. "Jeff is a warm, funny, very smart host. Sometimes way too smart!" said a trivia player. "Jeff puts on the best trivia we've ever experienced, across three different states," said Top of the Bell Curve.

## Spotlight On Business

### 22 PARK EATERY



22 Park Eatery is a local, casual restaurant celebrating its first year of business. Owned and operated by Chef Ken Lee and his wife, Heather, 22 Park presents a diverse menu of creative comfort food, including Certified Angus burgers, fusion rice bowls, salads, sandwiches, and

specials. For dessert, New England style hard ice cream is hand-scooped into dishes and cones by a warm and welcoming staff. Takeout available at [www.22park.com](http://www.22park.com) or call (802) 247 6657.



~ At ~  
Pittsford Village Farm  
42 Elm Street,  
Pittsford, Vt.



**Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Rain Date: September 13**

10am - 2pm • 10am-11am: Horns-free hour  
(for children with special needs and sensitive ears)

Touch-a-Truck is a family friendly event that offers children and families a hands-on opportunity to explore a variety of vehicles/machinery and to meet people who build, protect and serve the Pittsford area. Displays include construction equipment, trucks, machinery and emergency responders.

~ Food ~ Play Area for Kids ~ More! ~ LOTS OF FUN!

FREE EVENT! (Donations Welcome)



**PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG**



The Green Mountain Care Board significantly reduced initial requests by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP for much larger increases

# Vermont health care regulator approves lowest insurance premium increases since 2022

BY OLIVIA GIEGER/  
VTDIGGER

Vermont’s top health care regulator ordered health insurers selling plans on the state’s Affordable Care Act marketplace to keep their premium price increases for next year

much lower than the companies proposed in May.

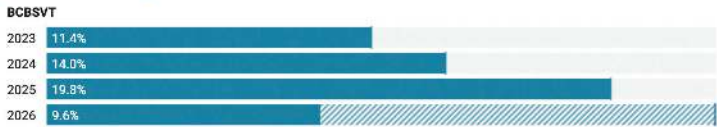
On Friday, the Green Mountain Care Board released its final decision on the percentage increase that it would allow. The order impacts so-called *(See Premium increases, Page 19)*

## Regulator lowers health insurance premium increases for 2026

The cost of individual and small group plans for purchase on Vermont Health Connect have increased by double digits over each of the last three years. The Green Mountain Care Board approved premium cost increases at lower rates than insurers requested in May and were being considered in July.

### Individual Plans

May 2025 proposal    Approved rates



Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

### Small Group Plans

May 2025 proposal    Approved rates

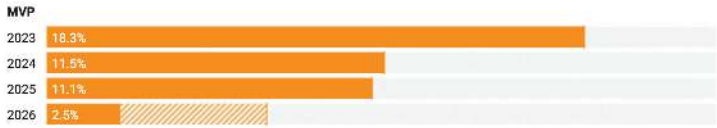
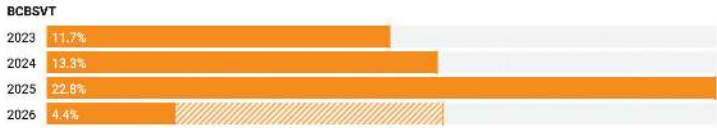


Chart: Erin Petenko • Source: GMCB, BCBSVT and MVP • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper



## My voice is my secret weapon

THE FAMILY OF empidonax flycatchers are difficult to identify unless they sing. This is a Willow flycatcher that sings “fitzbew.”

Photo by Sue Wetmore

# Community Forums Leashed tracking dogs for recovery of game available for this season

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is providing the following list of certified leashed tracking dog owners who volunteer during the hunting seasons to help hunters locate deer or bear that have been shot during hunting season but not yet recovered.

The leashed tracking dog owners, who provide their services free of charge, must pass an extensive exam in order to be certified and licensed to provide their services.

This list, which may be updated during hunting seasons, is available on the Vermont Fish

and Wildlife website.

**2025 VERMONT LEASHED DOG TRACKERS**

Name Town Phone Numbers  
Tim Nichols Granville, NY 518-642-3012 802-353-6020  
Travis Nichols Granville, NY 518-642-3012 518-932-6505

*(See Tracking dogs, Page 5)*

# Vermont bear hunting starts in September

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says bear hunting season starts in September and reminds hunters about the bear hunting regulations.

Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early season, which requires a special bear tag, starts September 1 and continues through November 14 with one exception. Nonresident hunters using dogs cannot start bear hunting until September 15. The late bear season begins November 15 and continues through

November 23. A hunter may only take one bear during the year.

In addition to a hunting license, a bear hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a prior or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

The hunter must field dress the bear before taking it to a reporting station. It is also legal to skin the bear and cut it up in order to carry it out of the woods. Although the bear must be reported within 48 hours, Fish and

Wildlife urges doing so quickly to cool the meat. The hunter must also collect and submit a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population.

Upon the request of a game warden, a person harvesting a bear is required to return to the kill site with a game warden.

“Bears will be feeding along *(See Bear hunting, Page 21)*

The Reporter

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

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

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

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## Community Forums

# The Queen requests your presence at the first annual Southern Vermont Renaissance Faire!

Why is everyone in the area rummaging around for medieval costumes and practicing their Th-

ee's and Thou's?

Because for the first time ever, the Southern Vermont Renais-

sance Faire will be happening at the Pittsford Rec on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 & 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.! Organizer Christa Downey, an artist and Renaissance lover from Brandon, along with Queen Colleen, is coordinating this event, filled with family-friendly activities and a special Glen of Mead for adults!

Renaissance Faires are popular all over the world, but they are definitely new to this area. Celebrating the romance and finery of a time long gone by, the Faire offers unique vendors, delicious food, wonderful music, and a sense of mysticism. You'll find horse-drawn wagon rides, hobby-horse jousting, performances by actors, a real live mermaid, great music, Vermont-made mead, and much more, with Quests for everyone to enjoy! (Quest = scavenger hunt—and it's not that easy! But awesome prizes!)

So, get dressed up! (Costumes are also available at the Rec!) Or you can come observe the magic of the Renaissance in your regular clothes. But don't miss this Inaugural Event! Tickets are available at the events—\$10 per person! See you there!



## Tracking dogs

(Continued from Page 4)

Nicholas Merritt East Fairfield, VT 802-238-3884 or 802-922-2515  
Mandi Harbec Orleans, VT 802-323-3536  
Bill Gaiotti Mt. Tabor, VT 802-345-8500  
Mark Harbec Orleans, VT 802-323-3536  
Nick Smith Groton, VT 802-486-9022  
Matt Bourgeois Whiting, VT 802-989-2213  
Riley Harness Newbury, VT 802-272-8955  
Crystal Earle Johnson, VT 802-730-5591  
Jason Cassant Fort Ann, NY 518-796-3215  
Steven Bourgeois Bridport, VT 802-758-2526 or 802-989-0026  
Matthew Anderson Orwell, VT 802-318-0260  
Jeremiah Gracie Lincoln, VT 802-349-4587  
Gabriel Gervais Bakersfield, VT 802-370-2288

Justin Robert Underhill, VT 802-324-2903  
Lucas Kane Highgate, VT 802-393-5335  
Dennis Jewett Jr. Bakersfield, VT 802-904-3423  
John Konya Bradford, VT 802-439-3838  
Kayla Konya Thetford, VT 802-333-0664  
Jon Earle Johnson, VT 802-730-5591  
David Wilder Barre, VT 802-522-6938  
Jason Fleury Barre, VT 802-522-5205  
Kaitlyn Tilton Waterville, VT 802-730-6121  
James Mazzola Fairfield, VT 802-379-5652  
Alex McClain IV Richford, VT 802-528-6264  
Alex McClain V Richford, VT 802-528-6264  
Tom Best West Pawlet, VT 802-287-1800  
Brent Grenier Troy, VT 802-274-9057

Don Morgan Charlotte, VT 802-777-6682  
Melissa Greenslit Leicester, VT 802-279-9740  
Justin Lord Northfield, VT 802-917-2090  
Daniel Dagget Newport, VT 802-238-7952  
Antonio Lee Salem, NY 518-769-5785  
Lane Wisell Pittsford, VT 802-558-6591  
\*Jeremy Rhodes Sharon, VT 802-356-9209  
\*Kristie Adams Pittsford, VT 802-483-6257 or 802-558-1143  
\*Shane Reed Wells, VT 802-287-0851  
\*Ethan Teague Franklin, VT 802-370-2831  
\*Mike Slattery Essex Jct, VT 802-777-2485

\*Semi-Active tracker  
Calls will be taken at the Handlers discretion and at the availability of the handler.

## Letter to the Editor

### Just wondering...

Remember when there were some Republicans in Congress who could work across the aisle and didn't always do what a Republican President told them to out of fear of retribution?

I never thought I'd be especially thankful for Vice President Pence, but remember when he stood up to Trump on January 6? In fact, remember Jan. 6?

What happened to personal integrity? Compassion instead of hate and fear?

Fellow citizens, please stand up to protect the Constitution and the Rule of Law, we are headed down the wrong path.

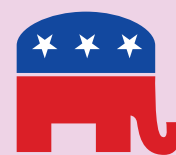
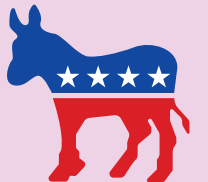
Jessica Doos  
Brandon

**Letters to the editor** Letters Policy: The Reporter will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed. Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent. The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge. Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m., Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)

## Leicester News

### Caucuses and bingo are on the horizon

**The Leicester Democratic Party Caucus** will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. at the white building (Senior Center) at the Four Corners. For more information, contact Joseph Watson at 802-735-6356.



**The Leicester Republican Party Caucus** will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. at the white building (Senior Center) at the Four Corners. For more information, contact Tom Barker at 802-247-3160.

**The Leicester Historical Society will be sponsoring Prize Bingo** on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. All are welcome and refreshments served.



This has certainly escalated quickly. National Guard units patrolling the nation's capital under Trump's orders are now carrying firearms.

The moment our military turns its weapons on American citizens marks a point of no return.

Yet, almost 1/3 of Americans support autocratic rule. Why? Is this who we are?

More at: [indivisiblebrandon.org/blue](http://indivisiblebrandon.org/blue)

(P.S. Don't forget about the Epstein files.)





## Announcement of passing

**DONALD FURNARI, 94**

Donald Furnari passed away Saturday, August 23rd at the age of 94. He leaves a loving family to rejoin his true love, Dolores.

