

The REPORTER

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

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75¢

OVUU board wrestles with complex issues

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — Issues surrounding diversity and equity, technological integration, and facility upgrades dominated the conversation on May 18, when members of the OVUU school board convened at the OVUHS library, and online via Zoom, to discuss several topics of wide-ranging impact, touching on prevalent themes of local and national importance.

Among those on hand to give a presentation was Susannah White, RNESU's Equity and Engagement coach, who for the past year has been helping lead an inquiry into systemic issues affecting educational inequity within the district that affect the lives of its students, faculty, and adminis-

trators.

"The issues raised are systemic in nature and are reflective of local, state, and national trends," she said in her presentation to the board. "As we unearth and reckon with the inequities that exist in our schools, we must assume shared responsibility, seek systemic solutions, and avoid the impulse to blame individual people and or schools. We must also remember to embrace the work of educational equity as ongoing, unfinished, and embedded in all we do."

White went on to discuss a brave group of students who participated in the inquiry by sharing some of their negative experiences with the board—including:

(See OVUU, Page 20)

Brandon select board united in vote to rehome vicious dog

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — The Brandon selectboard met in a special session on Monday, May 23 to decide the fate of Becky McKee's dog, Minnie, who had recently gotten loose and attacked Marge Munger's dog resulting in inju-

ries that required veterinary attention.

Several townspeople were in attendance and expressed their difficulties with dealing with Minnie in the past. An emotional McKee expressed her contri-

(See Vicious dog, Page 15)

Proctor to get digital speeding sign to monitor Route 3 traffic

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — In a quick meeting Monday night, the Proctor selectboard moved to make Town Manager Michael Ramsey the town's credit supervisor to handle delinquent water bills, approved

spending about \$2550 for a digital speed control sign on South Street coming into town from the south on Route 3, as well as a list of other discussion items.

Following weeks of discussion (See Proctor, Page 6)

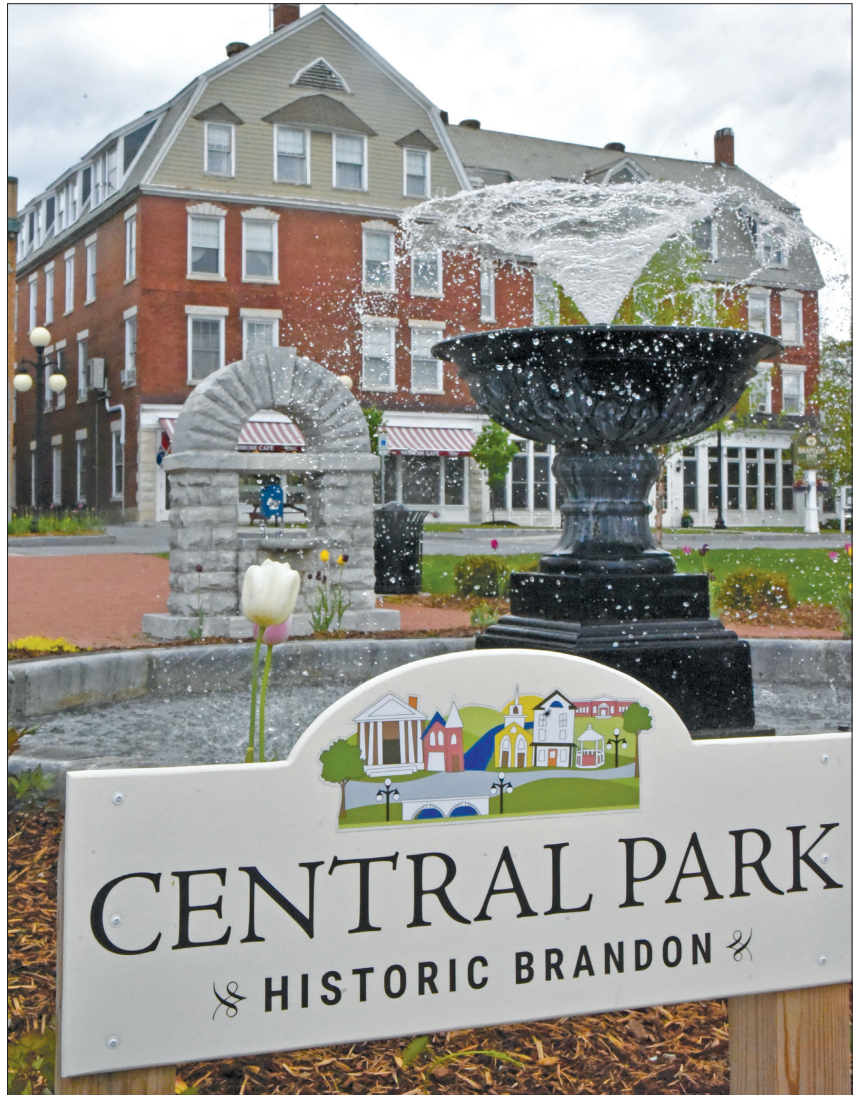
Area hosts Memorial Day events

Monday, May 30 marks the 51st annual Memorial Day since the U.S. Congress made it an official federal holiday in 1971. The holiday, previously known as Decoration Day, has roots dating back as far as 1868 and is a day when the nation comes together to honor and commemorate the soldiers

who have lost their lives fighting in American wars.

Towns all over Vermont and the United States will host a variety of events, speeches, parades and other forms of tribute this weekend. Anyone interested in taking part in their local events can do so at one

(See Memorial Day, Page 19)



The Brandon Inn reflects on the past year, looks to the future

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — A little more than a year ago, March 8 to be exact, Darcy and Joel MacClaren assumed ownership of The Brandon Inn and the storied history of hospitality at that sight dating back to the 1700s.

"The current building was built in 1892 after the original was lost to a fire that devastated most of downtown in 1880," said Joel.

"Nonetheless, the current building remains one of the quintessential New England country inns. That's what the majority of our customers keep coming back for."

"We've been very careful not to run from the classic New England country inn concept," he added, when discussing the renovations they've overseen thus far. "Really, it was the bathrooms first. We

knew we couldn't be competitive in the market or give the standard of service that we wanted to without updating the facilities to make them ADA compliant."

"The past year has been an (See Brandon Inn, Page 10)



Political 'earthquake' leads to tsunami of turnover in Vermont

BY SARAH MEARHOFF

First it was U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., last November. Then it was U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., the next week. Next, it was Lt. Gov. Molly Gray in December and Secretary of State Jim Condos in February. And finally, in a flurry of activity in early May, Treasurer Beth Pearce and Attorney General TJ Donovan joined the list of top Vermont officials who aren't seeking reelection this year.

In total, two of Vermont's three members of Congress and, in Montpelier, four of its six executive officers are leaving their posts this year. Only Gov. Phil Scott and Auditor Doug Hoffer are seeking reelection. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is not up for reelection until 2024.

Vermont hasn't seen this many open executive officer positions since "Hey Jude" was No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

And while the filing deadline for candidates is not until May 26, a significant number of state legislators have already announced their intentions to leave office — including more than one-third of the state Senate and more than half of House committee chairs — making for a complete reshuffling of Vermont's political deck come January.

According to state archivist Tanya Marshall, the last time Vermont had a comparable level of executive turnover was 1968, when five state officers opted not to seek reelection: Gov. Phil Hoff, Lt. Gov. John Daley, Attorney General James Oakes, Treasurer Peter Hincks and Auditor Jay Gordon bowed out that year. The incumbent secretary of state, Harry Cooley, was the only executive officer to run for reelection that year, and he was defeated — making for 100% turnover in state government's most powerful positions the following January.

Counting executive officers and members of Congress, 2022 will see even higher turnover than 1968.

Condos, the current secretary of state, told VTDigger that this year's election lineup is so extraordinary largely because "Vermonters have a tendency to keep incumbents in office if they're doing a good job." What's different this year is the number of executive officers who opted to leave on their own terms, he said.

Welch's and Gray's decisions to leave their current offices are inextricably linked to Leahy's decision to retire after nearly half a century in office. Welch is running for Leahy's seat and Gray for Welch's.

Donovan cited personal reasons for leaving the attorney general's post. "After 16 years, I need a break," he said of his time in public office when he announced his retirement in early May. An all-star player in Vermont's Democratic field, he had long been viewed as a contender for higher office down the line.

Pearce had been planning to run for a sixth term as treasurer but changed course when she was diagnosed with cancer this spring. "I hate it because I love this job," she told VTDigger in early May.

Condos is bowing out after serving as secretary of state since 2011. After 30-plus years in local and state politics, he said, "Sometimes it's time for a new set of eyes to look at things."

"You get to a certain point, and you know when it's time to go, and it's time for new blood to come in," he said.

Chris Graff, a former longtime Vermont bureau chief for the Associated Press, said that Leahy's retirement spurred "an earthquake" in Vermont's political scene. With rel-



VERMONT'S POLITICAL SCENE has changed dramatically since Sen. Patrick Leahy, upper left, and others have announced they would not be seeking another term. Candidates throughout the state are jockeying for position to fill the various posts. At top right, Lt. Gov. Molly Gray is vying for the congressional seat being vacated by Peter Welch; Charity Clark, bottom left, is running for Attorney General, and Jim Condos announced his retirement as Sec. of State. Photos by Glenn Russell, VtDigger

atively few statewide offices for political hopefuls to vie for and voters consistently reelecting incumbents, he said, more eligible candidates get stuck in a bottleneck each cycle.

