

# The REPORTER

Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland

Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Goshen

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75¢

## From near demise to revival Over the past 24 years, the Friends revive Brandon's Town Hall

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — After scraping the ceiling panels 42 feet off the ground floor this spring, a final coat of paint on the ceiling moldings and trim around the main hall of Brandon's Town Hall has this stately and historic building looking better than ever — an amazing reversal of fortunes that at one time had pegged this historic building for the junk pile and its downtown location for a parking lot.

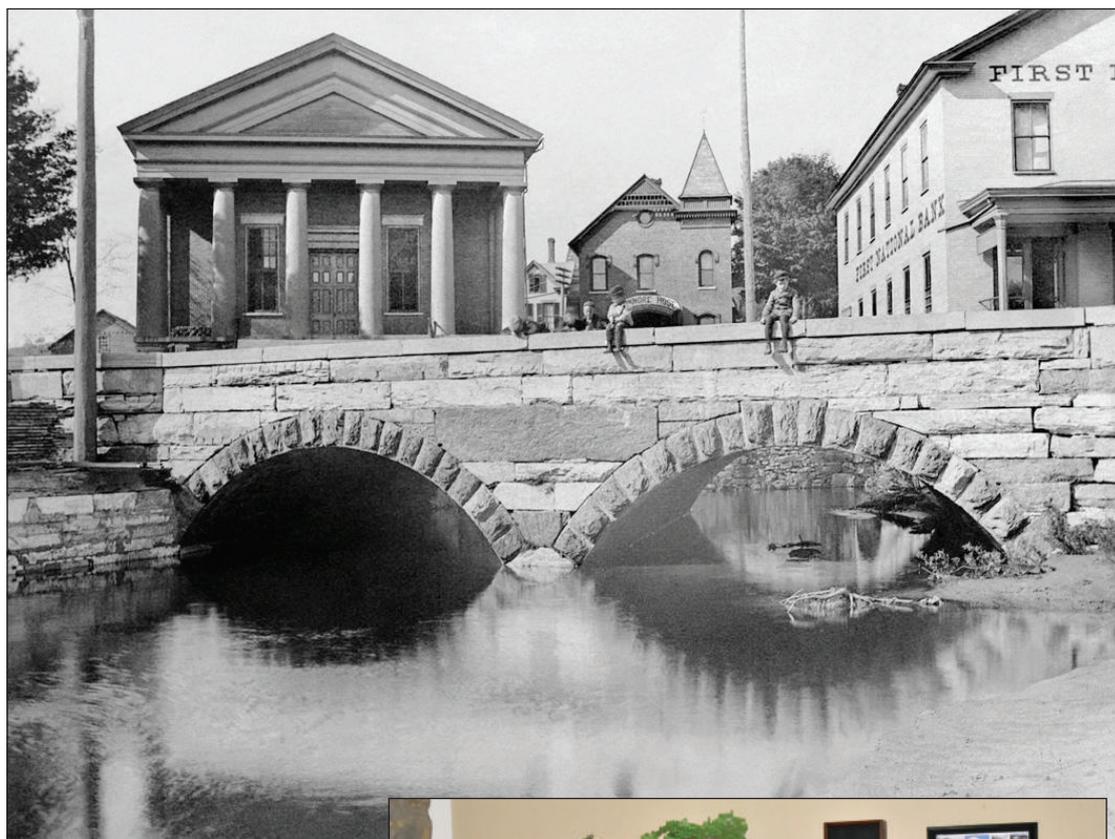
"Today, it seems incredible that the intent of the town 24 years ago was to tear it down and turn the space into parking," Dennis Marden, president of the Friends of Brandon Town Hall, said of the discussion among town leaders back in the late 1990s. But, he recalled, the building was largely abandoned since 1979, when it was last used for Town Meeting.

During the next 20 years it was used as storage place for some town documents and miscellaneous records, sporadic events and failed efforts to restore its former usefulness. By the 1990s, however, it was deteriorating from underuse and lack of maintenance — a sad state of affairs for a building that had long been the social hub of the community.

QUICK HISTORY

The town hall was constructed in 1861, with the selectboard allocating the town to borrow up to \$7,500 "for the expense of building the town hall and the land for the same." Despite some early controversy about the quality of the building and its architecture, it was noted that final costs came in at over \$10,000, including 100 settee, with two members of the building committee noting they were "aware that the Hall, costing \$10,150, is a more expensive structure than some of our citizens would approve of, but we feel confident that a larger proportion will be proud of so magnificent a structure."

The building was put to immediate use on Dec. 13, 1861, as a site where 89 men were mustered into service to fight in the Civil War, and another 24 men were mustered into service on Dec. 24. The men set out for Lowell, Mass. that Christmas Day to become part of the Seventeenth United States Infantry. In those early years and through the end of the century, the building was used, as one historic description says when describing modifications to the building "as would best promote the comfort of par-



ties having occasion to use the audience room, furnish a suitable room for an armory, another for the use of public gatherings and a lock-up for the detention of criminals and disturbers of the peace."

During this time, many community events were also held in the grand hall, including "various theater troupes, several minstrels, concerts, lectures, clubs, and Old Folks' Concert, public dances, masquerade ball, spiritualistic meetings, the Catholic fair, and the Fire District meetings. After a fire on Jan. 12, 1890, electric lights were added

(See FOTH, Page 12)



FROM ITS STATELY beginnings in 1861, Brandon's Town Hall witnessed a very active first 100 years, then slumped in the early 1970s through the end of the 1990s in disrepair and lack of use. The Friends of the Brandon Town Hall, represented in the lower photo by Kathy Mathis, left, and Dennis Marden, have raised and spent over \$1 million over the past two decades to bring back its splendor.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

## OCA teacher retires after 43 years



MRS. LAURA CORO

BY ANGELO LYNN

LEICESTER — If Laura Coro had to share just one tip in her 43 years of teaching at the Leicester elementary school, it would be this:

"You got to snag them while they're young. You have to get them to like subjects in those early years. Once they're hooked, you've got them learning."

Mrs. Coro should know. She been "snagging" kids at the Leicester school since she joined

the teaching ranks there in 1978.

She actually started teaching as a Title 1 instructor in Special Education for the Whiting Elementary, but after a few weeks there she was moved to a vacancy at Leicester Central School, as it was then known. In Leicester she was also teaching reading and special education and shortly thereafter, teaching 3rd-, 4th- and 5th grade students. More recently the school was consolidated

(See Laura Coro, Page 2)

## Green Up Day comes to VT

BY ANGELO LYNN

With a statewide focus to clear up every town road in the state, this year's statewide Green Up Day campaign is challenging towns to reach the 100% goal — something that Leicester has had on its radar since last year. Leicester Town Clerk Julie Delphia and town Green Up coordinator Diane Beware said the town to

about 90% of the town roads cleaned up last year and was making a big push to clean every road in the town.

"We're hoping residents will call us and sign up for the roads that don't al-

(See Green Up Day, Page 21)





**MRS. LAURA CORO, a teacher of 43 years at the Leicester Central School and now Otter Creek Academy, will retire at the end of this year. She is shown here with her 3rd-4th-5th grade students.**

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

## Laura Coro

(Continued from Page 1)

under the Otter Valley Unified Union district with the Leicester facility now called the Otter Creek Academy and teaching the older elementary grades, while Sudbury has K-2 grades.

But for Mrs. Coro, she's been teaching her students pretty much nonstop the better part of two generations and loving most every minute, especially when she was able to teach special units or projects, which she loved to do in adventurous ways to get the students excited.

It was called expeditionary learning, she said, because it was like going on a field trip, which sometimes they did and others times they did it in the classroom or outside on the school grounds. One time, she recalled, she and her students built a teepee outside while studying Native American history, and built a small fire inside the teepee to show how they were able to stay warm, even though having a fire in the teepee might have been

against school district policy.

"The kids loved the unit and really got involved in that history," she recalled, adding that mixing real things like showing the students what it was like living in a teepee made the history come alive.

In another unit, she and her students would collect Monarch caterpillars and chrysalises for their Butterfly Garden and keep

them in the room until the pupa hatch — at which time they would have butterflies fluttering around the room and the students would identify males and females and discuss the caterpillars' life cycle.

In one science unit on solar balloons, Mrs. Coro had a bit of a scare.

It was December, she recalled, and they had blown up a large balloon which was tethered outside but it expanded too much, and almost escaped their clutches, causing several moments of panic and exertion for her relatively small frame to bring it back

under control.

"I was so scared I was going to get in trouble," Mrs. Coro remembered, though she rarely did.

In singing the praises of her school principles, the veteran teacher said they were always very supportive of creative ways to engage the students and of what teachers wanted to do.

"They almost never said no to a request," she said, with her eyes still full of sparkle and excitement at some of the projects she did with her students. She recalled taking them on field trips to Middlebury College to learn about solar energy, and going on nature walks with Otter Valley Union High School's Joshua Hardt, who ran the ecological Moosalamoo Center, or going to the OV high school on different occasions during a six-week chemistry unit.

In another unit on the human body for a health section, Mrs. Coro and her class were studying the heart and she gathered several hearts of various animals for display in the classroom.

"I grew up in Orwell and always knew a lot of area hunters, so I'd give them a call, and call the game warden, and get these various animal hearts and then ask the kids whose heart it was," she recalled. "One day Dr. Bill Mathis (then superintendent of RNESU) came into the classroom in his three-piece suit and a veterinarian and we dissected a heart. I think he liked it, but I did get in trouble for using form-

aldehyde (even though we had it closed tight), so we had to switch to denatured alcohol."

"We did that for several years," Mrs. Coro remembered, recalling that it was a favorite unit for her students.

Another favorite memory is the annual Memorial Day Parade.

"One year I asked Principal Ellie Holsman if I could do a Memorial Day Program connected with vets at the cemetery just down the street and she said sure. So I got every student to do a skit or a poem

about the occasion and we'd walk down to the cemetery in a parade bringing flowers to put on the veterans' graves, and our own students would play taps. We started it 14 years ago or more. I hope somebody takes it over. I don't want to see it fade away."

### FINAL SCHOOL BELL

Not wanting those years at the school to fade away is on Mrs. Coro's mind these days as she has announced she will retire at the end of the end of this school year as she turns 66.

"I still love it all," she said. "Just making that decision to retire was tough," she added,

though noting that her husband, George, recently retired from his own business as a carpenter and they wanted to spend more time together. George, she recalled, "was my carpenter in the school

room the entire 43 years. He was a real good sport about it, and loved helping build some of the projects I did with the kids."

Born on a dairy farm in Orwell with eight siblings, Mrs. Coro still calls Orwell her home and noted that all eight of her siblings went to college and three ended

up as teachers — one brother who teaches at West Rutland and another who teaches in California.

Through it all, she's noticed several major changes in teaching.

"It used to be that teachers were on their own with bigger classrooms of students, but today there are more para-educators, more diagnoses of students with problems, and more principals guiding the ship," she said. "And it's all needed," Coro added, explaining that many more students today face troubles that they

(See Laura Coro, Page 3)

*"It's exciting to see when the kids are successful in their work, when they can present and they get all excited to show what they've been doing. They can be so proud, and that's just wonderful to see."*

— Mrs. Laura Coro

# Laura Coro

(Continued from Page 2)  
didn't have 30-40 years ago.

But many of the rewards are the same.

"It's exciting to see when the kids are successful in their work," Coro said, "when they can present and they get all excited to show what they've been doing. They can be so proud, and that's just wonderful to see."

Of her time spent at just the one school, Mrs. Coro said she felt extremely fortunate.

"I like the community because I felt I was helping teach their kids, and I just wanted to be sure they got everything they had coming to them. Even though we didn't have all the resources of some of the bigger schools, we all fought hard to get the students everything they needed and we were mostly successful... We do good things in these little schools. We can do things here that the bigger schools can't."

Asked what parents could do to help their students, Mrs. Coro

was plain: "Support them," she said.

"Just turn off the TV and read with them. Go over their homework with them and show them that schoolwork matters. Get involved. Come to a child's teacher conference."

Like many things the COVID-19 pandemic upset, holding school events at night and get-

ting together with parents at the schools is one of the things that has been missing for the past two years, but that will hopefully be coming back soon. Nonetheless, she said, parents need to stay involved with their students and the school however possible.

Another way to stay involved, Mrs. Coro said, is just make sure the student reads each night.

"I have a program that I ask my students to read 20 minutes every night. And they have to tell me the next morning, what they've read and a little bit about it," she said, adding that "100% of them read last night! That's when I know I've done some good. That I've got them to be readers."

*"We do good things in these little schools. We can do things here that the bigger schools can't."*

— Mrs. Laura Coro



**THE SUSPECT IN a burglary at Li's Chinese Restaurant and attempted burglary at Mae's Place, both in Brandon, was captured on surveillance camera while at Mae's Place. Brandon Police are investigating the burglary and request that anyone recognizing the suspect contact them.**

## Police seek help finding suspect in multiple Brandon burglaries

### Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Two Park Street restaurants, Li's Chinese Restaurant and Mae's Place, were involved in burglaries last Thursday, April 28. Police are investigating a burglary at Li's and an attempted burglary at Mae's Place.

The suspect broke into Li's during the early morning hours and got away with an undetermined amount of cash. The suspect also tried to break into Mae's Place that same morning, but was unsuccessful. The suspect is described as wearing a light-colored

hooded sweatshirt with the words "Ocean City" on the front, sweat pants, Nike sneakers with a Nike "Swoosh" on the side and a face mask.

The suspect appears to be a white male, police reported, and may have facial hair. He may have

also had a backpack on underneath the back of his sweatshirt.

Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian said he was intent on trying to identify the burglar, asking residents to please contact the Brandon Police Department if they recognized the person or had heard any talk of the incident that may be helpful to police investigators.

In other activity police:

#### On April 25

- Responded to a motor vehicle (See Police report 19)

### Corrections

In the front page photo of the orange "mushrooms" in last week's Reporter, we labeled them as what people normally call turkey tails (bright orange), but area resident Sue Wetmore corrected that is a Cinnabar Polypore growing on a dead tree.