## Community Development Report

Youth programming starting this week – Soccer (grades 3 – 6) Football (grades 3 – 8). Our rolling start to the season means that the Pre-k – 2nd grade offerings for both will begin on September 6th.

Based upon popular demand, Pee-Wee cheer is being offered for the fall season. Starting on September 7th, Kindergarten - 2nd graders will be introduced to cheerleading basics and skill building in anticipation of the winter season. This will precede the grades 3 – 6 fall cheer program.

B-rec youth Cross Country is back after a 6-year hiatus. Avid runner and Neshobe teacher, Katie Mack, will work with youth in grades 3 – 6 starting on October 3rd two days a week to prepare for the November 23rd at the Neshobe Pie Gobbler Fun Run Family Kick-ball at the Brandon Rec Baseball field at Neshobe starting in October. We provide the ball and pinnies, you provide the healthy competition!

Silent Movie update: the 1928 movie “Spies” show date has been moved to Friday, September 12th at 7:00pm. This former FOTH offering is growing in popularity. Free admission; any donations/concessions proceeds received will be used to fund the 2026 series!

The town hall is seeing an uptick in rentals from private organizations. These funds will be used to support renovations and upkeep.

Pickleballers have spoken; we are ramping up with the new paid registration for indoor pickleball. This has not been without some feedback.

We are committed to recouping some funding to help with future costs and projects.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Moore

## Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)  
don’s Animal Control Officer. The town will conduct an internal search for a replacement before opening the search to external candidates.

An attendee asked Mr. Hopkins to explain how the town recoups its costs to hold tax sales on properties in arrears. The question was prompted by the removal of some properties from the list of potential tax sales because the arrears were less than \$1,500. Mr. Hopkins explained that the town was simply complying with new state law that required arrears in excess of \$1,500 for tax sale. Mr. Hopkins also said that there were currently only 20 properties threatened with tax sale, down from 70 properties at the beginning of the process. Hopkins attributed the drop to the the owners having received letters from the town’s attorney and subsequently entering into payment plans with the town.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore delivered his Community Development report to the Board, the full text of which is reprinted in this issue.

Mr. Moore mentioned in his report that the town has implemented a fee for indoor pickleball, which has been held in the gymnasium at Otter Valley’s North Campus building. The new fee is \$50 for residents for 6 months and \$65 for non-residents. He stated that the money will be used for “future costs and projects” related to pickleball.

An attendee questioned whether it was appropriate to charge players for unspecified

“future” costs. Mr. Moore replied that the fees are in line with what other towns’ Rec departments charge and will be used to replace nets and to cover any potential expenses that Otter Valley passes to the Rec department for the wear and tear on their facility.

### TENNIS COURTS AT ESTABROOK PARK

In keeping with the discussion of pickleball, the Board unanimously approved a bid from VT Roadworks to resurface the tennis courts at Estabrook Park with asphalt to create a multi-use surface that could function as a tennis court, a pickleball court, or even a skateboard area.

The bid was for \$46,800, which will be covered by \$30,000 in allocated ARPA funds, \$5,000 in private donations, and up to \$15,000 from the 1% local options tax fund. The 1% expenditure is expected to be reimbursed from a fund left to the town for the maintenance of Estabrook Park by Penny Estabrook Mirchandi, who left money for the park in her will.

An attendee questioned whether asphalt was an appropriate surface for a court that will be used for tennis, stating that many players would not want to play on it. Mr. Moore reiterated that the court is intended to be used for multiple purposes, not just for tennis, and that this was a relatively low-cost way to provide a usable surface for a wide range of activities.

Board Chair Doug Bailey emphasized that the project will not use property-tax revenue.

## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family’s choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com). Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

## Vermont’s hunting season for gray squirrels opens September 1

MONTPELIER—The Vermont hunting season for gray squirrels begins September 1 and continues through December 31, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

“Vermont has a healthy population of gray squirrels, concentrated in southern Vermont and the Champlain Valley,” said Hunter Education Coordinator Nicole Meier. “They’re a fantastic small game species

for new hunters to learn the basics of reading the landscape, making a safe and ethical shot and cooking wild game.”

In Vermont, gray squirrels are often hunted with a .22 rifle, a shotgun or archery equipment. The department recommends that squirrel hunters wear a blaze orange hat and vest anytime they are afield.

The best habitat types for squirrel hunting are stands (See Squirrel season, Page 10)



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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





# Estabrook house

(Continued from Page 2)

long-time Chamber of Commerce member, he established their “Dollars for Scholars” program.  
Doctor John continued to practice until 1951 and passed away at 84 in 1956. His estate was valued at a modest \$56,000. Louise passed in 1959 at 88. They are buried at Pine Hill.



JOHN SEELEY ESTABROOK was the third doctor to occupy the house, after his father, J. W. Estabrook.

When Doctor John Estabrook died, he set up a \$10,000 memorial scholarship fund at UVM to benefit Brandon students of medicine. It later became the John W. and John Seeley Estabrook Scholarship Fund.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Dr. Seeley Estabrook continued to practice at 7 Franklin until 1983, when he passed at age 75. He was remembered as one who “elevated the practice of medicine to friendship and deep neighborly concern. With his quiet self-effacing humor and abiding personal integrity he touched our lives in ways that none of us will be able – or want – to forget.”  
Seeley had been inducted into the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame a few years earlier, for his prowess in basketball and football.

In 1986, the town named the athletic fields off Rte. 7 north of Brandon “Estabrook Field.” The dining room in the Brandon Inn, where the Rotary Club met, had already been named the “Dr. J. Seeley Estabrook Dining Room.” A sign still hangs there today.

The John Seeley Estabrook Memorial Trust was established in 1986. The award remembered a Brandon physician who excelled in both medicine and athletics, as is evidenced by the fact that among his many honors were induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame and being named Doctor of the Year by the University of Vermont. Unfortunately, this award ceased in 2019, and outstanding funds were transferred to the UVM Scholarship Fund.

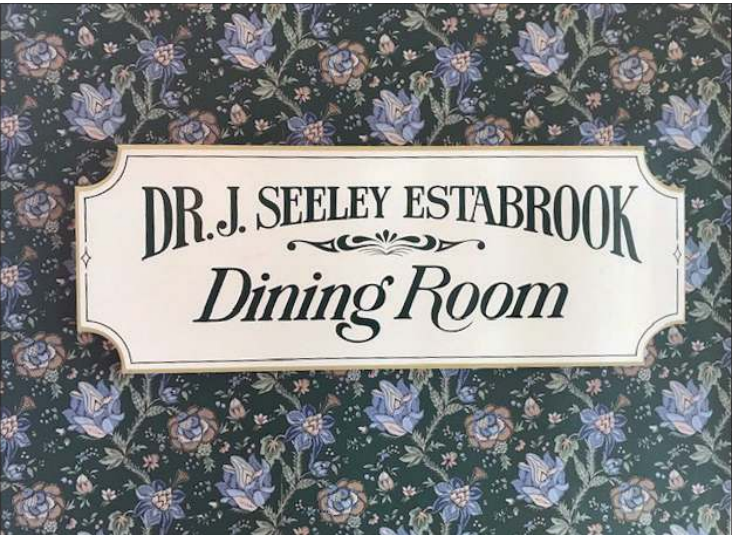
**PENNY**

Penny Estabrook grew up in the house in the 1930s and 1940s. She attended Barry College and Columbia University, where she wrote her Ph.D. dissertation on Indian classical music. She received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study Indian music in India and became a sitar student of one of India’s most renowned musicians, Ravi Shankar, and headed the Music Department for the American International School/ American Embassy School in New Delhi for many years.

Penny married K.T. Mirchandani in New Delhi in 1973. She lived in New Delhi until her death but visited Brandon every summer and the holidays for a few months, staying at the house and being very active

in community affairs. She carried the title of Doctor like the three before her, so it can accurately be said that a doctor lived there every year since 1851!

She died at 88 in 2023. In her will, gave the family home at 7 Franklin to the Brandon Library because her grandmother Louis Seeley Estabrook had been one of its founders. The will gave the library trustees 90 days to accept and specified that the house “be used as a satellite facility and called the Seeley—Estabrook Branch.” One room would be dedicated to the history of the Dyer/Seeley/Estabrook family in  
(See Estabrook house, Page 18)



ESTABROOK PARK AND the Estabrook Dining Room at the Brandon Inn are named after Dr. J. Seeley Estabrook.



PENNY ESTABROOK MIRCHANDI with her father, Dr. John Seeley Estabrook. Penny owned the house until she passed away in 2023.



**Chamber Music  
Concerts featuring  
Summer Faculty**

**Saturday, August 30th:**  
CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

All concerts start at 7:30 p.m.  
Admission is FREE.  
All are welcome!



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featuring Tony Arnold, Conrad Tao,  
and Bergamot Quartet

September 13th 7:30 p.m. at Barn Opera  
Tickets \$20 at the door

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# Becca Balint

(Continued from Page 1)  
fears and frustrations regarding what they saw as attacks on democracy by the Trump administration. They brought up the Capitol riot of January 6, 2021, which many attendees saw as a harbinger of worse things to come. January 6, 2021 was also Balint's first official day in office.

Balint called those events "traumatic" and stated that we haven't fully grappled with the effects. She also noted that a plaque had been fabricated in honor of the police officers who were attacked that day, but Speaker of the House Mike Johnson still refused to allow it to be hung in the Capitol.

She also noted that several of the rioters who had been convicted, imprisoned, and then pardoned by President Trump returned to the Capitol and sat in the gallery in the House of Representatives to intimidate Republicans in the chamber. She added that many Republicans in Congress acquiesce to President Trump in order to avoid his wrath and threats of harm.

She also said that many Re-

into authoritarianism."

"Democracy is fraying," replied Balint.

However, Balint also acknowledged that the Democrats have not agreed on their standard bearer in the fight for democracy, with the party divided as to who should be the public face of the party. But she advised attendees to stay the course.

"It's messy and there's no short cut," she said. "We have an erroneous idea about courage, that it's easy. It's not. It's scary. It only feels good in retrospect. Courage happens in uncomfortable moments."

Balint also said that Democrats need to change the way they communicate with the electorate.

"Republicans speak in headlines. Democrats speak in footnotes," said Balint, referring to the Democrats' tendency to get lost in policy details while Republicans make more of an emotional impact.

"People don't remember what you said, but they'll remember how you made them feel," she added.