But not this year. "It is serendipitous if you've been waiting a long time to run for political office. These years just never come along," Graff said. "Electoral politics often become the art, or the game, of dominoes. You always wait to see who's moving where and when. And we went many, many years without any change."

Consequently, Gray, Donovan, Pearce and Condos' resignations have kicked off a swarm of candidacy announcements.

The race for lieutenant governor — a largely ceremonial position often seen as a statewide stepping stone into higher office — has so far drawn at least six contenders, including veteran lawmakers, newcomers and a former lieutenant governor looking to reclaim the post.

Washington County State's Attorney Rory Thibault and Donovan's former chief of staff, Charity Clark, have so far announced campaigns to become the state's top prosecutor.

In the Democratic primary for secretary of state, Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters, Montpelier City Clerk John Odum and Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas, D-Brad-

ford, are set to face off in August. (No Republicans have tossed their hats into the ring yet.)

And to fill Pearce's shoes, former commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation Mike Pieciak is stepping up to the plate.

Dave Gram, a longtime Associated Press reporter who subsequently served as a radio host and political columnist, told VTDigger that "it's kind of a strange set of coincidences" that has led to this tidal wave of turnover.

"The Washington jobs opening up create a serious ripple effect, but that doesn't explain all of it," he said.

Vermont Republican Party Chair Paul Dame doesn't think this can be chalked up to coincidence. He said a rush of federal dollars into Vermont "has sort of papered over a lot of potential problems," allowing lawmakers to throw money at housing and workforce initiatives that Dame isn't convinced will solve the state's long-term, systemic issues.

"It's a great year to go out on a high note. We just had a bunch of federal money. We got to fund a bunch of programs," Dame said. "I think everybody sees the writing on the wall that two years from now, we're going to be in a very different situation. And they'd rather get out now and leave somebody else holding the bag."

There's also the elephant in the room: the pandemic — and the (See Election earthquake, Page 9)

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Sudbury resident to be honored at Middlebury Commencement

MIDDLEBURY/SUDBURY — Sudbury resident Nan Jenks-Jay, a leading voice in environmental studies and sustainability programs within higher education having established and catalyzed programs across the US, in Canada and abroad, is receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Middlebury College at its commencement this coming Sunday.

She lives in Sudbury where she and her husband operate a plant nursery.

According to the Middlebury College press release naming Jenks-Jay as one of the honorees, the college notes that “Nan shares her insights generously, inspiring institutions, organizations and individuals to take bold actions in a quest for restorative justice and to restore the climate. Her multi-decade career is based on the foundation of collaboration.”

Jenks-Jay received her BA in Biology from Kent State University and MES from the Yale University - School of the Environment. She is Dean of Environmental Affairs emeritus at Middlebury College where she taught in the Environmental Studies Program. She has been

affiliated with environmental programs at the University of Redland in CA. and Williams College and Berkshire Community College in MA.

Additionally, Nan assisted in founding the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, the Least Tern and Piping Plover Protection Program on Nantucket Island and the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Nan has been a reviewer for ornithological journals and served on the editorial board of Orion magazine.

Having participated in innumerable commissions, boards and external reviews committees, today she focuses her time advising colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations, serving on the Board of Shelburne Farms - a global leader in education for sustainability pre-K thru high school and working on her 18th century farm.

Nan and her husband, Carl Phelps, own and operate Miller Hill Farm, Nursery & Gardens in Sudbury, specializing in native plants. Recently, they conserved 100 acres of the farm where they are restoring wetlands and woodlands for carbon sequestration and establishing habitat

for breeding grassland birds and amphibians as well as having installed a nesting platform for Osprey.

Recent recognitions include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and the Distinguished Alumna Award from the Yale School of the Environment



NAN JENKS-JAY

Brandon deals with road damage due to heavy rains

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — Last week’s heavy rains caused road damage throughout the area, sending road crews to unplug clogged culverts, deal with damaged road surfaces, and, in Brandon, deal with storm water overflows into the town’s waste water treatment plant.

Town Manager David Atherton reported to the selectboard that Stone Mill Dam Road was washed out, Old Brandon Road had a wash-out and “impaired cross culvert” and Route 7 by Steinberg Road was plugged twice by sediment flowing into it.

The storm also sent an overflow of runoff into the Newton Road pump station, to which Atherton said he had to call the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and discuss “possible solutions and available financial options to decrease our high infiltration in the collection.”

Atherton said town crews had new pump parts ordered and were working to have a new pump installed in 4-6 weeks. He said state officials were supportive of making this a top priority and were supportive of the quick repairs.

In other news about town infra-

structure, Atherton reported that the mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Arnold District culvert was held on May 18 with five contractors attending and the bid opening on June 3. On May 12, the bid opening was held for the town’s wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Of the three qualified bids, Naylor & Breen of Brandon had the lowest bid at \$5,585,197. They met with them on May 24 to discuss the project further.

In board action, the selectboard:

- Approved a motion to allocate \$158,000 of local option money toward the Newton Road Pump Station project, which would serve as the town’s match to other funding;

- Discussed with the town’s tree warden Neil Silins measures to locate and take down hazardous trees or tree limbs hanging over roadways. The selectboard directed the tree warden to canvass any hazardous situations and discuss with the town manager the next best steps, depending on budget considerations and public safety. Silins asked that Brandon residents also contact him or the town office to report any hazardous trees on their own. “If anyone sees a dangerous tree, give us a

(See Brandon, Page 6)

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

We need liberation from the two-party system

BY LIAM MADDEN

Most of us do not need to be convinced that the two-party system is incapable of solving our challenges. Disgust for the system's corruption and ineffectiveness happens to be one of the few remaining areas of agreement between the left and right.

The primary reason that two-thirds of Americans agree the system is broken is evident: our major problems continue to fester.

The country's unaddressed problems range from declining health and rising healthcare costs, to growing inequality, and an economy based on never-ending growth and accelerating resource depletion. Overarching these problems are threats of ecological devastation and fears that technologies like AI or mass-scale weapons will land in the wrong hands.

Further, we are dismayed by the issues the two parties do agree on: keeping the war machine well fed, billionaires appeased, and—especially—making sure nobody threatens the death grip the two parties have on our government.

There is a path out. I will get there, but give me one more moment to remind us why it is so important that we liberate ourselves from this stranglehold on our ability to self govern.

First of all, the two parties don't represent us. Most of us have significant disagreements with the party platforms of the major party we happen to align with more. Yet those important disagreements get lost, and nuance—and the superior problem-solving possible when nuance lives—is foregone.

Also, the two-party system drives us apart. For example, ex-President Trump did not represent most Republicans. In most races, he won less than 40% of the vote of Republican primary voters. A total of only 4% of the population made Trump the Republican Evil in our lesser-of-two-evils contest. Yet, he became their only option in the general election. A natural consequence of the two-party system is

that it drives us toward extremes, making good problem-solving nearly impossible.

These dangers were foreseen by the nation's founders. George Washington said, "The alternate domination of one faction over another... is itself a frightful despotism."

John Adams adds, "A division of the republic into two great parties... is to be dreaded as the great political evil."

So... it sucks. But what do we do?

Going with "Yeah, the system is broken, but just vote for my side" will not change a thing. That stance implies: "This is a war, not a cooperative endeavor, and let's just dominate those who disagree with us." But experience teaches us

Most of us do not need to be convinced that the two-party system is incapable of solving our challenges. Disgust for the system's corruption and ineffectiveness happens to be one of the few remaining areas of agreement between the left and right.

that helping one side win doesn't work, even if we feel right about dominating the minority into irrelevance.

Then there's the naive nonsense of the two-party moderate: "Vote for me, I'm in the middle and I'll bring the sides together." These folks might think they are so charismatic that their efforts are sufficient to

hold together the parting continents of a system designed to polarize our politics. But they are foolish if they think they can solve this situation—and we are naive to believe them.

So what will work?

First, we might consider that our system was built when information traveled at the speed of horseback. It now travels at the speed of light. Maybe, just maybe, upgrading our governmental design to responsibly accommodate technology is part of the answer here.

I see three ways an online democracy can pivot us off our current path and onto a productive track.

• First, we must use technology to gather input from the public OFTEN—not every two-to-four years, when we get to choose between the lesser of two evils. That is, we need a system that allows the public to inform and weigh-in upon policy



Rare encounter

THIS SCARLET TANAGER was seen this week on a trail at Lake Dunmore.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

much more frequently than current election cycles allow.

• We need also to create a simple to use, yet technically sophisticated, online forum (with appropriate safeguards to prevent corruption and fraud) whereby the public can submit and amend policy solutions. Policy measures that reach a certain high threshold of public support, particularly support across the ideological spectrum, are automatically put to the legislators to vote on. If support is great enough, policy bypasses politicians altogether.

These two steps give the citizenry more power, but it will not necessarily help them make wise policy. That is the purpose of step three.

• We must build a "Democracy Forum" with the same technological power that currently highlights, emphasizes, and circulates the most divisive and polarizing ideas in social media—but point that technology in the opposite direction. Using AI-enhanced, social media algorithms—transparently—to accelerate our compassion, maturity, shared understanding, and other virtues will create a context where novel and broadly supported solutions can be refined and revealed. We need contexts where we feel safe being vulnerable, in order to actually work together.