\*\*\*\*\*

In Proctor news, we wrote that some residents there with delinquent water bills were behind as much as \$3,400,

but Town Manager Michael Ramsey wrote to say the highest payment due is actually \$14,000. And it was selectman Tom Hogan, not selectman Bruce Baccei, who made the comment in that same story that the selectboard had been dealing with delinquent water accounts "for two town managers and two lawyers ago" and advocated that it was time to take action.

### The Reporter

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## Guest Editorial

# Words matter in our efforts to keep children safe

BY MARCIE HAMBRICK, PHD, MSW, Director of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

The news has taken notice that some are misusing a word that is important to protecting children from the risk of experiencing child sexual abuse. At PCAVT (Prevent Child Abuse Vermont) we want to help parents know how to protect children, so it is important that miscommunication be avoided. This article will help you know what the word “grooming” really means and help you keep your child(ren) safe and healthy.

Families, neighborhoods, schools, and other organizations that work with children can do a lot to keep children safe from grooming. “Grooming” is a tactic that adults use to gain access to a child to harm them. It is most often a gradual process in which a person who has previously been seen as trustworthy begins to cross minor boundaries with children. Some examples would be telling adult content jokes to children or in the presence of children, talking about adult intimate relationships to children or in the presence of children, or touching children in ways that make others feel uncomfortable or in ways that do not respect the child’s wishes.

If any adult witnesses these kinds of boundary violations, they can take action by talking to the person who crossed a boundary to tell them that it isn’t okay. After a conversation like this, it is important to observe the adult’s behavior.

Grooming behaviors escalate and worsen over time. If you see boundary violations continuing, another action could be to report what you saw to others in the family or in the organization to be certain that only adults with healthy boundaries toward children have access to them. Additionally, adults can check in with children to let them know that adults with inappropriate boundaries will not be allowed around them. Taking steps like these can really save a child from this kind of trauma.

Research indicates that adults who speak openly with children

about sexuality in health-based language are not grooming. In fact, open communication with children, according to their developmental phase, on this topic has been shown to reduce sexual abuse. One example of this is that when professionals or family members answer children’s questions about their bodies and provide them with the anatomically correct names for their body parts, this makes them safer. Another example is that when schools have inclusive curricula that educates students about how to respect all classmates, including those who identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer), all students report they feel safer!

It does not keep children safer when we label adults who educate children on these topics as “groomers.” Firstly, it is not a correct use of the term and also it could shut down conversation between a child and a trusted, protective adult, which would not be good prevention.

Let’s all use the word “grooming” correctly in order to better protect children from child sexual abuse. As parents and other caring adults, we can take action to prevent people from crossing boundaries and also encourage all adults to answer children’s questions about their bodies, sexuality, and healthy relationships with developmentally appropriate, health-based information that keeps them safer.

If you want to learn more, think about attending one of our virtual trainings at [www.pcavt.org/upcoming-adult-responsibility-project-trainings](http://www.pcavt.org/upcoming-adult-responsibility-project-trainings). Or read this handy guidebook: *Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers*.

Visit our website [www.pcavt.org](http://www.pcavt.org) for more information on preventing child abuse or to chat with us.

Call the Vermont Parent Helpline 1-800-CHILDREN Monday-Friday 8:30 to 4:30 if you have questions.



### Sing a song of spring

WARBLERS ARE ON the way north and this Bay-breasted Warbler is one that is coveted. This species heads to far northern Vermont and into Canada.

Photo by Sue Wetmore



## Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

### Legislative Wrap-up, notable bills passed by House

Today I submitted my paperwork to the Brandon Town Clerk to run for re-election to the Vermont House of Representatives for Rutland-6 district (Brandon). I will represent Brandon, Pittsford and Sudbury in the legislature until January 2023. Please continue to be in touch and let me know how I can assist you. The end of the session is near and the bills are moving toward consensus at rapid speed.

Here is a sample of some of the notable bills recently passed in the House:

S.287: Advancing Equity in Our Education Funding System

Vermont’s commitment to equitable access to education is in our state Constitution. One of the equity mechanisms is “weighting,” which adjusts for the varying costs of educating different categories of students, such as high school students or children who are living in poverty. This bill creates stronger Agency of Education oversight and district accountability — creating new standards for governance, financial management, school facilities, and English Learning statewide. No matter where we live, we are responsible for educating all of

our students. The bill passed by a roll-call vote of 132-11.

S.286: Financial Stability for Our Public Pension System

The pension reform bill is the result of 15 months of hard work by the Pension Task Force, made up of legislators, public employees and the governor’s appointees. Vermont will contribute \$200 million in one-time surplus revenues. Teachers and state employees will increase and restructure their contributions — higher-income workers will pay a higher percentage of their income — and accept an adjustment to cost-of-living increases. These savings will be re-invested into the pension system to retire the debt sooner. This will eliminate \$2 billion of unfunded liability and ensure retirement security and healthcare certainty for retired teachers and state employees. Although the House voted 144-0 to support the bill, the governor has vetoed the bill, S.286.

S.210: Rental Housing Safety

This bill expands access to affordable housing and protects rental housing health and safety. S.210 appropriates \$20 million in federal ARPA dollars to support the Vermont Rental Housing Improve-

ment Program. Property owners can receive up to \$50,000 in grants or loans to bring rental units into compliance with building codes, or to create new accessory dwelling units on a lot with an existing structure. The property owner must contribute 20 percent of the cost and rent must be set at 80% of fair market rents. The bill ensures consistency in rental housing safety statewide by aligning inspections conducted by the Division of Fire Safety with the public health requirements for rental housing. It relieves local volunteer health officers of responsibility for conducting rental inspections, and will fund it through a state rental housing registry for municipalities that do not currently have one.

S.100: Universal School Meals

This bill continues universal school meals through the 2022–23 school year. For the past two years, the federal government has been providing free breakfast and lunch to all public-school students. S.100 takes an important step to reduce hunger by ensuring that nutritious meals are available to all students. The \$29 million appropriated closes the gap between the federal reim-

(See Legislative Wrap, Page 6)

# Letters to the Editor

## The fundamental rights and liberties of all women will be defended, protected and preserved in Vermont

"I know many Vermonters are very concerned about reports the Supreme Court may overturn Roe. Although no one can know for sure that this draft will be the final opinion, I want Vermonters to be assured that this state has prepared for this possibility. Three years ago, we enacted a law that affirms the fundamental rights of all women and ensures reproductive health decisions remain between a woman and her health care provider – totally free from government interference. It is important for Vermonters to know this will remain true in Vermont regardless of what happens with the Supreme Court. And Vermonters will have the opportunity to solidify this right in November, when Prop. 5 amending Vermont's constitution is on the ballot."

—Gov. Phill Scott

## We need to pass the Reproductive Liberty Amendment in Vermont

Last night, Politico published a leaked draft Supreme Court majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that explicitly overturns *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The draft majority opinion, written by Justice Alito, openly overrules *Roe* and *Casey*, stating that "Roe was egregiously wrong from the start" and "we hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled."

It is important to note that while this opinion is still a draft and abortion is still legal across the country (though only up to six weeks of pregnancy in Texas), this leaked opinion is horri-

fying and unprecedented, and it confirms that the Supreme Court is prepared to end the constitutional right to abortion by overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Legal abortion is protected in Vermont. If the Supreme Court allows states to ban abortion, 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion, but passing Reproductive Liberty Amendment in Vermont would ensure that the rights we have today will not change tomorrow.

Eileen Sullivan,  
Planned Parenthood of  
Northern New England



# 'Meaning of Life'

BY VICTOR NUOVO

Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

## The irony of war

The theme of this essay occurred to me while reading a new history of the Second World War entitled "Blood and Ruins, The Last Imperial War." It occurred to me that the subtitle, "The Last Imperial War," must be taken ironically, although it was probably not meant that way by its author, British historian Richard Overy. He obviously meant it as a statement of fact, clear and simple. World War II was the last imperial war. Period.

World War II was started by three nations, whose purpose was to expand and consolidate their empires: Germany in Europe, Italy in the Mediterranean region and North Africa, and Japan in China and across the Pacific. In the book's title, "last" is supposed to mean "final" or the end as in "there isn't any more." But "last" has another meaning. It signifies something that happened before and will happen again; like my last cold. My point is that "last" in the title of the book makes better sense when taken in both ways.

World War II was not the very last imperial war, it was merely the last one. The war in Ukraine has become the next one. Overy wrote his book before Russia

invaded Ukraine. By invading Ukraine Russia began another imperial war. Hence, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has falsified the title of Overy's book, or, better, the title remains true, but only if interpreted ironically. It must be taken in both ways: World War II was meant to be the last imperial war, but it wasn't. This double meaning is inherent in tragedy. And it tends to confirm Reinhold Niebuhr's belief that all human history is tragic, and that a sense of tragic irony is the key to understanding history.

What is tragic irony? I'll begin with an example: the song "The

Last Time I Saw Paris," whose melody was composed by Jerome Kern with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. It was written in 1940 just after the Fall of Paris. Seeing Paris could then be only a memory for them. The song is ironic; it expresses the hope of seeing Paris again as it was, when "her heart was warm and gay" and one could hear "the laughter of her heart in every street café," but it also expresses a foreboding that this is no longer possible. All that remained was the memory of it: "No matter how they change her, I'll remember her that way." "they"

(See *Meaning of Life*, Page 6)

## Happy Mother's Day!



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# Obituaries

## James Erik Bryant, 42, Brandon/Rutland

RUTLAND — James Erik Bryant, 42, who went missing on November 21, 2021 was found deceased on April 27, 2022 in Rutland, Vt. James left us here on earth to be with his Uncle Dennis, Grandparents Pearly and Maire, Uncle Rick Aunt Cheryl, Great Uncle Larry, Grandpa Jack and his beloved pitbull, Eli.

James began his life on May 28, 1980 at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, Vt. His mom, Kathy, and his dad, Steve, welcomed him with open arms and have loved him ever since.

He spent his formative years growing up in Brandon, Vt. with his step-sister and brother, Sarah and Paul, whom he loved very much. He received his education at Neshobe Elementary School, Otter Valley Union High School and the Northlands Job Corps Center in Vergennes, Vt. He enjoyed his childhood, loving the outdoors, his minibike/motorcycles, camping out, playing in his treehouse, and just generally getting into boyhood mischief as it was in the 1980s where kids could still be kids.

James would spend some of his school vacation time working with his dad in the family roofing business, learning the trade at a young age. His artistic talent did not end there. He was self-taught at playing the guitar and could hear a song on the radio and play the notes and chords as he was hearing them. He was also quite masterful at painting and drawing anything requested of him.

Recently, he had discovered a true love of wind instruments and spent many hours honing his skills.



JAMES ERIK BRYANT

On September 14, 2003, James headed for California with his dog, Eli, in an old Volvo station wagon. Having made it as far as Colorado before the car was destroyed in an accident, he packed his things and his dog and completed his journey by way of hitchhiking. The picture that accompanies this is of him on his way to California.

He would spend the next five years living in and around the Sierra Nevada's working for a cabinet-maker, who he said was a nut, but had taught him a lot of "cool stuff."

It was in those mountains where he would hone his skills at rock climbing and trout fishing, sometimes camping out for months at a time.

In February of 2008, James' Dad flew to California and together they piloted his 1961 GMC RV camper back to Vermont. James spent his remaining years in and around the Rutland area working mainly in the roofing trade and had become quite masterful at the installation of slate roof until he was tragically as-

saulted in 2017 and ended up with a traumatic brain injury.

This ended his climbing of roofs and rocks for good. James was a spiritual man, having read the Bible from front to back numerous times. He believed in his Lord Jesus Christ and he embraced the Rastafarian culture as was evident by his long dreadlocks and beard.

He loved his gentle pit-bull very much and he proved it by towing him in a trailer behind his bicycle up and down the coast of California. James was an amazing man with amazing stories to tell. Sometimes outspoken and sometimes misunderstood. He had a good heart and was very much loved.

James Erik Bryant is survived by his dear mom, Kathy Laferriere and her husband Paul; dad, Steve Bryant and his wife, Cee; stepmom Betsy King, stepsister and brother Sarah and Paul Manley; his grandmother Me "Me," and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

The graveside funeral service and committal will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brandon. Officiant will be the Rev. Maurice Moreau, Pastor Our Lady of Good Help, St. Mary's Parish, Brandon.

A reception will follow at the Ripton Mountain Distillery, 12 Park Street, Brandon

Memorial contributions to Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road

Pittsford, VT 05763. Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon.

# Meaning of Life

(Continued from Page 5)

refer to the Nazi conquerors.

The song expresses conflicting sentiments: hope and despair, joy and sadness. Hope and despair, joy and sadness are contradictions. And it is just such inconsistencies and the capacity of the mind to think them and the heart to feel them together in the same moment that gives the song such power. Tragic irony is the power of a narrative simultaneously to evoke these conflicting thoughts and feelings. Perhaps, in time a Ukrainian exile, a poet will compose a poem on the theme "the last time I saw Mariupol." As I write, her defenders are preparing to make a last stand. Glory to Ukraine!

What has this to do with the meaning of the title of Richard Overly's book and to the irony of history?

In "The Last Imperial War," Richard Overly argues that the period 1914 through 1945, which embraces both world wars, should more properly be labeled a second Thirty Years War, which seems to me to be correct. But the defeat of the Axis powers did not end the war. At the end of World War

II, the three imperial powers that began the war lost their empires. The two major victorious powers stood opposed: The United States and the Soviet Union. The Cold War followed, which lasted until 1991, and this set the stage for another imperial war, which began with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There is no description that better fits this war: it is yet another

imperial war. From Putin's irrational rants, it is clear that his motives are imperial, and his method to achieve it ruthless, cruel, barbaric and unforgivable. It seems now that the U.S. and NATO will be engaged in another cold war for years to come, and that the world has not seen the last imperial war. If, as Richard Overly believes, the two world wars constitute a second Thirty Years War; then it may also be said that the wars from 1914 to the present constitute another Hundred Years War. These

precedents only show that civilization has not progressed. Peace does not seem to be in our nature. We are, as Hobbes believed, aggressive animals, better at making war than making peace.

Vladimir Putin has described his war against Ukraine as a tragedy. But Putin is no tragic hero, and there is no irony in the cruelty with which it is carried on by Russian forces, nor in his tirades, which are mad and full of lies, like Hitler's rants, they are just as evil.