After the discussion at the



**L TO R: Bernie Carr, Jeff Haylon, Bill Moore, Rep. Becca Balint, Devon Fuller, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Ray Counter, and Kyle Medash. Rep. Balint and the Brandon crew visited "Swift," the overflow culvert installed after Tropical Storm Irene.**

Fuller and Executive Director Fiona Slattery, and Kyle Medash, Western VT Floodplains Manager with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Rep. Balint had wanted to see the infrastructure that Brandon installed in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, which caused immense flooding in

downtown, famously lifting the original Brandon House of Pizza off of its foundation and depositing the building in the street.

Mr. Moore explained to Balint how Brandon was able to coordinate those flood-mitigation efforts with the renovation of the downtown that began in 2017.

The centerpiece of those efforts was "Swift," the overflow culvert that was built to allow excess water from the Neshobe to flow under Center Street to the lower falls behind Green Park. The culvert was named after Ethan Swift, who first proposed the concept. Mr. Swift was a Brandon Selectboard member who worked for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, where he is still employed as program manager in the Watershed Planning Program.

"Swift" performed as intended during the floods of July 2023, when towns such as Barre and Ludlow were inundated.

After viewing the culvert, Balint and her staff stopped in for maple creemees at Sweet Sappy's and sandwiches at Morningside Bakery, both on Center Street.

During a pause in the tour, Rep. Balint stopped to chat with The Reporter. Our questions and Balint's responses are given in abbreviated form below.

**Reporter:** Given that the current federal administration has been openly hostile toward Democrats and "blue states," what is the value to Vermonters in having a Democrat as our sole U.S. Representative?

**Balint:** All I can tell you is that I was put in office because Vermonters felt like I would listen deeply to them and carry their voices with me in committee and on the floor [of the House of Representatives]. And I know from the calls and emails we get (See Becca Balint, Page 14)



**REP. BALINT VISITED Sweet Sappy's and Morningside Bakery and chatted with constituents in Kennedy Park.**

publicans mock Trump behind closed doors and are not "true believers," though they show loyalty in public.

"It's very scary to be in political office right now," said Balint. "But if you're not able to do the job, let someone else do it. We were the class [of new Congresspeople] who ran toward the fire."

One attendee recounted the experiences of her Polish grandmother in the Nazi era, stating that the U.S. is "already well

library, Balint took a tour of downtown Brandon, accompanied by a contingent of town officials and community leaders, including Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore, Selectboard members Cecil Reniche-Smith and Jeff Haylon, Water Superintendent Ray Counter, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bernie Carr, Downtown Brandon Alliance President Devon





## At Devil's Bowl

# Joey Scarborough Captures Charlie Laduc 54, Solidifies Spot in Vermont 200

WEST HAVEN—Joey Scarborough continued to add to his career-best season as he captured the Charlie Laduc Memorial 54-lap event Saturday night at Devil's Bowl Speedway on Hurlburt Supply night was the fifth win of the season for Scarborough at The Northeast's Fastest Dirt Track, securing his spot at the top of the circuit's point standings. He also earned a guaranteed spot in the Fabian

Earth Moving Vermont 200.

Vince Quenneville and Tanner Siemons brought the field to the green flag, with Siemons leading the first seven laps. Scarborough slipped around Siemons on lap eight, but Brian Calabrese was on the move after firing from the seventh starting spot. Scarborough held the point until the yellow came out on lap 34. On the restart, Scarborough drove underneath

Calabrese, forcing the CJ Richards Memorial 67 champion to slide way out to the berm while retaking the top spot. "Joey then drove off into the night from there and was never challenged. With the win, Scarborough also increased his points lead as his closest challenger, Josh Sunn, crossed the line second. Tim Laduc, the son of "Old Reliable," as Charlie Laduc was nicknamed, was up

on the wheel all evening while driving from 14th on the grid to third to claim the Elmo's Pit Stop Hard Charger Award." Calabrese and Siemons rounded out the top five.

Cody O'Brien has been so close to garnering his first win that it had to be getting frustrating. O'Brien had done everything but pull his car into victory lane. This week, it was finally O'Brien's time to finish the job as he led from green to checkers in the O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman 25-lap main event. O'Brien sprang from the pole position and seized control right from the start. Boomer Patterson, Jason Quenneville, and Matt Wade, who were all also searching for their first wins, tried their best to hang with O'Brien, but it was to no avail. Patterson, on several occasions, looked underneath O'Brien out of turn number four, but O'Brien had too much power down the straightaways. Patterson continued to turn his season around as he added another podium

finish to his resume with a runner-up finish. Quenneville was third, Wade fourth, and Tyler Travis fifth. After the race, an emotional O'Brien dedicated the victory to his "grammie," as it was his first win since her passing.

Rob Steele continued the trend of start-to-finish first-time winners as he led every lap of the Hoosier Tire Novice Sportsman feature for his inaugural open-wheel win. The former Crown Vic champion made a dive bomb move on the start to grab the early advantage and never relinquished it. Steele is having an impressive first season as he also sits in the top five in points and is within striking distance of wearing the crown. One of last week's feature winners, Trevor Hurlburt, gained seven spots during the race to provide Steele with a formidable challenge, but the No. 227 was just too strong. Hurlburt hung on for second, Winston Forbes improved by nine spots to place third, Aiden Benoure fourth,

(See Devil's Bowl, Page 23)



## Upcoming events around Brandon

### Southern Vermont renaissance Faire

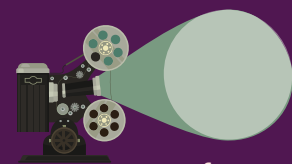
Sept 6-7, 10-2 p.m., Pittsford Rec

A fun day of food, activities, quests, pony rides, and more! \$10 per person, [www.southernvtrenfaire.com](http://www.southernvtrenfaire.com)



### Friday Night Frights!

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31! 7:30 p.m., Barn Opera, Pearl St, Brandon



Your favorite Horror movies on the big screen for you! Join our email list at [www.barnopera.com](http://www.barnopera.com), [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com) or by emailing [wright@barnopera.com](mailto:wright@barnopera.com) to learn what the movie will be! Tix available online at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)

### Halloween Masquerade Ball!

Oct 18, 8-11 p.m., The Barn on Pearl Street in Brandon

An adult party with great music, an outdoor fire pit, Fairly Buzzed bartending, a lounge and amazing dance floor! Prizes for the best costumes! 18+ only, and be sure to bring your ID if you want to drink! Tix available at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)



### Eagle Feather Pow Wow

Sept 19-21, Estabrook Park, Brandon

An all tribe gathering with music, dance, food and more! Contact Peggie Rozell for more information!



### Harvest Fest!

Oct 5, 1-4 p.m. Estabrook Park, Brandon

A celebration of the harvest! Buy and dress your own leaf person! (\$20 per scarecrow, including dressup!) Music by Cry Baby! Pony Rides, a Wagon ride, photo ops, amazing vendors! Don't miss it!



### Spooksville!



Oct 24, 5-6:30 p.m., Estabrook Park

A fun trunk or treat for kids- please be in costume! We open at 5! more info at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)

### Not so Scary Halloween Party!

Oct 26, 1-3 p.m., The Barn on Pearl Street

Halloween should be fun, not too scary for our little kids! This is an easy, drop in afternoon with family friendly decorations and music, maybe a short kids Halloween movie and games! We are currently building this event so more details soon at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)





# RNESU Welcomes 30 New Employees

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is excited to introduce 30 new employees who will be working throughout the district in all capacities for the 2025-2026 school year. Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to our schools:

**AT BARSTOW:**

- Samantha Greene - Paraeducator
  - Jacqueline Hunt - Music Teacher
  - Shannon Merrill - Paraeducator
  - Rebecca Petsche - Paraeducator
- AT LOTHROP:**
- Becky Chapin - Paraeducator
  - Chloe Derepentigny - Paraeducator
  - Thomas Kingsley -

**AT NESHOBE:**

- Emma Atlee - Paraeducator
- Julia Lee - School Nurse
- Erica Mahoney - Paraeducator
- Christopher Schaner Jr. - Custodian

**AT OTTER CREEK ACADEMY:**

- Ashley Carrara - Paraeducator
- Isaac James - Paraeducator

**AT OTTER VALLEY:**

- Ethan Cameron-Vaupel - PE Teacher
- Nakeeya Deas - Health Teacher
- Alexandra Duby - Floating Substitute
- James Hill - Paraeducator
- Hayden Hull - Paraeducator
- Chauca Moore - High School Science Teacher
- Michelle Pierpont -

- Academic Interventionist Danielle Ploof - Middle School Science Teacher
- Jennifer Roberts - Library Assistant/Media Specialist
- Amber Rougier - Paraeducator

- David Rugger - Vocal Music Teacher
- Kathryn Wallett - School Counselor, Grades 9&10
- Rylee Woodall - Academic Interventionist
- James Yager - Head Custodian
- Hailey Yarrusso - Paraeducator

- AT RNESU:**
- Ishan Deshpande - Data Manager
  - Michaela Sherwin - Custodian
  - Jill Doody - Coordinator of Communications and Outreach

## RNESU Honors Local Faculty and Staff Members

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is excited to announce our Celebration of Contribution honorees. These are the staff members who have made outstanding contributions to our district and have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to excellence. RNESU is dedicated to the development of character, competence, creativity and community and we have a faculty and staff that embody these qualities on a daily basis. Although it is never easy to celebrate only a few individuals, this year's recipients are extremely deserving of the recognition. It is our distinct honor and privilege to call them colleagues and members of

the RNESU professional community serving our schools, its students, and families.

The 2024-2025 school year honorees include:

**DISTINGUISHED LICENSED PROFESSIONALS:**

- Erin Bodin – Barstow Memorial School
- Tammi Blanchard – Lothrop School
- Hannah Fjeld – Neshobe School
- Brenna Kimball – Otter Creek Academy
- Rachel Valcour – Otter Valley Union Middle and High School
- Michael Wood – RNESU

## Squirrel season

(Continued from Page 6)

of nut-bearing trees like oak, hickory and beech. The daily bag limit is four gray squirrels, and the possession limit is

eight.

“Gray squirrels are incredibly tasty -- many would say better than rabbit,” said Meier. “You can find great gray squirrel

recipes in classic cookbooks, trendy culinary magazines and anywhere that publishes wild food recipes.”



**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

Eric Mallory, Shop Owner • Chuck Havens, Technician

## Undercoating

The best time to do it is summer!

