

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 30, No. 36

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

\$1

Brandon SB discusses ordinances, animal control, budget meetings

BY STEVEN JUPITER

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

After approving minutes, agendas, and a warrant in the amount of \$103,732.42, the Board received its biweekly report from Town Manager Seth Hopkins.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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

Mr. Hopkins highlighted some items and added some updates:

The Reporter will hold a public forum on Thursday, September 18 at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Brandon Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the future of the community's newspaper.

Town boards and committees will begin using a uniform Zoom Meeting ID. If meetings of different committees/board

conflict, different IDs will be used, however.

There are still openings on the Development Review Board (alternate), Planning Commission (alternate), and Energy Committee. Anyone interested in any of these should contact Mr. Hopkins.

Chief Kachajian has received some interest in officer positions with the Brandon Police Department. The Chief has also received quotes on replacements for the Sig Sauer handguns currently used by BPD officers.

Mr. Hopkins is trying to get a new signal company to adjust the timing of the traffic lights on Route 7 in downtown in order to ease congestion in the village.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore delivered his Community Development report, the full text of which is reprinted (See Brandon SB, Page 3)



Up up and away

YOU MAY HAVE seen and been fascinated by the aerial gymnastics of the steeplejacks working on the steeple of the Brandon Congregational Church earlier this month. Here is a close up of the crew (l to r): Dwayne Calloway, Zander Timmsen, Michael Duke and John Oppermann. All hail from the very northern border towns in Vermont and New Hampshire and travel all over the northeast plying their craft. Michael Duke is the owner and has been with the company since he was eighteen years old. Their presence will be missed but their professional workmanship will be evident for many years to come. See pg.15 for photo of the finished steeple.

Photo and text by Larry Rowe

Brandon artist uses her work to bring awareness to rare diseases

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Amanda Van Eps does not seem ill when you meet her. With a warm smile and a chic sense of style, she seems very put-together, especially in her workplace at Best Appliance in Rutland, where she works as a kitchen & bath designer.

But Van Eps is using her aesthetic skills to increase awareness of rare diseases, including her own. She was recently announced as a finalist in the Rare Artist Competition sponsored by the EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases. Her entry, entitled "Ball & Chain," was chosen as one of 20 finalists out of 235 submitted works.

Van Eps lives with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a group of

inherited disorders that affect connective tissues such as skin, joints, and blood vessels, often causing these structures to be weak and



overly flexible.

"There's really no such thing as 'double-jointed,'" Van Eps said. "But that's often how it's described."

The weakness and hyperflexibility of these tissues can cause many problems, ranging from easy bruising to the rupture of major blood vessels. Van Eps said up to 15% of the general population may be living with some form of EDS.

"I was 27 when I was diagnosed," she said. "I was working at a bank and every time I stood up to use the printer, it was like curtains were completely coming down in front of my eyes. It's an extreme form of when you get lightheaded when you suddenly stand up."

It turned out her blood vessels

just weren't strong enough to keep sufficient blood flowing to her head. Low blood pressure and fatigue are among the earliest symptoms people with EDS notice, Van Eps said.

Because the symptoms of EDS are so varied, it can be hard to diagnose. Van Eps said she started exhibiting symptoms when she was 16. She is 34 now.

"It felt like my body was being compressed," she said, since the tissues that normally keep bones in place were especially weak.

Before her successful diagnosis, she'd been erroneously told by one doctor that she had blood cancer. Fortunately, a visit to an oncologist revealed that cancer was not the cause of her symptoms, and she did not begin cancer treatments. She did have a benign, non-cancerous brain tumor removed several years ago.

(See Amanda Van Eps, Page 3)





THE FARRINGTON HOUSE at 39 Pearl Street in the 1930s. The house dates to 1799, making it one of the oldest still standing in Brandon. In fact, Pearl Street was called Farrington Street after the Farrington family until the 1850s.

Fifteenth in a series on Brandon's historic buildings. The Farrington House, oldest in Brandon

BY JAMES PECK

Brandon has more than its share of historic old houses going back to the 1800s. But the oldest one still here today is most likely the Farrington House at 39 Pearl Street, built in 1799.

Brandon's earliest settlement was on Hawk Hill, behind what is now Otter Valley High School. By the late 1700s, however, the town center had moved to the area on the west side of the Neshobe River, which attracted settlement for the potential waterpower from the upper and lower falls.

JACOB FARRINGTON

In 1786, 57-year-old Captain Jacob Farrington, a Revolutionary War veteran from Connecticut, bought 120 prime acres on Brandon's west side. He built a log cabin near where the railroad overpass on Champlain Street is today, later called Farrington Crossing. The cabin was burned by Native Americans and a small frame house was erected there where Jacob, his wife Abigail, and their three grown children moved.

Daughter Thirza married Gideon Horton in 1788 and moved to Hubbardton, while son Edward, who had taken possession of the property, sold it to son Daniel for 500 pounds in 1796.

On the first US Census taken in Brandon in 1791, Jacob Farrington appears as the head of house with his wife and son also enumerated.

The three Farringtons were among the 637 recorded inhabitants of the town.

HOUSE BUILT

In 1799, another early settler, Judge Hiram Horton, brother-in-law of Jacob Farrington's daughter Thirza, enlisted the help of John Conant in building the two-story mansion in the Federal style at what is now 39 Pearl Street. Conant was a carpenter/joiner and had only recently come to town and bought up the much of the land along what became Conant Square and the mills along the Neshobe.

Horton's brother Gideon owned the land by the new house and all the land on the west side of what is now Pearl Street.

In his later memoirs, Conant mentions his work in building the house, even before he built his own house in 1802 at what is now 19 Conant Square (now Nifty Thrifty). "My first joiner work was to finish a house for Judge Horton, the same now owned by Franklin Farrington." It is said that Conant himself etched the "1799" still visible today on the triangular pediment over the front door today.

Conant would build many more residences and other buildings, including the Baptist Church and parsonage, a brick store (now the Town Offices), and the Seminary building on Seminary Hill (burned down in 1959, when it was being used as the Graded School).

DANIEL FARRINGTON

Gideon Horton sold the house along with 54 acres to Daniel Pomeroy in 1801. In 1809, Pomeroy sold the house and eight acres to Daniel Farrington for \$1,500. The house would be in the Farrington family for the next 133 years until 1942. The land abutted his father's homestead. Jacob died shortly after, but they kept the original Champlain Street homestead farm until 1886. (No remnant of that house is there today.)

Daniel Farrington was 35 and had married Abigail Drury in 1796 and they and their five children lived in the new house on what was called Farrington Street (changed to Pearl Street around 1850).

Daniel joined the Brandon militia in 1808 and soon was promoted to lieutenant. That year he was sent with 18 men to capture a smuggling vessel, the "Black Snake," on the Winooski River near Burlington. Several of his men were killed and he was severely wounded three times by musket shots. He recovered and stayed in the militia, rising to captain and retiring on his Brandon farm after the War of 1812 ended in 1813.

From the History of Brandon (1761-1961): "In politics, he was a Democrat until the Civil War started in 1861, when he became a Republican. He voted in this town 71 consecutive years. He cast his first presidential vote for Jefferson, and his last for Lincoln."



THE FRONT ENTRANCE to the Farrington house in the 1880s. The Farrington family owned the house from 1809 to 1942.

Captain Daniel applied for a disability pension in 1832. After supplying affidavits from doctors and his commanding officer, he finally received a pension of \$8.50 a month for the rest of his life. He died in 1865 at 92.

FRANKLIN & FREDERICK FARRINGTON

Daniel's son Franklin was bequeathed the house and many acres of farmland stretching up to Champlain Street on both sides of the tracks. In 1886, Franklin sold the original homestead farm and 100 acres on Champlain Street, but kept the house and the lands around 39 Pearl Street.

In the 1881 Brandon directory, 75-year-old Franklin is listed as owning 300 acres off Pearl Street and his only son, 30-year-old Fred-

erick Horton Farrington, had an additional 350 acres in town. Fred Farrington raised prize Merino sheep, which he bred and shipped in flocks to many other states and to Australia (the first shipped there, starting their wool industry). He also raised and bred Morgan horses.

Fred Farrington was very prominent in Brandon politics, serving as both town rep and State Senator, and town moderator over 30 years. For more than half a century, he was a leader in Rutland and Addison County Banks and was President of the Brandon investment Company. He was very influential in the Brandon Community, at the library, Congregational Church, Mason Lodge, Brandon Country Club and Chamber of Commerce. Like his grandfa-

(See *Farrington House*, Page 21)



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW of the Farrington house (on the left) in a print from the 1890s.

Amanda Van Eps

(Continued from Page 1)
The type of EDS that Van Eps lives with is not life-threatening but will always affect her normal functioning. She does not drive,

ing,” she said. “It’s something that my family commented on a lot when I was a kid. And when I’m under stress, my symptoms all get worse.”

Van Eps has found solace in art since she was a kid growing up in Rutland and uses it to help her process the frustrations of life with

away from the central column are meant to move freely, as her own ribs sometimes do.

“My ribs are kind of wonky and sometimes slip out of place,” she said.

The pendant ball is meant to symbolize the weight of life with a rare disease.

The public is invited to vote on the finalists in the competition at rareartist.org. Voting is open from September 22 to September 30.

In addition to her artwork, Van Eps is an advocate for people liv-

ing, remain affordable for those who need them.
Anyone who’d like to learn more about Van Eps, her art, and her advocacy can visit her website, hausofvaneps.com.
And don’t forget to vote for “Ball & Chain” at rareartist.org.

Van Eps is also working to ensure that new technologies and treatments, such as genome edit-



VAN EPS’ FINALIST work “Ball & Chain” symbolizes the artist’s relationship to her body and the disease she lives with.

for example, instead relying on her significant other to drive her from their home in Brandon to her job in Rutland and home again (he works in Rutland as well).

“I don’t drive because I can lose my vision unexpectedly,” she said.

She also said that she’s easily fatigued and has to pace herself throughout the day.

“I sleep a lot when I’m not work-

EDS. Since the disease is mostly invisible to others, she uses art to make it visible. Her finalist piece, “Ball & Chain,” for example, is designed to evoke her spine and ribs, which often give her trouble. The chains draping

ing with disabilities and rare diseases. She is a board member of Disability Rights Vermont, for example.



Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)
in this issue.

Mr. Moore added that he would work with the Brandon Historic Preservation Commission in their update of their Workbook, which hasn’t been revised since 2002. Mr. Moore specifically mentioned that he had been asked to consult on the parking section of the book. He agreed at the meeting to consult on the traffic section as well.

Mr. Moore stated that 2 student-interns from Otter Valley would be working at the Town Office from 12 to 3 during the week, learning the ropes of town management and assisting on projects large and small.

In response to questions from Board member Ralph Ethier and an attendee, Mr. Moore indicated that the owners of the now-defunct Rip-ton Mountain Distillery had removed from its old space the collateral which had been put up to secure a \$25K loan from the town’s Revolving Loan Fund. The loan had been made to the Distillery in 2019. The town is not in possession of the collateral.

