

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 15

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

\$1



BRANDON IDOL

Brandon Idol hit us with its best shot during 80s week on Saturday.

PG. 3



'ARTIFACTS ROADSHOW'

Castleton U. archaeologists will bring their expertise and technology to Brandon on 4/27 for an "Artifacts Roadshow" hosted by the Brandon Museum.

PG. 2

OV SOFTBALL & BASEBALL

OV Softball & Baseball get their seasons going. Softball had a great scrimmage against Proctor.

PG. 9



LIBRARY MOVE

Brandon Library cuts the ribbon on its temporary location at Brandon Town Hall.

PG. 15



Pittsford Village Farm finds its footing

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—It's a beautiful spot right in the heart of Pittsford. The library, the post office, Kamuda's...all within steps. And behind the large Italianate main house lie acres of land that open to a sweeping vista over neighboring Florence and the uppermost reaches of the Taconic Mountains. It's no wonder that Baird and Betsy Morgan of Pittsford wanted to preserve it. In 2018, they purchased the house and land—the old Forrest farm—and set about converting the property to a community resource of some kind.

A few years later, the outlines of the project are becoming clearer as its focus becomes sharper. The Pittsford Village Farm (PVF) is the result of several years of consultation and collaboration between the 501(c)(3) nonprofit that manages the property and the community it pledges to serve. PVF now has artists' studios, a community garden, walking paths, concerts, and talks. Funding has been secured to build a community meeting space, a café, and two affordable apartments in (See *Pittsford Village Farm*, Page 8)



SAMANTHA STONE (L) and Lorrie Byrom (R) stand in front of the historic Forrest farmhouse in Pittsford that their nonprofit has turned into the Pittsford Village Farm (PVF). PVF has raised funds from multiple sources to provide a community center, affordable housing, childcare, and a café. There's a busy slate of lectures and concerts scheduled for this spring and summer as well.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



PAJUA GAMBA AND Andrew Kenyon in the climactic scene from Walking Stick Theater's production of "The Sparrow" during last weekend's Vermont Drama Festival at Otter Valley.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

OV's Walking Stick takes flight with 'The Sparrow'

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Otter Valley Union High School hosted the 2023 State Drama Festival this past weekend, the first such event since COVID shut the festival down in 2020. Nine high-school theater programs from all around

Vermont presented one-act plays, some dramas, some comedies, but all showcasing the prodigious talent that Vermont's teens have to offer.

Though two of the nine schools would be chosen to advance to the (See *'The Sparrow'*, Page 11)

Ray Miro returns to wrestling at Otter Valley

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Wrestling great Ray Miro has returned to Otter Valley Union High School

(OVUHS), the place where he started the wrestling program in 1977.

"I love practice, I love helping the kids," says Miro. "I'm giving back to a sport that did so much more for me than I could ever give back."

Presently, he's the number 5 coach in the hierarchy at Otter Valley. He's working with the middle school wrestlers primarily.

"I had 14 wrestlers this year and hope to have more next year," he said. "I've always been a teacher, I really want the kids to learn." He'd like to give more kids a chance to wrestle and really try it.

Miro goes on to say, "Humility is the number one thing you learn from sports. Wrestling is (See *Ray Miro*, Page 14)



RAY MIRO HAS returned to coach wrestling at Otter Valley.

Photo by George Fjeld

Brandon Museum to host Castleton U. archaeologists for 'Roadshow'

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In popular imagination, archaeologists look like Indiana Jones and work in far-flung corners of the globe, unearthing priceless

treasure that may or may not be cursed. The reality is far different. Archaeologists can work anywhere, dressed in T-shirts and jeans, and spend a lot of time carefully sifting through dirt for literal trash. Old trash, but trash nonetheless.

“This is one of my favorite things we’ve found at the Granger House,” said Ellie Moriarty, holding out a broken, bristleless toothbrush made of bone, from the mid-1800s, that was found in the dig she’s leading at an early-1800s house on the Castleton University campus. “I love finding personal items. It’s a connection to the people who lived here.”

Ellie and her husband, Matt, are both faculty at Castleton

University. Matt is Director of Archaeology in the Department of Archaeology, Geography, and Applied Anthropology. Ellie is overseeing the excavation of the Granger-Moulton house on campus, where the toothbrush was found.

“It’s a great way to give our students hands-on experience in the field without having to fund overseas travel,” said Matt. The Granger House was slated for renovations that would have altered the grounds around the structure. So, Matt and Ellie organized a dig to teach their students how to recover artifacts in a methodologically rigorous way. They saw an opportunity to provide professional training for their students while helping preserve and understand local history.

“Most archaeologists aren’t in academia,” said Matt. “There’s a lot of work available in cultural resource management.” Cultural resource management (CRM) is essentially exploration of a site before planned development in order to determine whether it holds any cultural or historical significance. Archaeologists carefully excavate the site

to locate and identify artifacts that would be lost during development of the land.

Both Matt and Ellie have

richness of Vermont history,” added Matt, who grew up in Massachusetts.

While Vermont was settled



A 19TH-CENTURY BONE-HANDLED toothbrush from the Granger House site on Castleton U’s campus. Personal items provide a direct link with those who came before us.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



ARCHAEOLOGISTS ELLIE AND Matt Moriarty show off some of the early-1800s pottery they’ve excavated. They oversee a cutting-edge 3-D scanning lab at Castleton. They’re taking their discipline into new territory.

been surprised by the extensive timeline of human activity in Vermont.

Ellie grew up in Pittsford. “I thought there was nothing cool here,” she laughed.

“I’ve been impressed by the

by Europeans later than coastal New England—most permanent European settlement here took place after the Revolution—there’s a very long history of pre-Contact, Native (See Brandon Museum, Page 22)

Addison County's Hometown Dealer



36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-6718
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-9961
stonecdjr.com



Big hair, big voices: Brandon Idol bounces into the 80s

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—For those of us who came of age in the 80s, playing Pac Man and renting videos at Blockbuster, there's something heartwarming about the fondness younger generations seem to have for the era today. Sure, the hair and clothes were outrageous—we knew it even then—but the music was legitimately great and still holds up.

Last Saturday night, the 10 competitors in this year's Brandon Idol sang an eclectic mix of the 80s' best, and sometimes cheesiest, tunes. For the Gen Xers in the audience, it was



SHANNON WRIGHT WON Fan Favorite with his energetic rendition of "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley.

Photo: Kevin White

a like a high-school reunion without the name tags. For everyone else, it was just plain fun. The evening was hosted by emcee extraordinaire Bill Moore, replete in an Adidas tracksuit and terrycloth sweatband, looking like he could at any moment break into a Star Search-style dance routine.

The first contestant of the evening, Irene Simons, also had the first song chronologically: "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton, from the 1980 film of the same name. It's a fun song to sing and Simons was clearly having a great time. The lyrics, which be-moan the frustrations of the rat race, are just as true today as they were 43 years ago.

Next up was Bethany White, singing Ozzy Osbourne's classic "Crazy Train," also from 1980. This was the anthem of every long-haired metalhead who cut class to smoke behind the gym. The contrast of White's polished appearance and the song's iconic scuzziness made the performance especially entertaining, particularly when she cast off her silk scarf like she was tossing a sweat-soaked towel to a gasping groupie.

Gunnar Tinsman must've done some research into era-appropriate fashion because he came out rocking spiked hair and torn denim.

Definitely mid-80s vibes. His song choice was "Don't You (Forget About Me)" by Simple Minds, from the 1985 film "The Breakfast Club." If ever there was a song that evoked the 80s, this is it. Tinsman did it justice and no, we won't (forget about him.)

Following that somewhat somber song was Tonya Granger with the fast, dramatic, New-Wave tinged "Holding Out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler, from the 1984 movie "Footloose." Granger gave the song the requisite oomph, aided visually by her historically correct neon ensemble. Back in the 80s, you were nothing if you didn't glow in the dark. We don't have to hold out for a hero anymore; she's here and her name is Tonya.



ALL 10 CONTESTANTS joined for "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey. (L to R): Peggy Sue Rozell, Venus Diamondis, Baker LaRock, Gunnar Tinsman, Emcee Bill Moore, Irene Simons, Guest Hilary Collier, Logan Shaddock, Bethany White, Rachel Spellman, and Shannon Wright
Photo: Steven Jupiter

Baker LaRock raided Elton John's closet for the perfect purple outfit in which to sing John's "I'm Still Standing," from 1983. While LaRock is (hopefully) too young to need to sing these lyrics of survival, he invested them with sincerity and flair and pulled it off. Baker seemed to realize something essential about 80s music: half of the fun was in the sheer theatrics of it.