Also, I believe we should allow people who have achieved a large amount of public trust/expertise on given issues to have disproportionate influence on policy in those ar-

(See Liberation, Page 17)

Correction

CORRECTION: In last week's Reporter, we ran a Guest Editorial by Sen. Patrick Leahy on why he would be supporting the Women's Health Protection Act, which would have codified a woman's right to have an abortion in federal legislation even if the U.S. Supreme Court overrules Roe v Wade.

In prefatory remarks to Leahy's commentary, we mistakenly wrote that the measure failed 51 yes to 49 no,

short of the 60 votes it would need to pass in the face of a filibuster. In fact, the measure failed 51-against and 49 for, along party lines except for a single "no" vote by Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

The measure was largely symbolic as it was highly unlikely to pass with the 60 needed to survive a Republican-led filibuster, but was pushed by Democrats to show the nation how each senator voted.

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Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

Facing the numbers

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

We seem to live in a time of ungraspable statistics. The recent million mark of COVID deaths in America is certainly an example. The troubling war and refugee statistics coming out of Ukraine would also qualify.

Let me add another number that might be far more of a gut statistic: Probably about 100% of us fall short of fully processing this kind of math. Statistics like this create their own kind of cognitive dissonance.

To read about tragic numbers in war-torn Ukraine, for example, while drinking coffee at breakfast is a collision of realities at some level. Like a broken seismograph, one philosophy professor recently remarked, our minds fail to register numbers this big. And so in our removed, far-away places we construct mental exercises: Refugee numbers equal to the state of Massachusetts. Displaced populations as many as live in Pennsylvania.

Listen to a war correspondent in Ukraine about all this and their answer is not ambiguous: we still need to know the numbers. We need to know the truth and full measure of humanitarian right violations. We need to know the extent of the loss of human life.

But at the same time we know that these awful tallies are anything but human. Fixing numbers to lives lost, mass burials and homes destroyed never feels quite right.

They are, to borrow a phrase from Jewish author Jane Yolen, *The Devil's Arithmetic*.

Of late I have been trying to get my head around the troubling numbers of Ukraine's children: Of Ukraine's 7.8 million children, almost two-thirds have been displaced by the war. Over 2 million have fled the country altogether. Most of these are now essentially fatherless; they are also particularly at risk for human trafficking.

It is in the face of these numbers that our seismographs might seem completely unrepairable.

Lately, however, I am reminded that another approach to understanding these numbers might just have to do with seeing Ukraine as broadly as possible; to remember

to turn beyond the headlines to the larger stories of Ukraine. And to remember that even as the war enters its fourth month we don't tire of the mental effort to put faces to this war-torn area.

I've been told, for example, that Ukraine also happens to be a country that takes its education quite seriously. Ukraine, according to statistics in happier times, is the fourth most educated and literate country on the planet. It is a number for which the face of Ukrainian boxer Vitali Klitschko might represent

Fixing numbers to lives lost, mass burials and homes destroyed never feels quite right. They are, to borrow a phrase from Jewish author Jane Yolen, The Devil's Arithmetic.

quite well: in addition to being one of the most decorated heavy-weight boxers in history, he also happens to hold a doctorate degree. (He is now serving as mayor of Kyiv — nicknamed "Dr. Fists," no less.)

And apparently in Ukraine even comedians get law degrees.

President Volodymyr Zelensky has a law degree and was a comedian before being elected president.

These may seem like odd details, but as an educator and parent it lends some empathy and understanding to another distant number: over 1,000 schools have been damaged or destroyed in Ukraine. And the fact that Ukraine's education is again at a standstill — all this after 2 years of very broken Pandemic education.

But if there is something else I learned about Ukraine that helped close the distance it was this: statistically the most popular name for boys in Ukraine is Alexander. As trivial as it is, this is a statistic that hit that home for me because I once met a young Ukrainian boy named Alexander. He and his Ukrainian parents camped across from us at an Ontario campground over 15 years ago and this was the only Ukrainian family I have ever known.

Alex, I won't forget, was a happy little wanderer who meandered over to our campsite quite regularly. (We had four children for him to play with.) One night we were woken at 3 a.m. by the sound of a boy lost in the woods behind our camper, who we all assumed was Alex.

At my wife's prodding I finally ventured out to rescue the 5-year-old only to discover that it wasn't Alex, but ironically my own son who happened to be the same age. (He had sleepily rolled out of the tent camper and found himself a

little disoriented in the woods.) It was an odd story with a haunting reversal that I have been thinking about lately. You see my son has just graduated from college. Young Alex, if I've done my math right, is being drafted into war.

It was something I was reminded of in a Ukrainian picture I recently saw that went viral. It was a snapshot of four young, Ukrainian college-age boys with scared faces and new rifles slung over their shoulders. It was a heart-rending picture. It also stood in sharp contrast to the graduation pictures I recently took of my son and his peers wearing very different expressions, college diplomas in their hands instead of Kalashnikovs.

I suppose statistically there was about a 20% chance one of them carried the popular name of Alexander. A far higher percentage they would all see some kind of armed conflict.

Keep praying for (and remembering) Ukraine.

Please join us:



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

Brandon

(Continued from Page 3)
 call and let us know where it is; that would be a big help.”

- Appointed Erin Ballantine to the energy committee, making her the sixth member of the committee.
- Discussed parking on Park Street near the library and how it

can be difficult for homeowners there to pull out into Park Street safety. The town manager said he would discuss the problem with town crews to see how they could mitigate the difficulty.

- Heard a long report by the town’s representatives to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District about operating with a shortage of funds. It was agreed that the town would talk to its state

representatives to better understand the lack of funding, and with other towns, try to request additional funding in future years.

The selectboard meeting was preceded by a hearing of a vicious dog, which lasted from 6:30 until almost 7:30, delaying the start of the selectboard meeting by half an hour. See the resolution of that meeting in an accompanying story.

Proctor

(Continued from Page 1)
 on how to manage the town’s delinquent water bills, the selectboard approved a motion to make Ramsey the credit supervisor, giving a town staff person authority to manage the water disconnects and payment agreements. The task had previously been with the town’s treasurer, which is an elected town position rather than a member of the town’s staff.

The move came after weeks of discussion with other towns about how they handled the issue, as well as discussions with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The vote to approve the measure was unanimous.

In a discussion about how to control the speed of vehicles coming into the town, Ramsey had researched digital signs that flash a vehicle’s speed notifying oncoming traffic of the speed they are going with a flashing display. The attention-grabbing signs are reported to be effective at reduc-

ing the speed of traffic coming into town, which has been a concern coming south on Route 3 as well as the northerly entrance on Route 3.

The sign would be stationary, not mobile, and affixed to a pole

“I think it’s a good idea to try this and see how it works,” said selectman Tom Hogan, adding that if it were successful, the town might consider getting another. After discussing the pros and cons of various tactics, the selectboard approved the purchase of one digital traffic sign for \$2,550.

The selectboard also discussed how it might use the town’s ARPA funds, amounting to \$238,000 they have in the bank now and another stipend of that same amount that is forthcoming. More concrete proposals will be discussed at the next meeting.

In the manager’s report, Ramsey rattled off a list of current items he’s working on and dealing with, including:

- received the state’s approval of the towns Local Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- applied for an emergency town

highway grant for about \$180,000 worth of damage done to Florence Road because of the recent storm event;

- released bids for the HVAC system for the town office, and making improvements to the town’s infrastructure to expand access on the Gorham Bridge Water service project;

- heard a complaint about the marble office building near the town hall not being as secure (some windows are at times left open) as it should be, and the complainant had concerns about vandalism. Ramsey said he would contact the property manager and have them address it;

- noted a recent house fire on South Street, and expressed his “condolences to the family for their loss” and expressed his thanks to the fire fighters who responded to the scene and went into the burning house to check to be sure no one was inside.

In other news, the recreation department noted the pool is set to open June 13, and that the skating rink will open on May 30, with music.

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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 free.

28:

Brandon Museum Cookout

The Brandon Museum will be hosting a cookout and open house from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in celebration of the museum's 14th season, as well as a thank you for the generous allocation granted to them in this year's town budget. Stop in for hot dogs, popcorn, and cold drinks alongside the museum's traditional exhibits as well as an opportunity to hear about the exciting new Davenport Electric exhibit that's in development to showcase Brandon as the birthplace of the electric motor.

29:

Roots & Americana Music Festival: Featuring The Mammals, Corner House, and The New Domestics

Next Stage Arts at Cooper Field invites you to bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating on the ballfield. Rain date for the concert is Monday, May 30. The Mammals are a warm-blooded party band with a conscience that spans the horizons of Americana music, from soulfully harmonized indie-folk ballads to revved up fiddle and banjo-driven foot stompers. Led by songwriting multi-instrumentalists Mike Merenda and Ruth Ungar, the stringband of subversive acoustic traditionalists features a mix of sassy blues, Motown soul, old-timey harmonies, rock-n-roll energy, and inspired, political songwriting.

Woodstock, NY-based Ruth Ungar and Mike Merenda founded The Mammals with Tao Rodriguez-Seeger (grandson of the legendary folk singer Pete Seeger) in 2000, and after touring the world for the next seven years with the likes of Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger, emerged as one of acoustic America's most revered musical duos - Mike + Ruthy. The daughter of fiddle legend Jay Ungar and country singer Lyn Hardy, Ruthy is an earthy country-blues singer with the unmistakable stage presence of a natural-born performer. Mike is an artfully prolific songwriter with an indie rock soul and feather-touch vocals. Together they create music to heal hearts and rouse minds.