The tragedy belongs to the powers allied with Ukraine. The hope of the Allies after World War II was that victory would usher in an age of the rule of law. The possibility of achieving this goal depended on the total defeat of the Axis powers. Even then, the goal was not reached. For we are in the midst of another imperial war. And from the look of things, it doesn't look like the U.S. and NATO have yet worked out a winning strategy. At the very least, Putin's armies must be defeated and destroyed. Ukrainian forces have proven that they have the ability to do this. But they require the material means

to achieve this, which the U.S. and NATO must provide unstintingly. But perhaps even more is needed: a show of force by NATO. Otherwise this current hundred years war is likely to go on forever, and the tragic guilt will be ours to bear.

Postscript: The full title of Richard Overly's book, which is excellent, is "Blood and Ruins: The Last Imperial War: 1931–1945." Read it

along with Reinhold Niebuhr's "The Self and the Dramas of History." And be sure to watch the late great Ann Southern's rendition of "The Last Time I saw Paris" on YouTube; it evokes the sadness of war. It is a very deep sadness deepened by the remembrance of Parisian gaiety, the gaiety of a city at peace.

Editor's note: Victor Nuovo is on break now, but look for this series to resume in a month or so.

*At the end of World War II, the three imperial powers that began the war lost their empires. The two major victorious powers stood opposed: The United States and the Soviet Union. The Cold War followed, which lasted until 1991, and this set the stage for another imperial war, which began with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.*

## Obituary Guidelines

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

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

## Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 4)

bursement and the cost of providing meals to all students. Offering this program for one more year gives the state time to collect data on participation rates and understand how much it would cost to continue the program beyond 2023. School food-service directors and teachers overwhelmingly support continuing the universal free meals program. There is hope that the federal government may continue its expanded

funding.

S.11

I am hoping that my committee's work on the Economic and Workforce Development bill will pass the House this week. Keep an eye out for S.11 — there are lots of great programs in the bill to move Vermont's economy forward!

Be Careful Around RR Tracks

Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express is operating trial runs from Rutland to Burlington. The new Amtrak line

is faster and quieter than we are all used to. Far too many Vermonters are walking the tracks and fishing off bridges, unaware that the practice rounds are occurring. It is very dangerous to be on or near the tracks. Please stay off the tracks and use the utmost caution when crossing them.

Take care,

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome

# Calendar of events

## May

### Tuesday:

#### Chess Club

Join us every Tuesday evening for a fun night of chess from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland.

#### Brandon Public Library Pins & Needles Crafting Group

The club will meet 5:30–7 p.m.

#### Brandon Public Library Teen Advisory Group

This advisory group meets every first Tuesday of the month from 3:30–5 p.m.

#### Brandon Public Library Book Discussion Group

Starting at 6 p.m., this group also meets every first Tuesday of the month.

### Wednesdays:

#### Brandon Public Library Meditation Group

Meet us for an hour of calm from 12:30–1:30 p.m.

### Thursdays:

#### Open Mic Nights

The Clear River Inn & Tavern in Pittsfield hosts weekly open mic nights. Sign-up starts at 8:00 p.m., the show is

### Now May 28:

#### Brandon Free Public Library Spring cleaning book sale

Fridays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. All sales by donation. Don't miss out on your chance to stock up before summer.

### 7:

#### Green Up Day in the West Rutland Marsh

On Sat from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. help clean up our favorite Audubon "Important Bird Area". Wear gloves and boots. Meet at the West Rutland Town Hall at 9am. More info: [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon)

#### North Clarendon Craft Fair

Join us from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for our Craft Fair, just in time for Mother's Day! We will have great gift giving items available such as painted cement leaves, tote bags, fabric bowls,

earrings, jams/jelly's, baked goods, paintings, wooden bowls, hand painted cards, leggings, and so much more! 448 Route 7b, North Clarendon 05759.

### 14:

#### Town of West Rutland open to vendors for Town Wide Yard Sale

The Town of West Rutland has scheduled its annual Town-Wide Yard Sale for Saturday, May 14th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. West Rutland residents can register their sale with the town by May 9th, to be included on the town wide map. Vendor space is also available for rental on the Town Hall lawn - a 10'x10' space is \$20.00 (bring your own tables). For more information call the Town Office at 802-438-2263.

### 15:

#### Opening Reception: Nathan Shepard: Oils & Gouaches, with Poems by Megan Buchanan at Next Stage Arts Project

Join us from 2 – 5:00 p.m. to celebrate the opening. Nathan discovered a love for mural painting in the early 1990's, which resulted in a period at the Instituto Allende, Guanajuato, to further his study of mural painting. He spent a winter painting at the Vermont Studio Center and has studied plein air with Caleb Stone during multiple trips to Monhegan Island, Maine. Most recently Nathan's work was featured in a summer show at the Canal Street Art Gallery in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Megan Buchanan is a poet, dancemaker, organizer, and educator. Her poetry collection *Clothesline Religion* (Green Writers Press, 2017) was nominated for the 2018 Vermont Book Award. She's currently researching and preparing for an upcoming performance residency at BMAC which will run from mid-October 2022 through January 2023 – a new iteration of a collaborative, interdisciplinary performance project about radioactivity, rivers/oceans, grief and love.

### 18:

#### Age Well Vermont

Many Vermonters wish to remain independent

as long as possible. To this end, Tracey Shamberger, Director of Public Relations for Age Well Vermont, will give a presentation about the services that they offer on at 2 p.m. at the Shoreham Congregational Church. This presentation is free and open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. The hall is handicapped accessible. Age Well is the leading expert and advocate for the aging population of Northwestern Vermont. Since 1974, they have provided Vermonters with the necessary support to manage their daily living needs, with the goal of keeping them active, healthy and independent. Committed to helping individuals age well, they reduce barriers by providing access to healthy meals, in-home care and community resources. They do not charge for services provided, but rely on donations and encourage clients to contribute if they are able to do so. They are committed to serving all older Vermonters, their families and caregivers regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, race, religion, education, or financial status. They believe that demonstrating inclusiveness creates a healthy, positive, and collaborative community.

## Miller Hill Farm, Nursery & Gardens



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## Rutland County Audubon Annual Century Count- May 21



RCAS will hold its annual Century Count on May 21 this year.

This is a day devoted to scavenging the county for all species of birds, with the hope of totaling 100 or more. While it is much like our Christmas Count, it is not limited by 15 mile parameters.

This year, once again, we will form several groups to cover the terrain. If you would like to be part of a group, contact: [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org) to be assigned to a group.

Meeting time will be 7 AM. Bring lunch and wear boots appropriate for hiking. We may or may not carpool, depending on the status of COVID at the time.

## No Mow May

On behalf of the pollinators and citizens who care about them, please let the dandelions bloom!

But cut them once they start to seed. Dandelions are a very important source of early pollen and nectar for bees and many other pollinators. Please consider pollinator pathways or consider select areas of your lawns not to mow. May is full of forage for pollinators, but a properly planned pollinator garden can be a source throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall.

Thank you to Chaz Mraz and Cee Denney, Champlain Valley Apiaries for the information and picture.



## Classic comedy ‘For Heaven’s Sake’ plays with live music on May 14



**HAROLD LLOYD AND Jobyna Ralston star in ‘For Heaven’s Sake’ (1926), a romantic comedy to be screened with live music on Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall; for more info, visit [www.brandontownhall.com](http://www.brandontownhall.com).**

BRANDON — Classics from the silent film era return to the big screen this May at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, which will host another season of vintage cinema with live music.

First up is Harold Lloyd in ‘For Heaven’s Sake’ (1926), an uproarious romantic comedy which screens on Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help support ongoing Town Hall renovation efforts.

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

In ‘For Heaven’s Sake,’ Lloyd plays a wealthy young man smitten with the daughter of an impoverished clergyman who ministers to the urban poor. On the day Lloyd and the girl plan to marry, Lloyd’s wealthy country club friends kidnap him to prevent what they see as an embarrassing mistake.

Can the urban mission’s petty criminals and chronic alcoholics rescue Harold and get him to the church on time? ‘For Heaven’s Sake,’ promoted with the tagline ‘A Man With A Mansion, A Miss with a Mission,’ became the 4th-highest grossing film of 1926, earning \$2.6 million.

Critic Leonard Maltin described ‘For Heaven’s Sake’ as “...a screamingly funny silent comedy.”

In accompanying films live, Rapsis uses a digital synthesizer to recreate the texture of the full orchestra. He improvises the music in real time, as the movie is shown.

“It’s a real treat to return to Brandon for another season of great silent film,” Rapsis said. “If you’ve never seen one of these movies in a theater, check it out. These films were the pop culture of their day, and retain their ability to hold an audience and deliver a great time at the movies.”

(See ‘For Heaven’s Sake,’ Page 9)

## Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum to triple in size, move into GMP’s Energy Innovation Center

RUTLAND, Vt. — The popular Wonderfeet Kids’ Museum in downtown Rutland is expanding operations and moving into Green Mountain Power’s (GMP’s) Energy Innovation Center (EIC) on Merchants Row, tripling the size of the museum to 9,000 square feet and creating more opportunities to support the education and development of children.

With its dynamic, colorful, and interactive exhibits, Wonderfeet fosters creativity and exploration, inspiring creativity, and igniting imaginations through the power of play for both kids and parents.

“This is a thrilling moment as we announce the expansion to become Wonderfeet at GMP’s Energy Innovation Center, growing our mission to care for kids and families and transform lives,” said Wonderfeet Executive Director Danielle Monroe. “The science of kids’ brain development clearly shows that reaching kids at a young age is imperative, and with this new space we can do so much more. We are so grateful to our community, which has embraced us in this transformational work.”

Wonderfeet started in 2010, as part of the grassroots Creative Economy planning session, and now attracts about 20,000 people to downtown every year. The new space will expand the positive impact on the community and kids, becoming a statewide destination.

“This is wonderful news, and shows the continued revitalization of downtown Rutland,” said

Rutland Mayor David Allaire. “Already Wonderfeet attracts so many visitors to our region, and this expansion is an important part of the downtown’s growth. Wonderfeet will offer attractions and educational opportunities, allowing more people to see why downtown Rutland has so much to offer from shopping, to meals, to a top-notch kids’ museum.”

GMP’s EIC has served as a key part of GMP’s energy innovation work, showcasing interactive displays, and collaborating with many partners on education opportunities, including Wonderfeet who has used the space for camps and programs. Having Wonderfeet fully expand into this location builds on the success of the EIC as a community resource.

“We are so excited to support Wonderfeet’s growth and their mission to help kids and families,” said GMP President and CEO Mari McClure. “GMP is committed to contributing to the vibrancy of downtown Rutland and the community, and this announcement shows a long-term commitment to the health, well-being, and development of Vermont’s youth, who are critical to the future.”

Wonderfeet helps build healthy families by also providing access to the museum with a vast array of community partners, for programs including literacy events, postpartum programs through Rutland Regional Medical Center, and hosting free visits for pediatric PT/OT, speech

pathologists, and mental health professionals, and multiple events with local schools. The expanded space will connect more parents to each other through peer support networks, helping parents understand brain development in kids through play, and creating even more educational support to every school in Rutland County, and schools across the state.

“Magic happens as soon as my little one walks through the door at Wonderfeet,” said Heather Dazzi of Rutland City. “You can see the sparkle in her eyes as she

moves from one activity to the next, makes new friends and uses her imagination. Wonderfeet has become an integral part of our community - it’s so much more than a local business to us, it feels like home, and we are so excited for the new space and all the new opportunities to spark more joy and creativ-

ity.”

Wonderfeet remains open at its current space until the move to the EIC at the end of 2022, with a grand reopening planned for early 2023. All of this is possible thanks to widespread community and business support, including key partners like Casella.

“When my son Otis and I moved to Rutland, the staff at Wonderfeet immediately made us both feel so welcomed and held,” said Helen Taylor, who lives in Rutland City. “I trust them implicitly and am so grateful that

Wonderfeet exists in our community. It provided an immediate rooting that I honestly cannot imagine Rutland, or our lives, without.”

Wonderfeet is accessible to everyone with affordable admissions and services always available. This includes reduced admissions and memberships through the Access Program and Free Family passes available through public libraries in 21 towns.

For more information on Wonderfeet, visit [www.wonderfeet-kidsmuseum.org](http://www.wonderfeet-kidsmuseum.org).



**A YOUNG MUSEUM goer enjoys the turtle tank.**

Photo provided

# 'For Heaven's Sake'

(Continued from Page 8)

It's the 11th year of the popular silent film series, which gives residents and visitors a chance to see great movies from the pioneering days of cinema as they were meant to be shown—on the big screen, with an audience, and accompanied by live music. Screenings are held once a month on Saturday nights starting in May and running through November. Admission is free; donations are encouraged, with proceeds to benefit the Town Hall's ongoing restoration.

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

The screening of 'For Heaven's

Sake' is sponsored by Judith Reilly Gallery, Gary and Nancy Meffe, and Pam and Steve Douglass.



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

- Saturday, June 11, 7 p.m.: 'The Adventures of Robin Hood' (1924) starring Douglas Fairbanks Sr. 100th anniversary of blockbuster adaptation of the tales of Robin Hood. The top grossing film of 1922! Sponsored by Bruce Ness and Nancy Spalding-Ness.

- Saturday, July 23, 7 p.m.: 'Sherlock Jr.' (1924) and 'Battling Butler' (1926). A Buster Keaton double feature showing the stone-faced comedian at the peak of his physical comedy powers. Sponsored by Kathy and Bill Mathis in memory of Maxine Thurston.

- Saturday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.: 'Blood and Sand' (1922) starring Rudolph Valentino in his first starring role, as a sexy bullfighter in this romantic thriller. Celebrating its 100th anniversary! Sponsored by Edward Loedding and Dorothy Leysath, the Hanson Family in memory of Pat Hanson, and Sally Wood.

- Saturday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.: 'The Flying

Ace' (1926), rare example of movies produced for black-only theaters in segregated parts of the nation; added to the National Film Registry in 2021. Sponsored by Nancy and Gary Meffe.

- Saturday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.: 'Nosferatu' (1922) Just in time for Halloween! Celebrate the 100th anniversary of F.W. Murnau's original adaptation of Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' story. Sponsored by Bar Harbor Bank and Trust.