Wash + Wax • Woolwax undercoating

**WE DO** • Exhaust systems • Brakes • Shocks and struts • VT State inspections • Oil changes • Flat tire repairs

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# Trivia

(Continued from Page 3)  
whose core consisted of Chris Szczerba, Nick Tocci, and Eve Beglarian, a rollicking rainbow trio who often found themselves in 3rd place week to week (with 1 weekly win).

“We’ll be ecstatic if we win,” said Szczerba before they lost. “As long as we make Rock Hudson proud.”

And coming in 1st for the series, with two weekly wins, was Top of the Bell Curve (TBC), a team whose name may denote something common but whose performance was anything but. The team may have been relatively unknown before this series, but it has absolutely announced its arrival on the Brandon trivia scene with this win. Members Evan Camrud, Kira Rahn, Laura Biester, and Chet Aldrich all work as professional poindexters, with Camrud, Rahn, and Biester teaching STEM at Middlebury College and Aldrich working in computer science. “I told you

we would win,” said Aldrich with his trademark humility. “This was really a one-team race.”

In the interest of full disclosure, TBC did reveal that sometimes they prevailed only because other teams stumbled. Utilizing a time-tested trivia strategy, they secured some of their weekly wins primarily through prudent waging on the final question rather than solely through mastery of the material. Does that taint their win? Goonlight in Vermont thinks so.

Like the Sharks and the Jets, the Montagues and the Capulets, the Hatfields and the McCoys, the rivalry is all in good fun. Or so they say through forced smiles.

*Like the Sharks and the Jets, the Montagues and the Capulets, the Hatfields and the McCoys, the rivalry is all in good fun. Or so they say through forced smiles.*

Like the Sharks and the Jets, the Montagues and the Capulets, the Hatfields and the McCoys, the rivalry is all in good fun. Or so they say through forced smiles.

There’s always next year!

The final question of the entire series:

“Which U.S. President is the only one whose first, middle, and last names all have the same number of letters?” [See answer under the horoscope.]

## the MAPLE COW® by Matt Aucoin



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### ARIES March 21–April 20

You’re feeling bold this week, Aries. Use a surge of energy to speak out about something that needs to be said. Be mindful of how others may receive it.

### TAURUS April 21–May 21

Stability and home life are in the spotlight, Taurus. You may be called to handle something domestic or financial. Use your natural patience to avoid impulsive decisions.

### GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, conversations will flow with ease this week, and you’ll be a magnet for interesting ideas. If you have been waiting to pitch an idea, do it right now.

### CANCER June 22–July 22

Cancer, you may assess your value right now, both financially and emotionally. An important decision requires you to have a level head. It’s a great week to update a budget.

### LEO July 23–Aug. 23

This week invites you to step into the spotlight, Leo. This is just where you like to be. Don’t be afraid to own your power and reveal something personal to friends and family.

### VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, you are more introspective than usual. Take time to reflect and recharge this week. Old memories or unfinished business might resurface and you have to face it head on.

### LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Your social life picks up, and someone in your network may present a useful opportunity. Be open to collaboration, Libra. Just don’t say yes to too many things at once.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Currently your ambition is in focus and others are noticing, Scorpio. A professional opportunity may come your way, but don’t rush the details. Trust your intuition when negotiating.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

You are craving inspiration and something new, Sagittarius. This is the week to explore new ideas, travel or study something interesting. A philosophical discussion might come up.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Capricorn, change is in the air whether you invite it or it finds you. Emotional matters may require some extra attention right now.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, all of your partnerships are going smoothly right now. You may need to readjust your expectations to reflect your productivity. A turning point comes into play midweek.

### PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Think about looking at your daily habits, Pisces. Figure out if anything needs to be tweaked. You need to take care of yourself and prioritize your health.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 29 Michael Jackson, musician (d)  
Aug. 30 Capability Brown, horticulturalist, landscape architect (d)  
Aug. 31 Van Morrison, singer (80)  
Sept. 1 Zendaya, actor (29)  
Sept. 2 Keanu Reeves, actor (61)  
Sept. 3 Ferdinand Porsche, automotive engineer (d)  
Sept. 4 Richard Wright, novelist (d)

## Fall plants are here!

Mums 3 for \$27 • Asters 3 for \$33  
Many house plants to select from.

### Fall decor:

beautiful ornamental cabbage & kale • colorful millet • graceful grasses • blooming fall perennials

**Specials:**  
20% off select trees, bushes & perennials

Corn & veggies from local farms

New fall hours start Sept. 2  
12–5 weekdays & Sundays  
10–5 Saturdays  
Open Labor day, Sept 1, 10–3



Virgil AND Constance

2473 Franklin Street (Rt. 7 South) • Brandon  
802-247-0062 • Cell 324-0613  
Tim and Mary Shields, owners

Answer: Ronald Wilson Reagan



# Calendar of events

## August

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

#### Maclure Library Yoga -

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

### Tuesdays

#### Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

#### Pokémon Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

3–5 pm. Ages 7+.

#### Magic the Gathering at the Brandon Free Public Library

5–7 pm

#### Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

#### Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library

5–6 pm

### Wednesdays

#### Ping Pong

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

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

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

great game of "Pong!"

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

#### 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

### Music at the River Bend

Behind the Brandon Inn, 6-8 p.m.

Aug 27: Ten Rod Road

Classic Brandon band reunites for one show!

Rain location: Town Hall

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](mailto: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 Consciousness, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

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

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

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

### Thursdays

#### Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Art Center from 12–1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying

playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

#### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

#### Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Fridays

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

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

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week.

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

#### Brandon Senior Center Game Day

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

#### Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

### 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](mailto:ceastman88@gmail.com)

"The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."

### Pittsford Historical Society

Preserve Our Town



Share Your History

The Pittsford Historical Society is a group of members to help preserve our history. We collect photographs, postcards, letters, and other items related to Pittsford's people, places, and events.

#### How It Works:

Bring your items to the Maclure Library or the Pittsford Historical Society. We will scan and document them. You take your originals home with you.

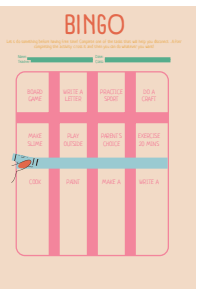
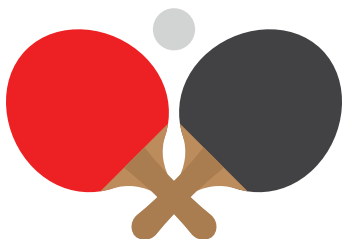


Protect Your History. Contribute to the Collection. Share your story.

Let's work together to make Pittsford history.

For more information

802 483 2972 or contact





## 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.

## Historical Society

own's Story

## Share Your Photos & Historical Documents!

Inviting all community story! Bring in your old maps, and other documents, events, and history.

library

y

on-site.

you.



## Why Participate?

t and preserve local history to our community archives family's stories with future generations

tsford's history complete!

ion, contact:

@maclurelibrary.org

## Wednesday 27th

### Social Tinkering presents Gather Together — Brandon Free Public Library

A free event for all ages to meet and simply hangout! Come chat, snack, or do activities with your neighbors! An opportunity and space for people to simply meet and socialize.

This is a zero-pressure space. Feel free to chat with others as much or as little as you feel like! We provide snacks, beverages, and activities.

### Karaoke 101 with Tenacious T — Rutland

Come on out to Bailey's Place, 13 Evelyn St., Rutland, Vt. from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Wednesday, with Karaoke 101 with Tenacious T as your KJ host of the evening.

Come get yourself a frozen delicious drink or any of their fantastic drink specials. Come have a fantastic time

singing your favorite tunes.

## Thursday 28th

### The Glitter Ball! — Artistree Community Arts Center

Join us for a sparkling evening with NYC performer Krystofer Maison, local drag queen Faye King, and the jazz band Grey Cats to celebrate the magic of music, local community, and the release of Krystofer Maison's new single, "Glitter Rinse Repeat."

Door opens at 7 p.m. Performance at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$50. Each ticket includes a signature cocktail or mocktail from our friends at Babes Bar!

Based in New York City, Krystofer Maison, singer, performing artist, and songwriter is a classically trained vocalist with an extensive theatrical background.

Faye King is half goddess half glam, all smoke and mirrors ready to steal your breath, your secrets and maybe your man. She is a Woodstock-born burlesque and drag queen bringing glamour, wit, and a touch of mischief to every stage.

Grey Cats are a trio of keyboard/vocal, flute and acoustic bass based in Barnard, Vt. playing jazz standards, pop and blues. Grey Cats offer a sophisticated, listenable sound providing a fun, casual and welcoming atmosphere. Artistree Community Arts Center 2095 Pomfret Road, Pomfret.

### Advanced Directives Workshop — Rutland Free Library

This workshop will assist community members in completing their advanced directives, sharing tips, answering questions and stimulating conversations. Advance care planning includes completing an advance directive, sometimes known as a living will. It includes appointing a healthcare power of attorney, which is someone designated to make healthcare decisions on your behalf when you are no longer able to. Once you have completed your advance directive, do not lock it away in a desk or safe; share it with family members and providers who may need to access it. Encourage others in your life to do the same. Contact Nicole DeNoyers to sign up: 802-438-8111 or nicole.denoyers@vnaahs.org. From 12-2 p.m. at the Rutland Free Library, 10 Court Street, Rutland.

## Friday 29th

### Town Hall Theater Free Summer Concert — Bobby Alu

Outdoor weekly free concerts in Town Hall Theater's new plaza, with a bar and food trucks! Australian/Samoan singer, ukulele strummer and drummer Bobby Alu, with his band of musical soul brothers, ride the groove spectrum from Polynesian folk through roots, reggae, harmony laden soul to tropical pop. Catch Bobby's U.S. tour at THT.

5:30-7 p.m. Outdoor bar. Food by Rollin' Rooster.

### Opening Reception for Quiet Witness: An homage to the flora and fauna of Vermont — Next Stage Arts

Join us for the opening reception of our exhibit featuring the work of Briony Morrow- Cribbs.

A Vermont-based printmaker and illustrator, Morrow-Cribbs draws on over 30 years of etching experience to create intricate, richly detailed creatures—both real and imagined—that explore the boundary between human and animal experience. From 6-8 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney.