Originally from Boston, MA, Corner House takes its name from the place where the four young band members found musical family in one another - their shared home in Brighton, as students at Berklee College of Music. Emerging from varied genre backgrounds, the quartet's unique strength is their desire to learn from one another, not only in musical skill and style, but in life experience.

Guitarist and songwriter Michelle Cummings Kostek and mandolinist Ed Kostek are the indie folk/rock duo The New Domestics. Melding musical influences that range from traditional jazz to Radiohead and Nickel Creek, they feature soaring vocal arrangements and carefully crafted songs.

31:

Delaney Woods Bird and Wildflower Walk in Wells

From 7:30 to 11:00 a.m., all are welcome. Friendly birders in the group will happily share their knowledge with you. Bring water and a snack (and insect repellent if you use it), binoculars, cameras, field guides, if you have them. Opportunity to cut it short if you need to leave early. Slow pace with opportunities for observing & photographing. Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon and Slate Valley Trails. Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jptilley50@gmail.com (preferred method), or 802-598-2583, evenings 7 to 8pm. Enter Delaney Cross Road off North Street in Wells, across from the Lakeside Park, and look for the parking area on the right. Meet at 7:30 am. Easy to Moderate terrain, 3.4 miles.

Area Memorial Day events:

The Brandon Memorial Day Parade

It will take place Monday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and will begin at the Post Office before continuing along Route 7 to the Civil War monument in Central Park. The parade will be followed by the town's historical flower girl ceremony, a recitation of The Gettysburg Address, and a 21-gun salute.

Pittsford's parade

It will begin at 12:30 p.m. on May 30 and proceed across Route 7 to the firehouse where there will be a variety of speakers, poetry, music, and benedictions. In the event of heavy rain, the parade will be canceled and the ceremony will begin at the firehouse at 12:30 p.m.

Proctor's parade

Starts May 30 at 10 a.m. on South Street and will proceed to Main Street Park for additional events.

West Rutland's parade will begin at 10 a.m. on May 30 at Noonan Lane and head north on Clarendon Avenue, then west on Main Street to Marble Street. Taps and a gun salute will be performed at the WWII Memorial at Town Hall and the parade will continue west on Marble Street to Barnes Street to the cemeteries where a gun salute and Taps will sound again before continuing east on Main Street to the West Rutland School, south on Clarendon Avenue, and end at Noonan Lane. The parade will be followed by an awards ceremony and picnic at the American Legion.

Local artists on display at Vermont OPEN Studio weekend

A variety of Brandon and Pittsford area artists are taking part in The 30th annual Vermont spring open studio weekend. Open studio weekend is a celebration of the creation of craft and artwork and the work life of Vermont artists.

With a focus on the studio, including work space and materials, the event aims to illustrate that creating art requires an investment of time, specialized tools and equipment, and that the process is accessible and rewarding.

This year's event is being held on Saturday

and Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 28 & 29 from 10 – 5 each day. It gives shoppers, visitors and collectors the opportunity to plan a tour that brings them through the small towns of Vermont to studios where they can purchase beautiful well-made things and talk with the artists who made them.

A comprehensive list of participants, as well as an interactive map, can be found online at: <https://www.vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend/>



"ARCADIAL" BY JOAN CURTIS

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN Brandon:
Judith Reilly (fiber art), Caleb Kenna (photography), Edward Loedding (digital paintings).

Also open: Brandon Artists Guild; Vermont Folk Art Gallery (with Warren Kimble, Robin Kent, and Medana Gabbard).

Goings on around town

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Sports

Proctor edges Westside, 12-11, in thriller

BY GENE DELORENZO

WEST RUTLAND — In a game loaded with plenty of tense moments, the Proctor Ghosts pulled out a victory by a whisker Tuesday night, May 24, as the Westside Golden Horde came back from a 5-run outburst in the top of the first inning to post six runs in the sixth inning to take an unbelievable 11-8 lead going into the top of the seventh.

From there, it was a miraculous comeback by the Ghosts to score four and take a 12-11 edge going into the bottom of the seventh and then hold Westside scoreless to win by one.

Both teams kept their pitching aces in the game for the entire seven innings, with Peyton Guay on the mound for West Rutland and Cadence Goodwin toeing the

rubber for Proctor.

In the top of the first, Laci French knocked in a couple of runs with a bases-loaded single as Proctor jumped to a 5-0 lead.

With Guay pitching, however, the Golden Horde settled down after the explosive first and contained the Ghosts' hitters for much of the next six innings.

Meanwhile, Proctor's Goodwin held Westside's batters to a few runs here and there, with both defenses holding steady for most of the game, until the Horde's explosive sixth inning.

After two and a half innings, Proctor led 6-3, as West Rutland scored three in the bottom of the second with Guay circling the bases off her single to right field.

Both teams scored in the third inning to make it 6-4. Guay sin-



WEST RUTLAND'S PEYTON Guay delivers a pitch to Proctor's Laci French. French singled in a run in a five-run at the top of the first. Reporter photo/Gene Delorenzo



PROCTOR SHORTSTOP RIE Lubaszewski wields a big bat for Proctor as they came back in the top of the 7th to grab a 12-11 lead.

Reporter photo/Gene Delorenzo

gled, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a ground out with an exceptional play by shortstop Rhi Lubaszewski to first base for the out.

Westside would score in the fourth inning to move to 6-5 with a two-out single by Kenna Wright-Chapman.

Proctor would come back to score two more on a Lubaszewski single, a misplaced flyball for a run, and another run on a wild pitch, making it 8-5 going into the bottom of the fifth.

Westside threatened in the bottom of the fifth, but Goodwin got a big third

strikeout with runners on second and third to keep it at 8-5.

The Hordes' bats came to life in their big sixth inning as they got a two-run double by Arianna Coombs and a three-run triple by Samara Raiche to grab an 11-8 lead going into the seventh inning.

With the fans on the edge of their seats, Proctor came to the plate and rallied with four more runs to make it 12-11. Proctor would get on first with a walk, then Jenna Davine knocked a solid double for the score and to set

up the inning. From there an infielder's error on a throw to first, and later the winning run would score on a bases-loaded walk.

Westside would have a final at-bat in the bottom of the seventh, but Goodwin was stellar, retiring the Horde 1-2-3 on two ground-out singles and a pop-up to shortstop Lubaszewski to end one very exciting game.

Editor's note: This story was written by Angelo Lynn, with notes by Gene DeLorenzo from the field.

Proctor softball routs White River Valley, 27-8

BY GENE DELORENZO

PROCTOR — The Proctor softball team continued its winning ways with an easy 27-8 win over White River Valley on Thursday afternoon, May 21 at the Proctor diamond. Cadence Goodwin gained the win for Proctor with relief assistance from Rhi Lubaszewski.

After giving up a run to the visitors in the top of the first inning, Proctor erased any doubt of an upset as the Phantoms quickly posted seven runs on the board in the bottom of the inning and then added 12 more tallies in the bottom of the second.

Proctor would come to bat

only four times in the mercy-rule shortened contest. The game featured 10 walks and six batters hit by pitches for Proctor's offense, along with nine fielding errors by White River. The Phantoms did not even need to break out their normal big bats to put the 27 runs on the board.

Lubaszewski's booming RBI triple in the second inning was the only extra base hit for the Phantoms. All told, the Proctor team had 11 base hits to White River Valley's four. Laci French was the hitting star for the home team as she went 3 for 4 with 5 RBIs. Maggie McKearin added two hits and two RBIs, while se-

niors Jasmine Traverse and Megan Cole each had singles that plated two runs apiece.

Lubaszewski scored four runs, as did French and Angel Traverse. Angel continues to impress in the field as she played left field and shortstop with impressive plays at both positions. Goodwin scattered three hits during her time on the mound and struck out seven.

Proctor moves to 10-0 on the season and will play archrival West Rutland at the Westsider's home field on Tuesday afternoon, May 24. The Phantoms defeated the Golden Horde 14-7 in an earlier meeting in Proctor.

SCOREBOARD: WEEK OF MAY 17

BASEBALL

5/17	Arlington	13	West Rutland	3
5/17	Windsor	10	Otter Valley	9
5/18	Leland & Gray	15	West Rutland	6
5/20	Proctor	8	West Rutland	4
5/21	Brattleboro	11	Otter Valley	3
5/21	Mt. St. Joseph	14	West Rutland	3

SOFTBALL

5/17	Otter Valley	20	Windsor	1
5/17	West Rutland	16	White River Valley	2
5/18	West Rutland	13	Leland & Gray	1
5/19	Proctor	27	White River Valley	8
5/19	West Rutland	24	Mill River	10
5/21	Proctor	25	Twin Valley	7
5/21	Brattleboro	12	Otter Valley	3

BOYS LACROSSE

5/17	Otter Valley	5	Randolph	3
5/21	Brattleboro	16	Otter Valley	4

Otter Valley baseball falls to Brattleboro, 11-3

BY GENE DELORENZO
BRANDON — The Otter Valley Otters baseball team came up short versus a strong Brattleboro squad 11-3 on Saturday morning at the Otters diamond. Brattleboro received a strong pitching performance from senior Alex “Moose” Bingham and combined timely hitting, good defense and Bingham’s pitching to secure the win. Brattleboro jumped out to a 3-0 lead before OV launched a three-run rally to tie the game after the third. Jordan Beayon led off the inning by getting hit by a pitch on an 0-2 count. It was one of the few mistakes the Fitchburg State (MA) college-bound senior would make.