- Saturday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.: 'Her Sister from Paris' (1925) starring Constance Talmadge, Ronald Colman. The scene: Europe. The cast: Rich people. Effervescent battle-of-the-sexes comedy. Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset. For more about the music, visit [www.jeffrap-sis.com](http://www.jeffrap-sis.com).

## Celebrate Mom!

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Sunday, May 8th



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Key Lime & Raspberry Square  
Flourless Chocolate Cake  
French Macaron

for a full Mother's Day menu go to [www.cafeprovencevt.com](http://www.cafeprovencevt.com)



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# Sports

## Proctor baseball loses to Rivendell in extra innings, 14-13

BY GENE DELORENZO

PROCTOR — Rivendell High School made the long trip to Proctor pay off on Saturday afternoon, April 30 with a hard-earned 14-13 win over a feisty Proctor Phantom squad who came within a whisker of winning this in the bottom of the ninth.

Rivendell's Harrison Molesworth was the star of the day, hitting a run-scoring double in the top of the ninth and then saving the day with a splendid reaching catch of a long drive by Bode Richardson with two on in the bottom of the ninth that surely saved the game for the visitors. For the day, Molesworth would go 3 for 5

with 3 runs batted in.

Proctor pitcher Aaron Brock did a superb job for the Phantoms, throwing 5 innings of 3 hit, 2 run ball in relief of starter Jacob Patch.

Proctor trailed throughout most of the game and had to mount a three-run rally in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game at 13-13 before Molesworth's heroics in the top of the ninth.

In the three-run uprising to tie the game in the seventh, Dylan Aiker knocked in one run with a groundout and after a walk to Cameron Canucci (who had homered in the first inning for the Phantoms), a strikeout by Jacob Patch on a good high fastball

and a walk to Lucas Merrill, relief pitcher/first baseman Aaron Brock rocketed a two-run single down the leftfield line tying the game at 13-13.

Brock had a sterling day at the plate going 2 for 4 with 4 RBIs. His future looks very bright at Proctor for Phantom fans.

After the only 1-2-3 inning of the entire game in the top of the eighth, Proctor had another superb opportunity to take the lead as they would load the bases in the bottom of the inning. But it wasn't to be as another key strikeout by Rivendell would keep the game tied going into the ninth.

In the top of the ninth, a walk to Wyatt Underhill and a groundout brought up Molesworth, who rocketed a double to deep right centerfield over the reach of Bode Richardson and Rivendell had the

lead back, 14-13.

But Proctor was not going to go quietly as they quickly got runners to first and second with but one out with Richardson coming to the plate. He had had a tough day at the plate to that point, but he promptly hit a scalding line drive to deep right center — easily the game winner unless a miraculous catch occurred. And that it did, as Molesworth showed great speed and athletic ability in sprinting into the gap and reaching over his shoulder to snare the ball before it hit the ground.

After another walk loaded the bases, the final Phantom went down swinging and the three and a half hour game came to an end.

For Proctor, along with Brock, Canucci had two hits and two RBI, Jacob Patch went 2 for 6 and threw the ball well in the early in-

nings of the game. A bit of wildness and a few shaky plays in the field did not help his cause, but he looked good throwing the ball.

All in all, the team showed great spirit and enthusiasm and will only be getting better as the season progresses. They are very young, with no seniors and several eighth graders playing varsity baseball for the first time. Coach Patch does a great job infusing the team with energy and baseball knowledge and they will be a team to watch and enjoy as the season unfolds.

This Thursday, May 5, is a red-letter day for Proctor and West Rutland fans as the Westsiders will travel to Proctor for a day game starting at 4:30 p.m.

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JACOB PATCH, PROCTOR High pitcher, throws in hopes of getting his third out of the first inning. Reporter photo/Gene Delorenzo

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# Proctor softball defeats Green Mountain, 14-9

BY GENE DELORENZO

PROCTOR — Proctor softball came from behind to beat Green Mountain, 14-9, on a cold and windy afternoon, Thursday, April 28 at the Phantoms' field.

Despite a three-run first inning rally by the home squad, a game and talented Green Mountain team battled back to take a 7-3 lead heading into the bottom of the fourth. Green Mountain had taken the lead when a two-out, no one on base rally plated five runs for the team from Chester, giving them the four-run lead.

But Proctor came right back on a succession of walks and errors and one base hit — a single by Jenna Davine — that gave the Phantoms a chance to stay close to the Green Mountain team heading into the fifth.

In that frame, after two more

runs came across for Green Mountain, the Phantoms once again stayed within hailing distance as they scored two on a ringing double by right fielder Rhi Lubaszewski. And, after starting pitcher Cadence Goodwin held Green Mountain scoreless in the top of the sixth, the Phantoms would put together a big rally to score six times to take a 14-9 lead into the seventh inning.

Goodwin would again shut down the visitors in the seventh aided by a brilliant double play engineered by her shortstop Angel Traverse on a sharp line drive with two on and no one out for Green Mountain. A foot either way and the game might have gone on and on!

The sixth inning uprising for Proctor featured a two-run single by Goodwin and another two-out, two-RBI hit by

Lubaszewski. The clutch hitting overcame a strong effort by the visitors and the Proctor team had to dig down to fuel the victory in this extremely cold and challenging day for softball in Vermont!

For Proctor, Maggie McKeearin had four walks and scored four times at the leadoff spot. Goodwin went 2 for 5 with two RBIs, Laci French played a strong third base and was 2 for 4 at the plate, and Lubaszewski's heroics produced four RBIs. Angel Traverse had a single and an RBI, while Jasmine Traverse also had a single on the day.

Always a fun game, the battle between West Rutland and Proctor softball will take place on Thursday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at the Proctor field.



## State looks for help in evaluating a new Rainbow Trout strain

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is stocking a new strain of rainbow trout this spring and is looking for help from anglers to evaluate its performance.

"Vermont stocks about 115,000 rainbow trout annually into inland rivers and lakes to provide recreational fishing opportunities for the public," said State Fisheries Biologist Lee Simard. "We are evaluating the new Eagle Lake strain of rainbow trout against our traditionally stocked Erwin-Arlee strain to ensure we are providing the highest quality fishery possible with these stocked trout. The Eagle Lake strain is currently stocked in many states including Maine and Michigan and could be a great fit for Vermont as well."

The two strains are the same

species, but genetic differences can impact their behavior and performance. Both strains will be stocked side-by-side into 11 waterbodies across Vermont and will be compared based on their catchability, survivability and growth to see if the Eagle Lake Strain performs better after stocking.

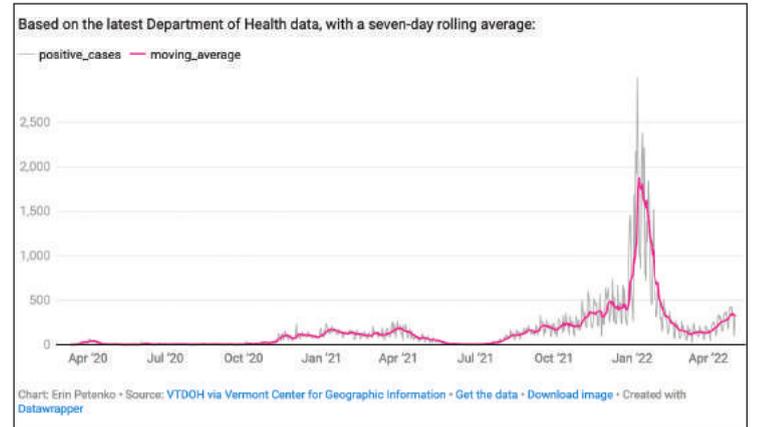
The two strains look very similar but can be identified by a clipped ventral fin, the paired fins found on the underside of the fish about halfway along its body. A missing left fin indicates the new Eagle Lake strain while a missing right fin indicates the Erwin-Arlee strain.

"To help us evaluate the new Eagle Lake strain, we are asking anglers to report to us the rainbow trout they catch from the waterbodies included in this evaluation," said Simard. "Take

a picture of the trout that clearly shows the missing fin. Then submit that picture and catch report on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website or by using the Vermont Outdoors app on your smartphone. The data submitted by anglers will directly influence our management of stocked rainbow trout in Vermont."

The two strains will be stocked each spring through 2024. A final decision about which strain will continue to be stocked in Vermont will be made by 2025.

Additional information and a complete list of the waterbodies included in the evaluation can be found on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/rainbow-trout-strain-evaluation>.



## COVID rates still high in Vt., hospitalizations on the rise

MONTPELIER — Vermont reported 98 new Covid-19 cases, 66 hospitalizations and two additional deaths Monday. Following 323 cases on Saturday and 294 on Sunday, the state's seven-day average for new infections is 328, down from 341 on Friday, according to the Vermont Department of Health dashboard.

Vermont's seven-day average test positivity rate was 12.5% on Monday, down from 13.3% on Friday. The test positivity rate includes only PCR tests, not at-home antigen tests.

The health department reported that 66 people were hospitalized with Covid as of Monday, up from 60 on Friday. That includes nine people in intensive care, up from eight on Friday.

The two Covid deaths reported on Monday dated back to April, raising that month's total to 18 fatalities. In total, 639 people have died in Vermont since the beginning of the pandemic. No Vermont deaths have been reported for May as of Monday.



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**Brandon, Vermont**  
**(802) 247-4956.**

**[brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org)**



Warren Kimble's artwork is also available at **Vermont Folk Art Gallery**, 24 Park Street, in Brandon village.

# FOTH

(Continued from Page 1)

(at a cost of \$100 to F.E. Briggs, including the work to install electric wiring throughout the building) to replace candles and oil lamps. Three years later, water closets (toilets and a wash basin) were added “much to the convenience of those who use the hall.”

By the turn of the century, the Town Hall was used for medicine shows, and according to a history of the building, included these events one year (though the year is not identified: “war exhibitions, dances, the Middlebury College Glee Club, Roosevelt’s Rough Riders, Welsh Singers, Magic Gift Entertainment, Edison’s Kinetoscope, the Salvations Army, an armory, sons of Veterans, James Towns medicines, Good Templar’s, Box of Monkeys, horse shows, GAR, various theater troupes and, of course, town meeting.” The report added that it “seems the Town Hall was in almost constant use,” noting that one rent the town collected rent of \$800 for its use in the early part of the 1900s.

By the end of WWII, the building adopted a new use, among the many others, becoming a hub as the teen-youth center, a venture that was “successful for over 20 years.” During that time, a portion of the basement was used as a recreation room, and dances were held in the main hall. By 1949, a recreational council was formed to oversee the Recreation Center and a plan was worked out between that committee and the student council of the Brandon High School for its use.

The history notes that the “installation of a modern oil heater

(around 1949), additional donated furniture, Coco-cola dispensing machine and juke box made an attractive and warm place for young people to gather.” The Mother’s Club also used the Recreation Center during the morning for a nursery school. “This made possible the installation of a lavatory and toilet, new lighting fixtures, storm doors, rear partition, floor painting and sharing the fuel expense.”

Through the 1950s and 1960s, the teen center, the report states, “was still going strong with dances and social events almost every weekend... The dances were set up by the students, for the students and supervised by the students.”

The early 1970s saw a decline in the number of youths using the center and a lack of adult volunteers for various events held. The Recreation Center was closed in 1973 due to a lack of interest and support.

“Since that time,” the report says, “a number of efforts have been made to revive the Teen Center, but none has been as successful as the Center in the late 1940s through the 1960s.”

While the building was used sporadically in the 1980s — for roller skating, a Town Hall Ball, a VSO concert, several musical programs, plays, a craft show and an antique show, and efforts to have a teen center in the basement — the main hall was used mainly for storage. Through the 1990s, the expense of maintaining the building for little public use began to weigh on the selectboard and conversation turned to better uses for the land.

## REVIVAL

The threat of the building’s demise was enough to launch a 20-



**THE TOWN HALL’S newly revised stage stands out among a new coat of paint done this spring.**

year revival. FOTH was formed, money raised and grants sought. Their mission was simple: “to bring the abandoned building back to live and make it a community center for one and all.”

During the next 24 years, an active group of local volunteers would raise and spend \$1,061,400 to rejuvenate the Town Hall.

That effort started by the hiring of an architect to recommend what was needed at a cost of \$51,532. In 2000, the work began with Vermont Protective Coatings painting the outside

of the building (\$12,323). In 2001, repointing of the building’s bricks and roof repairs came in at \$59,000. In 2002, the front steps were replaced for \$45,000.

From 2005-2007, renovations began on the interior and new marble front steps were replaced for \$102,447, while a total of \$364,770 was spent during this time.

A dry sprinkler system was added in 2008, as was a projector, screen, DVD player, amplifier and cabinet. New electrical improvements, furniture, a new chandelier lights in the main hall and repainting occurred through 2009-2012 costing another \$300,000.

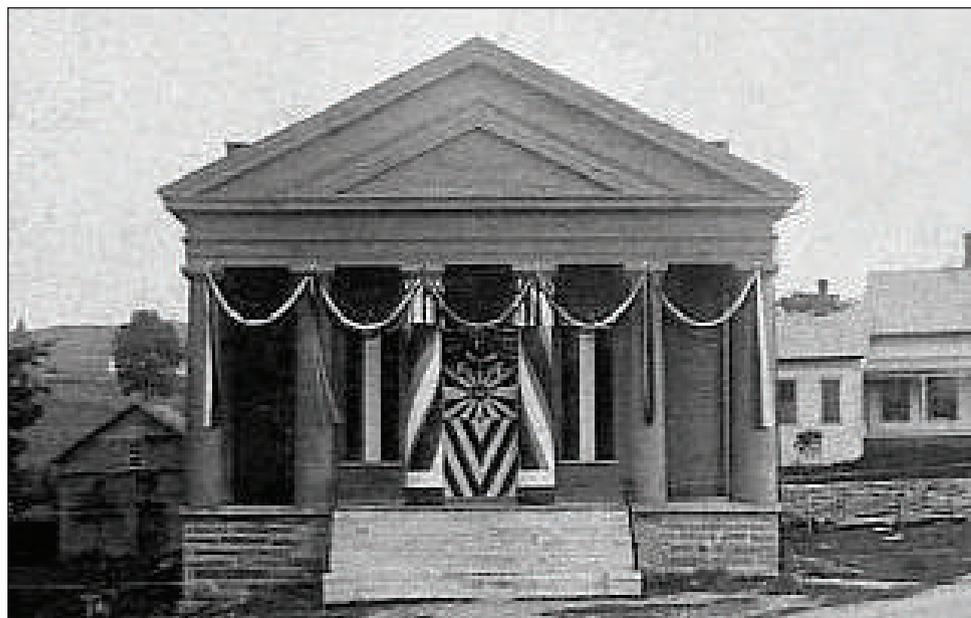
Repairs and more general improvements and renovations kept FOTH busy during the next several years, including new chairs, improvements to the state and backstage areas. Finally, in 2022, the friends added a dropped ceiling in the Meeting room in the basement, a new fire suppression system, and completed painting the ceiling modeling and trim around the Main Hall, as well as repainting the

entrance to the lobby upstairs — at a cost of \$19,800.