### One Room Theatrics: The Faculty Room — Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill

One Room Theatrics presents Bridget Carpenter's The Faculty Room, directed by Mike Mitrano. The Faculty Room

explores the darker side of high school life from the inside of that mythic room, the teacher's lounge. English teacher Adam, Drama teacher Zoe, and Ethics teacher Bill, along with mysterious new World History teacher Carver, are all taunted by the disembodied voice of Principal Dennis on the P.A. system. A funny and caustic look at how truly messed up the relationships between teachers and students can get, The Faculty Room erupts with gunshots, desperate longing, and a growing wave of spiritual fanaticism. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance at [www.oneroomtheatrics.com](http://www.oneroomtheatrics.com) or at the door (cash only). This performance is meant for mature audiences. From 7-9 p.m. at Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main Street, Poultney.

## Saturday 30th

### Medusa Quartet at Burnham Presents

With a spellbinding lineup of instruments—some long forgotten, others reinvented, this Toronto based all-star collective of folk innovators weaves together the sounds of the Middle East, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Appalachia, and more. Get ready to stomp your feet, laugh, cry, and hear sounds you've never heard before. Medusa is a genre-defying chamber-folk quartet that fuses centuries-old string traditions with contemporary storytelling and original compositions.

Doors 7 p.m. Music at 7:30 for 2 sets. Sliding scale admission. Tickets and concert information: <https://www.burnhampresents.org>

Homemade refreshments & good company. Burnham Hall, Lincoln.

# September

## Wednesday 3rd

### Fair Haven Food Truck Frenzy

Fair Haven's Food Truck Frenzy returns Sept. 3, 5-9 p.m. in the park! Enjoy food trucks, live music by J Michael Kelley, local artisans, and a beer & wine garden. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, relax on the green, and enjoy great music while you sample everything the event has to offer. Admission: Free! Bring money for food, drinks, and shopping.

Here's just a taste of what you can expect: 80k – The lobster roll legends, serving up the freshest rolls around. Rollin' Rooster – Crispy, juicy chicken favorites that always draw a crowd. Hound Dogs – Gourmet hot dogs with unique toppings and bold flavors. Hangry Hogg – Rutland's premier BBQ food truck, smoking up the best barbecue you'll find anywhere. The In-Law's Five Buck Truck – Grilled sandwiches and fried comfort foods, perfect for a hearty meal. Michelle Creations & Baked Goods – Freshly baked

treats to satisfy your sweet tooth. Little Breakfast – Morning favorites served up all evening long. Mr. Ding-a-Ling – A classic ice cream truck bringing childhood nostalgia (and plenty of sprinkles). The Ice Cream Cart – Scoops of happiness, cool and creamy. The Lemonade Stand – Fresh, cold, and zesty—perfect for a warm night. Creemee & Shake Vendor – Vermont's favorite summer treat and thick, delicious shakes. Right across the street outside the Yoga Studio, you'll find our Beer & Wine Garden.

## Thursday 11th

### Rutland Fall Job Fest

Join us at Depot Park in Rutland for the Rutland Fall Job Fest on Sept. 11! From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can meet employers and partner state agencies to take the next step on your career path. Polish your resume and come out! This event is completely free.

Sponsored by the Vermont Department of Labor, Catamount Radio, and Hire-Ability Workforce Partners. If you have questions, call 802-786-5837. If you need special accommodations to attend this event, contact [labor.communications@vermont.gov](mailto:labor.communications@vermont.gov) by 9/4/25. Requests received after that date cannot be guaranteed, but every effort will be made to provide the accommodation requested.



## Free Medical Care for Adults Wednesdays in Aug. 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 August from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at our offices at 204 North Main Street, Rutland, Vt. No appointment is necessary. For appointments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.



# Becca Balint

*(Continued from Page 8)*

that people do feel like they are represented. Now, of course, there are people who disagree with the stances that I take, but I pride myself on being able to sit and talk and listen to anyone, and I'm always trying to make connections across the aisle. What I hear overwhelmingly from Vermonters is that they want me to do everything I can to preserve and protect democracy and their constitutional rights. I believe absolutely that we will navigate our way through this, and the only way we're going to do this is to find common ground. Tell me about your family and

I'll tell you about mine.

**Reporter:** You were in Montpelier for many years. Now that you're in Washington, with a more bird's-eye view of Vermont, has your perspective on your home state changed?

**Balint:** The work that I do on the Budget Committee and the Judiciary Committee is still very Vermont focused. How is this piece of legislation that is moving forward going to impact Vermonters? Or how is this funding stream going to impact Middlebury or Brattleboro if those federal dollars don't come through and they can't finish their projects? So, in

that way, I'm still very focused on life on the ground in Vermont. But one thing that has absolutely changed is the 24-hour news cycle in Washington, where people are speaking in committee just to go viral on social media and not because they actually have a point to make about the bill we're debating. Still, the best way for me to communicate with Vermonters is through local media like you and the Rutland Herald and Vermont Public.

**Reporter:** What are you working on now that has you the most excited?

**Balint:** I'm continuing to fine-tune my

omnibus housing bill that I introduced last session. We're continuing to meet with housing partners across the state to make sure that we're being very bold in our initiatives. We're not going to be able to solve the housing crisis in Vermont on our own. Of course, I've not been alone in that, but I've been like a dog on a bone. A lot of the work that I've done to elevate housing is now going to be front and center in the vision for where we're going. So that feels really good, and I'm going to keep doing that.



CONGRESSWOMAN BECCA BALINT at the Brandon Library and other locations around Brandon.



# Yoga studios

(Continued from Page 1)  
her husband, Jack, in 2016. She had been practicing yoga in earnest since 2009 and teaching since 2013.

"I was always athletic," said Schneider at her studio. "I was running a couple miles every day. I always liked to face challenges."

"But I started getting pain and stiffness in my joints," she continued. "The doctor told me I needed to stop running. I didn't want to stop being physical. A friend suggested that I try yoga. I wasn't sure about it. It didn't seem like people did anything in yoga."

Schneider took a class. She wasn't impressed at first, but she stuck with it and started doing "hot" yoga (also known as Bikram yoga after its originator, Bikram Choudhury). The benefits of hot yoga include detoxification (through perspiration) and deeper healing through heat.

The first classes of hot yoga were pretty tough on her.

"But I saw a beautiful woman in front of me in class and she was doing the poses so elegantly, I wanted to keep trying," she said. She gave herself a month to continue.

"After two weeks, six sessions per week, I saw tremendous changes in my body," she said. "The arthritis was completely gone."

Schneider also embraced other changes in her diet and lifestyle—"we're surrounded by toxins in our environment"—and hasn't looked back.

There was immediate interest when she opened the Yoga Center in 2017, she said. People flocked to the studio to try the classes. Hot yoga can be challenging for newbies, but "the people whose souls are touched

come back," said Schneider.

"I love working with beginners," she added. "They have a lot of energy and are eager to absorb the information."

Schneider is also a certified natural health coach and can offer guidance on creating a healthier lifestyle through natural means.

"Yoga is just one part of being healthy," she noted. (You can read more about her coaching practice at natureguide-byjudit.com.)

In addition to the hot yoga, Schneider offers several other options. For example, there's "chair yoga" for those who have trouble with floor poses. Practitioners of chair yoga do both standing and sitting poses, using chairs for support, but don't have to get down on the floor. It's a good complement for bone-building classes, she added.

There's also "restorative" yoga, which focuses more on the mental aspect of the practice, giving students an opportunity to engage in deeply relaxing, meditative practice that requires no physical exertion.

Judit's husband, Jack, started practicing yoga when he met Judit in 2011.

"I'm more flexible. I have better balance," he said. "It's helped me with my skiing. It's also helped a lot with my back pain. It's good exercise and stress relief."

"I try to keep the classes fun," said Judit, noting that the social aspect of the classes is important to many of her students. "It's human to human. Soul to soul."

But Schneider also stated that she's not trying to convert anyone to any spiritual path.

"The spiritual aspect is important—we start every class



**LISA LIMOGÉ OF the VT Yoga Barn in Orwell. Limogé offers a range of classes at her off-grid retreat.**



with meditation—but everyone's soul is different and this isn't a religion," she said. "But yoga teachers should spread the philosophy of yoga to help people connect with themselves and nature."

Schneider's studio has become a local hub for both students and other teachers. Many teachers come to work at the Brandon Yoga Center before moving on to open their own studios.

"I love having different teachers," she said. "Every teacher has a different approach. And every student has a different need. When people say they're afraid to try yoga because they're not flexible, I say, 'Well, that's why you're here.'"

For a full listing of offer-

ings, schedules, and rates at the Brandon Yoga Center, please visit [brandonyogacenter.com](http://brandonyogacenter.com).

## THE VT YOGA BARN

Set on 27 pastoral acres at 116 Old Sawmill Road in Orwell, the VT Yoga Barn is the realized vision of Lisa Limogé, who opened the off-grid studio and retreat center in 2014.

Limogé moved to Orwell from Colorado, having suffered major losses in a flood out there. She and her then-husband found the parcel of land in Orwell and lived in the barn while they built their off-grid house just up the hill.

"I'm an adventurer," said Limogé on the sunny patio outside the barn that now houses both a warm wood-paneled yoga studio and a separate event space. "I had been want-

ing a retreat center for a long time. It was a 30-year dream. It wasn't easy."

Originally from Burlington, Limogé has traveled extensively and lived in California and New Hampshire, in addition to Colorado.

But it was as a teenager in Burlington that Limogé discovered yoga, though she wasn't even aware that's what she was doing.

"I was one of six children and not interested in watching TV with my siblings," she recalled. "I would go up to my room and do postures that came to me intuitively. I was just connecting with my breath and communing with myself. I was raised Catholic and always had a spiritual focus."

(See Yoga studios, Page 21)



**JUDIT SCHNEIDER AT the Brandon Yoga Center. Hot yoga helped Schneider tame her arthritis.**

## LABOR DAY SALE AT WIMETT'S!



**2011 HONDA FIT SPORT**  
Auto, loaded, 89k miles  
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# Mim's Photos

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



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

Or call us at 247-8080



## Recognized



Terry Ferson and Sue Wetmore recognized George Dinn on the left in this photo. Mr. Ferson noted that Mr. Dinn was a veteran of the Second World War and worked for many years as a handyman in Brandon.