Ben Adams would work a walk to put runners on first and second and then Fraser Pierpoint would line a run-scoring single off the shortstop’s glove into left field to plate the first run for the Otters. It was a terrific at bat for Pierpoint as he did his best “Bernie Carbo in the sixth game of the 1975 World Series” imitation as he fouled off pitch after pitch with several highly defensive, but effective, swings. The swings kept his at bat alive until he could find a pitch low and away that he could drive to the opposite field — and that he did. It was a rocket that truly rewarded his ability to protect with two strikes and finally find

a good pitch to hit. It was a real highlight of the day for the Otters. Andy McEnery, Otter Valley’s starting pitcher on this day, followed with a flare into right center field for a run-scoring base hit and the Otters trailed 3-2. Coach Howe then put on a delayed steal that worked to perfection with McEnery getting caught between first and second on the steal attempt as Pierpoint scampered home with the game-tying run. It was a beautifully executed play. The terrific inning gave the home team a lot of life, but the Colonels were not to be denied on this day as they quickly recovered

to add eight more runs in the next three frames to end up with an 11-3 victory. Bingham was really solid on the mound with outstanding control and the Colonels’ bats took over the game in the final few innings. It turned out to be a game of missed defensive opportunities for the Otters, as several catchable balls hit into the outfield by Brattleboro led to runners on base and resultant runs. Coach Howe’s teams are extremely well-coached, but on this day a few balls hit to the outfield led to one-handed attempts at catches that just did not work out for the home team. Caleb Whitney, OV’s outstand-

ing shortstop, did make a leaping catch on a line drive in the top of the fifth that was a great play to see. He has done that several times this year. All in all, it was a tough morning game for the Otters, but they continue to be in every ballgame and are very close to a breakthrough game where everything will fall into place. They show a lot of savvy and are just a few plays away from being right there with some of the bigger names on the schedule. OV dropped to 5-9 on the season and will next play against Hartford on Thursday, May 26.

Election earthquake

(Continued from Page 2)
 immeasurable toll it has taken on politicians and constituents alike over the past two years. According to Condos, “what we don’t know is how Covid played into this.” When Donovan announced his resignation, he said he was “OK” during the first year of the pandemic, but “I kind of hit a wall this past year and really wrestled with this decision.”

the sense that the ladder is crowded and are having to reassess their own political futures in light of this new level of competition,” Gram said. “Which is a healthy thing but I think could have curtailed the ambitions of a few.” Vermonters won’t know for certain until the May 26 filing deadline how many legislators are opting not to seek reelection this year. But already more than one-third of Vermont senators have indicated that they won’t be returning to the 30-member body, with 11 retirements announced so far. Among other members, nine of 15 committee chairs in the House have also announced plans to step down.

Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, the Senate majority leader, told VTDigger that the chamber will “of course” lose some institutional knowledge, but it’s not lost to the ether. Former lawmakers are but a call away, she reasoned, even if they’re “not necessarily next to us in a chair.” “Humans hate change, and yet change is inevitable,” she said. “We need to embrace the change that’s coming at us, and what’s coming at us is a shift in the composition of the Senate. There’s no point in fighting it.” And, she said, she expects the (at least) 11 new voices to be “reinvigorating.” “We’ll gain a lot of new energy and excitement and a new vision for the Senate,” she said, “which will be exhilarating.”

And this year’s earthquake could have an aftershock. Sanders, the state’s junior U.S. senator, will be 83 by Election Day 2024 and has not said whether he will seek another six-year term in the Senate. Scott just this week announced his plans to seek a fourth term this November. Only two of his predecessors, Howard Dean and Richard Snelling, have been elected to more than four terms. Switch-ups in the executive branch also have downstream effects in the legislative branch. A number of legislators — Sen. Becca Balint, D-Windham; Sen. Keshia Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden; Sen. Joe Benning, R-Caledonia; Rep. Charlie Kimbell, D-Woodstock and Copeland Hanzas — are leaving the Legislature this year to make bids for higher office. Others, such as Sen. Joshua Terenzini, R-Rutland, and Sen. Chris Pearson, P/D-Chittenden, have attributed their departures to personal circumstances. And yet more, such as Sen. Anthony Polina, P/D-Washington, and Sen. Jeanette White, D-Windham, are retiring after years of service. Gram suspects another dynamic is playing out among outgoing legislators: He said young legislators are watching the heated competition in the Democratic primary for the U.S. House and rethinking their own political futures. “I think people are starting to get

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Dance is back

The Brandon Town Hall was packed on Saturday night, May 21, with, as recreational assistant director Colleen Wright said, “proud families and enthusiastic supporters as Brandon Rec welcomed back Dance!”

Years ago, Wright recalled, Brandon Rec sponsored a small dance program, “but things changed, people moved and the program was lost.”

Enter Michaela Newell of Walking Stick Theatre fame. “She came to the office bringing enthusiasm and an incredible background to a town ready to dance,” Wright said, “and dance they did! From ballet to tap to hip hop, Brandon kids learned steps, how to work together, be on time, and have fun while creating.

“Their hard work came to fruition on Saturday night, with glitzy costumes and shining faces,” Wright continued. “Look for next year’s dance offerings to be launched in early September. Miss Michaela cannot wait, the kids can’t wait, and we know the appreciative audience can’t wait! Great job to everyone involved.”



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM bottom: the Mini Tap dancers take their turn on stage; Dancers Raelynn Carmichael, Tristyn Laughlin & June Krans are all smiles after their performance; the entire group of dancers on stage with Miss Michaela Newell; Amelia Danyo poses with Micheala Newell backstage.

Brandon Inn

(Continued from Page 1)

amazing journey for Joel and me,” said Darcy. “Joel has focused on improvements in our guest rooms and infrastructure, while I have enjoyed our beautiful gardens, porch, and pool area where I get to put my own spin on each season and holiday.”

Last Summer brought a facelift to the aforementioned pool, which will be open to the community for swimming lessons this year during the third week in June. “Brandon doesn’t have a pool,” said Joel, “it’s unfortunate, but we can’t allow larger access to the townfolk because we don’t have the ability to offer the locker rooms or bathroom access that would be required. I’d like to have a gym too.”

Of course, there is also the Neshobe Café, which opened in October—and was designed by Brandon’s own Nancy Leary Design—in a portion of the Inn that had most recently been a somewhat forgotten sunroom and was, in days gone by, a library for the Inn and the sight of a former dress shop.

“The place looks great now. I’m quite pleased with how well it matches the building,” said Joel. “The ladies of Park Street come in on Wednesdays to socialize. We’re building momentum, but it’s still a bit of a work in progress in terms of finding an overall personality.”

MacClaren says the Inn is fully booked on weekends from now until the end of October, citing customers as

wide-ranging as cyclist tours, wedding guests, families who use the inn as a home base for their skiing excursions or who are coming to take their kids to one of the local summer camps, plus a variety of events, clubs, and conventions—most recently a boisterous group from Quilting in New England, who had been among the MacClaren’s first guests after taking the reins. “

The inn hosted the OVUHS junior prom in its ballroom recently. “We were expecting 70 students, but it ended up being close to double that after the juniors chose to invite the seniors, who lost out on their prom last year due to COVID restrictions,” he said. “It was a blast. We cooked dinner for them and they had Bill Moore as DJ.”

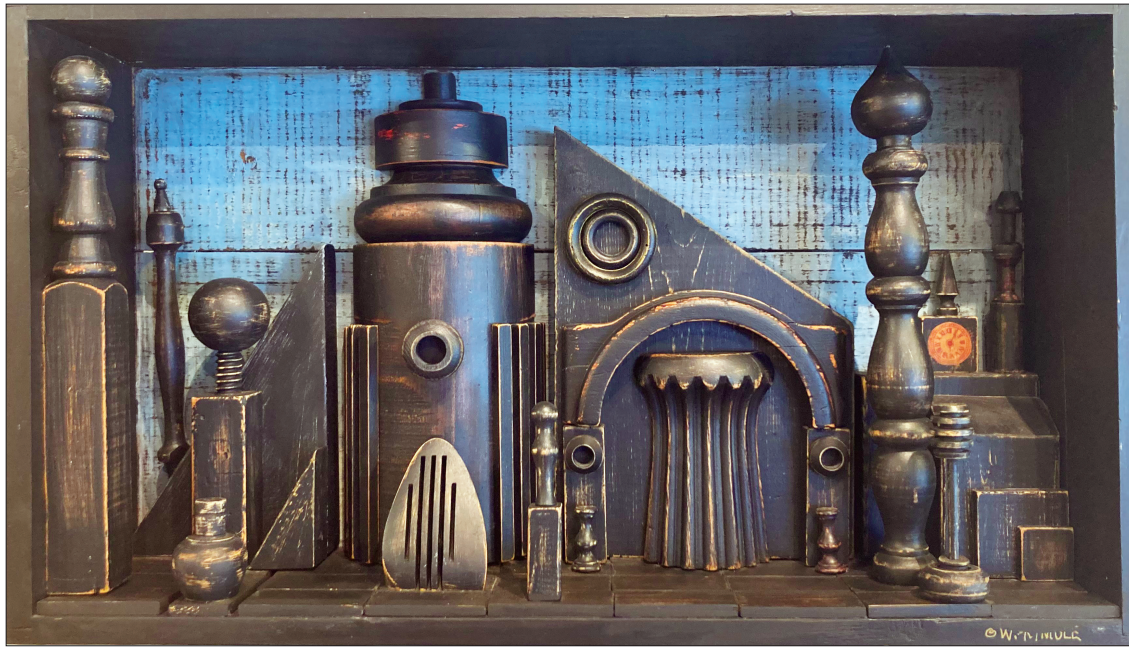
Staffing was cited as one of the main challenges Joel and Darcy have faced over their first year. “I’d like to open the Pub more frequently, but it’s been hard to find the staff to make it happen,” said Joel, adding, “We’ve employed about 16 OVUHS students in the last year. They’re all great, but it can be a challenge at times trying to write a schedule. We’re always hiring.”