Much of the costs don’t include the thousands of donated hours by the Friends of the Brandon Town Hall. Bill Mathis, son of Kathy and Bill Mathis, for instance, is credited with scraping and painting much of the town’s hall’s ceiling and high molding, while Kathy Mathis says she has spent hundreds of hours painting the main hall and lobby and areas downstairs, along with many others, including support from the Brandon Artists Guild and volunteers from the Brandon Town Players. In general the work by the FOTH board and Marden is humbling.

Here’s a snippet of other recent improvements and what’s ahead according to a summary provided by FOTH:

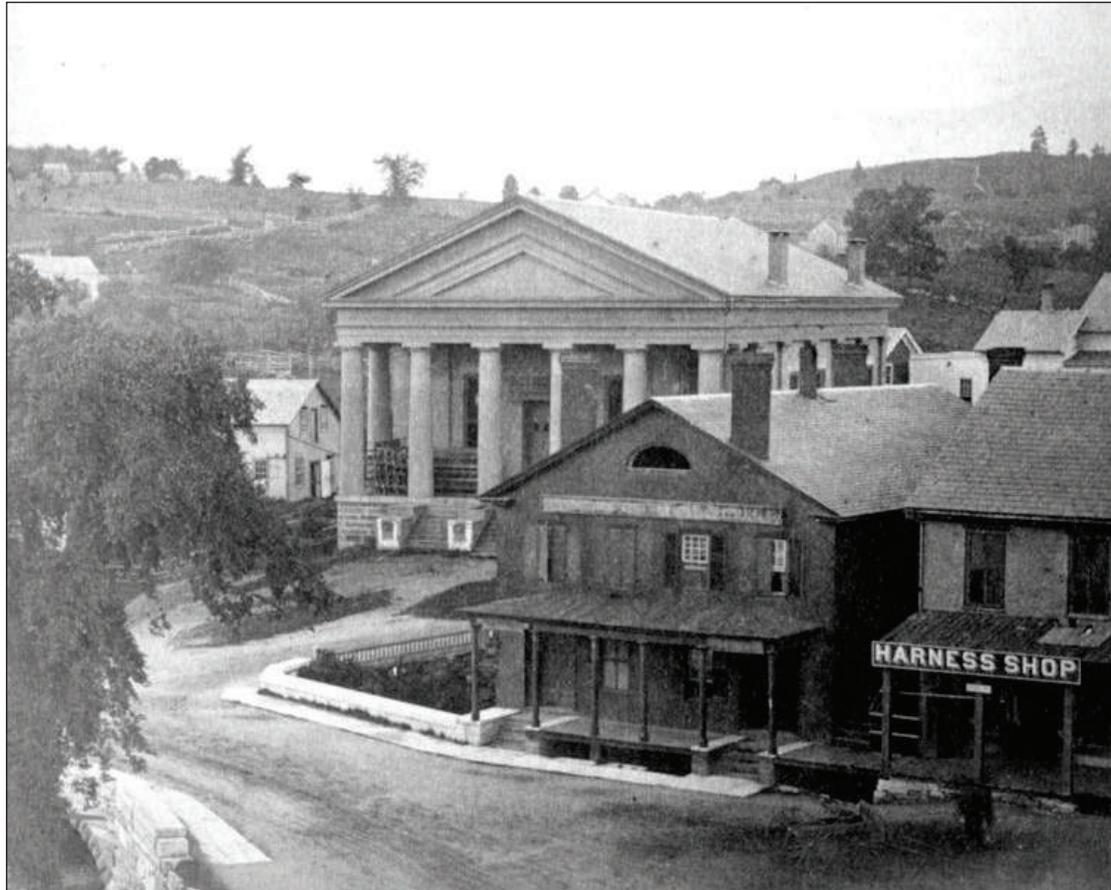
“In addition, improvements have been made to the portico platform with bluestone to closely match the original stone, a major upgrade of the building’s electrical system to accommodate theatrical lighting and audiovisual equipment... With the generous support of the Brandon Artists Guild and Brandon Town



**AN HISTORIC PHOTO of the Town Hall captures the early majesty of the building. While some complained the architecture was less than originally imagined, two of the three selectman at the time deemed it adequate as it was already slightly overbudget at just over \$10,000 when it was built in 1861.**



**A NE wato**



**AN OLD PHOTO** shows the Town Hall in the background and to the left of what is now the Town Offices.

Players, we were able to reinforce the Hall's theatrical rigging system, install a new grand drape and onstage curtains.

"The Brandon Town Players were also instrumental in reinforcing the main stage, apron and adding two side performance areas. Because of two matching grants from the Vermont Arts

Council, we were able to restore all 13 of the large windows in the upper hall and a complete restoration and enlargement of the old stage.

"The town of Brandon has taken over the responsibilities of maintenance on the building and recently installed a heating system in the upper hall, cleaned

out the attic area and put in foam insulation, which has helped with the heating. Our most re-

cent projects including replacing our old chairs with larger more comfortable chairs, and enlarging our concession area... Future projects for the main hall are a drop-down movie screen, repairing the 160-year-old floor and refurbishing the balcony."

**EVENTS SCHEDULED**

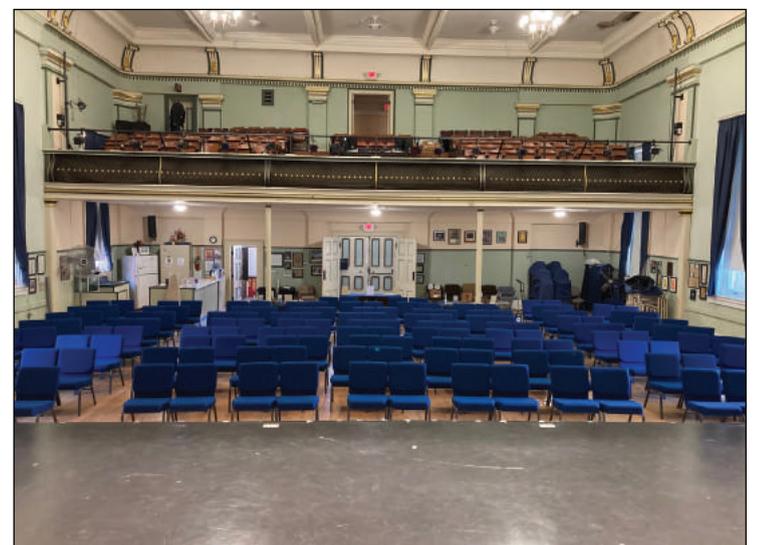
Getting the ceiling and main hall painted this spring was just in time to kick off what will be 22 scheduled shows and activities through the rest of the year, starting with this past Saturday's opening show: The Doughboys Dance Band, with the next event being the silent movie, For Heaven's Sake, on May 14.

"It's been a long, dedicated effort by a lot of people to save this building and bring it back to use," said Marden, who added that the Friends believe the building is not only a historic landmark but will play a critical role in the downtown's economic revival.

"We have accomplished a lot," Marden said, adding that with the support of the town and FOTH, "the Brandon Town Hall can be restored to serve as a strong engine of economic development and once again become the civic and cultural center of this community."



**NEW PROJECTOR**, audio and visual equipment and a large screen make programs and silent movies a joy to watch.



**COMFORTABLE NEW CHAIRS** were some of the recent purchases.



**THE MEETING ROOM** in the basement of the Town Hall was restored a couple of years ago for selectboard and other meetings.



**PICKING UP YOUNG wildlife can do more harm than good, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. It's also against the law.**

VTF&W photo by John Hall

## Young wildlife belong in the wild

MONTPELIER — Watching wildlife is enjoyable, especially when young animals appear in the spring. But it is best to keep your distance. Picking up young wildlife can do more harm than good, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and it is also against the law.

When people see young animals alone, they often mistakenly assume these animals are helpless or lost, in trouble or needing to be rescued. Bringing young wildlife into a human environment often results in permanent separation from their mothers and a sad ending for the animal.

Handling wildlife could also pose a threat to the people involved. Wild animals can transmit disease and angry wildlife mothers can pose significant dangers.

Department scientists encourage wildlife watchers to respect the behavior of animals in the spring and early summer, and to resist the urge

to assist wildlife in ways that may be harmful. Here are some helpful tips:

- Deer and moose nurse their young at different times during the day, and often leave young alone for long periods of time. These animals are not lost. Their mother knows where they are and will return.
- Young birds on the ground may have left their nest, but their parents will still feed them.
- Young animals such as fox and raccoon will often follow their mother. The mother of a wildlife youngster is usually nearby but just out of sight to a person happening upon it.
- Animals that act sick can carry rabies, parasites or other harmful diseases. Do not handle them. Even though they do not show symptoms, healthy-looking raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats may also be carriers of the deadly rabies virus.

• Many wildlife species will not feed or care for their young when people are close by. Obey signs that restrict access to wildlife nesting areas, including hiking trails that may be temporarily closed.

• Keep domestic pets indoors, leashed or fenced in. Dogs and cats kill many baby animals each year.

• Avoid projects that remove trees, shrubs and dead snags that contain nests during the spring and summer.

For information about rabies and wildlife conflicts, or truly orphaned wildlife, call the Vermont Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4RABIES (1-800-472-2437).

For the safety of all wildlife, taking a wild animal into captivity is illegal, even one you suspect is sick, injured or has been abandoned.

## VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region announces employee recognition awards

RUTLAND — The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR), one of the state's largest skilled home health and hospice service providers, recently announced Wendy Daley, a hospice nurse, was recognized as VNAHSR's Employee of the Year.

The award recognizes an employee whose work exemplifies outstanding performance, service excellence, and demonstration of the agency's core values. In her nomination, Daley was recognized as an insightful and innovative nurse for instituting the agency's private duty program, CarePlus, and as the first hospice program manager.

"Wendy is a highly valued, long-term employee of the VNA. She is an extremely caring and compassionate nurse whose knowledge, expertise, and dedication to the VNA is undeniable," said CEO Sara C. King.

Other award recipients were honored as part of the HEALTH Matters recognition program, an agency-wide initiative whose recipients emulate the core values of Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Leadership, Teamwork, and Helpfulness. HEALTH Matters award recipients are nominated by their peers for consistently demon-

strating the agency's core values.

This year's winners include: John Campbell, recently retired hospice volunteer coordinator for Honesty; Lyane Adam-Murnaghan, Physical Therapist and Clinical Manager for Excellence; Janelle Cummings, Physical Therapist for Accountability; Kate Lawrence, RN, WOCN for Leadership; Amanda Van Dien, Case Manager for Long-Term Care for Teamwork; and Claire Ericksen, RN in Pediatric Hi-tech for Helpfulness. In addition, Customer Service Representatives Eileen Allen and Patricia Andrews shared the agency's Unforgettable Award.



WENDY DALEY



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# Jim Samler writes a quirky book of poems with eccentric drawings

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — If you want to brighten your day with a short book of poems and art with a quirky flair that harkens back to “The Beat Poets” — Alan Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, as well as poet Ogden Nash — grab a copy of Jim Samler’s new book, “Flying Below the Radar.”

Samler, who taught art at Otter Valley Union High School for 28 years before retiring in 2014, says his inspiration for the book came not only from those poets, but also from The New Yorker cartoonists Charles Adams and Gahan Wilson, as well as Mad Magazine.

Those influences make it a trippy journey passing through Samler’s unique and entertaining perspectives.

Samler’s art, as well as his poems, takes an admittedly humorous view of life as he describes a series of scenes experienced during outings along the Long Trail and around Brandon during the first year and more of COVID-imposed semi-isolation.

“During Covid I spent each day skiing and/or hiking the Long Trail, and the trails in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area in Goshen, Leicester and Ripton. I started getting ideas for poems as I was on the trail, and I recorded the ideas on my phone,” he explained in a recent exchange.

Poems like “Pandemic” capture his more sedate thoughts:

*“A tent by the lake  
And a bottle of wine  
Making me happy,  
This time around.  
During a Pandemic  
A crisis is brewing...  
But me by the lake  
My chips I’ll be chewing.”*

Samler’s drawings are mainly line sketches with a helter-skelter flair that reflect some of his poem’s catchy titles: Graveyard Pancakes, A Day in the Life of My Cat, Weasel on a Woodpecker’s Back, Not Me, Alligator Astronauts, Abandoned House, Soldiers of Thought,

Wacky Tobacky Man.

But he also features different styles of art with a beautiful print for the more reflective poem If Leaves Were Wishes:

*“If leaves were wishes  
And trees held secrets,  
Only the sky above would know.  
Rugged rocks and boulders  
Debated directions streams  
And rivers would flow.  
Roots will turn and twist  
In perfection in the earth below...  
Just me on a trail,  
Alone by myself,  
No answers. No questions.  
Just happy to go with the flow.”*

Samler, whose hobbies include all sports winter and summer (skiing, hiking, biking, kiteboarding, tennis and even gardening), adds that he also got ideas while simply driving around the greater-Brandon area.

“The poem about the abandoned house came from an old ‘Zombie’ house in Brandon,” he recalled. “I always wondered why and how all of those old sofas would end up out on the street in front of it. Then it became the idea for a poem.”

Samler said he’d come home and flush out his thoughts on paper. Once complete, he’d spend time creating drawings for each one. Hence, his first book is about 35 pages with 18 poems and 17 drawings. His poem, The Urn, didn’t have a drawing, but then it paints the story well enough in nine poignantly funny lines that it doesn’t need one.

Samler grew up and attended high school in New York

City where the art department, he said, “was very competitive.”