After a brief intermission during which 80s classics like "Roxanne" by The Police kept the party go-

ing, the competition resumed with Logan Shaddock's heartfelt rendition of "Love Is a Battlefield" by 80s rock goddess Pat Benatar, from 1983. Though Shaddock opted not to wear Benatar's signature spandex and one-shouldered sweatshirt, she captured the rocker's spirit indeed. Love may be a battlefield but so is the stage and Shaddock was a warrior.

Venus Diamondis took the evening in a sharply different direction (See Brandon Idol, Page 14)

WE WILL BEAT ANY PRICE ANY WHERE— OR WE OWE YOU \$1,000 CASH

*SAME YEAR, MODEL, MAKE

NO PREP FEES-LOWEST PRICES-NO PREP FEES



2023 2800BS
MSRP \$53,838
WHOLESALE \$40,900
HUGE QUAD BUNKROOM,
OUTSIDE KITCHEN, BEST
SELLING FAMILY UNIT



2023 ST2916
MSRP \$87,481
WHOLESALE \$62,900
ONAN GENERATOR
13'14" GARAGE
SLIDE OUT, PRIVATE BEDROOM



2023 21QB
MSRP \$35,204
WHOLESALE \$23,900
UNDER 4,000LBS, WITH
PRIVATE BUNKROOM,
OUTSIDE KITCHEN, BIKEDOOR



2023 3803FLP
MSRP \$110,760
WHOLESALE \$79,900
FRONT LIVING
5 SLIDES
W/AWNING TOPPERS

WWW.BRANDONRVVT.COM/ • 802.483.9934 • 4769 US-7 PITTSFORD, VT

BRANDON RV

Pittsford SB discusses solar and sewers

BY WILL ROSS

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard gathered on Wednesday to mull over town business. In attendance were members of a group representing Outback Acres Solar. The group would go on to give a presentation on a new project that is proposed for a parcel of land off Furnace Road.

This solar project would be installed on a 71-acre plot of land located at 474 Furnace Road, and the array would cover 18 acres in total. It would produce around 3.5 megawatts of electricity and consist of single-access tracker panels.

There have been several surveys and studies completed so far to ensure the project will

comply with electrical and environmental regulations. The group representing the project claimed that there would be limited visibility for a majority of Pittsford residents and have plans to use local plant species as a visual buffer to maintain the natural aesthetic.

Some benefits of the project would include bringing in jobs during construction, diversifying the source of electricity, and helping to achieve renewable-energy goals. The land will be able to return to agricultural use after the project is done, and there will be no impact on local traffic.

Selectboard Chair Alicia Malay asked if there were any
(See Pittsford SB, Page 5)

OVUU Board discusses Christian Academy sanctions

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—At the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) board meeting last Tuesday evening, there were multiple public comments about the incident at Neshobe School regarding threats made by a student. Comments were heard from parents concerned about safety in the school, especially the lack of information provided to the parents. There were calls to investigate the principal, Vicki Wells, and her response to the alleged threats. Chair Laurie Bertrand advised that this situation will be on the agenda next week after an investigation is completed.

Transgender participation in sports was discussed relating to the Vermont Principals Association's (VPA) dismissal of Mid

Vermont Christian Academy (MVCA) from the VPA. MVCA forfeited a playoff basketball game rather than play against a team with a transgender student. MVCA cited reasons of fairness and safety as reasons for the forfeiture. There were no references to religious freedom or freedom of speech. Attendee Jen Tinsman stated that as a parent, she believed all students should have the ability to participate in activities that are interscholastic and she does not think it is right for our student population to be punished. Parent Samantha Stone strongly disagreed with the draft letter to the VPA as presented. Board member Jeremy Gildrien noted that the letter is not what it purports to be, as this is not an
(See OVUU, Page 22)



The Bald and the Beautiful

THIS BALD EAGLE was seen by Otter Creek on Union St. recently. Probably one of the pair nesting in the area. Bald Eagles, beloved symbol of the United States, have experienced a resurgence after their population was decimated by pesticides in the 20th century. Careful husbandry and strict controls on chemicals helped restore their numbers. Photo: Sue Wetmore

Community Forums 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 13th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. West Rutland residents can reg-

ister 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 or to register, call the Town Office at 802-438-2263.

Dinners With Love program now available to all hospice agencies nationwide

Brandon, Vermont – April 5, 2023 - Dinners With Love, Inc. (DWL) is excited to announce that it has made their program for providing free restaurant meals to hospice patients and their families available to Hospice Agencies free online.

The concept is simple: a hospice agency decides to offer The Dinners With Love Program to their clients and recruit local restaurants to donate meals weekly or bi-weekly. Volunteers ensure orders are placed, picked up, and delivered.

"Over the years, we have seen how much of a difference this program can make for people during a most vulnerable time," said Sheri Sullivan, the founder and Board President of Dinners With Love, "We have realized that The Dinners With Love Program is really about a community sending love and support to their neighbors in the form of delicious meals."

The Program has a proven track record of success. Over the course of 13 years, a dozen hospice agencies in three states and over 150 restaurants have

participated in the program, and DWL to date has facilitated the delivery of more than 29,000 meals to hospice patients and their families.

Charley MacMartin, Volunteer Services Manager for Hospice and Palliative Care for the UVMHHH says, "The Dinners With Love program has been a huge success. It's very popular with our team and with hospice volunteers, but most importantly, it's very supportive of our hospice clients and their families."
(See Dinners With Love, Page 5)

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

REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.
Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary.
Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

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

Letter to the Editor

Neshobe Elementary threat handled poorly

The week of Monday, March 27th, started like any other week. Kids were up, ate breakfast, and walked out the door with have a great day hugs and kisses.

At some point in the week, there were two "verbal threats" by two different students in a 6th grade class at Neshobe. I, as the parent of a 6th grader and 2nd grader at Neshobe, didn't hear anything throughout the week from my kiddos or the school.

What bothers us and is unsettling is that on Thursday, March 30th, our son's class and another 6th grade class had "active shooter review." Again, these two verbal threats and active shooter review which took place were never emailed to us or any other parent in the school.

Now, on Friday, March 31, the staff had a meeting regarding the above events and again no email to the parents. A whistle blower from inside the school didn't feel this situation was right not to inform the parents and social media blew up.

Monday, April 3rd, the police showed up at the school and as we have read in the Rutland Herald, had one of the students removed and cited to appear in court.

Neshobe Principal Vicki Wells noted in an email Saturday that the threat assessment team looked at both incidents and was dealing with them internally. I

am still in the dark about who is on the threat assessment team? Why did the Brandon Police Chief show up at school on Monday and over one-hundred students were absent from Neshobe if there was nothing going on? It was because parents, panicked because of the lack of transparency and communication from Vicki.

If the Chief of Police stepped in and the student was removed from school grounds then perhaps the threat assessment team was wrong? I think that in the future that verbal threats reported to the Principal should go directly to the Brandon Police Department. Vicki as Principal has not proven capable of handling this type of situation.

This complete panic was not because of misinformation; it was because without the whistle blower we had no information. Now that everything is coming to light the school wants transparency. You can't have a Monday morning quarterback after a Sunday night. This damage and feeling of incompetence have settled in and the Principal Vicki Wells needs to resign or be removed from her position.

These are our kids...our lives...our family...our community and this was handled totally wrong.

Sincerely,
Chris & Alex Barnhardt
Brandon

This complete panic was not because of misinformation; it was because without the whistle blower we had no information.

Thanks for your generosity to the food shelf

The Brandon/Forest Dale Lions Club would like to thank members of the Brandon area community who donated items to the food shelf last Saturday at Hannaford's. Thanks to your generosity we

were able to collect over 300 food items and \$260 in donations that we will split up among the Brandon area food shelf and the Leicester food shelf. We would also like to thank Hannaford's for again

allowing us to collect this food on their property. We are fortunate to have a store here that really cares about our community.

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 4)

plans for disposal when the panels reach the end of their lifespan. Nancy Malmquist informed the board that no specific location for the disposal has been selected; however, funds have been allocated for that inevitable process.