Still, he remains upbeat and positive. “The past year went well. All the groups we had last year are coming back and we’ve tried to stay true to the funky, individual flavor of the rooms. I thought about adding suites, but families seem to really like the setup as it is. “

As for fitting in with Brandon at large, Joel says, “It’s been remarkable how quickly I’ve gotten to know the people in town. Brandon needs the inn and the inn needs Brandon.”



OWNERS DARCY AND JOEL MACCLAREN



ART BY WARREN KIMBLE, TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT, AND GENE CHILDERS, TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM LEFT, IS CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE BRANDON ARTIST'S GUILD AND THE BRANDON LIBRARY.

Reporter photos/Mat Clouser

Fun with found objects

Two artists explore differing aspects of the genre

BRANDON — Two Brandon artists currently have work on display downtown that deals with a similar theme—found objects—albeit with idiosyncratic approaches. The two gadabouts, Warren Kimble and Gene Childers, both started working with found objects as far back as the early 2000s. Each has a knack for telling stories, though

their method for doing that differs by some degree.

Kimble's "Artful Assemblages" show, on display at the Brandon Artist's Guild's gallery until July 9, is a study in the dramatic and austere that draws on the artist's history as an antique dealer and lover of the theatre, and owes a debt of gratitude to the exalted works of Louise

Nevelson and Joseph Conrad.

Childers's "Whimsical Assemblages" is on display at the Brandon Free Library until the end of May. The unorthodox collection of sculptures more than live up to the show's name. A retired music teacher, Childers says "the characters on display have corresponding poems and songs that I've written," adding,

"the inspiration came from the ecosystem of broken instruments in my garage—I knew I needed to do something with all that stuff."

Childers went on to recite a kind of assembler's mantra, taken from the ending to one of his poems: "You never know what you might see to set your imagination free."





Mim's Photos

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



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



Recognized



Melly Flynn emails to let us know that the First Communion picture that was printed in the 5/18 edition was taken May 16, 1993 at St. Mary's. Back row L to R: Teacher Chris Brown, Ben Fesko, Travis Ketcham, Daniel Drake, Chris Fizur, Dan Flynn, Fr. Doug Hawkins. Front row L to R: Angel Boise, Jessica Davis, Margie Drake, Katie Corey, Addie Gladding. Melly says her son is Dan Flynn (in the photo). Melly says she was able to identify everyone because she has her own photo taken that day. Most of the kids stayed together as classmates right up through Otter Valley. Chris Brown taught math at OV for years before moving to Florida. Fr. Doug Hawkins was a Holy Cross priest at St. Mary's starting in 1989.

Margy Bruce also identified some of these folks, including Katherine Palmer (Katie Corey), Margy's daughter.



Margy Bruce of Brandon called to identify the photo of the wedding couple we printed in the 5/18 paper. The bride is Patti Bruce of Forest Dale (her stepdaughter, now deceased) and the groom is Ken Reilly of White Plains, New York.

Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Adult Graphic Novels

Yellow Cab
by **Christophe Chabouté**, translated by **Edward Gauvin**

A burnt-out filmmaker finds new inspiration behind the wheel of an iconic New York City taxi cab, exploring a world where he is the stranger and the city his new workplace. Benoît Cohen dives into his new life with the idea of turning it into a screenplay for a future film, but the material he collects from this social experiment marks him deeply, leading down unsuspected paths. The project transforms into an autobiographical novel interspersed with reflections on the creative process.

Picture Books

The World Belonged to Us by **Jacqueline Woodson**, illustrated by **Leo Espinosa**

Released from school and reveling in their freedom, the kids on one Brooklyn block take advantage of everything summertime has to offer. Freedom from morning till night to go out to meet their friends and make the streets

Did you know?

The library will be closed Wednesday, June 1st. Have a lovely day!

their playground. That is, till their moms call them home for dinner. But not to worry—they know there is always tomorrow to do it all over again—because the block belongs to them and they rule their world.

Adult Fiction

You Have a Friend in 10A: Stories by Maggie Shipstead

In this collection of dazzling stories, Maggie Shipstead's prowess in short fiction is on full display for the first time. Diving into eclectic and vivid settings, from an Olympic village to a deathbed in Paris to a Pacific atoll, and with an illuminating cast of indelible characters, Shipstead traverses ordinary and unusual realities with cunning, compassion, and wit.

DVDs

Abraham Lincoln
Compelling live-action scripted scenes, interviews

with esteemed historians and public figures, as well as archival materials, and segments acknowledging the invaluable influence of abolitionists combine to define one of the country's most towering figures.

Benjamin Franklin

Ken Burns's two-part, four-hour documentary explores the life and work of writer and publisher, scientist and inventor, diplomat and signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

Julia

Using never-before-seen archival footage, personal photos, first-person narratives, and cutting-edge, mouth-watering food cinematography, the film traces Julia Child's twelve-year struggle to create and publish the revolutionary *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961).

The following large print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

"Take Your Breath Away" by Linwood Barclay in memory of Ann Livak

"Summer Love" by Nancy Thayer in memory of Doris S. Whittaker

Group found collecting night crawlers at Neshobe Golf Course

BRANDON — Police continue to receive complaints of speeding and reckless driving on McConnell Road and Wood Lane. In the past week they have made seven separate stops in that area, issuing four tickets and three warnings — most for speeding, and one for no front license plate.

Three separate vehicles fled from police patrols on McConnell Road as well. One vehicle, a dark-colored Honda Accord, was estimated to be traveling over 100 mph. The operator was struggling to control the vehicle. Due to the danger the operator was posing to the public, officers chose to terminate the pursuit. Officers were not able to obtain the license plate number of the vehicle.

The two other vehicles included a motorcycle. The officer in those cases also chose not to pursue the fleeing vehicles for safety reasons.

Calls of suspicious and noisy nighttime activity also kept police busy. They were called to Neshobe Golf Course on the night of May 16 to investigate a call of suspicious activity. They found a group of people collecting night crawlers following the storms that had occurred that day.

A caller from Brookdale Street at 2 a.m. on May 21 complained of a neighbor who was laying floor and disturbing the neighbors with the noise. Police advised the individual that he would need to cease and desist for the night.

Police responded to a 911 call from a Visiting Nurse on May 19 when her client wouldn't answer the door at a residence on Barlow Avenue. The responding officer was able to gain access to the apartment by crawling through a window and found the resident deceased. The circumstances of

Brandon Police Report

the death were deemed natural. Later that day police received a report of people taking belongings out of the residence of the deceased. Police determined that the removal was approved by the housing authority.

In other activity police:

One May 16:

- Were called to a domestic disturbance on Franklin Street at Brandon Motor Lodge, where a mother and daughter were arguing. The responding officer later determined that no crime had been committed and both parties agreed to separate for the rest of the night to avoid further conflict.

- Responded to a complaint of a barking puppy on Carver Street. The officer spoke with the owner and the dog was brought inside.

- Received a request for police service that was later determined to not be in the Brandon Police patrol area. The complainant was referred to the Vermont State Police for assistance.

- Assisted the Brandon Town Highway Department in draining a flooded roadway on Grove Street near the Brandon Flower Shoppe.

- Investigated a report of a larceny of hay bales on Pearl Street.

- Received a 911 hang-up call from a vacant phone line on Grove Street. No response was needed.

- Made traffic stops on Park Street, Union Street, and Franklin Street. Violations included no front license plate (two vehicles),

(See Police report 15)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, you may be thinking about starting a new long-term project. Put your vision on paper first so you can map out your plans and see if it is feasible with your current budget.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, you will be surrounded by plenty of people interested in social engagement in the days ahead. That is fine news for you, as you enjoy being out on the town.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Efforts at work have not gone unnoticed, Libra. What you have worked toward has impressed those who are in position to move you further along in the company.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, they may not be on the top of your mind, but legal matters must be worked out soon. This is a good week to revisit your long-term plans if it's been awhile.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Projects worked on this week will have a significant impact on your future, Sagittarius. You have a magic touch of sorts, so put it to good use in the days to come.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, relationships in your life are strengthened over the course of this week. It is because you communicate effectively and with honesty and affection.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You are interested in health and nutrition, including certain nutrients, exercise programs or other forms of alternative therapy. Study up on the subject.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, artistic pursuits are piquing your interest, so focus your efforts on practical creative pursuits, like cooking or interior design.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- May 26 Lauryn Hill, Singer, rapper (47)
- May 27 Saladin, Sultan of Egypt (d)
- May 28 Gladys Knight, singer (78)
- May 29 Melissa Etheridge, singer (61)
- May 30 Manny Ramirez, baseball player (50)
- May 31 Walt Whitman, poet (d)
- June 1 Morgan Freeman, actor (85)

ARIES March 21-April 20

Owning real estate has been a wise investment lately, Aries. Your home may have increased in value. Now could be an opportunity to sell and reap the profits.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

You want to advance your relationship, Taurus. The best way to do that is to have some serious conversations with your romantic partner. Discuss everything.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Rework your budget, Gemini. You likely have some home renovations that you want to tackle over the next few weeks, and now is as good a time as any to get started.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Your mystique has others interested in emulating your style, Cancer. They can try, but they won't be able to completely replicate your special nature.