In a later conversation with The Reporter, Mr.

Moore stated that the owners of the Distillery still owe \$22,748.77 on the loan. Mr. Moore said that the owners had pledged to sell the collateral, which consisted of distillery equipment, and repay the loan. Mr. Moore also stated that this was a rare instance of default in the loan program, which is intended to provide loans at favorable terms to small businesses looking to open in Brandon.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER APPOINTED

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Larry Stevens as the town’s Animal Control Officer. The position had been held since 2021 by Tim Kingston, who has recently become the Chief Operator at the town’s wastewater treatment plant on Union Street.

In addition to his new appointment as Animal Control Officer, Mr. Stevens is also the town’s Zoning Administrator, Health Officer, and Rental Housing Officer.

The position comes with a stipend but does not hold regular hours. Instead, the Animal Control Officer works on an on-call basis, responding to

(See Brandon SB, Page 5)

Spotlight On Business BRANDON FLORIST SHOPPE



Owning the Brandon Florist Shoppe has been a dream come true. Since opening in 2018 my vision and business plan to serve the Brandon Community and beyond has not changed: to offer beautiful flowers at a reasonable price so that everyone can enjoy fresh flowers for all occasions and for all seasons. I’ve done all I can to protect that vision. I can’t think of another Community where I would rather be.

Blueberry Hill

PIZZA BY THE POND

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

WALK-INS WELCOME BUT RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED

www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza

Next concert:
Jaded Ravins

Thursday Sept. 18, 5-8 PM

Touch-a-TRUCK

~ At ~

Pittsford Village Farm
42 Elm Street,
Pittsford, Vt.

Rescheduled due to rain
Saturday, 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

BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

Part II: October 1 will be The Reporter's last issue in its current form

BY MITCHELL PEARL

Last week, we announced to the public that The Reporter could no longer publish in its current form. Our volunteer managing editor, Steven Jupiter, explained the decision and reasoning of The Reporter's non-profit board. In very simple terms there are two main problems: we don't have enough money, and we don't have enough people to do all the work. Of course, if you scratch below the surface, it is a bit more complicated and nuanced than that, but that is the gist of it. The Reporter is not alone: thousands of newspapers have ceased publication in recent years.

Since last week's edition hit the stands, we have been overwhelmed with expressions of gratitude from the public. People have obviously appreciated The Reporter and will miss it. Many have said that they will mourn the loss. Of course, it is heartwarming and gratifying to hear these sentiments. The editors, volunteers, and board members are truly touched by the outpouring of feeling. But perhaps instead of dwelling on the negative it is more important to channel these feelings into the creativity and hard work that it will take to enable some version of a community newspaper to continue. What we would most like to hear is that people are willing to put their ideas and time and energy into making a new version of The Reporter a reality.

We have scheduled a public

forum to be held on Thursday evening, September 18, at 7:00 in the downstairs meeting room of the Brandon Town Hall. We need people to come who are willing to put on their thinking caps and roll up their sleeves and work together to make this happen. The current board of The Reporter believes there are a number of possible options, but we need some new people to pull it off and a business plan that demonstrates it can be sustainable.

We are already a Vermont not-for-profit corporation, and we have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. This means we can accept tax-deductible donations and apply for grants—but we need people to do the fundraising and grant applications. Of course, for most newspapers and other media, the bulk of revenue comes from advertising, and this is unlikely to change—but we need people to sell ads, help businesses design them, and then bill and collect the revenues. And we need people who can transform the online edition into something that also generates advertising and subscription revenue. We have many good writers who supply stories for publication, but we need more. Most importantly, we need new people willing to take on the responsibility of management, so that one person is not always responsible for “pulling it all together” to get the edition out.

Could we do a short, weekly
(See *The new Reporter*, Page 6)



***If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck...
it's probably still an owl***

THIS DUCK BOX had a surprise. An Eastern screech owl was using it as a roosting spot. It was enjoying the morning sun.
Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forum

VT Fish & Wildlife announces K-12 student fish art contest

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is pleased to announce that entries are being accepted for the 2026 Vermont Student Fish Art Contest in partnership with Wildlife Forever.

The department invites Vermont students in grades K-12 to select a fish species found in Vermont waters and submit an illustration and one-page creative essay on the species. The essay is not required for grades K-3.

“The Fish Art Contest is a way for Vermont students to use their creativity and strengthen their knowledge and connection with

our environment,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department Education Specialist Corey Hart. “Last year, 280 Vermont Students submitted artwork of Vermont fish species. Several Vermont schools incorporated the contest into their curriculum, allowing the teachers to highlight the selected fish species in detail before the students created their masterpieces.”

Winners will be selected for four grade categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Winners will receive a prize, and their art will be entered into a selection process to be featured

in the department's forthcoming 2027 Fishing Guide and Regulations publication.

Rules and information about the contest are available at this link: <https://www.theartoffishconservation.org/fish-art-contest>

Entries to the 2026 Vermont Student Fish Art Contest must be submitted by February 28, 2026 at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/252115281272146>

Teachers who have questions may contact Corey Hart by email at Corey.Hart@vermont.gov or by phone at 802-505-5562.

The REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

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

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT.
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55
The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur. SJ

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 3)
requests from the public for assistance with stray pets, rabid or invasive wildlife, etc.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins said that the Animal Control Officer had received 29 calls for assistance last year, though some of them turned out not to be related to animal control.

BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES

The Board agreed to hold budget workshops on the following Mondays: September 15, October 6, October 20, November 3, and November 17. The meetings will take place in the downstairs meeting room of the Brandon Town Hall at 7 p.m. on those dates.

During the meetings, the Board will discuss and craft a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, which runs from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The current fiscal year began on July 1, 2025 and will run through June 30, 2026.

The first meeting will be an overview of last year’s budget, potentially with presentations from the heads of the town’s various departments.

All budget workshops are open to the public, who are encouraged to attend and offer

input.
The town had in previous years appointed a five-member Budget Committee, which offered guidance and advice to the Selectboard but could not vote on the final budget proposal to be put before voters at Town Meeting. However, it was recently discovered that the town’s appointment process was in conflict with state law. To bring the town into compliance, town residents will be asked at Town Meeting in March 2026 whether they would like to have a Budget Committee and, if so, whether its members should be elected or appointed.

TOWN ORDINANCE REVIEW

Board Vice-Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith and Board member Jeff Haylon offered an update on their continuing review of the town’s ordinances and policies. The purpose of the review is to identify any ordinances or policies that they believe the Board should revise or repeal.

No ordinance will be repealed without a public discussion during which town residents can weigh in.

Ms. Reniche-Smith brought

three ordinances to the Board’s attention, noting that two of them may be “repealed by implication” because subsequent ordinances have either contradicted or superseded them.

The three ordinances flagged for discussion in this round of review are:

Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance (2002)

Central Business District Sidewalk Sign and Merchandise Display Ordinance (2014)

Sewer Ordinance for the Town of Brandon, Vermont, Relating to Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (1994)

The first two ordinances were flagged for review and potential repeal because the issues they addressed have since been addressed by the current Brandon Land Use Ordinance.

The last ordinance in the list, which deals with private septic systems, seems to have been made obsolete by state law. However, in-meeting review of the relevant state law suggested that the Board had an option whether to pursue its own inspection of septic systems or leave the permitting to the state. Mr. Hopkins suggested that the Board vote to leave the

Letter to the Editor

Brandon Area Food Drive was a success—Thank you!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Brandon Area Food Shelf and the folks we serve, I would like to thank St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Churches for hosting a food drive held on Saturday, August 30. Special thanks go to Cassie Root and George Howard for spearheading this project, along with volunteers Art & Claudia Brasch, Erin Van Auken, Judy Doell, Elaine Mumford, Rena

McDonough, and Ken Brown. Special thanks to all those who gave so generously to help those with food insecurities in our community. They raised close to \$800 and nearly 800 lbs. of non-perishable items to restock the shelves at the food shelf. Brandon surely takes care of her own! Thank you!

Kathy Mathis
Director

permitting to the state, noting that the town had not been involved in septic permits in the time he had been Town Manager or on the Selectboard.

The next step in the process will be to publicize the texts of these ordinances in advance of a public meeting to discuss their repeal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the public-comment segment of the meeting, an attendee thanked Tim Kingston for his work as Brandon’s Animal Control Officer, noting that Mr. Kingston had done “a great

job.”
Mr. Moore encouraged town residents to attend the public forum on the future of The Reporter at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 18 in the downstairs meeting room of the Brandon Town Hall.

Board Chair Doug Bailey noted that there had been some form of newspaper in Brandon for all of the 42 years that he has lived here and that it would be disappointing to see it disappear entirely.

Brandon Town Manager's report, Aug.26–Sept.5

FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- A public meeting on the future of our community’s newspaper of record The Reporter will be held in the Town Hall meeting room on Thursday, September 18th at 7PM.
- Meetings of boards/commissions/etc will now use a uniform Zoom Meeting ID going forward (253 279 4161). The other Zoom Meeting IDs will only be used when there are two meetings being held concurrently (which is rare and we will endeavor to avoid).
- 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

- Town Farm Road paving was completed and Jeremy, Brian, and Bobby will build up the shoulders to meet the new pavement level later this month.
- Kyle took on making repairs to the basketball court in the Seminary Hill playground to prevent water infiltration.
- The highway department did extensive work on Birch Hill to remedy areas where washouts have been chronic. Stone lined ditches will help in channeling stormwater without eroding the road. This is part of our MRGP (municipal roads general permit) work and is partially supported by state grants in aid.
- The third operator position at Wastewater has been posted.

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. Chief Kachajian was at a professional development / recertification / con-

tinuing education training part of this past week.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE MISSION

- The Town’s retirement accounting has been audited by a firm engaged by the State and we have been given a “fairly stated” evaluation. This is a credit to conscientious work by Jackie and our town office team.
- The Department Heads are working on FY27 budgets ahead of our workshop series.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MISSION

- Doug Bailey and I met with Steven Jupiter of The Reporter ahead of the announced public meeting on the future direction of the paper.

FOLLOW-UP

- I had meetings with residents, town officials, staff, and filled a number of requests for information.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

- Delinquent taxes was \$600,811 now \$546,133 / Wastewater was \$205,610 now \$204,514
- Unrestricted fund balance \$729,336 Local option tax (1%) fund balance \$456,777
- FY25 operating budget projected surplus \$144,333 (3.8% of total spending [\$3,768,035])

Respectfully submitted,



Seth Hopkins

Obituary

Carole Lee Griffin, 76, Benson

Carole Lee Griffin, age 76, passed peacefully with family by her side on August 29, 2025, at her home in Benson.