Board member Mark Winslow raised concerns about the soil types on the parcel. It was disclosed that all 18 acres qualify as prime agricultural soil, which, because of Vermont Act 250, is typically a challenge to develop. The act states that the agricultural potential of the soil cannot be reduced by any

development. However, Adam Cray assured the board that there are procedures in place to mitigate any impact on the soil that may result from staging, access roads, and equipment paths.

The project is still in the permitting process and has an anticipated build date of sometime in 2024; the build would take around 6 months to complete.

After the presentation was complete, the board went on to discuss the Water and Sewer Commission. Town manager, David Atherton, wondered why the two committees, the Se-

lectboard, and the Water and Sewer Commission, were different. Atherton noted that it may be more efficient to combine the two or have meetings that are back-to-back. Eventually, it was decided that the best course of action would be to dissolve the Water and Sewer Commission and have the Selectboard take on its duties.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Furnace Brook Landscaping won the bid for town lawn mowing.

The board will allocate funds for new laptops for the police station which will be installed by Vermont Digital.



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 17

SHORTS & SANDALS SALE!



2008 HONDA ELEMENT
EX, AWD, Auto, 121k miles
\$11,995



2012 TOYOTA TACOMA
Double Cab, 4x4, Auto, V-6, 155k miles
\$18,995



2012 SUBARU FORESTER
Premium, AWD, Auto, Loaded, 127k miles
\$10,595



2010 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER
4x4, V-6, Auto, 115k miles
\$18,995



2016 HONDA CRV
EX, AWD, Auto, Sunroof, 112k miles
\$17,995

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS
We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester

Michael Jackman, 51 Years Experience
David Wimett, 38 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 10 Years Experience

802-465-4688

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

More than a decade of delivering Quality!

Dinners With Love

(Continued from Page 4)

From 2009-2023, the Program has been administered by the Brandon based nonprofit organization, Dinners With Love, Inc.. The goal of the organization has always been to offer the program nationwide. After considerable planning and working with a nonprofit consultant, the Board of Directors realized they could more easily scale the program by offering a downloadable manual and documents providing all the details any hospice agency needs to start the program.

With that awareness, the Board came to the realization that the nonprofit Dinners With Love, Inc. is not required and the organization, after its due diligence, will dissolve under the guidelines of the State of Vermont. Any monies left in the DWL bank account will be distributed to the hospice agencies presently offering the Dinners With Love Program.

To download the program manual and related materials, visit dinnerswithlove.weebly.com

Obituary

Benjamin Richard Boltz, 84, Rutland

Ben Boltz passed away peacefully on April 1, 2023 at his home in Rutland, Vermont, in the care of his spouse, Antoinette “Toni” Boltz, at the age of 84 years. A loving father of three children, and grandfather of four grandchildren, Ben was born in 1939 to Benjamin Boltz and Ruth (nee Laubach), and raised under the care and guidance of his paternal grandmother, Maud Irene Boltz. He was pre-deceased by his sister Bonnie Wetzlar of Miami, Florida, and by his half-brother Peter Boltz of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.

He attended the Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Textile School (now Thomas Jefferson University),

having grown up in the knitting mills of his grandparents, Jacob and Maud Boltz. He applied his knowledge of textiles and knitting mills to launching Becky’s Fashions, a clothing factory in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, in the 1970s.

A Shriner and Freemason, Ben felt called to service. He worked for over 30 years as an emergency medical technician (EMT) for Brandon Rescue Squad and Killington Ski Patrol. He was a realtor by trade, working for Killington Realty.

In the 1980s, he was a member of the Selectboard for the town of Brandon. Ben enjoyed spending weekends with the family at Branbury State Park on Lake

Dunmore.

In his retirement, he enjoyed spending time in Topsail, North Carolina with his wife Toni. They also enjoyed taking trips to Penn State in the fall to cheer on their Nittany Lions.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations in his memory to either Brandon Area Rescue Squad, PO Box 232, Brandon, Vermont 05733, or Penn State’s Levi Lamb Fund (Nittany Lion Club) at <https://raise.psu.edu>.

Friends and family are invited to call at 3 pm, followed by a memorial service celebrating his life, on April 15, 2023, at 04:00 pm, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 6 Church Hill Road, Rutland, Vermont 05701

Brandon Energy Committee

A template for boosting lifetime energy savings



ter yet, take advantage of the free bulbs from Efficiency Vermont (this offer expires in July). Can you buy food and other products more locally produced or with less bulky packaging? Become more educated about options you could adopt. Attend Davenport Fest and SolarFest this summer. Or a simple Google search can offer a myriad of suggestions for reducing, reusing, and recycling that will conserve energy. Or contact us and we can provide additional suggestions.

Next, take into account the “heart.” What changes do you feel you could make? Imagine which ones you would be proud to have made. Which might feel irrelevant to your life? What can you do with little effort? Perhaps start with these then move on to those that are more challenging. The idea is to set your intentions on what you can rally yourself to succeed well with.

Finally, the “hands” step means actually acting on your intentions. This requires activating one’s will to fulfill what your head and heart have envisioned as worthy of acting on.

The concept is that the starting point for saving energy (and saving money) is to reduce consumption where you can, then focus on replacing energy sources that are more cost effective and better for the environment. One key aid for the home front is to start with an energy audit such as NeighborWorks Heat Squad offers. This will identify options for improving the weather efficiency of your home as well as the cost benefits of each step they propose for your home. This is a very helpful basis for setting your priorities.

You might hold off on buying a heat pump, for example, until you determine if you can reduce your need for heating and cooling through weatherization steps.

The Brandon Energy Committee will be offering articles in the coming months to update you on the benefits of installing heat pumps, weatherizing your homes and businesses, buying electric cars, solar panels, and the like. The following is a framework to consider in deciding which of these benefits to take up and adopt at this time, as well as to recommend some key preliminary steps.

We advocate for the “head, heart, hands” model established by the Girl Scouts.

Starting with the “head,” we suggest that you evaluate objectively what you consume in the way of energy in your life. First, consider how much driving you do in a year. How much energy do you use for heating and cooling your home and/or business? How many other ways do you consume energy directly or indirectly through the goods you purchase, for example?

Second, consider what you might do to reduce some of that energy consumption. What habits might you change or adopt to reduce your driving time? Might you take up walking or biking for local trips? Might you be more attentive to combining trips or even (God forbid the culture shock of it - I get a C- on this myself) sharing rides? Can you take up locking your doors at night to just tighten up the seal on the door to save energy? Buy LED lightbulbs or, bet-

St. Mary’s Catholic Church observes Good Friday

BY VICKI DISORDA

The Ecumenical Good Friday Walk organized by St. Mary’s Church was held on April 7th for the first time in three years, since the onset of Covid. Attendees gathered just before noon in front of the Brandon United Methodist Church on the blustery and sunny day.

Father Maurice Moreau, CaP. OFM of St. Mary’s Church, kicked off the event by reading the poem “Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me.” Then the procession commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ began the quarter-mile walk down Carver Street to St. Mary’s in silence.

Each person had an opportunity



PARISHIONERS FROM ST. Mary’s Catholic Church, led by Father Maurice Moreau, observed Good Friday by walking with the cross down Carver Street to the church.

to carry the cross, which is adorned with 3 spikes that “are the exact size of the nails used to crucify Jesus,”

according to Jeannine Griffin of St. Mary’s. Her son, Mark Griffin, had researched the nails and made them for his father, Gary, who was an ordained deacon of St. Mary’s. The Ecumenical Good Friday Walk has been a tradition in Brandon for at least twenty years, Jeannine said.

The walk ended in the sanctuary of St. Mary’s. All were invited for fellowship and soup afterwards.

MADE WITH PRIDE IN Vermont USA

NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

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

(802) 483-2811 Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

FY 2024 budget bill overview

My last article addressed the work in the Commerce and Economic Development Committee, but I thought that it would be good to provide an overview of H.494 - the FY 2024 budget. The bill that passed the House was not only responsive to the most urgent needs of Vermonters, but it also addresses the future challenges with regard to our workforce, economy, infrastructure, and climate change. The budget we have delivered to the Senate demonstrates our commitment to addressing the unmet needs of all Vermonters, in all 14 counties.