# Crossword

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Taxis
- 5. Space Systems Command
- 8. Plant seed by scattering
- 11. Alliances
- 13. Fiddler crabs
- 14. Heroic tale
- 15. Yemen capital
- 16. Misleading gesture
- 17. Cain and \_\_
- 18. Simple shoe
- 20. Hundredweight
- 21. Children's toy in the snow
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Free of deceit
- 30. Performed a dance
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Exaggerated
- 33. Refrain from inflicting
- 38. A doctrine
- 41. Can be subdued
- 43. A place to bathe
- 45. Land used for pasture
- 48. Curved piece of iron
- 49. Automobile
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. Breezes through
- 56. Child
- 57. NBA legend Iverson
- 59. Horsley and Iacocca are two
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. U.S. leader during much of WW2
- 63. Lair
- 64. Fibrous material

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Home of "60 Minutes"
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. \_\_ fide: legitimate
- 4. Immune response
- 5. Assistance and support
- 6. Glared
- 7. Spanish saloon
- 8. Pitch black
- 9. S-shaped lines
- 10. Statistical test
- 12. \_\_ Paulo, city
- 14. Graduation garb
- 19. A way to record
- 23. Not good
- 24. Weather events
- 25. A pituitary hormone
- 26. Jamie Foxx film
- 27. Rocker's accessory
- 28. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 29. One who obtains pleasure from another's pain
- 34. Consume
- 35. Licensed for Wall Street
- 36. Sick
- 37. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- 39. Removed the husk
- 40. Mass of rocks and sediment
- 41. Two-year-old sheep
- 42. Area units
- 44. Prison overseer
- 45. Walked
- 46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier
- 47. Tax
- 48. 50 percent
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Tattle
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resist authority (slang)
- 58. Egg of a louse

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
					38	39	40		41	42		
					43			44				
	45	46	47									
48						49			50	51	52	53
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

# Sudoku

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

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

Level: Intermediate

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

## Last Call for Clear the Shelters!

There's still time to find your new best friend at Rutland County Humane Society! Adoption fees are reduced by 50% this August, but Clear the Shelters ends soon. Don't miss your chance to give a loving home to a cat, dog, or small animal in need. We have a pet for everyone, from a lap warmer, to your adventure pal. You can view our adoptable animals at [www.rchsvt.org/adopt](http://www.rchsvt.org/adopt), or stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Let's find homes for all these amazing animals!

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



#### MEET BANKSY - 8-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR.

**BLACK AND WHITE.** Banksy is a striking black-and-white cat with a sweet personality to match his handsome looks. He's affectionate, loves attention, and isn't shy about letting you know when he wants some. He'll give you a cute little meow to remind you he's there! He gets along well with other cats and children, making him a great fit for a family. Dogs aren't really his thing, though he might warm up to a very calm, respectful pup. If you're looking for a loyal companion who enjoys love and conversation, Banksy may be your perfect match. As part of our Clear the Shelters promotion, his adoption fee is 50% off through August 31!

#### MEET RAIN \*IN FOSTER - 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. PIT BULL TERRIER.

**BROWN AND WHITE.** Rain is a shy sweetheart who's still learning that the world isn't such a scary place. She's looking for a calm, patient home where she can come out of her shell at her own pace and feel safe and loved. Sudden movements or loud noises can startle her, so she'll thrive with someone who understands the needs of a fearful dog. Rain will need leash training and slow, positive introductions to new environments. A securely fenced yard is a must, but she should still be supervised at all times outdoors, as she has shown she will attempt to escape when frightened or overwhelmed. Creating a routine and safe space indoors will help her feel more secure over time. She does well with other dogs, and a calm, confident canine companion could help her feel more at ease. With patience, consistency, and a gentle hand, Rain has the potential to become a devoted and loving companion. If you believe in giving the shy ones a chance, Rain could be the special soul you've been waiting for. She just needs someone to believe in her. As part of our Clear the Shelters promotion, her adoption fee is 50% off through August 31!



### RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN  
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# OFF THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



### New Fiction

#### House of Monstrous Women by Daphne Fama

Josephine and her brother are invited to play a game at the Ranoco house, a strange and labyrinthine mansion that is dangerously close to a treacherous sea. A sickly-sweet smell clings to the dimly lit walls, and veiled eyes follow Josephine through endless connecting rooms. The air is tense with secrets, and as the deadly game continues it's clear Josephine doesn't have the whole truth. To save herself, she will have to play to win. But in this house, victory is earned with blood.

#### Atomic Hearts by Megan Cummins

Years after an accident involving a bonfire and aerosol can changed her life, Gertie decides to write about that explosive summer from the more stable shores of adulthood. Powered by the fierce imagination of her youth, Gertie finally allows herself the grace to tell a version of her narrative that she always hoped would be true.

#### The Midnight Hour by Eve Chase

Notting Hill, London: One May evening, seventeen-year-old Maggie Parker's mother walks out of their front door and doesn't return. With her little brother in tow, desperate to find their mother, Maggie is drawn into a world of secondhand shops and shadowy figures, far from the grand townhouses in her comfortable neighborhood. As Maggie struggles to maintain a stable life for herself and her brother, she befriends Wolf, another young person also living on his wits alone. When she

discovers that her beloved house now holds a dangerous new secret, and Wolf is involved, Maggie, heartbroken, makes her escape. Twenty-one years later, in her Paris apartment, Maggie gets a phone call that shatters her hard-won new life. While in London, the incoming owner of the Parkers' old Notting Hill house is excavating the basement, unaware of what might lie beneath—and the clock starts ticking on buried secrets.

#### Lucky Day by Chuck Tingle

Four years ago, an unthinkable disaster occurred. In what was later known as the Low-Probability Event, eight million people were killed in a single day, each of them dying in improbable, bizarre ways: strangled by balloon ropes, torn apart by exploding manhole covers, attacked by a chimpanzee wielding a typewriter. A day of freak accidents that proved anything is possible, no matter the odds. Luck is real now, and it's not always good. Vera, a former statistics and probability professor, lost everything that day. When Special Agent Layne shows up, she learns he's investigating a suspiciously—and statistically impossible—lucky casino. He needs her help to prove the casino's success is connected to the deaths of millions, and it's Vera's last chance to make sense of a world that doesn't. Because what's happening in Vegas isn't staying there, and she's the only thing that stands between the world and another deadly improbability.

#### What Hunger by Catherine Dang

When tragedy strikes, Ronny's world is upended. Her sense of self and her

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our Basic Car Maintenance workshop with Green Mountain Garage is back - ages 16 and up. Sept. 10 from 6-8 p.m. Please pre-register at 802-247-8230 / info@brandonpubliclibrary.org.

understanding of her family are shattered. A few nights later, at her first high school party, a boy crosses the line, and Ronny is overtaken by a force larger than herself. This newfound power comes with an insatiable hunger for raw meat, a craving that is both a saving grace and a potential destroyer.

#### The Compound by Aisling Rawle

Lily—a bored, beautiful twentysomething—wakes up on a remote desert compound, alongside nineteen other contestants competing on a massively popular reality show. To win, she must outlast her housemates to stay in the Compound the longest, while competing in challenges for luxury rewards like champagne and lipstick, plus communal necessities to outfit their new home, like food, appliances, and a front door. As the competition intensifies, intimacy between the players deepens, and it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish between desire and desperation. When the unseen producers raise the stakes, forcing contestants into upsetting, even dangerous situations, the line between playing the game and surviving it begins to blur. If Lily makes it to the end, she'll receive prizes beyond her wildest dreams—but what will she have to do to win?

## Estabrook house

(Continued from Page 7)

which designated items in the house would be displayed.

The BFPL trustees ultimately decided not to accept the donation and the house will soon be sold

by Tom Whittaker on the open market, benefitting Penny's other designees, including the BFPL, the BFD, Estabrook Field, the Congregational Church, and the Brandon Rescue Squad. Thus, the

doctors' contributions to Brandon continue even after they've departed.

Maybe a doctor will buy the house!

## 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.*

### August 18

- Received a report of an individual who might be violating his conditions of release on Franklin Street.
- Assisted the Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a medical call on Sunset Drive.
- Took fingerprints for employment purposes.
- Served a Relief From Abuse Order on Deer Run Road. The order was served in-hand.
- Received a report of an assault on Church Street.

### August 19

- Received a report from a resident on Robin Bird Lane that her mother's ex-husband came onto her property and took a vehicle with her belongings inside of it.

### August 20

- Responded along with the Brandon Fire Department and BARS to Forest Dale Road where a car had crashed into a telephone pole.

### August 21

- Received a request for VIN verification at a residence on Country Club Road.
- Received a report of custodial interference on Town Farm Road. During the investigation, it was found that

no interference that had taken place.

- Conducted an animal welfare check on Center Street regarding two dogs that had been left in a car unattended.

### August 22

- Took possession of a radio tracker that had allegedly been placed onto a victim's vehicle by her spouse in an ongoing case of domestic violence/stalking. The VSP-New Haven are investigating because the incident occurred in Leicester.
- Responded to a residence on Pearl Street for a domestic disturbance between a man and woman.
- Received a report of a larceny from a vehicle on Mulcahy Drive.
- Received a report of vandalism to a mailbox on High Pond Road.
- Responded to an alarm at OVUHS. The alarm was determined to be accidental.

### August 23

- Received a complaint of possible unlawful trespassing in a condemned residence on Church Street.
- Responded to an alarm at Neshobe Elementary School. The alarm was determined to be false.
- Received a call regarding ongoing threats and harassment by the complainant's ex-boyfriend.

### August 24

- Received a complaint of threats and harassment on Franklin Street.
- Received a call from a man wanting to report an assault that occurred in 1987 at a summer camp in Brandon.

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WE NEED U



# Premium increases

(Continued from Page 4)

Qualified Health Plans sold on Vermont Health Connect to both individuals and small groups. The regulatory board reviews proposed price increases for these plans annually.

This year, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, which is one of only two insurers that sells plans on Vermont Health Connect, initially requested a 23.5% increase in rates for the individual insurance market and a 13.5% increase for its small group market plans. The care board ultimately approved a 9.6% and 4.4% increase, respectively.

MVP Health Plan Inc., the other insurer selling plans on Vermont's marketplace, initially requested a 6.2% increase for its individual market plans and an increase of 7.5% for its small group plans. Again, the care board approved rate increases that are far lower than those requested: 1.3% for individual plans and 2.5% for the small group plans.

The decision comes as Vermonters face higher insurance premiums than do residents of any other state and as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont risks insolvency.

The board-approved rates aim to balance keeping costs as low as possible for Vermonters, while also keeping the state's largest insurer afloat, said Green Mountain Care Board chair Owen Foster during a Monday press briefing.

"Blue Cross remains in a difficult position financially, but so too do Vermonters. The board's responsibility is to balance those competing interests," Foster said. "At the end of the day, we concluded that allowing these giant rate increases would be very detrimental to people's ability to access care and that the status quo of double-digit rate increases was not acceptable."