Carole was born in Middlebury on December 23, 1948. She was the daughter of John and Ruby (Fuller) Quinn. She grew up in Forest Dale, where she received her early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School. She began her working career at Brandon Training School and later worked for several years at Leicester Central School. She had retired from Pleasant Manor Nursing Home following more than 17 years of service. Carole enjoyed cooking and loved spending time with



DIANA L. BERTHIAUME

Dale; two daughters, Rebecca L. Griffin and Stacey L. Kirkpatrick and her husband Kris; two granddaughters, Kayleigh Kirkpatrick and Victoria Kirkpatrick-Mantos and her husband Tony Matos. Several nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents and three brothers.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place on September 20, 2025, at 3 p.m., at Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon. Pastor Michael Vincent will officiate.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

her family.

Surviving is her husband, Paul Griffin, whom she married on June 20, 1970 in Forest

Community Development Report

New Session of Aikido starting September 29th. Beginner and advanced classes on Mondays and Saturdays at the town hall (upstairs)


Miss Michaela Dance is back for the fall. Ballet, hip-hop and tap being offered to youth ages 3 - 15 and adult classes for those 16 and older starting on September 30 th and running through mid-December. Tuesdays and Fridays on the stage here at the town hall.

Table Tennis on Tuesdays with commissioner Arlen Bloodworth will be coming back to the Otter Valley North Campus gymnasium

for fall and winter. 6:30 start time on Tuesdays. Numbers are up from last year for all of our youth sport offerings.

Reminder that adult floor hockey has started (September 7th). This new free adult offering on Sundays will be available fall and winter!

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Moore

The new Reporter

(Continued from Page 4)

email newsletter, with links to an online edition that was continuously updated? Could we generate enough subscription and advertising revenue to sustain this? Should we continue to publish a printed paper once a month?

Or perhaps only for special occasions, a few times a year? Should there be some combination of a regular online "paper" with a sometimes printed one? Are any of these ideas financially sustainable?

We'll explore these ideas, and

more—especially your ideas—on September 18 at the public forum. But if you are sitting on the edge of your seat and have great ideas, or energy, or want to get involved, contact us right away by emailing to news@brandonreporter.com.



BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

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

(802) 483-2811



Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory



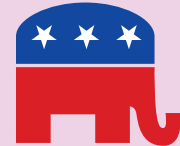
Leicester News

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.



CORRECTION: The Leicester Republican Party Caucus will be held on **TUESDAY, SEPT. 16**, 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.



Forest agencies urge caution with campfires

MENDON—The U.S. Forest Service and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation are urging the public to be extremely careful with all types of outdoor fires. Fire danger conditions and fuels are significantly elevated, with most of the state being under moderate or severe drought. Though daily fire danger ratings may fluctuate, the overall situation is significantly elevated beyond what is typical for the area at this time of year.

The State and Federal agencies are working together to educate local and visiting forest users in hopes of reducing potential wildfire risk. Elevated wildfire conditions are expected to continue through the month of September and may persist through October. With the fall foliage season just around the corner the agencies are expecting increased visitation in the coming weeks and encourage situational awareness and for people to report all unattended fires by calling 911.

In recent weeks fire officials have been patrolling campsites and other recreation areas and are concerned with what they have found. Local fire resources have responded to at least 13 wildfires since August 1. In addition, firefighters have responded to dozens of abandoned campfires that were left burning after campers departed. People often think that a fire has been extinguished, but the hot embers deep in the ash bed can smolder for hours, days or even weeks if not properly extinguished.

Due to high fire danger and extended drought conditions campers are discouraged from having

campfires outside of established campgrounds, including dispersed campsites and backcountry trail campsites. If you feel strongly that you must have a campfire, please keep them smaller and be extremely diligent when extinguishing them. Campers should always pour water on their campfires, stir any remaining coals thoroughly and make sure that the fire is cool to the touch before leaving it.

Over the next week, warm and dry conditions continue to be projected in the forecast. Warm afternoon temperatures, low relative humidity and gusty, dry winds encourage the spread of wildfire. Many people believe that lightning starts most wildfires. In fact, nine out of ten wildfires nationwide are started by humans.

Some helpful wildfire prevention tips include:

- Completely extinguish all campfires, both in established campsites and dispersed sites, as well as picnic areas. Fires should be doused with water and stirred to mix ashes and water until the ashes are cool enough to touch with the back of your hand. Remember, if it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.
- This applies to ashes from charcoal grills as well.
- Never discard ashes from campfires, charcoal grills, woodstoves, or cigarettes on vegetation or organic soils.
- Refrain from smoking in areas with flammable vegetation or organic soils. Cigarette butts and ashes should never be discarded in the forest regardless of location. If you packed it in, please pack it out. (See Campfires, Page 18)

GARDENING CORNER



A visit with Jamie Hamilton of the Hamilton Cattle Company

BY LYN DESMARAIS

I was delighted to meet Jamie Hamilton three years ago when I first started this gardening column. At 25, and a first-generation farmer, he's living my dream. I was so impressed by his drive, organization, and passion for farming. In the three years that have

followed, none of those qualities has abated, if anything, he is more enthusiastic, cheerful, and driven to farm here in Rutland County, Vermont.

We both share a love of cattle and caretaking land. When I mentioned I had wanted to be a vet as a child, he said, "I did too, until

I drove my first tractor." During family vacations to visit his mother's family in England, he got to drive and ride along in combines. For those of you that don't know what a combine is, take a look at them online. They are impressive, enormous machines that harvest our wheat, corn, and other grains, by cutting the crop (reap), separating the grains from their stalks (thresh), and cleaning the grain from its husks (winnowing the chaff). Jamie had the courage, vision and a bit of help, which catapulted his dreams into reality.

"I've combined everything I love, open land, farms, high quality food, caretaking animals, and using and fixing tractors and equipment into one career."

Jamie grew up in Chittenden, VT. He graduated from VTC in 2018. He drove west in 2019 to intern on a cattle operation in Montana. He worked there for a few months, which further solidified his desire to raise beef cattle. Back home in Vermont, he collaborated with a local farmer who has Red Devons. Hamilton Cattle Company was thus born. Before he transitioned to beef cattle, Jamie owned a dairy herd of 9 Jerseys.

Five years on, he now has 400 head of cattle, of which 150 are mother cows. Jamie utilizes registered Red Devon bulls to maintain and produce quality grass-finishing genetics within his herd.

"We emphasize genetics and feed quality to produce an efficient animal that is a high-quality

finished product. Finishing on grass is both desirable to the consumer and it is a way that we can effectively produce healthy, quality cattle here in Vermont," he said.

The farm currently finishes about 100 head each year, with the remaining calves retained for herd replacements or sold to other farms for beef production. The farm sells retail beef at Kamuda's Market in Pittsford, Baird Farm in Chittenden, Jericho and Waterbury Markets, as well as a number of other local farm stands, markets, and restaurants in Rutland, Windsor, Addison, and Chittenden counties. The farm also sells beef direct to consumer in the form of beef boxes, quarter cows, halves, and whole animals. Pickup is available at his leased property in Pittsford by appointment.

"The biggest rewards in farm-

ing for me revolve around successes with the cows and the achievements of accomplishing daily tasks that provide a sense of satisfaction in many different ways. I love being my own boss and managing a business, most days of course. I love caring for livestock and seeing the growth of the animals as they develop into a finished product that I can be proud to provide to my community. I enjoy the satisfaction of crop work and making the land productive while caring for it like it's my own."

Of course, there are challenges.

"The ultimate goal is to own my own farm someday soon. The business currently leases land across 5 towns to make all of this work, and it is becoming increasingly essential to have a home base. Any agricultural enterprise is incredibly capital intensive. It (See Gardening Corner, Page 11)



JAMIE HAMILTON OF the Hamilton Cattle Company.

Photo provided



Cobble Knoll Orchard

Cobble Knoll Orchard

Apples available on the stand and pick-your-own

Homemade Cider Donuts and Apple Pies. Fresh Pressed Cider, Maple Syrup, Honey, Vermont artisan cheese, Jams, Pickles, Apple Butter, Pumpkins and Squash

Open Daily 9 AM - 5 PM through Oct. 26
1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743

Check availabilities at CobbleKnollOrchard.com, Facebook or Instagram.




'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' comes to the Otter Valley stage this weekend

BY MITCHELL PEARL
The Brandon Actors Troupe is presenting the musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" this weekend at Otter Valley. Shows are at 7:00 on Friday evening, September 12 and 7:00 on Saturday evening, September 13, with

a matinee performance at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 14. This is the second full-length musical performance offered by adult company of the Troupe, after last September's successful performance of "Lucky Stiff." The Brandon Actors Troupe started out last year as

a collaboration between Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre Company and the Brandon Recreation Department and has now matured into an independent community theatre group. The youth company of the Brandon Actors Troupe presented "Spaghetti Western" and "Treasure Island" last spring to appreciative audiences.

"The 25th Annual Putnam

County Spelling Bee" is a musical comedy with music and lyrics by William Finn, with a book written by Rachel Sheinkin. The show centers on a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. An eclectic group of six quirky adolescents compete in the Bee, run by three equally quirky grown-ups. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the contestants hope they never hear the "ding" of the mistake bell and are not led off stage to a chorus of "Goodbye." The show appeared on Broadway in 2005 to good reviews and box-office success. It

was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two.

The Brandon Actors Troupe production of "Spelling Bee" is directed by Otter Valley's Jeffrey Hull, with a well-known cast featuring some recent graduates of the Walking Stick Theatre Company at OV, a school board member, and other community theatre regulars from the area. Several of the performers who shined in "Lucky Stiff" will again grace the Otter Valley stage. Kenny Cifone is the musical director, leading a band of five well-known local musicians.

An unusual aspect of the show is that four real audience members are invited on stage to compete in the spelling bee alongside the six young characters. (See "Spelling Bee", Page 19)




ALL CELEBRATE THE end of the first round. Photos by Mitchell Pearl



LEFT: SPELLING BEE contestant; Right: Laurie Bertrand, in the role of Mitch Mahoney, waves "Goodbye" to one of the contestants.



SPELLING BEE CONTESTANTS.



Golf Course
NESHOB
Est. 1958

LONG IRON RESTAURANT
Open Wednesday–Sunday
Wednesday—Wing night
Thursday—Burgers and Beer
Friday—Dinner Specials
Saturday—Lunch
Sunday—Brunch

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

Follow us on Facebook for updates and daily specials

.....

The golf course is now open for the season!!

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

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

SPELLING BEE CONTESTANTS.

An invitation prompts a memorable trip to Fint, Morocco

BY LYLA FULLER

I had been invited to visit a family in a small village near Ouarzazate, Morocco on the edge of the Sahara Desert. What an exciting opportunity; I could not miss it.

I was met in Marrakech airport after 20 hours of travel by Rachid, my driver/guide. Since I would have 3 days in Marrakech when I returned from the desert and Fint,

we left immediately to drive over the Atlas Mountains. In August it was very dry and brown but an impressive range of mountains, many hikers and trekkers on them. They're about 13,000 feet high.