Much of House Commerce's workforce and economic development omnibus bill was folded into the larger Appropriation bill, H.494 (FY 2024 budget). I am very proud of this legislation that helps both employees and employers - addressing the challenges and providing opportunities for Vermont businesses, nonprofits, and employees.

WORKFORCE:

We appropriated over \$40 million in workforce development initiatives, including student-loan forgiveness for teachers, healthcare professionals and other essential job fields; certifications and training in the trades and critical occupations; investments in adult education and literacy; and climate workforce supports, such as a coaching program for climate-business entrepreneurs and grants for small- and mid-sized agricultural producers. In addition, we allocated \$4 million to the Community College of Vermont to reduce tuition for certificates, degrees and courses that have a direct connection to Vermont business and industry needs.

HOUSING:

We appropriated \$134.5 million in housing investments, including opportunities to build affordable housing for middle-income Vermonters, housing for those currently in the ho-

tel/motel program (including supportive services for those who need them), and funding for the rehabilitation of apartments and creation of accessory dwelling units. Reports, due back to the legislature in time for action during the 2024 session, on the implementation cost of a rental registry for long- and short-term rentals, on the state's "crisis standards" for emergency housing and shelter, and on how to meaningfully reduce homelessness statewide, including increasing access to shelter and supports.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

We appropriated over \$70 million to support the childcare and early education bill, which seeks to provide quality, affordable childcare to Vermonters across the state while developing a highly skilled, equitably compensated childcare workforce. In addition, we proposed \$37 million to start a universal paid medical and family leave insurance program, providing Vermonters with up to 12 weeks of job-protected paid leave under eligible circumstances

HEALTHCARE:

We appropriated \$46 million in Medicaid rate increases to support EMS, primary care, home health, mental health care, treatment for substance use disorder, residential care homes and foster care providers. Bringing provider rates to equitable reimbursement levels also helps Vermonters have the quality care they need, when they need it most. In addition, we funded \$1.15 million into the Department of Mental Health for coordinated, statewide mental-health mobile crisis response services, \$1 million to support older Vermonters through the Meals on Wheels program, and \$1 million for the Vermont Foodbank to support Vermonters facing food insecurity. Investment in these programs and others helps move Vermonters to the

right care at the right place, shifting people away from higher costs of care.

With cross-over behind us, my committee - Commerce and Economic Development - has been receiving testimony on a number of bills that we did not have time to address earlier in the session and we are diving into Senate bills which have landed in the committee. Some of the bills that my committee is working on include the following:

H.81 The bill proposes to ensure the fair repair of agricultural equipment.

H.121 The bill proposes to afford data privacy protections to Vermonters. This bill provides enhanced protections for users' personal information and biometric data, in particular. We are looking at recent legislation passed in Connecticut, California, and Colorado to make sure we are addressing all concerns.

H.160 This bill proposes to set minimum reimbursement rates for labor related to automobile insurance claims

H.299 The bill would establish a Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission, enhancing trade, cultural exchange, and education opportunities between the two locales.

H.304 This bill proposes to regulate the use of aftermarket parts in automobile repairs covered by insurance.

H.434 This is a bill to create an Office of Film and Creative Media

S.48 This bill is an act to regulate the transport and sale of catalytic converters

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding your concerns on flavored tobacco, telecommunications, affordable heat act, labor issues, and more. I can be reached at sjerome@leg.state.vt.us or 802-683-8209.

Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
Brandon

"To the World You Were a Mother but to Us You Were the World"

The family of Grace de Lancey Bird of Forest Dale would like to express our deepest gratitude to our many dear friends and acquaintances for the outpouring of sympathy, memorial donations, cards, flowers, and food that we received following her recent passing. Your love, kind words, and emotional support helped to ease our sorrow during this difficult time.

Shelley & Sonny Poremski
Judy Mott & Chris Burt
Steve & Nancy Bird
Jennifer & Chuck Munger
Chris & Cathy Bird
Lori & Larry Mohan



The golf course is OPEN!

Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Log on to neshobe.com or call 802-247-3611 to make a tee time.

Members can book up to 10 days in advance, non-members 4 days in advance.

Carts were not out on Monday 4/10 but should be soon. Call the pro shop for updates.



LONG IRON RESTAURANT
Wed, Thur, Fri 11:30-8
Sat 11-4
Sun 10-2 Brunch

Simulator hours:

Wed-Fri 10-8, Sat 10-4, Sun 10-2

Price

\$34/hour except Wed-Fri 10-4 is \$25/hr

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

ADVERTISE

SALES@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

WITH US

Pittsford Village Farm

(Continued from Page 1)

the house itself.

“Pittsford is aspiring to be as much of a community as it can possibly be,” said Lorrie Byrom, Chair of PVF’s Board of Directors. Halfway between Rutland and Brandon, Pittsford is a smaller community that currently lacks many of the amenities of its larger neighbors. The fledgling nonprofit worked with the Vermont Council on Rural Development to hold open meetings where Pittsford residents could voice their opinions as to what the town needed and what should be done with the historic property.

“A few things became clear right away,” said Byrom. “People wanted a community center. They wanted to preserve the agricultural heritage of the farm. And they wanted some kind of retail center.”

This all took place before the pandemic, and the initial estimated costs of the project—the house needs a complete, historically-

sensitive overhaul—have since doubled and are currently over \$2 million. At that level, federal assistance becomes necessary.

And so PVF worked with a grant writer to secure funding through Senator Sanders’s office and through the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), a federal-state partnership that aims to spark economic and community development in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and upstate New York. So far, PVF has received \$400K from the National Park Service (through Sanders’s office) and \$382K from NBRC.

“We learned that in order to be attractive for federal money,” said Byrom, “you have to understand the federal government’s needs.”

What the federal agencies wanted for the Pittsford area was childcare and affordable housing, hence PVF’s commitment to provide both. “None of which we mind doing,” added Byrom, noting



THE SWEEPING VIEW behind the main house. A great place to sit and enjoy the vista. The property slopes down to connect with Pittsford’s system of walking trails.

that both are needed and fit in with PVF’s mission to be a community resource.

Other amenities PVF plans to offer are a 50-seat community hall and a 16-seat café that will be run by a local resident with experience managing commercial kitchens.

“I was here sledding with my kids this winter,” said Samantha Stone, PVF’s Communications Director, “and it would’ve been really nice to have some hot chocolate and sit someplace warm inside. Since J.R.’s closed, there really isn’t a place where people can just gather and sit.”

PVF is also forming a community garden, which may initially seem strange in an area where people generally have their own yards but makes sense when Byrom and Stone explain that the purpose is to foster interactions among community members who partake. In fact, at 6 p.m. on April 27th, PVF will be

hosting its first “Garden Gathering” of the 2023 season, a talk on dividing and transplanting perennials with Judy Hall. Other garden talks are scheduled through September.

Also on the calendar for the summer are free “Tunesday” Tuesday outdoor concerts. The first will be Laura Cwass at 6 p.m. on June 20. Other concerts are scheduled through August.

See PVF’s website (pittsfordvillagefarm.org) for a complete list of events.

“Many of our events are collaborative,” said Byrom, noting an afterschool birding program that will be offered in conjunction with the Audubon Society, VINS Nature Center, and the Maclure Library. “Pittsford Rec is very involved as well.”

Stained-glass artist Hallie Monroe maintains her Twin Elms studio at PVF as well.

The Town of Pittsford has tra-

ditionally been very careful with its budget and early fears that PVF might strain town resources were allayed by the farm’s ability to secure outside funding.

“We were controversial at the beginning,” said Byrom, “but someone on the Selectboard came to an event and support grew from there. [Selectboard member] Joe Gagnon has provided lumber at a discounted rate. We’re hoping to get some ARPA funding as well.”

Byrom also noted that PVF has made an effort to reach out to different parts of the Pittsford community: “Part of our visibility has been building a board of directors with people of different backgrounds here in town.” The Board currently has 7 voting members, with the Morgans as non-voting honorary members.

When we wrapped up our conversation, Stone took me on a short tour of the property. The views from the field behind the house and barn were lovely: the land sloped town to a valley between Route 7 and West Creek Road, flooded with snowmelt at this time of year.

“We’re tied into the system of trails throughout Pittsford,” said Stone. “We’d love more people to come take advantage of our outdoor space.”

There were also benches where you can simply sit and take in the view.