Whether these lower rates will be adequate to cover the cost of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont's claims in 2026 remains to be seen, said Andrew Garland, a vice president and spokesperson for the insurer.

That depends on the board's review of hospital budgets — also done annually — and the subsequent price negotiations between hospitals and insurers, he added.

However, Garland remained optimistic: "A lot has changed since we filed these rates back in early May."

Namely, in June Gov. Phil Scott signed a new law that will cap how much certain hospitals can bill in 2026 for outpatient pharmaceutical drugs, like IVs or certain cancer treatments. Garland said Blue Cross Blue Shield expects that law to save its members "many millions of dollars."

Additionally, Blue Cross Blue Shield plans to receive a larger risk-transfer payment from MVP than it had originally estimated, Garland said. To protect from insurers marketing plans only to healthy, low-cost patients, the Affordable Care Act stipulates

that plans with lower-risk patients must redistribute funds to plans with higher-risk patients. For 2024, MVP had a larger portion of low-risk enrollees and thus will pay Blue Cross Blue Shield as part of this risk-transfer balance, which also helps mitigate some of the insurer's concerns for the lower rate increases, he explained.

The regulatory board also sets how much each of the 14 hospitals it regulates can increase charges to insurers every year. Those hospitals were put on notice that their guideline for increases in prices for 2026 was just a 3% increase, though final decisions for each hospital are not expected until mid-September.

At the same time, insurers are also bracing for a massive loss in marketplace customers due to the likely end of the Covid-19-era expanded federal insurance subsidies next year. Blue Cross Blue Shield estimates that 12.6% of its members on individual marketplace plans will drop their coverage. Those left on such plans, the insurer projects, will be the people who need and use it the most, meaning they expect an overall increase in costs.

Board chair Foster added

that Friday's decision puts Vermont's rate increases in line or lower than what many other states have approved or are expected to approve for next year's marketplace premiums — about 15% on average. All across the country, individuals and insurers are likely to face this same loss of federal subsidies.

MVP spokesperson Michelle Golden said Monday in an emailed statement that the board's new rates "are a testament to collective efforts to responsibly manage costs while also ensuring access, high quality care, continued innovation, and overall community well-being."

During the Monday briefing, Foster said insurers often reported feeling powerless to negotiate with hospitals on fair rates. Recently the state's Department of Financial Regulation weighed in to strengthen insurers' stance in such negotiations, saying it will not approve any plans that do not protect the insurance companies' solvency.

Insurers can appeal the board's decisions within 30 days, Foster said, though they have not confirmed any interest in doing so.

*"Blue Cross remains in a difficult position financially, but so too do Vermonters. The board's responsibility is to balance those competing interests."*

— Owen Foster,  
Green Mountain  
Care Board chair

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Brandon Town Manager's  
report, August 12–20

FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS

• Volunteer board seats open: Development Review Board Alternate; Planning Commission Alternate; Energy Cmte Member. Apply to town manager for consideration by selectboard.

PUBLIC WORKS MISSION

• This summer has been generally dry, and our dirt roads are dusty. Chloride application in reported trouble spots is our effort to try to remedy this as best as can be expected.  
• As a heads-up, the Triangle Cooperative for the mobile home park at the south end of McConnell Road may be seeking improvements to their wastewater and a drinking water systems. I have had initial communication with their consultant. The project as it stands is for wastewater and is being engineered in Brandon by DuBois & King. There will likely be an opportunity for the Town to assist as a pass-through sponsor for state funding streams as we have done in the past for other community groups.  
• I am in communication with a Down-town property owner regarding impaired pedestrian and motorist visibility due to the growth of trees in the Town's right of way. The property owner has engaged an arborist consultation under their direction and their expense.

PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION

• No change to report regarding staffing efforts, and no update at this time on the exchange of the standard-issue service weapon.

ADMINISTRATION &  
FINANCE MISSION

• I participated in the Trustees of Public Funds initial meeting of the newly-seated trustees on August 12. Thanks to those who are taking on the reorganization of this board. I advocated to the new board the position that Miss Farr's directives as expressed in her will must be the primary test of the purposes for which the trustees release the funds she left the Town in trust.  
• I met with Brandon's 17-year-tenured representative to the Rutland County Solid Waste District (currently its vice-chair) upon receipt of a communication from another Town's representative to that District. I then met with the chair of the District by phone. There are two investigations ongoing in RC-SWD, and both are being handled with competent legal counsel from VLCT. The Town needs take no action and the selectboard can be confident in its representative.  
• Legislative changes in Act 106 of 2024

have resulted in the removal of four properties from our tax sale as they do not meet the new criteria of being in arrears more than \$1,500 for more than one year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MISSION

• I attended the early portion of the working group of the historic preservation commission (and others) who are reviewing the 2002 Brandon Workbook with a goal of updating it and reissuing it in light of today's Brandon (i.e., changes completed during Segment Six). The commission has applied for funding from the Walter Cerf Community Fund to obtain the services of professionals including an architect and a graphics designer to create a successful and usable end product.  
• I provided the DRB and relevant town staff with guidance about our permit process and the various stages of it to best serve the applicants and the Town.  
• Bill Moore will have a debrief of a successful visit he organized for Congresswoman Becca Balint who was in Brandon on Wednesday.

FOLLOW-UP

• The weekly FY26 calendar pages I implemented recently are being utilized by the department heads really well. This has been a positive innovation to keep longer-term goals highlighted and followed through on.  
• I followed up with a couple of our boards and the insect control district regarding Open Meeting Law compliance matters. This will be an ongoing education and monitoring need.  
• I had meetings with residents, town officials, staff, and filled a number of requests for information.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

• I am unable to obtain this information at time of writing due to limitations of the NEMRC technology the Town has used, successfully, for bookkeeping for many years. If other Town staff are able to access on their machines, it will be provided to accompany this report. If not, it will be provided to the selectboard on Monday as an update to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

*Seth M. Hopkins*

Seth M Hopkins, Town Manager

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Have an event to add to our calendar?

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**MELANIE REDEL TEACHES** yoga at 25 Rossiter Street in Brandon. She describes her yoga practice as “introspective.”

## Yoga studios

*(Continued from Page 15)*

In 1992, employed as a social worker for Washington County Mental Health in Vermont, Limoge saw a flyer for a yoga class. Like many small moments that become life-altering, that flyer set her on a new path in life.

Limoge attended the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Massachusetts and later opened one of the first yoga studios in Burlington, which she operated until 2006.

“Yoga offers a big picture of wellness,” she said. “It’s mind, body, and spirit. You don’t have to embrace the spiritual aspect to benefit from it. Guru B.K.S. Iyengar said, ‘We don’t deny affiliation with religion, but it’s not required.’” Limoge may make the spiritual connection for herself but does not ask that her students adopt any of those teachings.

“I meet people right where they are,” she said. “They can take what works for them and leave the rest. I want to help people become integrated, which means they’re grounded, healthy, and contented.”

Limoge offers group classes, private sessions, and weekend retreats, both on site at her facility and at other sites in the area, including the Mercy Eco-spirituality Center in Benson.

“Beginners are welcome,” she added. “We go at whatever pace is comfortable. People are so critical of themselves. I teach them to be kind to their

bodies. Everyone can benefit. Yoga can help with posture and a positive posture can lead to a more positive outlook and attitude.”

“I want students to be informed about the culture of yoga and pursue whatever aspects appeal to them, but they can also treat it just like a class at a gym,” she added.

To find out more about VT Yoga Barn, including schedules of classes, please visit the center’s pages on Facebook and Instagram.

### **YOGA AND REIKI WITH MELANIE REDEL**

Melanie Redel runs her yoga classes in the pilates studio at 25 Rossiter Street in Brandon. She’s been in Vermont for 3 years, having moved to Leicester from Hawaii with her husband.

“My husband wanted four seasons,” she laughed.

Though she’s now in Vermont, she completed most of her formal training in Hawaii and is a registered member of the Yoga Alliance, which Redel refers to as the “gold standard” of certification. She’s got both her 200-hour and 500-hour certification.

Redel discovered yoga while living in New York City 25 years ago.

“I had chronic asthma,” she said. “I started doing hot yoga and something just spoke to me. I practiced hot yoga for 10 years and my lungs were stronger. I was generally healthier. I

also changed my lifestyle and habits at the same time.”

Redel was working in a high-pressure job as a computer crime investigator and felt that yoga helped her “stay grounded in a stressful industry.”

“My mat was always my sanctuary,” she said. “Yoga is a spiritual path, but it’s not a religion or a cult. It’s a lifelong journey of self-exploration. It can bring a lot of meaning and joy to your life.”

There’s “zero expectation” of spiritual involvement in her classes, but she does bring that aspect into the sessions, as she sees it as integral to the practice.

“I encourage students to live a more heart-centered life,” she said. “Yoga brings unity where there’s divisiveness. That ripple effect can radiate out in this world of confusion. I want to soften the glue on the masks that we wear. There’s nothing wrong with being physical, but the philosophical underpinnings of yoga are very important to me. My first yoga teacher brought that into her classes, and it helped make sense of so much of my life. I wanted to be that kind of teacher.”

Like her colleagues, Redel works with all levels of experience.

“Show up where you are and listen to your body,” she advises. “Yoga should never hurt.”

In addition to classic yoga, Redel also offers reiki, which is a Japanese tradition of transfer-

*(See Yoga studios, Page 23)*

## Bear hunting

*(Continued from Page 4)*

power lines and in forest openings and old fields where berries and apples can be found as well as in forested beech and oak stands,” said Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont’s bear biologist. “They also are likely to be feeding on standing corn.”

Comeau says with bears being so abundant, this is a great opportunity for hunters who have never hunted bear to do so this year. She says properly prepared bear meat is highly nutritious. The key to successfully securing good meat is to skin the bear as soon as possible and process it immediately if you do not have access to a large cooler.

Comeau asks hunters to refrain from shooting a bear with cubs as well as bears observed in groups as they are usually made up of sows with cubs. “Black bear cubs are dependent on their mother through the following spring. It is important to maintain these family groups,” she added. “We have tips for identifying sows with cubs on our website.”

A new law now in effect prohibits the sale of paws or internal organs of a black bear.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife urges hunters to download and read the 2025 Black Bear Hunting Guide from its website.