I loved the red brick homes nestled in the few evergreen trees near the top of the mountain. The road was narrow and winding with lots of traffic. Each vehicle,

car, bus, truck was loaded with people, animals, hay or all three. The trucks' loads were far above the racks and looked as if they would topple over at any minute.

Ouarzazate is located at the eastern foot of the Atlas Mountains and is the gateway to the Sahara Desert. Camel trips, mountain bikes, and ATV or Quads trips can be arranged from here. It is also the Hollywood of Morocco, with several film studios. Several American movies have been made here as well as European ones. (The Man Who Would Be King, Lawrence of Arabia, Alexander the Great, and Hidalgo, for example). Some of the old French forts from past occupancy remain as sets and open to tourist.

Before driving on to Fint, we stopped at an open market for vegetables and chicken. There was a meat shop and a chicken shop as well as 8 to 10 stalls lining the alley way. The stalls sell various fruits and vegetables as well as some household items. Nothing is wrapped in cellophane. The chickens are alive when you select one, it is killed, plucked, washed, and wrapped for you. Everything is fresh.

We arrived at the village at sundown. It was postcard pretty, nestled on each side of the river Fint. The river is lined with date palms, almonds trees, pomegranate trees, small gardens of corn, melon, carrots, etc. Each red brick home has its own garden. In order to reach the home, we must wade across the swollen river. They had had some much-needed rain. Tomorrow the steppingstones will be visible.

I was greeted warmly by the

family of 3 daughters and a son. I speak no Berber, French, or Arabic, they spoke no English but are generous hosts. Rachid my driver translated. There were two other daughters who were married: one lived in Casablanca and the other in Fint. She had twin 11-month-old girls and Grandmother keeps one child each day trading off so mother had only one to deal with. It is a close and loving family.

Mohammed, the patriarch of the family, demonstrated how to make proper Berber mint tea. The tea and a huge cone-shaped chunk of sugar were placed in the tea pot. The sugar was about 5 inches tall by 4 inches around and solid. I believe it is sold this way in many countries. Hot water was poured over them. After it had steeped a few minutes, he poured tea into a couple of small glasses (tea is drunk from glasses not cups there) which he then poured back into the tea pot to stir the mixture. When he thought it was dissolved enough, he poured a small amount and tasted it or offered it to someone to taste. It is a lot of sugar but is very refreshing. Mint tea is served at breakfast, lunch, teatime, and dinner. Can't be good for the blood-sugar levels!

Dinner that evening was couscous with veggies and chicken served at a low table in the family lounge room. Seated on the floor, we ate with our hands or bread as a utensil. I was given a spoon because I hadn't learned the knack

for balling the couscous properly. It is a talent that requires lots of practice. Dessert was fresh melon. Before and after each meal the youngest son passed an ornate basin and a sort of tea pot and poured water over your hands for cleansing. This practice is done at each meal and when tea is served. A communal towel is passed with it.

The village-owned solar generated power is available from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm then propane lamps or flashlights are used. Most families go to bed then because they are up early. Water is available in the morning for a couple of hours, so containers are filled for cooking and cleaning. I don't know if this is caused by the drought or always rationed.

Before retiring, I used the bathroom, a medium-size room with a shower (no hot water), one faucet, and the traditional toilet hole (no seat as we know it) with the footholds on each side. During the day when the water is off, there is a large container of water to rinse the toilet after using. Showers are in the morning. I brought large bottles of water for drinking and brushing my teeth. Bottled water is readily available in most towns but not in this village (no shops).

My bed was a large foam cushion in the large public dayroom with 2 sheets. It is 90-100 degrees and no air conditioning except the open window with ornate metal grilles. I slept soundly and

(See Fint, Morocco, Page 11)



THE AUTHOR (CENTER, with glasses) and some of her hosts in Fint, Morocco.



THE PREPARATION OF mint tea was a careful process. Tea was served in glasses rather than tea-cups. Photos provided

Fall plants are here!

Mums 3 for \$27 • Asters 3 for \$33
Many house plants and herbs to choose 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

Many new items in our vintage area!

New fall hours

12-5 weekdays & Sundays
10-5 Saturdays

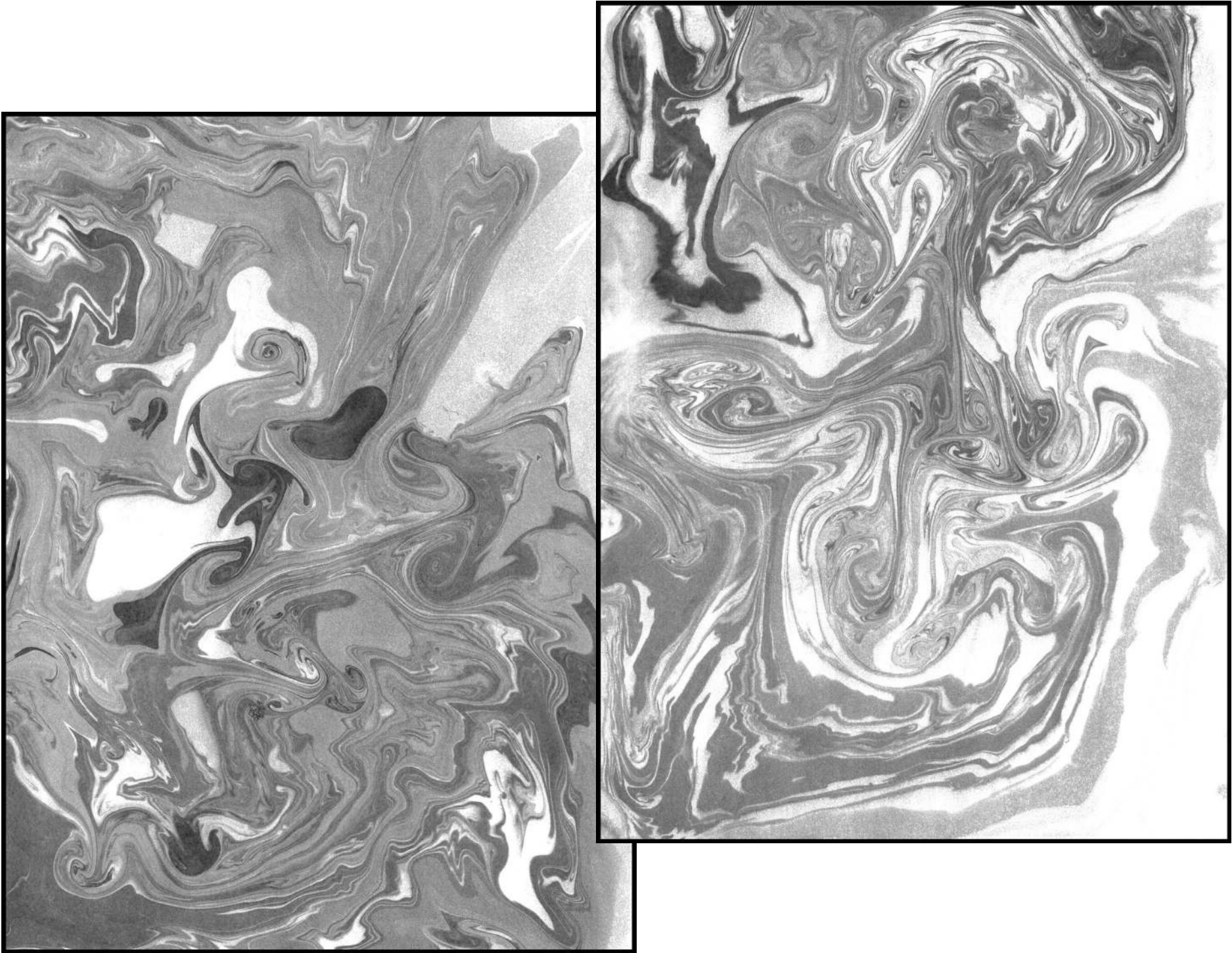
Virgil AND Constance

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

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENTS: Eldon Thurston and Layla Trudeau
GRADE: 3
SCHOOL: Neshobe
TITLE: Untitled
TEACHER: John Brodowski

STATEMENT FROM MR. B:
For the past few years we have done paper marbling on the first week of school in third grade. It's a super fun and quick activity that is full of awesome surprises. Students float india ink on the surface of a tray filled with water and use a small amount of dish detergent as a "resist" to create white spaces in the marbling. When their design is ready they place a piece of paper on the surface of the water and the ink design is transferred to the paper. Students have some control over what the ink does but the water has a mind of its own which keeps things interesting!



Fint, Morocco

(Continued from Page 9)

comfortably since I had flown 20 hours and traveled another hundred. Passing from one culture to another, a step back in time.

When I awoke about 8:00 a.m., most of the family were up and about their chores, collecting water, cleaning, preparing food, caring for the garde/farm, or fishing. All food is hand processed, chopped, peeled, and cooked on a propane stove. They had a propane-operated refrigerator. I was struck by seeing the women bending at the waist to wash the floor or prepare food on the low table rather than have a high table or counter. Dishes are washed in cold water with lots of soap. I had the honor of washing dishes twice while I was a guest.

Breakfast was mint tea and flat bread with jam or honey. Following breakfast, I walked along the

river to see the gardens and how beautiful it was there. The sisters had joined other women to fish. Fishing is done by wading up the river in a line with a large basket held between the knees to trap the fish. It looked like they were having lots of fun. The fish were served for lunch, filled with lots of bones but tasty. A white fish of some sort.

The women used the communal oven to bake the flat bread we have with each meal. That saves fuel and energy to share. Also, the women wore several layers of skirts as well as pants under the skirts. Wading in the river must feel good with all those clothes.

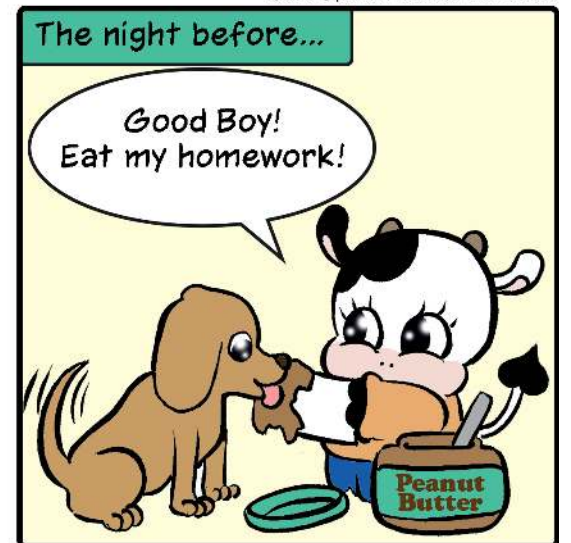
It was a fabulous trip and such fun to meet this family. They are at least three generations of tour guides and hosts.