Building a viable, vibrant nonprofit from scratch is a tough task, but Byrom, Stone, and the rest of the PVF team have approached it with purpose, seriousness, and a commitment to the town of Pittsford. Even at this stage, with many of the construction projects on hold pending funding, PVF is already a huge asset to the Pittsford community.

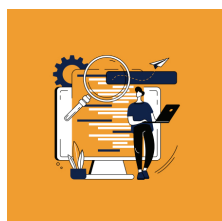
INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

DIGITAL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD

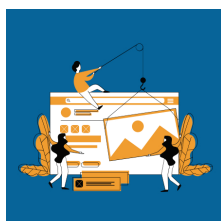
Here at the *Addy Indy* we have always seen it as our job to help connect your business with its clients.

As times change and technology evolves, pairing digital services with your print advertising campaigns is the best way to quickly & efficiently connect with the community.

Independent Digital Marketing can help you better reach our region with:



ONLINE ADVERTISING



DIGITAL DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT



WEB DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT US TODAY TO GET STARTED!

802-388-4944

digital@addisonindependent.com

addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing



A 44-Year Middlebury Tradition of Trusted & Caring Dental Excellence!

\$0 Cleanings!

For most insured patients. Call for details.

Further Heightened Sterilization Standards



Middlebury DENTAL GROUP

1330 Exchange Street, Suite 107
• Middlebury •

802-388-3553

MiddleburyDentalVT.com

Welcome Before & After Work or School!

Sports

Otters drop season baseball opener

BY FREDERICK POCKETTE

BRANDON—Behind an RBI single by Ben Adams, and a stellar pitching performance by Jordan Beayon, the Otter Valley Otters varsity baseball team lead the Bellows Falls Terriers 1-0 going into the bottom of the seventh inning of their season opener this past Saturday at Bellows Falls.

The bottom of the seventh started out just as great as the rest of the game when Beayon recorded his 12th and 13th strikeouts of the day on the first two hitters. The Otters needed just one more out to secure the season opening win, but it wouldn't come. Otter Valley committed a crucial error on the next play, and the Terriers capitalized on the extra life. The very next batter walked, and then a stolen base and passed ball put the tying run at third and the winning run at second. What happened next is heartbreaking.

Tom Fletcher sent a fly ball to right field that was carried by the wind away from the Otter defenders, and it fell to the ground as a game-winning double.

Jamison Nystrom pitched a great game for the hometown Terriers as well. He went six innings, giving up just four hits and one earned run, while striking out nine. Beayon was masterful for the Otters. Beayon went 6 2/3, striking out 13 while giving up just two hits, and no earned runs.

While the results are not what OV had hoped for, they have to be excited about the pitching they got. Offensively, the Otters were led by Adams' RBI single, along with Beayon and Matt Bryant, who were each one for three with a walk and a double. Andy McEnerney added a hit in three plate appearances.



OTTER VALLEY'S SOFTBALL team enjoyed a great first scrimmage against Proctor at home. The team has an experienced coach and some very talented players. If they keep this dynamic going all season, 2023 will be a banner year for them.

Photo provided

OV softball triumphs in Proctor scrimmage

BY HUCK FINN,
(our pseudonymous sports reporter)

BRANDON—Otter Valley varsity softball dusts off the cobwebs for their first scrimmage of the season against Proctor High School. The familiar sound of high energy softball cheers ring from the dugout.

In typical VT April spring weather

in fashion, raindrops came and went several times during the scrimmage. Starting in the circle pitching was Mackenzie McKay and behind the plate, reliable Grace O'Connell. The Proctor batters go down in order with a long fly ball caught in center field by Ryleigh Laporte, followed by 2 strikeouts.

Leading off for the Otters with a single was #4 McKay who stole 2nd base on a passed ball. Ryleigh Laporte walked and then promptly stole second on a passed ball at the plate. The number 3 batter, #6 Sydney Gallo, hit a stand-up double to center field, scoring McKay and Laporte. (See OV softball triumphs, Page 21)

SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023
check in is at 7:00 a.m.

Shotgun style tournament 8:00 a.m.
Banquet dinner post round
50/50 raffle
Prizes

**To register your team,
sponsor a hole**

**4 person groups—\$100/person
Sponsor a hole—\$250**

At the Neshobe Golf Course,
224 Town Farm Rd., Brandon, VT 05733

**FIRST ANNUAL
RAY MIRO**

**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Register by contacting: Stacey S Coburn (802) 282-9261
ottervalleywrestlingalumni@gmail.com
richkepner@aol.com (518) 209-6955



OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTISTS: Brooks Markowski, Aidan Heredia,
Emmett Satz, and Calleigh Herrick

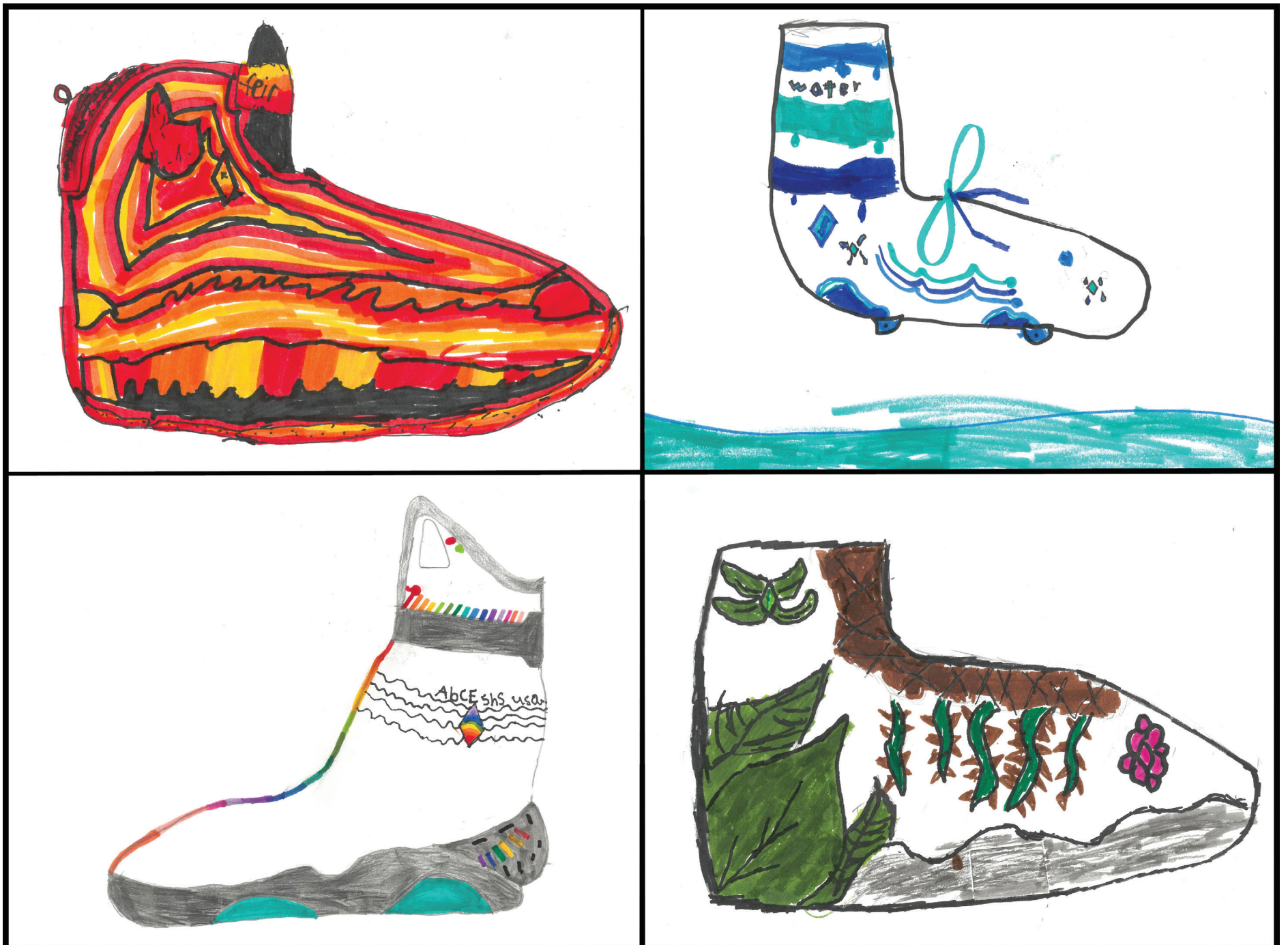
GRADE: 4th

SCHOOL: Neshobe

TITLE: Elemental Shoes

MEDIUM: Markers and pencil on paper

TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM BROOKS, AIDAN, EMMETT, AND CALLEIGH:

The project we designed is a set of four different shoes that give the wearer different abilities based on the elements represented on the shoe. Aidan designed an earth element shoe that can plant plants when you walk. Emmett designed a shoe based on the air element that allows you to walk on air and even fly by pressing the hidden smiley face button. Brooks designed a shoe based on the fire element that can

walk on fire and is fireproof. Finally, Calleigh designed a shoe based on the water element that allows the person who wears it to walk on water and move water.