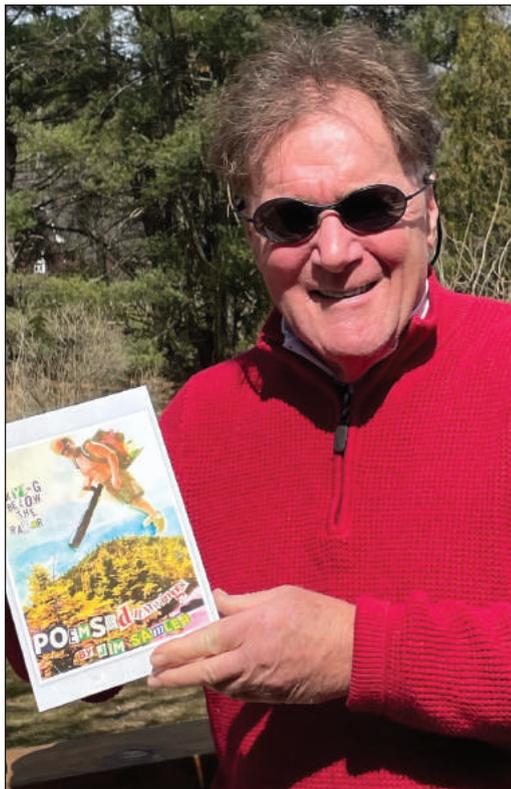
He started college at The School of Visual Arts in Manhattan and finished up with a Bachelor of Education in Fine Art at Florida International University.

Samler’s Brandon studio is reflective of his teaching as it showcases a smattering of styles: “media, painting, drawing, sculpture and pottery,” he says. “As an art teacher, I felt that you must be good at all mediums and enjoy the creative process.”

It’s also important to have fun, he says.

“I hope readers of this collection will get a good laugh out of them. Plus, I can showcase my drawings.”

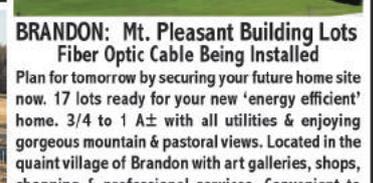
The book is available at The Bookstore in Brandon for \$9 (ebook is \$5) and can be ordered online from Dorrance Publishing Co., <https://bookstoreddorrancepublishing.com/flying-below-the-radar-poems-drawings/>.



JIM SAMLER

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## OV student makes Vt. Shrine team

Dylan Stevens-Clark of Brandon was chosen to be on the Vermont Shrine Football Team. As one of the states outstanding players, Dylan will be playing in the annual game at Castleton State University on August 6. Part of

the responsibilities of being on the team is to raise money individually to help Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Stevens-Clark held a fundraiser with Colleen Wright last month and raised \$600, but continues to gather money for

the hospitals until the game. The top raising players will be the Captains of the team. He is currently doing a raffle for Red Sox tickets as well online at 69th Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl.



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# Mim's Photos

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

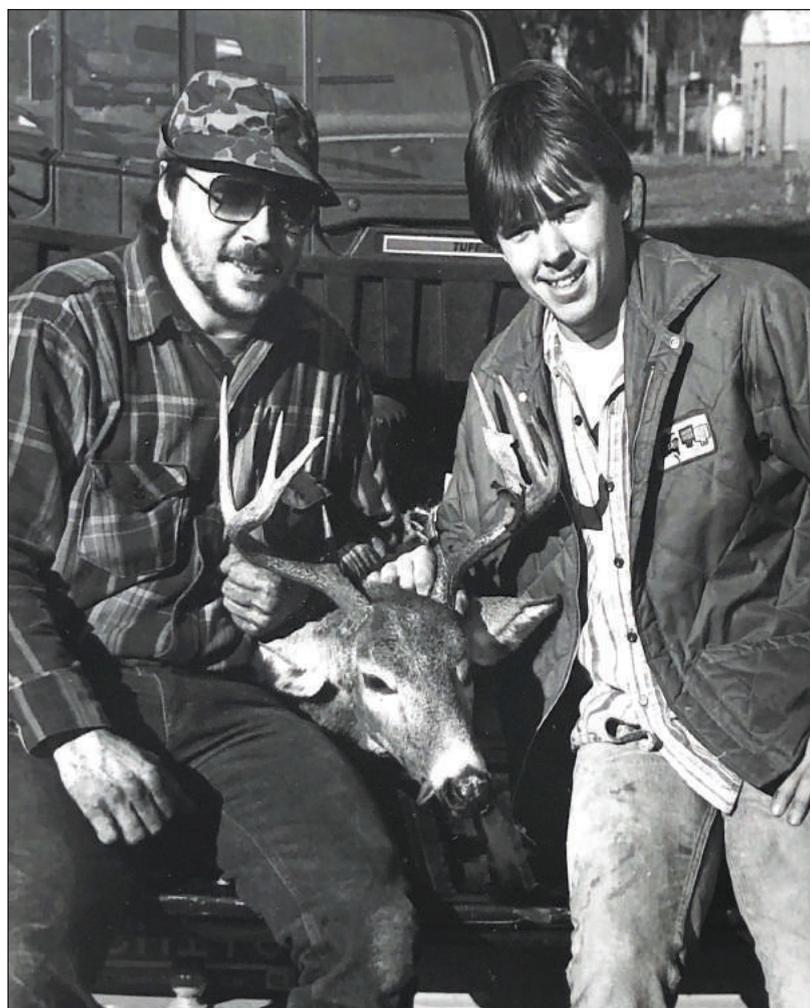


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## Recognized



Katie Anderson emailed to let us know that the young couple pictured in the 4/27 edition is her parents, James (Jim) Olsen and Tammie (Ballou) Olsen, on their wedding day in 1986. Katie says her dad was 19 and mom was 18.



Miranda Hornbeck of Brandon called regarding the recognized photo we ran in the April 27 issue, first published in the April 20 edition. The photo of 3 men identified the middle person as Rich Kapner. However, Miranda's grandmother, Dorothy Miner of Brandon believes it is Carl Miner of Brandon, who is Miranda's uncle, not Rich Kapner. The funny part of this story is that Miranda and Carl Miner do not think it is Carl. According to Miranda, Carl says there was another guy that had the same haircut as him back in the day. Dorothy, Miranda's grandmother, remains positive that this is a photo of Carl Miner.

Does anyone know for sure?

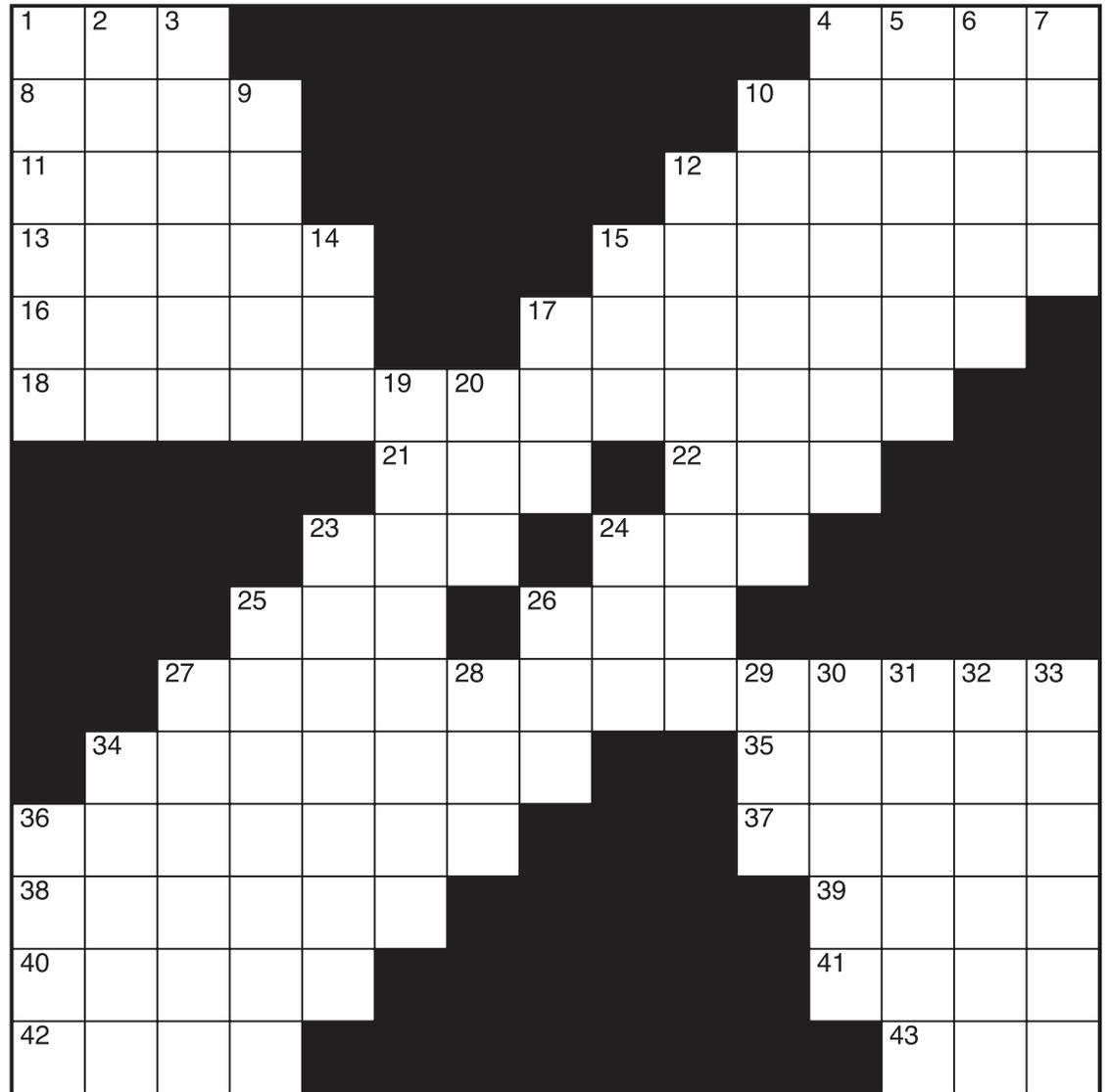
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. A power of perception
4. Slotted hinged metal plate
8. Popular crop
10. Siamese fighting fish
11. Larval crabs
12. South American mammal
13. Occur as a result of
15. Slavic language
16. An electric underground railway
17. Transporting
18. A direction
21. Opposite of start
22. Mock
23. People love and hate it (abbr.)
24. A people of Myanmar
25. A Queens ballplayer
26. Southern Thailand indigenous person
27. Famed actress
34. Thin strips
35. Bluish greens
36. Ridiculed
37. Having the shape of a cube
38. Came down
39. Indian religious god
40. "Bewitched" actress Moorehead
41. Leak through slowly
42. Buzzing insects
43. Midway between south and southeast

## CLUES DOWN

1. Skin condition
2. Earlier
3. Right away
4. Vomiting
5. Go to
6. "The Police" frontman
7. Bullfighting maneuver
9. Pacific island
10. A system of algebraic notation
12. A room used for the activities of a group
14. The longest division of geological time
15. Car mechanics group
17. A barrel of liquid (abbr.)
19. Bound to do
20. Explosive
23. Ridicules
24. Adult male
25. Military personnel
26. French and Belgian river
27. Found in the sea
28. A share lost in default (abbr.)
29. Type of medication (abbr.)
30. City on the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. They're in martinis
33. Get away
34. Wampum
36. Lacking brightness

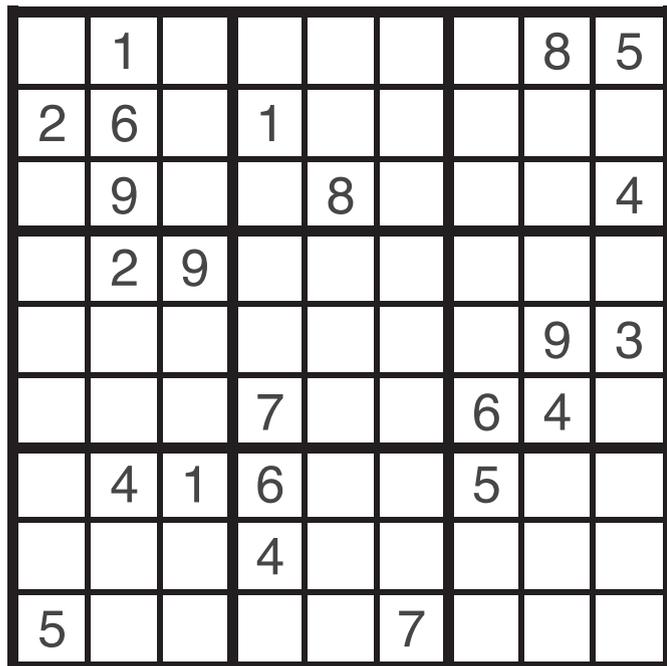


# Sudoku

Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

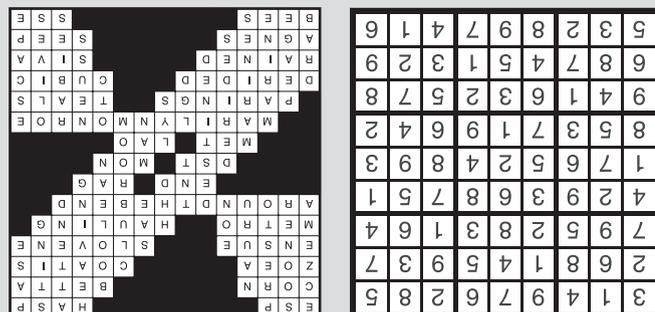
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number

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



## Marijuana Can Be Harmful to Your Pets

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like pet owners to be aware of the risks of marijuana use. While marijuana may produce pleasurable effects in people, for pets, the substance can be dangerous and even lethal. Though marijuana use is not new, its use for recreational purposes is more recent, and the increased accessibility to the drug has led to an increase in accidental exposure in pets. THC, the chemical that gives marijuana its high, is toxic to pets and can cause vomiting, mild incontinence, incoordination, depression, sleepiness or excitability, low blood pressure, low body temperature and seizures. Death is rare, but a few cases have been reported. Edibles are of particular concern, as they often contain other ingredients that can also be problematic, such as chocolate or artificial sweeteners. For the safety of your pets, you can think of it as a prescription medication that you want to keep out of their reach, so they don't get sick. If you suspect that your pet has injected or been exposed to marijuana, please contact your veterinarian immediately.