Sad to leave but grateful for the experience.

the **MAPLE COW**® by Matt Aucoin



©Art by Matt Aucoin LLC 2025



Gardening Corner

(Continued from Page 7)

can be nerve wracking dealing with 6-figure debt loads, incoming and outgoing cash flow, and making it all work on paper. You can work 15-hour days, 7 days a week, but if you aren't managing the operation like a business, it will not work. Starting as a first-generation operation is additionally challenging because of the immediate need for infrastructure, equipment, and purchasing lots of livestock. I have had to pick and choose where to prioritize allocating funds to make it work year to year. It doesn't all happen at once."

Cattle farming requires a lot of infrastructure: fencing, farm buildings, shop, manure facilities, corrals and gates, and waterlines to start. Producing hay to feed the herd requires many pieces of equipment, all with hefty price tags.

"When I started, I had to decide if I wanted to carry more debt and be efficient or try to be as frugal as possible and fight with old, worn-out equipment every year. I landed somewhere in the middle. We run equipment that definitely isn't brand new, but we take very good care of it and maintain it with an extensive amount of preventative maintenance so that when it is time to make hay, we can cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time. It's scary to think about how much we spend on maintenance and fuel and depreciation on all the equipment every year,

but it allows us to produce quality feed and raise quality cattle, and it is an essential component of our business. I have run the numbers many different ways and have ultimately settled on the current method as what makes the most sense for now."

Jamie emphasizes the need for diversification on farms to keep them viable these days.

"We started the retail beef business to allow this all to happen. I could not have started from scratch without selling retail beef. We also do some custom farm work for other farms, sell some hay, and buy and sell equipment to keep all of this going. Hopefully as time goes on, it will get a little easier. I think there is a fine balance with the old mentality of just working longer hours to accomplish more tasks and burning yourself out. We definitely work long hours most weeks of the year, but I also make sure that I take time for myself and get off of the farm once in a while. Burn out is a real thing. With livestock, you are tied to the farm 24/7, but that is a lifestyle that you choose. There still is flexibility, beauty, and excitement in my day-to-day life. I have the satisfaction of knowing that I wanted to do this and I have achieved a lot in 5 years. There are still a ton of hurdles to overcome, and there are no guarantees that it will work in the long run, but I will always be grateful that I took advantage of an opportunity to make it happen"



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 11

SEPTEMBER TRUCK SALE



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO
2500HD, 6.6L V8, Auto, 4x4, 97k miles
\$32,995



1992 CHEVY C1500
Ext Cab, 2WD, 1-Owner, Rust Free, 93k miles
\$8,500



2017 FORD F150
Super Crew Lariat, 3.5L V6, 4x4, 101k miles
\$24,995



2019 FORD RANGER
Crew Cab, 4-Cyl, Auto, 4x4, 102k miles
\$21,995



2013 TOYOTA TACOMA
Double Cab, Long Box, V6, Auto, 4x4, 118k miles
\$20,995

**AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE
USED CARS AND TRUCKS**

We also buy cars,
locate specialty orders
& consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester

Michael Jackman, 53 Years Experience
David Wimett, 40 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 12 Years Experience

802-465-4688

2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com

15 years
of
delivering
quality!

Calendar of events

September

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Aikido classes for Youth (4:30) and Adults (5:30) at Brandon's Town Hall main floor. Beginners and Spectators always welcome! For more information, visit www.AikidoVermont.org

Maclure Library Yoga -

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

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

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

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



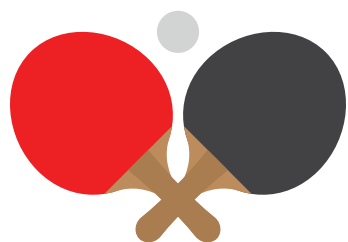
Wednesdays

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.

Friends Zone

Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the Friends Zone. Open Wednesdays 2–5 p.m. at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Meet with old friends and make new ones. Play cards, cribbage, or Yahtzee. Put a puzzle together or bring your arts, crafts, and hobbies to work on. Snacks and beverages provided. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact pastor Vicki Disorda at vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or 802 345-4125.

Crafternoons

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

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

Yoga Prana Shakti Zoom & Studio Chair Yoga, Gentle, Wednesdays

From 10:30–11:30 am at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland, Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

Goings on around town

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

Free Medical Clinic Wednesdays in Sept.

A free walk-in healthcare clinic for adults in Rutland County will be held at Health Partners (formerly Rutland Health Partners) on Wednesday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 100 North Main Street, Rutland, Vt. 05701. For appointments or any questions, call 802-253-1234.



MACLURE LIBRARY

BOOK SALE WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 27TH & 28TH 9AM-3PM PURCHASE BY DONATION

RAIN DATES: OCTOBER 4TH & 5TH *NO EARLY BIRDS* PLEASE!

840 ARCH ST, PITTSFORD VT
CONTACT@MACLURELIBRARY.ORG / 483-2972

way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event! Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

Chess

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

Wednesday 10th

NXT Rockumentary Film Series: The T.A.M.I. Show (1964) — Next Stage Arts
Justly celebrated for its incandescent performances by James Brown and the Rolling Stones—who chose, unwisely, to play after him—The T.A.M.I. Show's overview of "teenage music" circa 1964 serves as a primer in the tensions that would shortly rip the culture wide open. The variety-show staging and the goofy intros by emcees Jan and Dean act as a security blanket for

anxious parents, assuring them that this rock & roll madness won't get too out of hand. But by the time Brown and the Stones have worked their will on the crowd, you can feel a riot coming on. — The Rolling Stones. Directed by Steve Binder, 2h 3m. From 7-9 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney.

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 HireAbility Workforce Partners. If you have questions, call 802-786-5837. If you need special accommodations to attend this event, contact labor

Sip N Dip — Chaffee Art Center

Are you ready for some fun! Join us for Sip N Dip from 6-8 p.m. Perfect for a date night or just out with friends! Attendees follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished acrylic painting. BYO wine. Instructor: Sally Hogan. \$35 per person includes all supplies. Must pre-register at www.chaffeeartcenter.org. 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.

Friday 12th

Rutland Free Library Book Sale

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs,

DVDs and puzzles for all ages.

Public always welcome. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per monthly sale per family.

No book dealers.

Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. 10 Court St., Rutland. www.rutlandfree.org

Castleton Community Seniors 21st Annual Golf Outing — Lake St. Catherine Country Club

Enjoy a great day of fun, friendship, and "Golf for a Cause." This event benefits the Center's Wellness Program which provides over 1,500 meals in the Center's dining room, assists in distributing over 6,000 home-delivered Meals on Wheels and provides 8 different exercise classes for osteoporosis and falls prevention. The event features 18 holes (Captain & Crew format), a \$10,000 hole-in-one-contest, plus prizes for low gross, low net, longest drive and closet to pin for both men and women. The \$115 registration fee includes greens fee, golf cart, lunch, prizes and after play hors d'oeuvres. To register call 802-468-3093 or visit www.castletoncsi.org. 1-4 p.m. Lake St. Catherine Country Club, 2725 Vermont 30, Poultney.

Food & Art Friday: Vermont Poets — Sable Arts Projects

Vermont's Poet Laureate Bianca Stone & Afro-Futurist Toussaint St. Negritude share poetry at Sable's Food & Art Friday. Plus wood-fired pizza from Fat Dragon Farm & opening works from Sable's Artists in Residence. Come enjoy a beautiful evening on the Sable Land!

From 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Sable Arts Projects, Inc., 588 N. Taggart Hill Road, Stockbridge.

Brandon Artists Guild presents "Artist of the Month" illustrator Ashely Wolff

The Brandon Artists Guild is pleased to present the next "Artist of the Month," award-winning Leicester painter, illustrator, author Ashely Wolf. Enjoy a reception at 6 p.m. followed by a talk at 7. Learn about Ashley's creative process and techniques used in the creation of her children's books and works of fine art. There will be time for Q & A and a live drawing demonstration! Free and open to the public at the 7 Center Street Gallery, Brandon.

WAM Event (WriterArtistMusician) — Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill

WAM! is a unique and enjoyable evening of dialogue and exchange with a writer, artist and musician. The artists present a select work and speak to the work itself, to their creative process, their motivations, challenges and current path. With Joanna Tebbs, Whitney Ramage and Gary Schmidt. 7 p.m. 145 East Main Street, Poultney.

Writer Joanna Tebbs Young wrote regular columns and historical features for the Rutland Reader and Rutland Herald for six years. In 2021, She began a new historical column for the Rutland Herald/Times Argus Weekend Magazine called "Remember When." She has various projects in the works including a memoir about discovering a new spirituality after leaving a fundamentalist religious community and a hybrid memoir essay collection which weaves her personal story with a retelling of Biblical and other mythological stories.

Artist Whitney Ramage explains, "Through a broad range of media I weave together elements of regret, intergenerational and collective trauma, grief and loss. With a sense of impassioned futility and humor, I sift through the triumphs and indignities of being human and along the way, I make sculptures, performative videos, installations, photographs, and whatever else the work demands. . . . Having been raised in



poverty in an economically depressed rural community, I have spent the past few years mobilizing art to combat the hopelessness prevalent in rural America."

Musician Gary Schmidt has written music for various combinations of instruments and styles including dance/theatre projects, musical theatre projects, country music combos, jazz ensembles and more.

Sunday 13th

Bandwagon Summer Series: The Gaslight Tinkers plus Sammy & Brothers —Putney

Get ready for a high-energy night of global grooves and fiddle fire! The Gaslight Tinkers blend African, Caribbean, funk, reggae, and Latin rhythms with New England and Celtic fiddle traditions, creating an irresistible, danceable sound. Opening the night, Sammy and Brothers weave traditional African styles from the Democratic Republic of Congo and East Africa with acoustic arrangements and uplifting, message-driven songwriting.

From 5-7 p.m. at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road, Putney.

Learn to Crochet — Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber

Join Ruth to learn how to crochet! This class is for complete newbies to crocheting.

Participants will begin a simple crochet project in the class to learn basic stitches, terminology, and pattern reading. The cost is \$25 per person, and you will need a size H hook as well as worsted weight yarn for the class. Preregistration is required; register at greenmountainfibers.com.

From 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber, 217 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland.

Learn to Knit — Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber

Come learn to create with two sticks and some string! This class is for complete newbies to knitting. Participants will learn to cast on, knit and purl, as well as garter stitch, stockinette stitch, and ribbing as time allows. The cost is \$25 per person.

Participants will need US size 8 knitting needles and worsted weight wool yarn, which are available for purchase in the shop. Preregistration is required on our website at www.greenmountainfibers.com.

From 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber, 217 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland.

The first Southern Vermont Renaissance Faire was merry met

The first annual Southern Vermont Renaissance Faire, held at the beautiful Pittsford Rec fields, was a magical weekend of family fun! From Funk Farms grand live turkey, to mermaids, to Emma-Jean Hoops, pony rides, games and wagon rides, there was plenty for all ages to enjoy!