JOHN BRODOWSKI'S STATEMENT:

This project came out of a collaboration between Art and Library classes. During Library class students read and discussed a book called "Someone Builds the Dream" by Lisa Wheeler and Loren Long. The book is one of this year's Red Clover Book Award nominees. It is about

how the people who imagine things like new buildings, parks, and products have to work in cooperation with all the people it takes to actually build those ideas - like carpenters, engineers, electricians, and so many other skilled people. During Art class students were challenged to design a new building, space, or product and then consider who they might have to work with to actually get it built.



ANDREW KENYON AND Pajua Gamba, as Mr. Christopher and Emily Book, in a dance scene. Emily possesses powers that compelled Mr. Christopher, her biology teacher, to break into a dance routine in class.



THE CAST AND crew of Walking Stick's production of "The Sparrow." Back row (l to r): Jeff Hull (teacher), Hayden Fisher, Katelyn Lee, Eliza Norford, Adia Polli, Jazmin Rivera, Alyssa Raymond, Chloe Mol, Danika Polli, Luke Calvin, Pajua Gamba, Raul Soto, Jaden Grace, Andrew Kenyon, Jordan Bertrand, Ian Miner. Front row (l to r): Colleen Unzelman, Milo Piovano, Cade Landsman, Cebelle Hull, Morgan White, Elyse Singh, Lily Morgan. Not pictured: Dillon Ladd, Calvin Ladd, Sophie Moore, Kaylee Maloy, Chloe Derepentigny

'The Sparrow'

(Continued from Page 1)

New England Drama Festival in Maine at the end of the month, the spirit among the various troupes at OV this weekend was clearly one of support rather than rivalry. Everyone was there to have fun and put on the best show possible.

OV's Walking Stick Theater, led by theater-arts teacher Jeff Hull, chose the "The Sparrow" for its Saturday evening slot. The play was written with two acts in 2007 by Nathan Allen, Chris Matthews, and Jake Minton and was condensed into one act by Walking Stick for the festival.

The story centers on Emily Book, the sole survivor of a bus accident that killed the rest of her second-grade class. Emily is sent away to another school for several years but returns to her hometown—Spring Farm, Illinois—for her senior year of high school. Since she has no living family, she's taken in by the McGuckins, who lost a daughter in the crash and seem to view Emily as a surrogate for their lost child. It's clear that the town has not processed its grief and that Emily's presence is stirring up difficult emotions. It's also clear that Emily herself has been concealing the truth of what happened that day on the bus.

Through Mr. Christopher, a popular biology teacher whose wife died driving the ill-fated bus, Emily befriends Jenny McGrath, a cheerleader who gets herself into a dangerous situation during a basketball game, hanging from a banner high above the court, out

of reach of any available ladder. She's saved by Emily, who literally flies to the rescue, revealing herself to have supernatural abilities that are triggered by her emotional state. For example, her attraction to Mr. Christopher had caused her to make him dance with her during class. She'd also frozen her classmates during a particularly aggressive game of dodgeball that had made her feel unsafe.

As word of Emily's powers circulates, people begin to speculate that perhaps she had played a role in the bus accident that killed everyone but her. Jenny asks Emily in front of the biology class whether she killed the second graders. Emily gives her answer by running away. By the time she gets home,

word has spread. Joyce McGuckin, Emily's host mother, finally asks Emily directly if she had caused the accident. Emily confesses but insists she hadn't intended to force the bus into the path of an oncoming train.

Meanwhile, Jenny confesses her attraction to Mr. Christopher in an empty classroom and they kiss, sending Mr. Christopher into spiraling guilt for having crossed a line with a student.

Mr. Christopher and Emily encounter each other at the town train depot, where both are seeking to flee Spring Farm. Mr. Christopher is now aware of Emily's role in the death of his wife and encourages her to leave town, even offering her his own train ticket.

At that moment, however, the town descends upon the depot, a

mob fueled with anger toward Emily. Jenny arrives with a handgun and sees Mr. Christopher protecting Emily. Raging with jealousy, she ends up shooting Mr. Christopher. Emily uses her powers to bring him back to life. Somehow, this one act of resurrection—the saving of this one life in a place where so many young lives had been lost—unlocks the grief that had frozen the town ever since the accident. As Emily slips off to Chicago, the townspeople are finally able to expunge their sorrow and recapture some of the joy of life.

As Emily, Pajua Gamba seemed aged beyond her years, a smart girl burdened by the weight of a tragic secret and confused by powers she can't fully control. She had the gravitas to keep the production rooted and the audience intrigued. And in the lighter moments, many of them with Mr. Christopher, she was able to show that Emily, even after all she's been through, is still just a child.

Mr. Christopher was played with great charm by Andrew Kenyon. The role called for broad-strokes humor at first, and Kenyon kept the audience laughing. His free-wheeling dance number with Emily was a comedic highlight of the show. But he reined himself in for the darker, more serious moments, where the depth of Mr. Christopher's loss became clear and he had to recite lines like "You are all paying for someone else's mistake."

Other standouts were Kaylee Maloy as Jenny McGrath, a girl with a darker streak than anyone would've guessed, and Lily Mor-

gan as Joyce McGuckin, a mother who can't let go of her sorrow. Ms. Morgan managed to convey the agony of loss without veering into melodrama.

The rest of the cast was right on point as well, absolutely creating the atmosphere of a town and school that had never healed. There were some very physical scenes that could've devolved into chaos, but the cast kept themselves disciplined and kept the audience in the zone. The dance numbers were nicely choreographed and executed as well.

Visually, the production was wildly inventive. Characters held framed photos of houses to represent the homes in the village and framed photos of children to represent the victims of the accident. Characters periodically stood in front of rear-projected videos that depicted memories and internal emotional states. The videos were credited in the program to Andrew Kenyon (who played Mr. Christopher). Jeff Hull, OV's theater-arts teacher, put together an impressive production and coaxed terrific, tight performances from his cast.

"Otter Valley did great. Really," said Harry McEnery, one of the "adjudicators" of the festival and a Brandon resident who recently retired as Chair of the Theater Department at Castleton. "Nine schools brought shows, and they were all high quality."

Ultimately, OV is not one of the two schools that will attend the New England Drama Festival, but the Walking Stick program should be very proud of itself and its effort in the Vermont event.



KAYLEE MALOY AS Jenny McGrath, at a painful moment of grief in Walking Stick's "The Sparrow."

Calendar of events

April

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2–5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Wednesdays

Ping Pong



The Brandon Museum hosts Artifact Roadshow with Castleton University Archeology Department April 27

Have you ever found an artifact in your garden and wondered how old it is? Do you have objects that date to the early history of Brandon? If so, bring them to the Artifact Roadshow provided by Castleton University Archaeology from 6:00–8:00 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall. While there will not be financial appraisals, Castleton archaeologists Matthew and Ellen Moriarty and their students will help

identify your artifacts and determine their age and function. If you have no artifacts, come anyway to see this unique event. Information from the roadshow will become part of a local project documenting the history of Castleton and surrounding areas. Time permitting, they will also take photos and create 3D models of the artifacts.



The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

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

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

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

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, call club representative Ronald Lewis at 802-247-5913, or visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

Free math tutoring is available in downtown Brandon on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4 p.m. at Fellowship Hall — the smaller brick building next to the Brandon Congregational Church.

Larry Rowe is offering help to any Otter Valley students who have questions or difficulties with mathematics or would like help with their math homework. Rev. Sara Rossigg will be in her office — 20 feet away from the worktable — during these sessions to ensure everyone feels comfortable and is safe.