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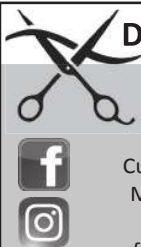
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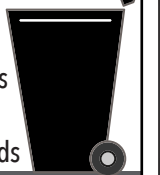
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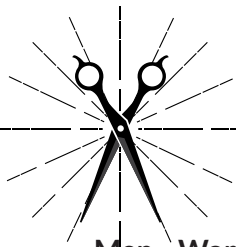
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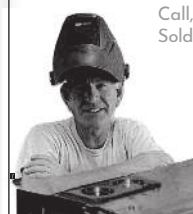


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# Devil's Bowl

(Continued from Page 9)  
and Erin Beaudry a career-best fifth. Perhaps the most notable performance was that of Roger LaDuc. He made his modified debut on the night that honored his father and navigated his machine from the 18th to the 7th spot.

Gage Provencher continued to be nearly unbeatable in the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint feature. "Pig Boy" was credited with his seventh feature win of the season, putting himself in prime position to score back-to-back track championships. It was, however, not as easy as it looked. Quinn Quenneville, who stands second in the points, was determined to make up some

ground. He fired from the third spot on the grid, past Eric Dingman and Tyler Whittemore, and had the lead after the first lap. Meanwhile, Provencher quickly moved from the seventh starting spot to second by lap six and began reeling in Quenneville, who had built a sizable lead. When Provencher reached the back bumper of Quenneville, he realized the driver of the 9Q would not go quietly. Quenneville made his car as wide as he could and took away Provencher's preferred line. Not to be deterred, Provencher moved to the center of the racetrack and wrestled the top spot away from Quenneville and went on to grab the win. Quenneville crossed the

finish line second, with Scott Bachand third, Destin St. Clair fourth, and Alyssa Vanderpool fifth.

It has been a wild season for Damien Olden. He has violently flown off the backstretch. Been t-boned after a turn two spin that landed him in the hospital and totaled his ride, and been snake-bitten when it seemed like victory was within his grasp. This week, it finally came together for Olden as he led flag to flag for his first win of the season. Since taking over his new ride, Olden has been dialing the machine every week. In Saturday's 15-lap foray, his hard work finally paid off. Olden fought off an early challenge from Tom Severance

and fended off a list of strong competitors, including former winner Tyler Bell and defending track champion Brian Blake, to park in victory lane for the first time in 2025. Bell and Blake finished second and third, respectively, with Kaleb Shepard and Jeremy Brownell Jr. also credited with top-five finishes.

The evening concluded with a wild and wacky 50-lap Enduro. Jason Porter made the long haul from Freeport, Maine, worthwhile as he rallied from the 36th starting spot to win his second in a row. Jim Henry set the pace in the opening stage. Leading for six laps. Chandler Sumner held the top spot until the halfway point,

when Porter flew by him and cruised home for the win. Brent Wilbur finished second, followed by Walter Scram, Trevor Jaques, and Eric Leno.

The Devil's Bowl Speedway will be back in action on Saturday, August 30th, and Sunday, August 31st, for the much-anticipated Fabian Earth Moving Vermont 200 weekend. Admission good for the entire weekend is \$25. Kids 12 and under are free. Infield parking for the weekend is \$40. Pit admission for the weekend is \$45. Racing on Saturday is scheduled for 2 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m.

# Yoga studios

(Continued from Page 21)  
ence of energy from one person to another.

"It's healing touch," Redel explained. "I incorporate it into a restorative yoga class I offer once a month. It has a very calming effect."

Redel emphasizes that her practice focuses on positive energy and healing.

"I want my students to get to know themselves and trust their inner wisdom," she said. "It's a very introspective practice."

Redel's classes are free-will donation.

"I want to keep it affordable for everyone," she explained.

For the full schedule of classes, please visit melanieredel.com.

Is yoga right for you?

Many people are attracted to yoga for the health benefits but hesitate to take classes be-

cause they worry that they're not flexible enough or that the spiritual aspect may be outside their comfort zone. But all the practitioners interviewed for this article are happy to work with inexperienced students and will not expect anyone to adopt yoga as a lifestyle, though if the spiritual aspect is appealing, they will gladly share that knowledge as well.

All the interviewed practitioners offer a range of classes,

some of which are gentle, some of which are more vigorous. And they all offer one-on-one sessions as well that are tailored to your specific needs and abilities.

Ultimately, whether you're comfortable with the practice depends on whether you're comfortable with the teacher. Now with so many options in the area, finding a compatible teacher has never been easier.

Namaste!



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## Black Bear Tree, Land & Forest

**Like all things vintage?**

# Mim's Photos

*are on page 16!*



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### TOWN OF PITTSFORD Notice of Selectboard Public Hearing [www.pittsfordvermont.com](http://www.pittsfordvermont.com)

Place: At the Town of Pittsford Municipal Offices, 426 Plains Road Pittsford, VT  
Date: September 4 and 17, 2025

Time: 6:30pm

1) The purpose of the hearing is to adopt the Town of Pittsford's Enhanced Energy Plan addendum to the Town Plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117.

2) The geographic area affected are all areas in the Town of Pittsford.

3) Town of Pittsford Enhanced Energy Plan –

Table of Contents:

Goals

Introduction

Impacts of Fuel Use

Current Conditions

Future Targets

Policies

Actions

4) The full text of the proposed Enhanced Energy Plan addendum to the Town Plan can be reviewed at the Town of Pittsford Town Office or on their website at [pittsfordvermont.com](http://pittsfordvermont.com).

### TOWN OF PITTSFORD Adoption of Town of Pittsford Ordinance Camping on Public Lands or in Public Parks [www.pittsfordvermont.com](http://www.pittsfordvermont.com)

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

## Classified

### YARD SALE

MULTI-FAMILY YARD Sale . . . Saturday - 8/30 - 9AM to 4PM. 1 Rossiter Street, Brandon . . . Brand name clothing, craft supplies, jewelry, holiday décor, character sheet sets: Star Wars/Stranger Things, UGG purse, household items, new sneakers . . . and much more!!



# 'Spies' to screen with live music on Friday, Sept. 12 at Brandon Town Hall

BRANDON—It was the movie that pioneered the espionage genre, complete with secret documents, hi-tech gadgets, an evil mastermind, and a beautiful but dangerous woman.

It was 'Spies' (1928), an action-packed silent thriller, and will be shown with live music for one screening only on Friday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt.

('Spies' was originally scheduled to be screened at Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 20, but has been moved to Friday, Sept. 12.)

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

Live music will be provided by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based performer and composer who specializes in scoring and presenting silent films.

'Spies,' made by German director Fritz Lang at the end of the silent era, served as a blueprint for all espionage story-telling to come in movies and, later, on television. It is especially notable for the many ways it anticipated the James Bond films, in which a government's secret agent matches wits with a criminal mastermind.

Newly restored to its original

length, 'Spies' has emerged as a tightly constructed spy thriller from the peak of the silent film era. Hugely influential, Lang's passion for meticulous detail combines with masterful storytelling and editing skills to form a relentless story of intrigue, espionage, and blackmail.

An international spy ring, headed by criminal mastermind Haghi (Rudolf Klein-Rogge), uses technology, threats, and murder to obtain government secrets. As master spy and also president of a bank, Haghi leads a double life, using instruments of modern technology to spearhead a mad rush for secrets to assert his power over others.

Battling Haghi is the government's Agent 326 (Willy Fritsch), himself a master of disguise. Can Agent 326 stop Haghi's plot before it disrupts the world's balance of power?

Putting on the screen for the first time many elements of the modern spy thriller, 'Spies' remains remarkably fresh and captivating more than 90 years since its first release. Lang carefully reveals the elaborate methods of the spies as they move through his unknown city, creating a mirror of troubled Weimar Germany, where the film

was shot.

Made by Lang's own production company and, like the classic films 'M' (1931) and Metropolis (1927), written by Lang with his wife Thea von Harbou, 'Spies' is "the granddaddy of decades of intrigue epics. In its rigorous austerity, it remains the most modern of the bunch," wrote Elliott Stein of The Village Voice.

'Spies' features many of the same performers featured in 'Metropolis,' Lang's famous futuristic fantasy, including Klein-Rogge, who portrayed the scientist 'Rotwang' in the earlier movie. 'Spies' also stars Austrian actress Gerda Maurus as the mysterious woman who may prove to be the undoing of Agent 326.

Live music for 'Spies' will be provided by silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis, who uses a digital synthesizer to recreate the sound and texture of the full orchestra.

"'Spies' is a wonderful film for music," said Rapsis, who improvises accompaniment using musical material he composes beforehand. "In addition to telling great stories, Lang's films are also visually interesting, and so they lend themselves to music to heighten the drama and tension," Rapsis said.

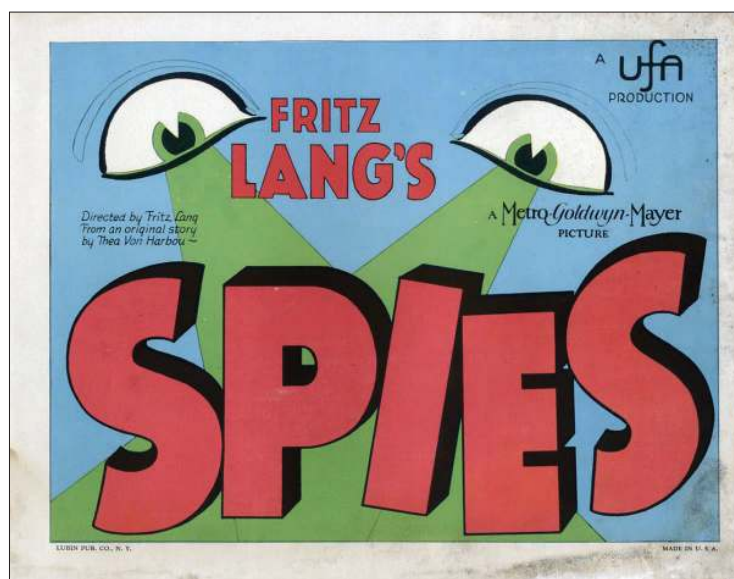
'Spies' is appropriate for family audiences, although it includes intense scenes that may frighten very small children. The film is two-and-a-half hours long.

The screening of 'Spies' is part of Brandon Town Hall's monthly silent film series, which gives today's audiences a chance to experience the great films of Hollywood's early years as they were intended: in restored prints, in a theater on the big screen, and with live music and an audience.

"If you've never seen a silent film in a theater with live music

and an audience, this is a great way to experience the medium at its best," Rapsis said. "When you put all the elements together, silent film still has an ability to stir up an audience in a way that no other medium can."

'Spies' will be shown with live music on Friday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help defray expenses.



## September 28, 2025

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