Music by O'hAnleigh, the Eschtones, and more made the day merry despite a much-needed Saturday soaking!

Organizer Christa Downey declared it a grand success and looks forward to next year! And those in attendance agree that the Renaissance is now!



Photos by Colleen Wright and Steven Jupiter



Restaurant *guide*

Robert's
Café Provence

From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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

Sunday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

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

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT



Brandon's gleaming new beacon

THE SPIRE OF the Brandon Congregational Church has just gotten a facelift. See pg.1 for more information about the crew who made it happen.

Franklin's
FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

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

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

25 North Street, Proctor 802-459-3320

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



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!

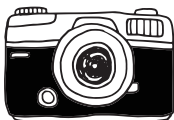


E-mail
kate@brandonreporter.com if you can identify
someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080



Kurt Kimball recognized Marie Cyr (center) with her daughter Micki (far left), grandson, and two of her sons, Sean and Chris. Ms. Cyr ran Marie's Grinders out of her home in Brandon.



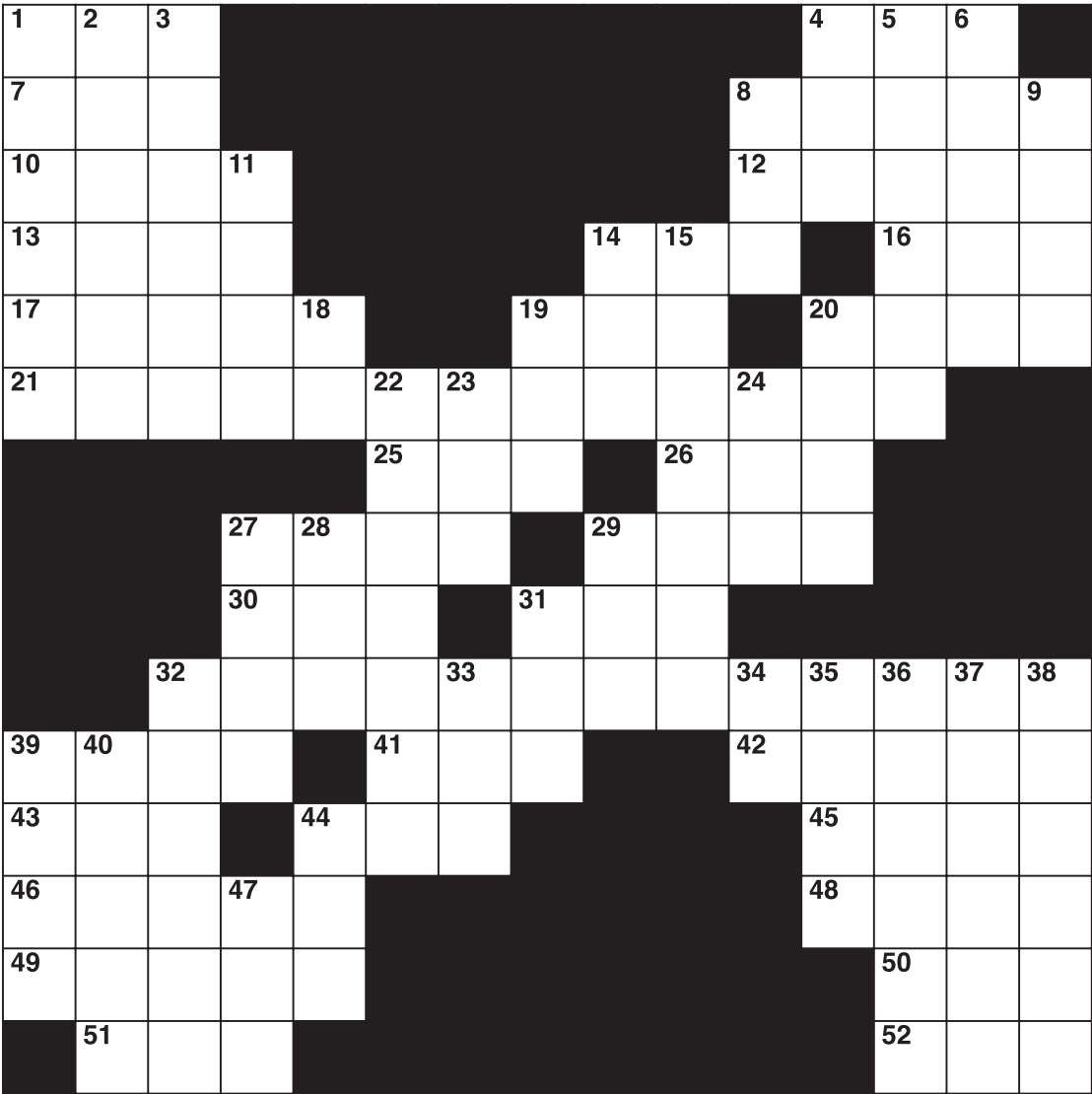
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
- 4. Engine additive
- 7. Macaws
- 8. Listens to
- 10. Self-righteously moralistic person
- 12. Made of wood
- 13. Chinese lute
- 14. Beginning military rank
- 16. Indicates near
- 17. Ties the score
- 19. Chum
- 20. Long ago
- 21. Localities
- 25. Midway between northeast and east
- 26. Make fun of
- 27. Tennis great Arthur
- 29. Construction location
- 30. Cow's noise
- 31. Blue
- 32. One of the Fab Four
- 39. Formula 1 team
- 41. Dash
- 42. Lifting device
- 43. Basics
- 44. Keyboard key
- 45. Old Irish alphabet
- 46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
- 48. Covered stadium
- 49. Sword handles
- 50. Longing or yearning
- 51. Creators' social network
- 52. Boxing's GOAT

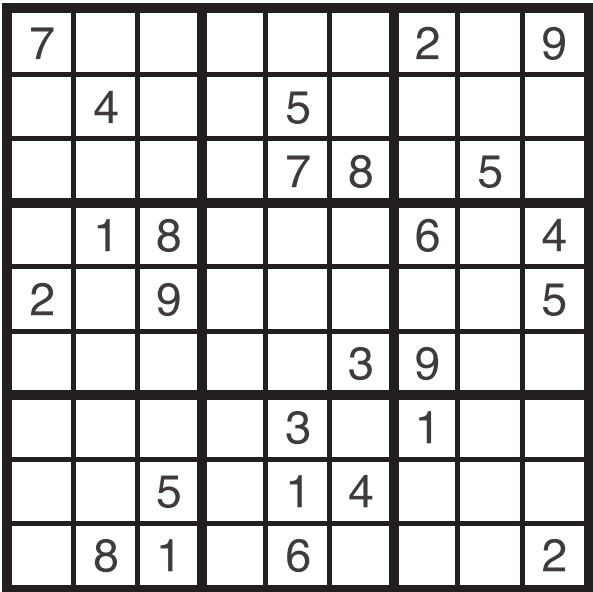
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Occur
- 2. Show up
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Givers and ____
- 6. Gets ready
- 8. Ad ____
- 9. Fit of irritation
- 11. Criminal organization
- 14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 15. American state
- 18. Sensor hub
- 19. Before
- 20. The boundary of a surface
- 22. Witnesses
- 23. Singular
- 24. Type of meal
- 27. Music awards show
- 28. Former French coin of low value
- 29. A bag-like structure in an animal
- 31. Schenectady County Airport
- 32. Calm down
- 33. Partner to cheese
- 34. Cola brand
- 35. Stepped on
- 36. Japanese city
- 37. Type of coating
- 38. A citizen of Yemen
- 39. Popular breakfast item
- 40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
- 44. First responders
- 47. Short-term memory



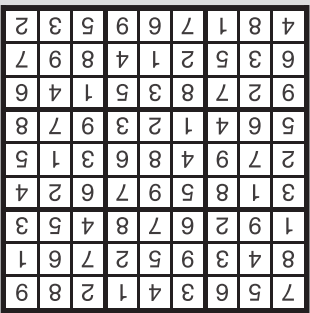
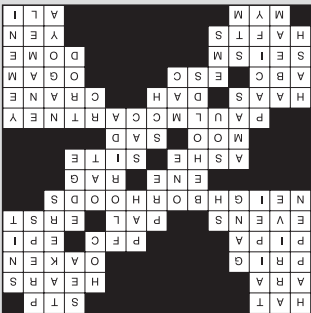
Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



19th Annual Duck Derby a Quacking Success!

The Rutland County Humane Society is thrilled to announce the success of our 19th Annual Duck Derby! Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we "adopted" out 3,531 plastic ducks and raised over \$9,163 to help provide care for homeless animals in need. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who participated, donated, and helped make this year's Derby a fun and meaningful event. Congratulations to our lucky winners who all donated some, if not all of their winnings, back to RCHS: 1st Prize: #2389 – Element Nail Salon • 2nd Prize: #134 – Pam Larson • 3rd Prize: #5181 – Jack and Mary Ann Healey • 4th Prize: #2019 – Jackie Gauthier• Last Place Prize: #571 – Sharon Hughes. We're grateful for the community spirit and generosity that make events like the Duck Derby possible. Together, we are making a difference for the animals who need us most. Thank you!

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



MEET TASHA *FOSTER-TO-ADOPT - 2-YEAR-OLD. FEMALE. PIT BULL MIX. BRINDLE

WITH WHITE. Tasha is a spirited pit bull mama who's ready for her own happily-ever-after. She's got a playful, energetic side and could use a little help with her manners, but once she settles, she's pure sweetness. Tasha knows "sit" and "paw" and will proudly show them off, even without a treat, just to make you smile. Her biggest wish is to make her people happy, and she'll reward you with loyalty, cuddles, and love. Tasha is dog selective but fell in love with a small dog in her previous foster home. She did well with the kids in that home as well, so she would make the perfect addition to a family. Tasha is foster to adopt until her spay date.

MEET HATTIE - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC MEDIUM HAIR. TIGER.

Don't let Hattie's grumpy little face fool you, because beneath that pout is a total sweetheart just waiting to feel safe and loved. This gorgeous girl came to us as a stray, so she's still figuring out the world around her. She may look a little skeptical at first, but once she trusts you, she truly shines. Hattie enjoys gentle pets and affection, but only on her terms. She would thrive in a calm home with plenty of cozy hiding spots where she can settle in at her own pace. Once she feels secure, her soft and loving nature really comes out. We're not sure how she'd do with dogs or children, but she seems to get along well with other cats. A patient and understanding adopter will be the key to helping Hattie blossom into the companion she's meant to be. If you have room in your heart (and on your windowsill) for a little cat with a big personality, come meet Hattie today!



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS

New fiction

Buff Soul
by Moa Romanova

How do you prevent history from repeating itself, and is it possible to protect the one you love from themselves? When cartoonist Moa Romanova joins her rock star bestie on a U.S. tour, life quickly turns chaotic, as adolescent trauma begins to haunt her.