Call 802-236-9130 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goings on around town

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12–1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together, Must pre-register, There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

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

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

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

Come join us weekly to share projects from noon – 2:00 p.m.

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

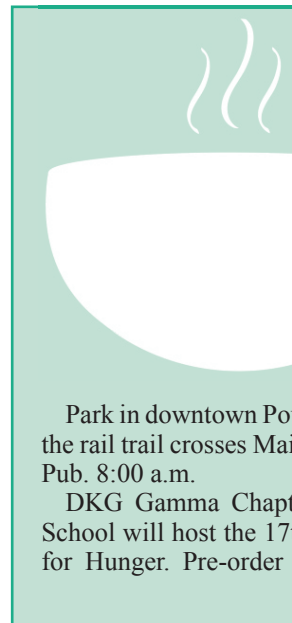
\$5 donation suggested.

Thursday 13th

The 2023 International Fly Fishing Film Festival is coming to Middlebury

The screening, at the Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St., will showcase fly fishing films from all corners of the globe. The films begin at 7:30 with the theater doors opening at 7 p.m.

The event is hosted by Green Mountain Adventures, 108 Vermont Route 100, West Dover. Tickets will be



available at the theater door on the day of the showing. General admission tickets are \$15 or \$40 with a subscription to Fly Fusion Magazine.

For information about this screening along with advance tickets, contact the host at hallerj@orvis.com. Event attendees can win fly fishing-related prizes and

Soup Bowls 2023—Thursday, April 13

tickets and choose the window of time you want to pick up your soup and bowl.

DKG Gamma Chapter and Rutland High School will host the 17th annual Soup Bowls for Hunger Thursday, April 13, from 4-7pm at Rutland High School. Order online starting March 13 drive-thru pickup on April 13.

Go to www.soupbowlsrutland.org to pre-order your soup and raffle tickets and choose the window of time you want to pick up your soup and bowl. You can also make a donation. All proceeds go to local food shelves. Questions? Email knawnfahey@gmail.com

Thank you for your support for food shelves.

ultney and meet where
in St near the Poultney

er and Rutland High
th annual Soup Bowls
your soup and raffle

awards from Film Festival sponsors. One person will be selected winner of the 2023 Grand Prize valued at thousands of dollars of merchandise.

For information about the film festival, contact info@flyfilmfest.com.

Saturday 15th

Concert: The Beauty We Love at the UU Church of Rutland

Grammy Award-winning cellist Eugen Friesen and singer/songwriter Elizabeth Rogers present an evening of creative music.

"The Beauty We Love" will be an intimate evening from 7:30-9:30 p.m. concert featuring:

Eugene Friesen, a graduate of the Yale School of Music, has toured the world as a soloist and as a member of the Paul Winter Consort with whom he's recorded over 20 CDs, four of which won Grammy Awards. He is a trailblazer on the cello, his innovative improvisational style and original techniques – and twenty years teaching at the Berklee College of Music in Boston - have influenced generations of players. Friesen's

program, including sounds and ideas drawn from travels on six continents, features a diverse repertoire that includes his original music, J.S. Bach, electronics, natural soundscapes, and the poetry of Rumi to paint a portrait of a world united in hope.

Elizabeth Rogers sings stories of the large and small themes that run through a human life. Her voice – which has been compared to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell – has a delicacy, clarity, and purity that perfectly underscores her insightful lyrics.

\$20. 117 West Street Rutland.

Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a concert with New England's acclaimed folk/roots quartet Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem feature 4-part vocal harmonies, indelible songs, fiddle, acoustic and electric guitars, bass, and a homemade percussion kit of cardboard boxes, tin cans, caulk tubes, packing-tape tambourines, bottle-cap rattles, Mongolian jaw harps, and a vinyl suitcase. Over the past 20 years, the

quartet has toured its uplifting, healing performances to concert halls, festivals, and residency engagements across North America, and has released seven CDs on Signature Sounds. From the Newport Folk Festival to California World Music Festival and beyond, this band's steadfast brew of wit, camaraderie, and musicality leaves audiences everywhere humming and hopeful, spirits renewed.

In the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of American roots music, Rani, Andrew Kinsey, Anand Nayak, and Scott Kessel have always been standard-bearers, with a particular knack for pairing words and music. From bluegrass barnstormers to sultry swing, old-time gospel to bluesy folk-rock, they consistently turn in lush arrangements of original songs alongside artful re-workings of a melange of music.

7:30-9:30 p.m. at Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$22.00-\$25.00.

Bomoseen State Park Bird Walk

We will meet in the state park parking area. 8:00 am. We should see waterfowl, bald eagles and the first birds of spring. This will be an easy 3 mile bird walk open to all. All are welcome! Contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more info.

Breanna Elaine release party

Brandon-based singer/songwriter Breanna Elaine will host a music video release party and local artist showcase April 15, at Sister Wicked, 7 p.m. Celebrating her new song "One Another" about interconnectedness, Breanna is bringing her own style of folk rock to the screen with her second music video (search for her on YouTube). Afterwards, local artists, musicians and dancers will showcase their art. "I wanted to give others a chance to connect with one another and the audience," she said. Come join the multimedia fun!

2023 Spring Craft Fair at The Marble Museum, Come check out the offerings at 53 Main Street in Proctor. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday 17th

Learn about organic gardening and biofertilizers

Join us at 7 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center for this presentation. Jim Corven is a retired professor of sustainable agriculture and has a lifelong involvement with organic/sustainable agriculture and conservation. He volunteers in the Farmer to Farmer program, which supports international organic agriculture. Last year he worked in Jamaica, Mozambique, and in Peru, previous year in Ecuador, Peru, and Honduras. He now lives at Fenn Farmstead & Gardens in Mt. Holly. Jim will talk about organic gardening, biofertilizers (bioles) and the Farmer to Farmer Program.

Free event.
1 Deer St, Rutland, VT

Thursday 20th

Castleton University Center for Social Justice and Trauma Informed Care Panel

The Castleton University Center for Social Justice and Trauma Informed Care, with funding from the Bowse Health Trust Fund and the Castleton Lecture Fund, is hosting an art banner display and panel presentation for Sexual Assault Awareness month - "Against My Will" by Traci Molloy.

The banners will be on display on Castleton University campus until May 5th. There will also be a panel discussion "Against My Will: Cultivating Empathy around Sexual Violence" on April 20 at 12:15 p.m. in the 1787

room of the Campus Center.

According to an Association of American Colleges Survey (2020), 1 in 4 college aged women will be the victims of attempted or completed rape. "Against My Will" is a public installation featuring 20 double-sided banners created in partnership with individuals that have experienced trauma due to sexual assault. The images were made in collaboration with Brooklyn, NY based artist Traci Molloy, 10 former students from Alfred University, and 10



Earth Day Audubon marsh walk – April 22

Rutland County Audubon will hold a special Earth Day walk around the West Rutland Marsh including a scavenger hunt and snacks at the halfway point.

Meet at 8 am at the parking area near the boardwalk

kiosk on Marble Street. Go halfway (about 2 miles) or all the way (4 miles) with us. Questions or info: 802-287-9338. Young attendees should be accompanied by an adult.

former students or staff from University of Maine. All are welcome and admission is free. Contact Linda Olson, Director of the Center for Social Justice and Trauma Informed Care at 802-353-1965 with questions related to the event.

View Online: <http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/Castleton-University-Center-for-Social-Justice-and-Trauma-Informed-Care-Panel/35011>

Saturday 22nd

Sarah King at Brandon Town Hall

Ripton-based Americana singer/songwriter Sarah King presents a solo listening-room performance on Saturday, April 22, 7 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall. Saturday's solo performance will blend her poignant songs with humor and background stories not always shared on larger stages. Known for her powerhouse voice and "fiery, vulnerable songs," Sarah King creates thought-provoking, versatile Americana music. Her genuine stories about real-life emotions and situations also draw on classic folk-blues themes, balancing songs about the devil and booze with hard-won moments of reflection and acceptance.

Ray Miro

(Continued from Page 1)
 very humbling. You are out there by yourself. It teaches you how to compose yourself. There are no excuses in wrestling, only the opportunity to get better. Athletics teaches you how to deal with failure.”

He attributes his successes to great coaching. “You’re going to be okay no matter what the result” was the guiding thought he took away from his time as an athlete. “You owe it to your opponent to shake hands and say ‘good job’ regardless of the result.”