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



#### ODIN - 2.5-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. HUSKY MIX. TAN AND WHITE.

I am a very quiet boy, and I am fairly laid-back. I like going for walks and playing outside. I can't go home with cats as I do not get along with them. I am a sweet boy who needs a comfy couch to lay on. If you are looking for a companion to go on hikes with and then have relaxing evenings, I may be your guy!

#### MEW - 2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. GREY TIGER.

I'm a quiet, mellow cat with a dependable hankering for a good, long nap. You may find me in warm corners or high up on the wall watching the world from above. I was brought to RCHS as a stray, which is likely why I'm so independent and reserved around people. Luckily, I have been settling in comfortably ever since getting here. While I'm a bit withdrawn, I may warm up to those who earn my trust over time.



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# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

## Adult Non-Fiction

### The Man Who Invented Motion Pictures: A True Tale of Obsession, Murder, and the Movies by Paul Fischer

The year is 1888 and Louis Le Prince is finally testing his “taker” or “receiver” device for his family. The device is meant to capture ten to twelve images per second on film, creating a reproduction of reality that can be replayed as many times as desired. In 1890, Le Prince was granted patents in four countries ahead of other inventors who were rushing to accomplish the same task. But just weeks before unveiling his invention to the world, he mysteriously disappeared and was never seen or heard from again. Three and a half years later, Thomas Edison, Le Prince’s rival, made the device public, claiming to have invented it himself.

## Adult Fiction

### The Children on the Hill by Jennifer McMahon

1978: At her renowned treatment center in picturesque Vermont, the brilliant psychiatrist, Dr. Helen Hildreth, is acclaimed for her compassionate work with the mentally ill. But when’s she home with

## Did you know?

Becki Lund, of La Dì-mora, is leading a grief support group from 5:30-7 on May 17 at the library.

her cherished grandchildren, Vi and Eric, she’s just Gran. Then one day Gran brings a child to stay with the family. Iris-silent, hollow-eyed, skittish, and feral-does not behave like a normal girl. Still, Violet is thrilled to have a new playmate. 2019: Lizzy Shelley, the host of the popular podcast Monsters Among Us, is traveling to Vermont, where a young girl has been abducted, and a monster sighting has the town in an uproar. She’s determined to hunt it down, because Lizzy knows better than anyone that monsters are real. . .and one of them is her very own sister.

## Young Adult Fiction

### The Girls I’ve Been by Tess Sharpe

As the daughter of a con-artist who targets criminal men, Nora grew up as her mother’s protégé. Then Nora escaped and has been playing at normal for five years. But she needs to dust off the skills she ditched because Right after Nora

enters the bank one day, two guys start robbing it. The bank robbers may be trouble, but Nora’s something else entirely. They have no idea who they’re really holding hostage...

## DVDs

### Writing with Fire

In a cluttered news landscape dominated by men, emerges India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women. Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions, redefining what it means to be powerful.

## Magazines

### Yankee

New England’s Magazine – Summer Travel: Best of New England where to eat, stay and play

### Threads

Zipper Solutions; How to Test a Sewing Machine; Five Ways to Upcycle Garments

### Wired

Caught By Crypto: They thought their crimes were unnoticeable, they couldn’t have been more wrong

### Real Simple

Refresh Your Kitchen; Give a Sofa New Life; Nail That Gallery Wall

# Abortion would remain legal if Roe v Wade is overturned

BY JERALYN DARLING, VtDigger  
MONTPELIER — The U.S. Supreme Court appears poised to strike down the right to abortion, according to a bombshell Politico report published Monday night citing a leaked draft of the majority opinion.

If the court’s landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling were overturned, abortion regulations would be governed by state law, unless Congress were to take action. Though many states have sought in recent years to restrict abortion rights, Vermont has moved in the opposite direction.

Abortion is protected in Vermont and, under current state law, would remain legal.

In 2019, Democratic majorities in the Vermont House and Senate approved by wide margins H.57, which guaranteed the right to abortion in the state. The bill codified in statute longstanding case law. “The State of Vermont recognizes the fundamental right of every individual who becomes pregnant to choose to carry a pregnancy to term, to give birth to a child, or to have an abortion,” the law reads.

In June 2019, Republican Gov. Phil Scott signed H.57 into a law now known as the Freedom of Choice Act. “This legislation affirms what is already allowable in

Vermont — protecting reproductive rights and ensuring those decisions remain between a woman and her health care provider,” the governor wrote upon signing the bill.

During the same legislative session, lawmakers began working on a more lasting approach to protect abortion rights in the state. That year, the Vermont House and Senate signed off on Proposal 5, a constitutional amendment to guarantee sexual and reproductive freedoms.

Vermont’s onerous constitutional amendment process requires multiple votes by the Legislature in back-to-back bienniums. In April 2021, the Vermont Senate again supported Proposal 5, and in February 2022 the Vermont House gave it final legislative approval, placing the question on the general election ballot this November. Should a majority of voters support the measure, Vermont would become the first state to make such an amendment to its state constitution.

The amendment would read, “That an individual’s right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.”



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

instead of yours.

**LEO** July 23-Aug. 23  
A partner or close friend may seem to pull away from you this week, Leo. Don't take it personally as it won't be a permanent break. Soon things will be back to normal.

**ARIES** March 21-April 20  
Avoid going down the rabbit hole that can be social media, Aries. Put your phone or tablet to the side for a little bit and focus your attention elsewhere.

**TAURUS** April 21-May 21  
Try to stay calm and grounded right now, Taurus. Others can learn from your example at work, as you likely will be the voice of reason among your colleagues.

**GEMINI** May 22-June 21  
Gemini, if you are having trouble figuring out a path this week, try to meditate on a solution. Find a quiet spot and visualize your goals and how you can achieve them.

**CANCER** June 22-July 22  
Be mindful of whom you confide in this week, Cancer. Not everyone has your best interests at heart and may use the information you share to his or her advantage

someone comes to you seeking help, it's best to stay silent for now.

**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 20  
Try to avoid any impulsive spending for the next several days, Capricorn. The temptation will be high, so this will be a bit of a challenge for you. Stick to the essentials.

**AQUARIUS** Jan. 21-Feb. 18  
Aquarius, stay calm and keep your nose to the grindstone during a potentially hectic week. This may mean taking a day off or at least a step back.

**PISCES** Feb. 19-March 20  
Some truths are difficult to hear and swallow, Pisces. Only through learning all sides of the story can you grow as a person.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**

May 5 Nellie Bly, journalist (d)  
May 6 Ruben Carter, boxer (d)  
May 7 Rabindranath Tagore, poet (d)  
May 8 Thomas Pynchon, writer (85)  
May 9 Sophie Scholl, anti Nazi activist (d)  
May 10 Bono, singer (62)

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# Police report

(Continued from Page 3)

complaint on Union Street. Police attempted to locate a truck that was reported to be driving negligently, but the vehicle was not located.

- Issued a restraining order to a High Pond Road resident after a report of stalking.

- Responded to a complaint of threats and harassment from a High Pond Road resident that she is being harassed by her neighbor. The issue is ongoing between the neighbors in that area.

- Responded to a Country Club Road resident, who reported that her neighbor's dogs dragged her dog while it was tethered and attacked it. Brandon Animal Control was forwarded the case for investigation.

- Arrested Jordan Atwood, 24, of Rutland, for DUI-Criminal Refusal and Driving with a Criminally Suspended License as a result of a motor vehicle stop for speeding on Franklin Street.

- Received a wallet that was found on McConnell Road. No contact information was available for the owner.

- Responded to a traffic hazard on Country Club Road, where a Comcast cable was in the roadway. The responding officer was able to remove it from the road.

- Conducted a directed patrol on Forest Dale Road/Brookdale Street. One vehicle was stopped.

- Made traffic stops on McConnell Road, Park Street, Forest Dale Road and Franklin Street. Two warnings were issued for speeding and one for improper passing. Police also issued tickets for speeding and operating with a civilly suspended license.

- Took fingerprints for school chaperone.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

## On April 26

- Responded to a noise complaint of loud music on Franklin Street. Officers spoke with the people at the residence and the music was shut off.

- Received a report of an ATV incident on Forest Dale Road. ATV operators were juveniles that were subsequently educated on roadway safety by the officer.

- Responded to a trespass complaint on Town Farm Road; no violation and citizens were advised.

- Responded to a complaint of a blue dirt bike with white seat, driving erratically at the Neshobe School.

- Received report of a juvenile problem on Franklin Street.

- Investigated a report of a tarp blowing around in the roadway and causing a traffic hazard at the intersection of Lovers Lane and Grove Street/Route 7. The responding officer subsequently removed the

item from the road.

- Conducted directed traffic enforcement on Carver Street for ongoing speeding and reckless driving complaints. One motor vehicle stop was made and a warning issued to the operator for speeding.

- Made a motor vehicle stop on Carver Street for speeding. Warning issued to the operator.

- Took fingerprints for employment.

## On April 27

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad with an EMS call.

- Assisted Rutland City Police in locating a victim from an assault that occurred in Rutland.

- Issued a restraining order to a person on Mulcahy Road.

- Responded to a citizen dispute on Franklin Street, where a girlfriend was refusing to let her boyfriend drive their mutually shared vehicle because he didn't pay for the vehicle's insurance. Issue to be handled civilly.

- Received two 911 hangup calls, one from a vacant line on Wyman Road and the other from Grove Street.

- Assisted a mental health subject in getting a mental health evaluation.

- Responded to a report of an intoxicated female who had backed into a truck in the driveway and was refusing to get out of her truck.

- Made multiple traffic stops on North Street and Grove Street for speeding.

- Took fingerprints for employment and volunteering.

- Conducted a routine business check at Blue Seal. Building secure.

## On April 28

- Responded to a report of suspicious activity on Hollow Road. The responding officer was able to determine that the yelling was from a male driving through the area looking for his lost dogs. The dogs were later found safe and sound.

- Responded to a front door alarm at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. Nothing suspicious was found within building.

- Conducted a directed patrol on Park Street.

- Responded to a fallen tree in the middle of Wheeler Road. Tree was removed and power lines were fixed by Green Mountain Power.

- Made a traffic stop for speeding on Grove Street and issues a warning.

- Conducted routine property watches at Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road, 802 Spirits on Conant Square, and at the Brandon Fire Department on Franklin Street. All were secure.

## On April 29

- Made a welfare check on a 59-year-old Union Street resident who had not been heard from. Male was found in residence and was transported to the hospital.

- Investigated a knocked-down light post on Carver Street.

- Conducted directed patrols in the area of Central Park and on McConnell Road near Wood Lane. Ticket was issued to the Wood Lane vehicle operator.

- Made traffic stops on Center Street for having an unrestrained child in the car.

- Took fingerprints for school chaperones and a volunteer.

## On April 30

- Responded to a potential trespass issue on North Street. The person of interest was not present but reported to be intoxicated and on his way. The POI did not show. Area agencies were informed of his vehicle and to be on the lookout as he was reported to be intoxicated.

- Attempted to locate an ATV on Carver Street/Syndicate Road after a report of erratic driving. Driver was not located.

- Conducted a directed patrol on Patrol Park Street.

## On May 1

- Assisted the Essex Police Department with a follow-up investigation stemming from a burglary that happened in their town.

- Investigated a suspicious vehicle parked on W. Seminary Street/Conant Square. The operator was identified and no further action taken.

- Responded to a Report of a vehicle being operated erratically through town. Officers converged on the area, but the vehicle was not located.

- Upon finding a Vermont license plate on Birch Hill Road, investigating officer attempted to notify the owner, but was unable to make contact with them.

- Conducted a directed speed enforcement on Birch Hill Road and Park Street. No activity observed.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street. Three vehicle stops made.

- Made six additional traffic stops, four on Grove Street, one on Nickerson Road, and one on McConnell Road. Issued three tickets, two for speeding and one for no registration, and three warnings. One operator also had his/her vehicle towed due to the owner having attached license plates on the car that were not assigned to it.

- Conducted two foot patrols on Center Street.

## Brandon Fire department log

The Brandon Fire Department responded to the following emergency calls during April 2022:

**April 1** Carver Street, Odor Investigation

**April 3** Carver Street, Motor Vehicle Accident

**April 4** Park Village, Establish a Landing Zone for Medical Emergency

**April 8** Franklin Street, Assist EMS

**April 18** Leicester-Whiting Road, Leicester, Motor Vehicle Accident

**April 21** Upper Plains Road, Salisbury, Mutual Aid, Wildland Fire

**April 25** Franklin Street, Propane Leak

**April 26** Jones Road, Assist EMS

**April 28** Wheeler Road, Tree in Roadway with Wires Down

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cook-

ing fires are not only the leading cause of home structure fires, but also the majority of kitchen fire injuries occur when victims try to fight the fire themselves. The following are kitchen fire safety tips:

Do not leave food on the stove unattended. If you have to leave the kitchen, turn off the stove and take your pots and pans off the heat.

Long, flowing sleeves, large-fitting and even aprons can catch fire. When cooking, wear short or close-fitted sleeves and keep your baggy shirts tucked in or tied back with a well-fitted apron.

Be aware of the items around the stovetop. Kitchen towels, oven mitts, appliance cords and even curtains can easily catch fire if set near a hot burner. Always move flammable items away from your stovetop. Be careful when using towels to move a pot off the burner. Use an oven mitt, but if using a towel, be sure it doesn't dangle down

and touch the burner.

Have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen. A fire extinguisher can make the difference between an easy to clean up burned pan and a kitchen engulfed in flames. Be sure you actually know how to use it, too.

Never throw hot grease in the garbage can. Even if the grease isn't on fire, it can cause something in the garbage to burn. Instead, let grease cool and dispose of it in an old coffee can.

Do not let pot handles extend over the edge of the stove. The handle could accidentally be hit and it could spill the contents on the stove, on the floor or on yourself. Keep a 3 foot safety zone around the stove. When cooking with grease, always have a lid close by to smother a grease fire.

Do not use heat generating appliances, such as toasters, toaster ovens and air fryers, under kitchen cabinets. If they overheat or cause the contents to catch fire, the flames can cause the cabinets to start to burn.