The Break-in
by Katherine Faulkner

Alice, a professional mother of one, is hosting a playdate with friends at her upscale London home when a disturbed man breaks in. With her child in the next room, Alice panics and kills him—an act later ruled to have been in self-defense. Everyone tries to encourage Alice to move on with her life—but with strange comments appearing online, a mysterious phone call telling her all is not as it seems, and her husband, nanny, and friends behaving strangely, Alice finds herself drawn to the mystery of who her intruder really was.

Narrow the Road
by James Wade

With his father missing and his mother gravely ill, William Carter is struggling to keep his family's cotton farm afloat in the face of drought and foreclosure. As his options wane, William receives a mysterious letter that claims to know his father's whereabouts. Together with his best friend Ollie, William sets out to find his father and bring him home to set things right. But before the boys can

complete their quest, they must navigate the labyrinth of the Big Thicket, some of the country's most uncharted, untamed land. Along the way they encounter eccentric backwoods characters of every order, running afoul of murderers, bootleggers, and even the legendary Bonnie and Clyde.

Sweetener
by Marissa Higgins

Recently separated wives, both named Rebecca, can't seem to disentangle their lives. Lonely and depressed, Rebecca is scraping by as a part-time cashier at an organic grocery store. Despite having less than ten dollars in her bank account, she lists herself as a sugar mama on a lesbian hookup app. Enter Charlotte, a charismatic artist who, unbeknownst to Rebecca, is also dating her wife.

God and Sex
by Jon Raymond

Arthur Zinn, an author of high-end spiritual texts, has fallen in love with a librarian married to a newfound close friend. When an environmental disaster threatens her life, Arthur's frantic prayers lead to a mystifying event that challenges his assumptions about the nature of the universe and the divine.

New picture books

The Mushroom of Doom
by Becky Davies

Mushroom is having the worst day EVER. First, he's not picked to go on the pizza (and Pineapple is chosen instead of him—can you believe it?! PINEAPPLE!). Then,

DID YOU KNOW?

We had 476 kids come to 49 summer reading programs. Thank you for supporting the library!

Milk spills all over him. Just when he thinks it can't get any worse, he's thrown in the compost bin. What else is a mushroom to do but build an army and take revenge?!

The Invisible Parade
by Leigh Bardugo

There's a party tonight, but Cala doesn't want to go. While her family prepares for the celebration, Cala grieves her grandfather and tries to pretend she's not afraid. But when she is separated from her family at the cemetery, Cala encounters four mysterious riders who will show her she is actually quite brave after all.

Bob the Vampire Snail by Andrea Zuhl. Did you know all snails are named Bob? And this is the story of one of those Bobs and the night his life changed forever. First, he heard a SCREAM... then a C-R-A-C-K... and then he felt a drip, drip, drip... and then, poof! He was a vampire snail.

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.

September 1

- Responded to an alarm at the Lucky 7 Dispensary on Grove Street. It was determined to be false.
- Responded to a residence on Franklin Street for possible child abuse.

September 2

- Received a call regarding a stolen vehicle from Forest Dale Road.
- Received a complaint of an individual who violated a trespass order at the Union Street Market. The investigating officers are actively looking for the suspect and will likely seek an arrest warrant.

September 3

- Responded to a burglary alarm activation at the Otter Valley Union High School

(OVUHS) on Franklin Street. It was later determined to be false.

- Responded to a residence on Town Farm Road to assist Middlebury Regional EMS with a medical call.
- Received a call from loss prevention at Hannaford Supermarket regarding an individual who had shoplifted several days prior and was observed taking merchandise on the store's security camera. The suspect was identified and later cited for Retail Theft.
- Received a call from a plaintiff in a Relief From Abuse case who was reporting that her husband would not return her property. Upon further investigation it was determined that no violation had been committed and that a mutual pick-up time for the property had not yet been arranged.

September 4

- Received a complaint of a violation of a restraining order on Deer Run Road. The matter is under active investigation and criminal charges will be sought against the suspect.
- Received a call regarding an abandoned vehicle at the Minnie Baker Trail Head in Leicester. The complaint was forwarded (See Police report, Page 19)

Campfire

(Continued from Page 6)

- Do not drive off established forest roads or park on top of vegetation, as heat from mufflers and engines can ignite vegetation that touches them.
- When operating chainsaws, generators, and power equipment ensure that you have required spark arrestors and supplies (shovel, water, fire extinguisher) to deal with a fire if one should start.
- If you encounter a wildfire in the forest, please dial 911 to report the fire and be prepared to give a lo-

cation of the fire and other pertinent information for first responders.

- During times of elevated fire danger or drought, please contact the Green Mountain National Forest or the Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation regarding potential fire restrictions.
- Always be careful with fire.
- Make sure that all vegetation and flammable material are far away from your fire.
- And "Remember...Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ties also may pop up. Your words carry weight. professional and show off your leadership skills.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, financial matters are center stage this week. This is a good time to review your budget, look for new income or make sensible investments. Your practical instincts are strong.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Expand your horizons, Capricorn. This is a great week for learning, planning travel or exploring new hobbies. Try to step outside of your comfort zone as much as possible.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, you might be dealing with financial arrangements or deepening a close bond with someone. Regardless, trust and vulnerability are important concepts right now.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

This week is all about you, Virgo, especially if your birthday falls during these days. Focus on personal goals and self-improvement. Set strong intentions for the year ahead.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Personal and professional relationships are your priority this week, Pisces. It's important to compromise and seek harmony in all you do.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

It is time for rest and introspection, Libra. You might feel a need to retreat and recharge your batteries in the days to come. Pay attention to what your body is telling you.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Social connections and networking are driving you right now, Scorpio. Spend time with friends or host a party so others can stop by and mingle. You also can join group events.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Creativity and joy are themes for you this week, Taurus. Engage in hobbies, spend time with loved ones and embrace fun pursuits. Your artistic side may be especially inspired.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Your home and family life take center stage right now, Gemini. You might be focused on domestic projects, redecorating or spending quality time with the people you love.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Communication is key this week, Cancer. Expect a busy social calendar. Important conversations and new learning opportunities

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, your career and public image are in focus this week. Opportunities for advancement or recognition could arise. Be

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 12 H. L. Mencken, journalist (d)
- Sept. 13 Clara Shumann, composer (d)
- Sept. 14 Bong Joon-ho, filmmaker (56)
- Sept. 15 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, writer (48)
- Sept. 16 Amy Poehler, comedian (54)
- Sept. 17 Ken Kesey, novelist (d)
- Sept. 18 Jason Sudeikis, actor (50)



Proctor back-to-school BBQ
THE 12TH ANNUAL Back to School BBQ was held on August 26th at Proctor High School. Proctor Elementary and Proctor High School staff welcomed back students for the 2025-2026 school year.

Photos provided

'Spelling Bee'

(Continued from Page 8)
ters. During the 2005 Tony Awards, former presidential candidate Al Sharpton competed. Can you spell "C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E"?
More information, and a link to buy tickets online can be found at the Brandon Actors Troupe Facebook page. "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" includes some mild language, sexually suggestive humor, and references to sensitive topics. Tickets are \$17.50 (+fees) at CUR8 - Brandon Actors Troupe Projects or \$20 at the door.



CARA WOODS IN the role of Rona Lisa Peretti, moderator of the spelling bee.



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
to the VSP-New Haven for investigation as the vehicle was not located in Brandon.
• Responded to a reported theft of medication on Mulcahy Drive.
• Responded to McConnell Road for a report of a man shooting his neighbors chickens with a BB gun. Upon fur-

ther investigation, the suspect was issued a citation for Animal Cruelty.
• Took fingerprints for employment.
• Conducted a VIN verification.
• Took fingerprints for educational employment.

September 7

- Received an alert of a building alarm activation at OVUHS.
- Received a call regarding a small child screaming for help from a residence on Church Street. Because there were no Brandon officers on duty, the VSP dispatched troopers to the residence to check on the complaint.

Kevin Sandwich - 10am to 3pm Weekdays



Dunmore Hose Company hosts the 11th annual VT Cornhole Tournament



THE DUNMORE HOSE Company of Brandon hosted the 11th Annual VT Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, September 6 at the Brandon Fire Department. Normally held at Estabrook Park, the rainy weather prompted the tournament to move to the indoor garage. Bags flew every which way, with many of them hitting their targets with precision. The Dunmore Hose Company provided excellent burgers, hot dogs, and fries. Mae's Place was on hand with their always-amazing selection of beverages. But the focus was resolutely on the game. The winners are pictured above (middle photo on the right). L to R: 2nd place winners "Hole Teasers" Mandi Fornier & Brittani Lepri; 1st place winners "Kingdbag" Roger Gagnon & Colton Leno; and 3rd place winners "Buh Bye" AJ LaRose & Eric Ferrin. Congrats to all and thanks to the Dunmore Hose Company for another fun tournament! Photos by Steven Jupiter and Mae's Place



FRED FARRINGTON IN a photo from the collection of the Brandon Museum.

Farrington House

(Continued from Page 2)
ther and father, Fred never missed a town meeting, for over 70 years and together they attended and voted at every meeting from 1794 through 1941.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD STOP?

Although there is no definitive evidence, legend has it, as handed down by word of mouth, that the house was a stop on the Underground Railroad, which sheltered escaped slaves prior to and during the Civil War. There was supposedly a hiding place behind a false fireplace, accessible by a closet and tunnels where slaves could hide. In 1995, the town included the house on its Underground Railroad Tour.

CARETAKER HOUSE

In 1922, Fred had a tenant house built in the southwestern part of the farm, now 51 Pearl Street. It would be used by caretaker and chauffeur Charlie Hall until 1941. It was sold to Clifford Hack, and his son Avery and family would live there until 2016. The house was auctioned that

year, completely renovated in 2024, and recently sold.

FIRE & POEM

In 1924, the Farrington house narrowly escaped burning down when a furnace fire started in the basement, but thanks to the Dunmore Hose company and its new truck, the fire was quickly extinguished with little damage to the upper floors.

In 1926, Fred's oldest son Franklin, a 5th-generation Farrington, lovingly penned a poem about Brandon that concluded:

"Six score and more of years, now flown,

Have rested easily
Upon a home
Now mellow grown
With age and dignity.

It stands far down a village street,
Where I was born and bred:
Toward it I turn with eager feet
For it is our Homestead."

When Fred Farrington died in 1941 at age 89, his obituary read in part: "In the passing of Frederick Farrington, Brandon loses one of

those grand old men in whom the spirit and character of Vermonters was strong. His genial smile and greeting were ever ready for his many friends – as one recently said, 'Every time I talk with him, I feel a better man.'"

THE KEMBERTONS

In 1942, the house and property on Pearl Street was sold by Fred's son Franklin to a rich Romanian immigrant from New York City named Harry Phillip Kemberon. Harry and his wife Cecelia lived on Park Avenue in New York and bought the Brandon house for a summer home.

Among other pursuits, Harry Kemberon published the Social Directory for NYC, which listed prominent members of high society and their lineage. Cecelia was head of the prestigious Barmore School for girls in the city.