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Police report cont.

(Continued from Page 14)
and no inspection sticker. Three warnings and a ticket were issued.

- Conducted a foot patrol in the downtown area and found nothing suspicious.

On May 17:

- Assisted South Burlington Police in attempting to locate a person of interest in a hit-and-run, who was listed as living on Morning Dove Drive. Officers determined that the subject no longer lived in Brandon and had moved to Vergennes.
- Attempted to locate a vehicle that passed a Vermont State Trooper on Route 7 towards Brandon at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was not located.
- Conducted speed enforcement on Pearl Street. Two vehicles were stopped with both operators being issued tickets.
- Made traffic three stops on Pearl Street: one for a stop sign violation, one for no front license plate, and one for speeding and improper front plate. A warning and two tickets were issued.

On May 18:

- Investigated a noise disturbance complaint at a residence on Mulcahy Drive in which some allegedly intoxicated subjects were repeatedly ringing the complainant's door bell. The persons of interest were gone prior to the arrival of the police.
- Assisted a tractor-trailer on Pearl Street that needed help turning around.
- Investigated a report of a silver van that passed a car on Route 7 on Grove Street/Route 7 and almost hit a motorcycle head-on. A "Be on the Look Out" was issued for the vehicle, but it was not located.
- Issued a restraining order on behalf of the Springfield Police Department.
- Conducted a directed patrol in the Center Street/downtown Brandon area for police visibility.
- Made traffic stops on Park Street, Franklin Street, and North Street for no front license plate. All operators were issued warnings and one was ticketed for driving with an expired license.
- Conducted routine property watches at the Citgo on McConnell Road and on Union Street at the Union Street Grocery. All was secure.

On May 19:

- Responded to a male 911 caller who reported that he had a gun and was going to kill himself at a residence on Franklin Street. Crisis was advised of the incident and worked with police to develop a plan to ensure the safety

of the caller as well as the safety of the public. It was later determined that the subject lied about having a gun, had not been taking his medications, and was feeling lonely, which is why he called the police.

- Responded to a report of trespassing. Juveniles were fishing on private property off of Center Street. The responding officer spoke with the juveniles, who subsequently left without any further issues.

- Aided a juvenile and her parent, who came into the Brandon Police Department to speak with an officer regarding some vulgar text messages she was receiving.

- Responded to the report of a small child standing in the middle of the road on Franklin Street in the pouring rain. The child was located and was found to be safe and sound, and it appeared that she had gotten out of the house due to an unsecured child safety gate. A report of the incident was made to the Vermont Department of Children and Families.

- Conducted Sex Offender Registry checks.

- Received a complaint of a barking dog on Carver Street.

- Received a call from a resident on River Street reporting that their video security system mysteriously went down and that the SD Card holding the footage was now missing.

- Received information for the Brandon Police Department to be aware of a female that is prohibited from entering a property on Union Street due to a no-contact order and no-trespass order.

- Conducted a foot patrol in downtown Brandon on Center Street.

On May 20:

- Assisted a female motorist who pulled into the parking lot of the Brandon Police Department and was having a severe asthma attack. The officers on duty observed the female having a medical emergency and assisted her and her two small children out of the car and into the police station. The officers requested Brandon Rescue to respond, who arrived on the scene a short time later and treated the woman. The operator, who did not want to go to the hospital, later left with her two children with the assistance of some family members.

- Conducted quarterly Sex Offender Registry checks.

- Attended the Neshobe Elementary School Carnival with K9 Guinness to meet the children and school staff.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street.

- Made a traffic stop on Grove

Street for a speed limit violation and issued a verbal warning to the operator.

- Conducted routine property watches at Junction Store & Deli on Forest Dale Road, Brandon Senior Citizen Center on Forest Dale Road, Walgreens on Union Street, and Union Street Grocery, also on Union Street. All was secure.

On May 21:

- Investigated a complaint of people walking by the neighborhood houses suspiciously on Nickerson Road.

- Assisted a male on Franklin Street in treating a bee sting (basic first aid).

- Received a complaint of unsafe speed and passing on Arnold District Road. The vehicle was not located.

- Responded to a residential alarm on Richmond, which turned out to be set off by a dog.

- Received complaint of a noise disturbance on Hollister Quarry Road.

- Made traffic stops on Forest Dale Road and North Street.

- Conducted routine property watches at Fisher Electric LLC on Franklin Street and Life Bridge Christian Church on Frog Hollow Road. All as secure.

On May 22:

- Responded to a home on Rossiter Street where an ex-co-worker of a female at the residence showed up unexpectedly and was under the influence of drugs. The male made the complainant uncomfortable with comments of affection he made towards her. The responding officer gave the complainant guidance and options regarding the situation and was told to call the police should the male show back up at her house.

- Assisted Fire and Rescue with a woman who fell down the elevator shaft at the Brandon Inn. The woman was transported to the hospital for her injuries.

- Located a male suspect for Vermont State Police, who was taken into custody by Vermont State Police on scene.

- Assisted a male who called 911 threatening suicide from a residence on Franklin Street. He was transported to the hospital per his request.

- Responded to a single-car crash on Franklin St. by Wood Pond.

- Received a report of a lost dog found on McConnell Rd. The dog was described as a male yellow lab mix.

- Received lost car keys.

- Made traffic stops on Grove Street for speeding and Franklin Street for tailgating.

Vicious dog

(Continued from Page 1)

sition at the attack and admitted that she could not control or care for the dog any longer, but was at a loss in terms of how to proceed as she did not want to see the dog euthanized.

Robin Shover of Passion 4 Paws, a Shelburne-based dog rescue group, stated that she would be willing to find a suitable foster home for Minnie, but that she would need until the weekend to be

able to do so. It was the select board's decision, given the dog's history, that they were unwilling to wait that long to tend to the matter and a unanimous vote was cast giving Passion 4 Paws until Thursday to rehome the dog before it would need to be handed over to Animal Control.

All parties involved agreed that the resulting solution was a suitable compromise.

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thru Monday, May 30
9am-5pm**

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Liberation

(Continued from Page 4)

These steps are not a comprehensive map, but they serve as a viable starting point. An outline. They are not a replacement of Congress, or of the Constitution; they are a necessary modernization.

Yet, we must radically improve our personal-level tools too—our empathy, listening and perspective-taking abilities. Democracy can only survive when there is health on the individual AND collective scale.

Voting for the lesser of two evils or for moderates means that nothing will change, no matter who the candidate. Our primary voting criterion must be a commitment to fixing government—at a root-cause level. This must become an explicit test for every candidate: "Do you support a direct democracy forum?"

With an open congressional race, and no incumbent, now is the ideal time to challenge the two-party death grip on our democracy.

If you are satisfied with changing the players, then you have good options this election. If you know in your heart that we need to change the rules of the game, then you have one clear choice. Send me to Congress. Let's rebirth democracy together.

Note: Liam Madden is an Independent candidate for Vermont's lone congressional seat. He is a Marine Corps veteran and national antiviral leader; and a M.I.T. climate change solver.

BRANDON SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that at 9:30 a.m. on June 1, 2022, Brandon Self Storage, located at 2288 Grove St, Brandon VT 05733, will hold a public auction.

The contents of the self-storage units leased to the following persons, in accordance with our rental agreement, will be auctioned:

- Louanne Hadley - Unit #4;
- Steven Dibkey - Unit #C14;
- Amber Wood - Unit #26A;
- Britany Hadvav - Unit #35;
- Frank Kulig - Unit #14;
- Lisa Desjadin - Unit #11;
- John Peck - Unit #7;
- Douglas Brown - Unit #M15;
- Brice Cummings - Unit #37A;
- Michael Montagna - Unit #M3;
- Erica Johnson - Unit #C2;
- Misti Baker - Unit #36;
- Jamie Euber - Unit #22;
- Bill Rudolph - Unit #24A;
- Tina Whittemore - Unit #28;
- Amanda Buchanam - Unit #C17;
- Tanya Lawrence - Unit #28A;
- Steven Dibkey - Unit #VPK008;

Terms: Cash Only. Brandon Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

2022 Job Fair



BRANDON INN

"Make Some History of Your Own"

Job Fair – June 1, 2022 - 2:00p-4:00p
Front Porch of the Brandon Inn

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You don't have to wait to apply; if you are a local company who would like to join the job fair, email the Inn: mail@brandoninn.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES/ HELP WANTED

RANDYS SERVICE CENTER, LLC

802-388-2067

Seeking experienced full time auto technician to work in a small, fast-paced tire and preventative maintenance repair shop.