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# Green Up Day

*(Continued from Page 1)*  
ways get picked up,” Delphia said, adding that town residents have always been pretty diligent about cleaning up their own neighborhoods. “The key is for everyone to do their part,” she said. “It doesn’t take a lot when we all chip in.”

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 7 this year and in Leicester bags can be picked up anytime at the town offices (outside) and full bags can be either left on the roadside for town crews to pick up, or dropped off at the Town Garage on Fern Lake Road. A town cookout and raffle will begin at the town office at noon and go until 2 p.m.

Green Up Day got started 52 years ago under Gov. Deane Davis and has become a spring tradition for all Vermonters to help beautify the state before the summer season — and summer vegetation makes it more difficult to see and pick up litter along the roadsides.

Last year, in 2021, it was estimated that 22,000 volunteers participated in Green Up Day and were able to clean up about 75% of the state’s 13,000 miles of town roads. The challenge to reach 100% of the town roads is a fun way to motivate town coordinators and volunteers, said Kate Alberghini, executive director of Green Up Vermont.

“Everyone likes a competitive challenge,” she said. “It’s a way to have some fun with it and support our town coordinators.”

Here are the Green Up Day coordinators in area towns, how to contact them, and the details of the day as

shown on the state Green Up Day website:

## IN RUTLAND COUNTY:

- Brandon: Coordinator is James Leary; phone is 802-247-9595; email is jimleary@gmail.com. Details: Pick up Green Up bags at the Gazebo. Bring full bags to transfer station or leave on the roadsides for town crew.

- Chittenden: Coordinator is Sara DeCubellis; phone is 802-483-6868; email is pixie1208@aol.com. Details: Pick up Green Up bags at the Church of the Wildwood from 8-11:30 a.m. on May 7. Leave full bags along roadsides for pick up.

- Pittsford: Coordinator is Recreation Director Jennifer Popp; phone is 802-483-6500, x 17; email is recreation@pittsfordvermont.com. Details: Green Up bags will be available at the Town Clerk’s office. Please bring full bags back to the Town Offices.

- Proctor: Coordinator is Carrie Dougherty; phone is 802-459-2837; email is doughertyc418@gmail.com. Details: We will leave a map and Green Up bags in the town gazebo and ask people to cross of the section of roads they are covering on Green Up Day or before. The town road crew will pick up full bags left on roadsides.

- Sudbury: Coordinator is Larry Rowe; phone is 802-623-6432; email is upyonder@shoreham.net. Details: Green Up bags will be available at the Town Office. Bring full bags to the Recycling Center on or before Green Up Day where volunteers will sort them.

- West Rutland: Coordinator is Stan Jagodzinski; phone is 802-438-2263; email is sjagodzinski@westrutlandvt.org. Details: Pick up Green Up bags at the Town Hall at 9 a.m. on Green Up Day. Leave full bags along roadsides for town pick-up. Refreshments for volunteers at noon at the Town Hall.

## IN ADDISON COUNTY:

- Goshen: Coordinators are Marci Hayes at 802-247-6151 at hayesm812@yahoo.com; and Dave Sabatini, 802-247-6350 at dwsabatini1@gmail.com. Details: Green Up Day BBQ for all volunteers from noon-2 p.m. on May 7. Leave bags along roadsides for pick up.

- Leicester: Coordinator is Diane Beware; phone 802-247-3786; email is dianebenware@gmail.com. Details: We encourage pellet stove owners to reuse their pellet bags for Green Up Day. Green Up Day bags are at the Town Clerk’s office anytime. Leave bags on roadsides for pick up, or bring to Town Garage on Fern Lake Road. Cookout and raffle with prizes starting at noon. Town is looking to clean up 100% of its roads, so be sure to coordinate which roads you are picking up.

- Whiting: Coordinator is Rebecca Bertrand; phone 802-349-9468; email is whiteningaries@yahoo.com. Details: Bags available at the town hall. Folks can call me with questions and route assignments, 349-9468. Leave full bags along roadsides. Ice cream social after at the Town Hall at 1:00 on Green Up Day.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## WARNING

**BRANDON FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2**  
253 Deer Run Road, Brandon, Vermont 05733  
Brandonfiredist2@comcast.net

The Brandon Fire District No. 2 Prudential Committee will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Neshobe Elementary School located at 17 Neshobe Circle to consider the items noted on this agenda. The Prudential Committee reserves the right to add additional items, if necessary, at the beginning of the meeting.

- 1) Call to Order
  - a. Agenda Adoption
- 2) Report Merger Negotiations with BFD#1
- 3) Public Comment
- 4) Vote to Merge with BFD#1
- 5) Vote to Dissolve BFD#2 after merger complete
- 6) Adjournment

## NOTICE TO PROPERTY TAXPAYERS – 4<sup>th</sup> and FINAL QTR PAYMENT DUE 5/16/2022

Notice is hereby given that payment for the property taxes assessed upon the grand list of the Town of Brandon for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the fiscal year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 is due Monday, May 16, 2022. Fourth quarter payments not received by Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> or postmarked after May 16<sup>th</sup> may be subject to an 8% penalty and interest at 1% per month. Please furnish the remittance slip with your payment. Payments may be made by mail, at the Town Offices, 49 Center Street (M-TH, 9-4) at either of the two drop boxes located in front of the Town Office and at the Neshobe School or by credit card, echeck or paypal through our online payment service which can be found on our website. Thank you.

Susan Gage,  
Town Treasurer

## NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF PERSONNEL RECORDS

### RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, Whiting (RNESU, Otter Valley & Barstow Unified Union School Districts)

Let this serve as notice that Personnel Records of employees who were employed at Barstow Memorial School, Lothrop Elementary School, Neshobe School, Otter Creek Academy (formally known as Leicester Central, Sudbury County and Whiting Elementary Schools), or Otter Valley High School prior and up to the 1992 school year are being destroyed in accordance with Federal, State and Local Guidelines.

Anyone who would like their record should call Pam Reed at the RNESU Office at (802)247-5757 prior to December 31, 2022 to make arrangements to pick it up.  
Brooke Dahlin  
Human Resources Coordinator

## OTTER CREEK ACADEMY AT LEICESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION LEICESTER, SUDBURY, WHITING

Registration for kindergarten students living in the towns of Leicester, Sudbury, and Whiting will be held at Otter Creek Academy at Leicester Central School Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> by appointment. Children who will be five years old before September 1st, 2022 should register for our full-day kindergarten program.

Parents are asked to bring copies of their children’s birth certificate when they register. Our system, infonap, requires electronic registration. We will have instructions on how to register your child from home, but computers will also be available at the school if you do not have internet available. Anyone having questions should call the school at 247-8825 and speak to Diane Randall, administrative assistant.

## TOWN OF GOSHEN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Goshen Selectboard will hold a public hearing regarding the recognition and classification of a portion of South Hill Road, Goshen VT. This meeting will be held at the Goshen Town Hall on Monday June 13, 2022, at 7:00pm. For questions call the Town Office at 1-802-247-6455.

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Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

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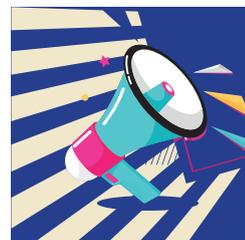
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# Mim's Photos

are on page 16!

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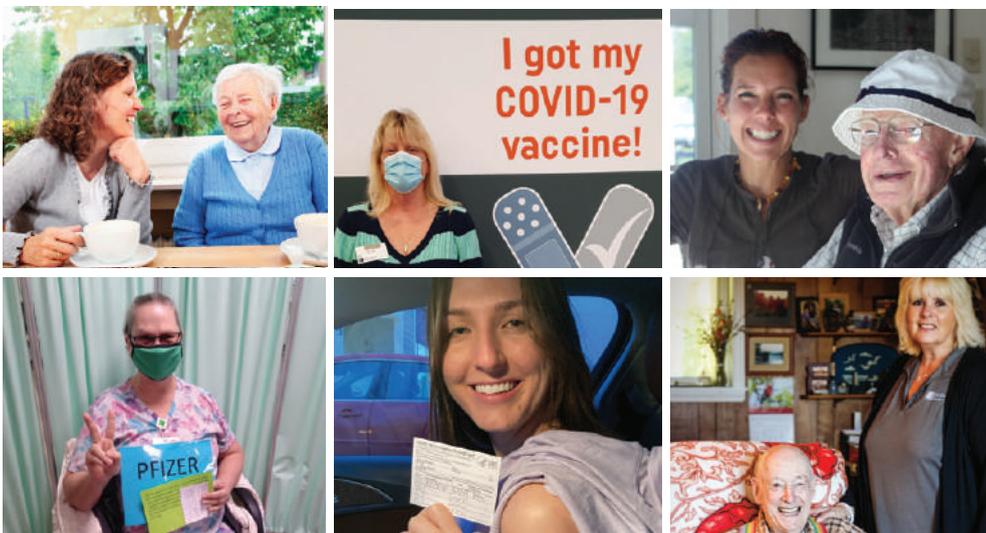
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**HELP WANTED**

Camp Songadeewin for girls, located on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury has the following positions open for June 18 to August 20, 2022.

**Head of Waterfront**

Must be highly responsible, over 21 with current life guard certification and previous supervision and life guarding experience.

- Supervise lifeguards
- Run daily swim classes
- Teach swim classes
- Maintaining a safe waterfront
- This position is residential, includes room and board as well as salary

**Camp Mother**

Must have a clean driving record and be over 21. Responsible for a variety of tasks and areas of the campus requiring someone to be conscientious, organized and complete a variety of tasks.

Tasks include but are not limited to:

- Run errands
- Airport pick-up and drop-off
- Accompany campers to doctor appointments
- Transport staff to town for their time-off
- This position is residential, includes room and board as well as salary

**Driver**

Must have experience driving 15 passenger vans and trailers, CDL preferred, passport or enhanced license and clean driving record required.

Must enjoy working with children and young adults

- Drive out our canoe trips to the ADKS, Maine, Northern NH and Canada
- Non-residential, daily rate approximately 20-25 days for the summer with some overnights and weekends

Contact Ellen Flight, Songadeewin Director, for more complete job descriptions at [ellen@keewaydin.org](mailto:ellen@keewaydin.org) or 802-352-9860.

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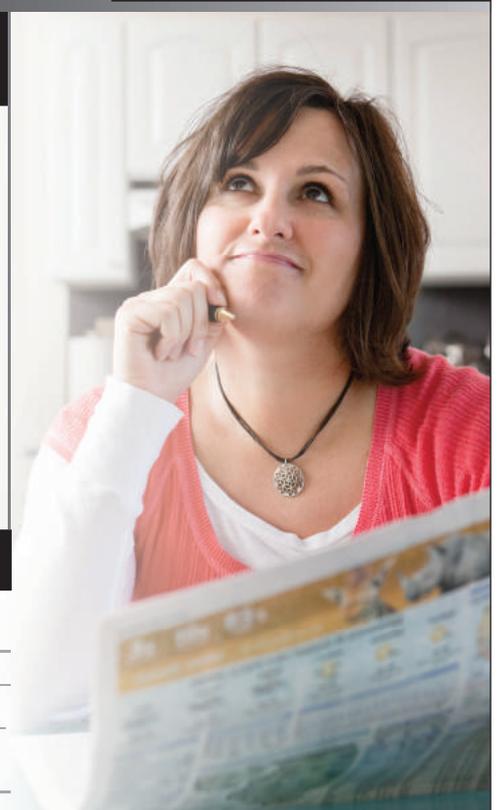
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# Addison Sheriff announces retirement in emotional video

BY JOHN S. MCCRIGHT

MIDDLEBURY — Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton announced in an online video posted Sunday that he will not run for re-election this year and will retire from law enforcement when his term as sheriff ends next February.

Newton said in a 19-minute-long video posted on YouTube that he was very tired of how he was being undermined by some people in the community and it would be better for his mental health if he left law enforcement after 20 years.

The video was publicly viewable until around 9 a.m. Monday, when the video was made private.

It came days after a news story was published by VTDigger.org and the Addison Independent that reported that Vermont State Police were investigating a Feb. 26 incident in which Middlebury police were called to a “domestic disturbance” at Newton’s Middlebury home. Newton explained in the story and in the video that the woman involved in the incident was intoxicated and became upset when he dumped out her alcohol.

In the video Newton faulted at least a half-dozen people by name whom he said leaked the information to the media on the Middlebury police call, and who he claimed were chipping away at his authority by tarnishing his reputation.

In the video, which appeared to be shot from a camera on the dashboard of a car in which he was sitting and drinking a cup of coffee, Newton recounted the instances of post-traumatic stress disorder from which he suffered from his years as a police officer and an ambulance paramedic. He said he was proud of his 20 years in law enforcement but was ready to move on and work in the construction field with his son.

Newton was elected to office in 2018 after long-time Sheriff Don Keeler decided not to run again.

During his more than three years at the helm, Newton has been in the news in a number of stories. Early on he touted the success of his effort to hire and keep more full-time deputies by offering better benefits. And last year he announced an effort to raise \$1.5 million to make the

sheriff’s department a place not just for law enforcement by also for social services, under the mantle of the “Addison County Community Support program.”

Newton also was involved in less flattering incidents. In 2020, a report sent by Sheriff Newton to the Vermont attorney general alleged that Vergennes Police Chief George Merkel had mis-assigned hours on a time sheet covering traffic patrols, but the attorney general cleared Merkel. At that time, the Vergennes city manager alleged that Newton was motivated by the sheriff’s department’s loss of traffic contracts to Merkel’s department.

Last summer Newton was involved in a public spat with the town manager of Brandon over the conduct of one of Newton’s deputies and Newton’s refusal to release body cam video of the incident. It was not the first time that Newton was criticized for shielding one of his deputies.

In the video that was briefly available on YouTube, Newton thanked those who had supported him. When it comes time to vote for his successor in the November election, Newton urged people to vote for Addison



PETER NEWTON

County Sheriff’s Department Sgt. Mike Elmore, whom he has been grooming for the job. Newton said that Sheriff Keeler had made way for his rise to the Addison County sheriff’s position,

and he wants to ease the way for Elmore to follow him.

Newton did not respond today to an Addison Independent request to talk about his decision to retire.

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