ADELE DAMMANN & HER NURSE

The Kembertons only lived there a few months for two summers, then (See Farrington House, Page 23)



THE FARRINGTON HOUSE in 1875, when it was less than 100 years old.



1869 MAP SHOWING 2 Farrington family houses, one on Champlain Street (on left) and the 1799 house on Pearl Street (on right).

REAL ESTATE



Stunning location

for this classic country farm house on 42 acres, with views to Cape Lookoff Mtn and Goshen Peak. Ski in - ski out anyone?! Features a solarium with hot tub, large heated workshop, and spacious 4 car garage-barn.
\$495,000



802-236-9112
Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com

Business & Service Directory

Call The Reporter today at 802-247-8080
or email ads@brandonreporter.com

Ad design included in price.

Accounting

LAURIE L. BERTRAND
Certified Public Accountant

Bookkeeping & Payroll Services
Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation
Experience You Can Count On
4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only
465-8362 • fax 465-8438



Auto Repair

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.
QUALITY PARTS.**



**MALLORY'S
AUTOMOTIVE**
General Auto Repair

Eric Mallory, (802) 247-3618
1851 Forest Dale Rd, Forest Dale, VT 05745

Beauty Salons

Delilah's Hair Studio, LLC



**Full Service Hair Care
for Men, Women and Kids.**



Cuts • Color • Highlighting • Tanning
Manicures • Artificial Nails • Lashes
Skin Treatments with Kim
from Brunswick Medical Aesthetics
Now accepting walk-ins.

802-247-3345 • 25 Center St., Brandon VT 05733

Excavating

1963 — Celebrating 60 Years — 2023

Markowski
Excavating, Inc.

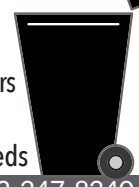
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
Dozers. Excavators. Heavy Hauling.
Top Soil. Gravel. Sand.

P.O. Box 69 Florence, VT 05744
Phone: (802) 483-6469 Fax: (802) 483-6978

Garbage & Recycling



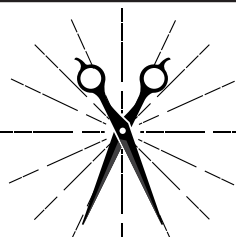
DENTON & SON



- Weekly and bi-weekly pickup of Garbage and Recycling
- Residential and Commercial Dumpsters
- Containers available for Cleanouts, Construction waste and all other needs

64 Paintworks Rd. | Brandon | 802-247-8340

Hair Salon



**SHEILA'S
HAIR STYLING**

Cuts • Colors
Wash & Sets • Perms

Men • Women • Children

Walk-Ins Welcome • Accepting New Clients

3 Franklin St. | Brandon, VT | 802-247-6829

Heat Pump Service

Clean Mountain Air, LLC

It's time to clean your
split heat pumps!

Take care of your indoor air
quality and restore your split
heat pump to peak efficiency
with an annual cleaning!



Martin Fjeld, Owner • Fully insured
cleanmountainair.us • (802) 398-7007



Hot Tubs & Spas



**Locally owned
Family owned**

Sales • Service •
Delivery • Installation
Financing Available

(802) 282-7398
1967 Route 4, Killington
killingtonhottubs.com



TROPIC SEAS SPAS™
Truly therapeutic tubs!

Massage

Charlotte Bishop
MASSAGE THERAPY



Certified Massage Therapist Since 1993
Therapeutic Massage: Swedish/Esalen
Soft Tissue Release • Cupping •

VT Registered
(802) 247-8106

Restoration

Disaster Recovery, Inc.

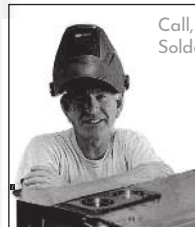
24/7 Emergency Services Covering Vermont
www.DisasterRecoveryInc.com



- Water Damage Drying/Clean Up
- Mold Remediation
- Carpet Cleaning & Deodorization
- Smoke and Sewage Cleaning Service

877-765-6340
Fully insured & certified

Welding



Call, Text or Email with all your Welding,
Soldering, Fabrication and Repair needs!

TOM'S

Welding, LLC

Tom Bouchard

131 Leicester-Whiting RD Whiting, VT 05778

Phone# 802 989-1271

Email: toms weldingllc@gmail.com

Years of
Experience!

Farrington House

(Continued from Page 21)

sold it in 1943 to another rich NYC lady acquaintance named Adele Barmore McCullough Damman, who was an heir to the Knickerbocker Ice fortune. She had lived in Paris for 30 years until 1938.

"Madame Adele," as she was called, was 86 and somehow decided Brandon would be good for her failing health. In fact, it wasn't, and

In 1977, Augusta Geprags died and left the property to her younger sisters, Dora and Helen, who promptly sold it to Charles and Barbara Jakiela.

THE JAKIELAS

Charlie Jakiela married his second wife, Nancy Dean, in 1984 and they lived at 39 Pearl for the next 16 years. Charlie was very involved with Brandon as a Selectman and

Andree Lenique de Francheville (who had visited Mme. Damman a few times), a wedding dress owned by Augusta Geprags, a ceremonial Odd Fellows sword, and a Farrington House stamp (accompanying this article).

Charlie and Nancy restored the house over the years and, in 1999, local architect Martin Harris assisted them in replacing the major beams supporting the second floor due to leakage. And one wall was completely removed before it was shored up. Harris wrote it up in an architecture magazine with the title "This House Should Not Be Standing."

In 2000, the Jakielas had the lands surveyed and subdivided into two lots. They sold the house and 2.4-acre lot to Adam Tinkoff the same year and moved to Nancy's house at the south end of Union Street, once a part of the Dean Farm where Nancy grew up.

The Jakielas kept the other 5-acre lot (now owned by Courtney Satz.)

THE ZOLLMANS

In 2003, Tinkoff sold 39 Pearl to Rob and Alyssa Zollman from Philadelphia. They moved in with their three young children, Gena, Sam, and Marley, ages 12, 10, and 7, respectively.

Rob Zollman is a talented drummer and percussionist, and he had founded and run a music learning center in Philadelphia. In 2005, he started a music center at 39 Pearl and in rented space at 27 Center

Street. He also taught music at Otter Valley and other local schools.

Alyssa Zollman had a degree in restaurant management and ran a gourmet food store in Philadelphia. In Brandon, her company Moon & Stars Baking joined a cooperative store, Sabine's Market, in the Leary block, in 2004. Alyssa was also an animal hobbyist and the three Zollman kids grew up on the hobby farm created on the former Farrington farmstead.

In 2013, the Zollmans moved out and in 2016, the new owner renovated the house, razed the old barn, and sold the property to the current owners, Chelsea and Michael Howe.

The Howes moved into the house in September of 2016 along with their three young children: Jackson, 8, Lucy, 6, and Noah, 1. The kids have grown up in the house, attend-

ing Brandon schools. Michael is the Otter Valley baseball coach and Jackson a star pitcher on the team. Chelsea is co-owner of and a wedding planner at Wild Fern Boutique.

The family loves the history of the oldest house in town and according to Chelsea, "Our backyard is a kids' paradise and we are fortunate to have amazing memories here."

When they arrived, they found a box with a treasure trove of photos and documents that had been handed down by each successive owner. There were also watercolor paintings and old photos of the house framed on the walls.

TODAY

The Farrington House is now 226 years old, older than any in Brandon. The 1799 inscription is still proudly displayed above the front door.



THE INSCRIBED DATE of 1799 in the pediment of 39 Pearl Street is said to have been put there by John Conant, who built the house for Judge Hiram Horton.

she died in 1949.

Mme. Damman left her house to her nurse, 61-year-old Augusta Geprags, a recent graduate from the nursing school at Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington. She would own the house for the next 28 years. In 1958, she decided to turn the house into a tourist home called the Farrington House, and she ran it as such until 1975, when she was 87.

chair of the Planning Commission for many years. Nancy had grown up on the historic Dean Farm not far away on Union Street. Nancy loves the history of the house and contributed much information for this article.

Nancy found many historic items in the house, including old watercolor paintings of the barns, a painting by famous French artist Mme.

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD AGENDA Thursday, September 25, 2025

The Brandon Development Review Board (DRB) will hold its regular meeting, including any properly-noticed public hearings, on Thursday, September 25, 2025, beginning at 7PM, at the Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon, Vermont. The board expects to consider the following agenda. The public may participate in-person, by Zoom, or by telephone. Advance testimony for consideration of the board may be submitted in writing to Larry Stevens, Brandon Zoning Administrator, at zoning@townofbrandon.com by 4PM on the day of the hearing.

1) Call to Order and Agenda Adoption (as posted or as amended)

2) Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2025

3) Public Hearing(s)

Participants must take an oath or make an affirmation administered by the DRB chair.

a) Application #092525-A

Applicant Johnny Woodbury

Parcel ID 024-0009-0126

Location 126 Kennedy Rd.

Review Setback Waiver

Proposal A request for construction of new single-family residence with a 15' setback

b) Application #092525-B

Applicant Patricia Bassett

Parcel ID 024-0089-0764

Location 764 Union St.

Review Setback Waiver

Proposal A request for an accessory structure with a 3' setback

4) Public comment and participation

5) Deliberative Session(s) if needed

6) Adjourn

Zoom Meeting ID 253 2794161

Zoom Link <https://zoom.us/j/2532794161>

Dial-in only (929) 205-6099; Enter Meeting ID 253 279 4161 # then # again

TOWN OF PITTSFORD Notice of Selectboard Public Hearing

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.

Gagnon Lumber



Native Vermont Lumber

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

**Hemlock Framing Stock • Pine Shiplap Siding
Pine Tongue & Groove • Custom Cut Timbers**

89 Stevens Road Pittsford, VT | 802-483-6550

Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com

Educated, Experienced, Fully Insured Professionals

**Tree Removals • Pruning • Planting • Stumps
Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood**

Serving the area since 1999

Thad Poremski (802) 345-2815



Black Bear Tree, Land & Forest

THE 13TH JIMMY T MEMORIAL SHOWCASE IS IN THE BOOKS



THE JIMMY T Memorial Showcase supports youth soccer and provides a scholarship to Proctor graduates. There is now a \$1,000 Scholarship given from the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) in Jimmy's memory as well. It is given to any student whose parent works in the propane industry. If you are a student whose parent works in any relationship to the propane industry sales, service technology... Please reach out for more information to the NPGA website and search for scholarships. Congratulations to all the players!

Photos provided



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

**Tire changover, mount and balance your tires—
\$99 cars up to 16", trucks and vehicles over 16" \$109.95**

FREE PICK-UP +
DELIVERY IN BRANDON/
FORESTDALE AREA!

New tires
for sale!



**MALLORY'S
AUTOMOTIVE**

Stop in at **Route 73 Forest Dale** or call **802.247.3618**
Or visit us on the web at Mallorysauto.com. Like us on facebook too!