The job requires applicant to be reliable, have excellent customer skills, a clean driving record, tools, and a VT State Inspection license (or the ability to obtain a license). Must be detail oriented, willing to work as a strong team member and able to work independently when required. Shop hours are Mon–Fri 8am to 5pm, but some overtime is expected when needed, wage is based on experience and references.

Applicants may contact Randy @ 802-989-1386, randys.rf@gmail.com or in person at Randys Service Center, 44 N. Pleasant St., Midd., VT 05753.

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

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Seeking a dynamic, committed leader to direct an after school and summer program for elementary children aged 5-12. This is a 40-hour position with time being split between administrative duties as well as on site director work. Responsibilities include overall curriculum and program planning and management, working with families, staff support and oversight, daily program operations, handle budgets, and perform grant management duties as needed. A BA/BS is required and experience working with children and managing staff is preferred but not required. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please email resume and letters of reference to dylan@mjcvt.org or send via mail to Mary Johnson Children's Center at 81 Water Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.
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The Town of PITTSFORD VERMONT

P.O. Box 10, 426 Plains Road
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INVITATION FOR BIDS

May 12, 2022

The Town of Pittsford is requesting bids for fuel deliveries from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to the following Town locations, as specified below:

1. 12,000 gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel to the Town Highway Garage, Pleasant St.
2. 2,000 gallons of off-road diesel fuel to the Transfer Station, Depot St.
3. 1,600 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Town Highway Garage, Pleasant St.
4. 2,000 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Fire Department, Pleasant St.
5. 1,200 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Town Office, Plains Rd.
6. 2,000 gallons of #2 heating oil to the Maclure Library, Arch St.
7. 500 gallons of propane to the Fire Department Auxiliary Station, Florence
8. 1,000 gallons of propane to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lab, Arch St.
9. 1,300 gallons of propane to the Water Department (former WWTPlant), Arch St.
10. 1,000 gallons of propane to the Pittsford First Response, Arch St.
11. 100 gallons of propane for Fire Station Generator, Pleasant St.
12. 100 gallons propane for Town Office generator, Plains Rd.
13. 250 gallons of propane to water well house, River St., Florence
14. 200 gallons of propane to water pump shed, Route 7 Red Barn

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Pittsford Town Manager at the above address, until Wednesday, **June 8, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.** at which time they will be opened and read. Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **Pittsford Fuel Bid.**

Selection of the supplier will be based upon bidders' qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects (ie: prompt service) and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the Town to be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

Payment will be made within 30 days of the delivery of fuel and submission of an invoice.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, (Saturday, Sundays and legal holidays excluded) after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Town.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD
 Brenda Fox-Howard, Town Manager

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

KEEWAYDIN CAMP - is looking for help with a wide variety of groundskeepers and maintenance jobs, no experience necessary. M-F with a few Saturdays through October. Email lee@keewaydin.org or call 802.352.4447 lv msg



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NOTICE OF VACANCY

ASSISTANT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

The Town of Brandon, Vermont is currently looking for a full-time Assistant Wastewater Plant Operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Assistant Operator will assist the Senior Operator and, at times perform the following duties:

- Operating, regulating, maintaining and repairing the treatment plant equipment, pump stations and collection system.
- Taking samples of raw sewage and finished effluent, making laboratory analysis of these samples in order to make adjustments to treatment processes to assure efficient operation of the plant.
- Keep records of laboratory analysis as required by the State. Repairs, services, and maintains pumps, motors, and associated equipment employed in the treatment process.
- Respond to emergency calls relating to sewer back-ups and leaks in the sewer system, or pager call outs, operating specialized cleaning and repair equipment.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Any combination of training and experience equivalent to graduation from a standard high school. Some experience in the operation and maintenance of electrical and mechanical equipment that can be related to sewage plant equipment operation or related field. Some experience as a helper in the trades, preferably in plumbing or sewer line repair.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

The employee in this position must obtain a Vermont Grade I Wastewater Operators Certificate within one (1) year of employment.

This employee must possess a valid Vermont Driver's License with ability to obtain a Commercial Driver's License.

Due to the nature of this position, good physical condition may be recommended in order to avoid injury. Should probably have the ability to lift and/or move any heavy objects. May be exposed to the elements of weather in the performance of the job duties.

Rate of Pay and excellent Benefits package will be discussed during the interview process.

Please send a cover letter and resume to: David Atherton, Town Manager, 49 Center Street, Brandon, VT, 05733 or email to: datherton@townofbrandon.com



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Kinneydrugs.com and opening number 8404 or 8710.

Applicants must be reliable, customer service oriented individuals and willing to work day/evening/weekend shifts and some holidays. EOE

PLEASE BRING A RESUME WITH YOU
Interviews will be conducted during the event

Memorial Day

(Continued from Page 1)

of the following ceremonies:

- The Brandon Memorial Day parade takes place Monday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and will begin at the Post Office before continuing along Route 7 to the Civil War monument in Central Park. The parade will be followed by the town's historical flower girl ceremony, a recitation of The Gettysburg Address, and a 21-gun salute.

- Pittsford's parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. on May 30 and proceed across Route 7 to the firehouse where there will be a variety of speakers, poetry, music, and benedictions. In the event of heavy rain, the parade will be canceled and the ceremony will begin at the firehouse at 12:30 p.m.

- Proctor's parade will begin May 30 at 10 a.m. on South Street and will proceed to Main Street Park for additional events.

- West Rutland's parade will begin at 10 a.m. on May 30 at Noonan Lane and head north on Clarendon Avenue, then west on Main Street to Marble Street. Taps and a gun salute will be performed at the WWII Memorial at Town Hall and the parade will continue west on Marble Street to Barnes Street to the cemeteries where a gun salute and Taps will sound again before continuing east on Main Street to the West Rutland School, south on Clarendon Avenue, and end at Noonan Lane. The parade will be followed by an awards ceremony and picnic at the American Legion.



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OVUU

(Continued from Page 1)

dealing with racial, homophobic, transphobic, and ableist slurs amongst the student body; dealing with adult responses to those slurs; and incidences of inequity within the curriculum as well.

“Our students are telling us there are things we must do to make school more engaging, accessible, relevant, meaningful, and safe for all learners,” White said. “For example, there are students who have shared that they experience hostile language and treatment based on one or more of their social identities and are asking for adults and students to work to shift the culture and respond in meaningful ways to incidents of harassment and bias. There are also many students who want to see themselves reflected in more meaningful and affirming ways in their curriculum, in addition to experiencing deeper learning about a broader and more diverse range of histories, perspectives, and issues. Our work is to partner with our students to create the school community that they dream of and deserve.”

Moving forward, White said an equity committee with student and faculty members will meet

monthly with goals that include: “Connecting about equity issues that arise and engaging in team problem-solving on those issues; developing our own capacity to support and or lead positive change work in our schools; designing and implementing district-wide initiatives for educational equity; and engaging in inquiry and listening to identify issues and opportunities to [create] equity in RNE-SU.”

RNESU defines “educational equity” as “each child receiving what they need to develop and thrive academically and socially.”

White mentioned the importance of centering student voices in this process, explaining that the work is ongoing and always more is to be done.

“Some ways RNE-SU is working towards elevating student voices include: Inviting student participation on our Equity Com-

mittee, empowering student participation at Board meetings, holding student focus groups, developing affinity spaces, and administering surveys—including a climate survey,” she said.

“Next year, Otter Valley will renew its partnership with Up for Learning with the goal of creating a dedicated and representative group of student leaders who will collaborate to transform their school for the better. The Curriculum and Instruction team also plans to design professional learning

opportunities for educators to strengthen their capacity to empower student voice and agency within their instructional practice.”

SHOP UPGRADES

White’s presentation was met with a united round of applause from the board who had earlier been engaged in a somewhat contentious debate over whether an

additional \$200,000 should be added to the \$440,300 budget for facility repairs and upgrades over the summer, with the bulk of the new money designated for a welding program.

Points were raised about the long-overdue upgrades to the shop. Much of its equipment is older than the instructors and, in the case of the shop’s lathe, even the building. Of particular importance was the harsh reality that training on this equipment puts OVUHS students at a disadvantage when it comes to acquiring real-world experience.

Of additional concern was the hasty nature of the decision, without the presence or input of the teachers who will implement the new program. Eventually, a vote passed to approve the money only for the board to then realize that the leg work involved in hammering out the details of the new project could mean a delay for the other repairs and upgrades.

A motion was then passed to strike the new budget of \$640,300, which was voted on and approved, at which point the original budget of \$440,300 was reintroduced, voted on, and approved and it was noted that

within the approved budget there had already been money allotted for upgrades to the shop and they would take place over the next year and a half.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Rounding out the evening’s events was a presentation from Max Burman and Susan Hennessey, RNE-SU’s technology integration coaches, about their ongoing efforts within the district. The pair mentioned that while participation in the program is done strictly on a volunteer basis, it has become much beloved by students and faculty alike. One area in particular that has been a success is the digital citizenship initiative where students are taught how to be safe, responsible users of technology.

“Our district made great strides given how quickly the pandemic hit and required our schools to pivot to remote learning out much time to prepare,” said Burrow. “Our roles as coaches this year found us supporting educators who needed extra help using Google Classroom and Google Meet to ensure their teaching materials were accessible to all in case we needed to pivot once again.”

“Our students are telling us there are things we must do to make school more engaging, accessible, relevant, meaningful, and safe for all learners,”

—Susannah White

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