A few of his former wrestlers, including Rich Kepner and Chuck Charbarneau, have gotten together to form an OV wrestling alumni group. They are planning to start a scholarship in Ray Miro’s name and to raise money through a golf tournament at Neshobe on May 5th. Miro comments jokingly, “I’m glad it’s not a memorial event or to raise bail money!”

At Otter Valley, starting as a club sport for 1 year in 1977 and becoming a varsity sport the following year, the program rapidly developed into a state powerhouse. With seven league titles, he coached the team to a state championship in 1986. He also had several wrestlers win individual state championships and place in the New England tournament. In 1986 and 1987, Sue and Arden Hayden’s son, William Santiago, won the New England

championship in the 138- and 145-pound weight classes under Ray’s astute coaching.

Miro was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2013 for Lifetime Service to Wrestling after coaching at Otter Valley for 10 years and Mt. Greylock HS in Massachusetts for 25 years. In typical self-deprecating fashion, he says, “It’s better to be inducted than indicted.” His Mt. Greylock teams won 17 league titles and 8 sectional titles while he coached. He amassed 652 career wins. Miro is pleased his teams were known for good sportsmanship and a friendly rapport with their competitors.

Ray grew up in Brentwood, Long Island in New York State, where he was a 3-sport athlete in football, wrestling, and track. He followed that with a junior-college stint at SUNY Farmingdale where he was an All-American. He transferred to the University of Rhode Island, where he set the school record for falls, won a Yankee Conference title, and was runner-up in the collegiate New Englands.

Ray remembers, “When I first came to Otter Valley, I was going to change the world.” OV teachers Bob Ripley and John Brutkowski let him know that he may not do that but he was going to make a difference. Otter Valley student athletes now have the opportunity to get coached by a Hall of Fame coach!



HILARY COLLIER AND Bill Moore treated the Brandon Idol audience to a tender duet of “(I’ve Had) The Time of My Life” from the soundtrack of “Dirty Dancing.”
 Photo by Kevin White

Brandon Idol

(Continued from Page 3)
 with “Memory” from the Broadway show Cats, which made its debut in 1981. A haunting tune about faded beauty, Diamondis imbued it with all the sensitive pathos it required, all while decked out in a sparkly gold dress and cherry-red wig, looking a bit like a fabulous cross between Stevie Nicks and Nina Hagen (obscure 80s musical reference...Google her).

Then came Shannon Wright. Like a tornado tearing through Town Hall, Wright belted out the gloriously cheesy “Never Gonna Give You Up” by Rick Astley, from 1987. Wright had on his sunglasses at night as he bumped and grinded his way through the iconic song. The tune was inescapable back in

the day and, thanks to the invention of Rickrolling on the interwebs, it still is. Clearly, Brandon will never give Shannon up, because he won Fan Favorite with his baritone rendition.

Peggy Sue Rozell rounded out the evening’s competitive songs with “Self Control” by Laura Branigan, from 1984. Rozell brought her young daughter up on stage with her to cheer her up after a difficult day. And true to the song’s title, Rozell gave a controlled performance that was quite reminiscent of Branigan’s cool, detached delivery. The only one who wasn’t impressed was Rozell’s daughter, who shrugged and said “it’s ok” when Moore asked what she thought of the song.

After the competitors had all

had their turn on stage, Moore welcomed Hilary Strasburger Collier for a crowd-pleasing duet: “(I’ve Had) The Time of My Life” by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes, from the 1987 film “Dirty Dancing.” Echoes of 80s weddings and bar mitzvahs filled the hall as Collier and Moore expertly intertwined their voices. Moore in his tracksuit and Collier in her denim jacket and miniskirt (and leggings, for extra authenticity) were an 80s act that never was but should’ve been.

No 80s theme night would be complete without at least one melodramatic song by Journey, and so the entire field came back to the stage for a rousing rendition of “Don’t Stop Believin’”. The entire evening was a train going anywhere and we were all willing passengers. Well done, Idol. Well done. See you next month!

Restaurant *guide*

Robert's
Café Provence
 From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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

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

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

Franklin's
 FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

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

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

25 North Street, Proctor 802-459-3320

MAE'S PLACE

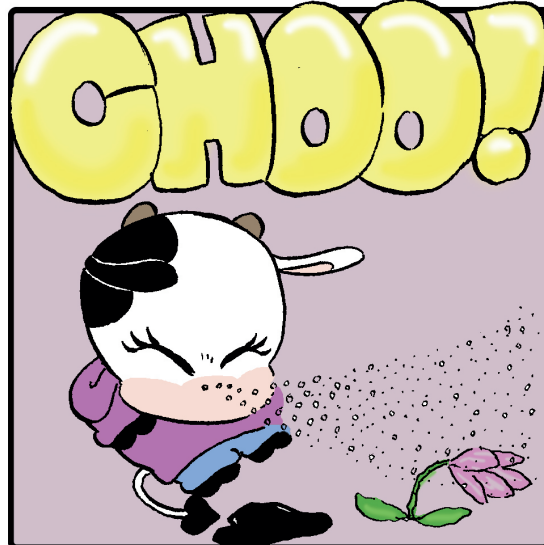
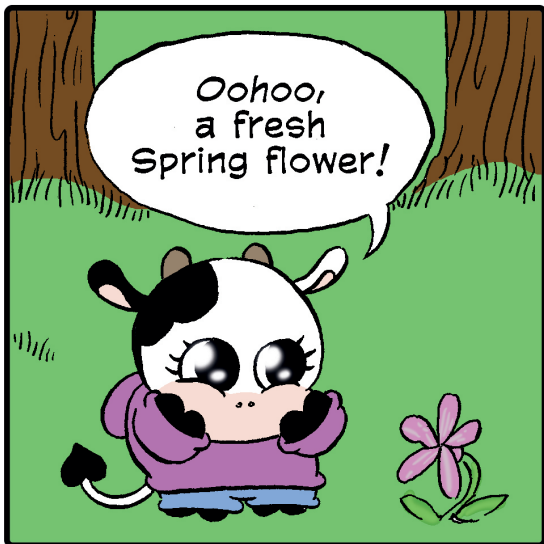
Simply AHH-MAE-ZING
 Your hometown diner

To-go orders and daily specials
 Open daily from 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for breakfast & lunch
 ESTABLISHED IN 2014

10 Park St. Brandon, VT
 802.465.8010

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

Maple the Cow by Matt Cucoin



It's National Poetry Month!

"Come with me into the woods where spring is advancing, as it does, no matter what, not being singular or particular, but one of the forever gifts, and certainly visible."
- Mary Oliver, *Dog Songs: Poems*

Find a new friend, or revisit an old one:
Ruth Stone, Major Jackson, Mary Oliver, Robert Frost, Bianca Stone, Billy Collins, B. Amore, Jim Samler, Rita Dove, T. S. Eliot, Natalie Diaz, Jack Mayer, Fran Bull, Gary Margolis, Martin Espada, Cheryl Savageau, Derek Marshall, Joy Harjo, William Shakespeare, Lucille Clifton, Seamus Heaney, Rupi Kaur, Joseph Bruchac, Natasha Trethewey, Ocean Vuong, Maggie Smith, Jericho Brown, Emily Dickinson, Amanda Gorman

THE BOOKSTORE
BRANDON, VERMONT

REAL ESTATE

Views in All Directions



BRANDON: Mt. Pleasant Building Lots
Plan for tomorrow by securing your future home site now. 15 lots ready for your new 'energy efficient' home. 3/4 to 1 A± with all utilities & enjoying gorgeous mountain & pastoral views. Located in the quaint village of Brandon with art galleries, shops, shopping & professional services. Convenient to Middlebury & Rutland & 45 min. +/- to Killington, Pico & Middlebury Snow Bowl. Ski, hike, bike & enjoy nearby lakes. Owner/Broker/Developer. Prices starting at **\$55,000**. Top view, 7/7/2022. Middle view, Bottom view, 3/24/2023.



WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

LOOKING TO BUILD?



Sudbury is a town of quiet beauty, rolling fields, and quintessential country roads. This 1.75 acre property sits on one of these special roads - Willowbrook Road! A lightly used State boat access to Otter Creek is close by. Just a quarter mile to Route 73 to access Brandon and Middlebury in minutes. **\$49,000**

Convenient location on Route 7 for this 1.5 acre building lot. Just north of the Town of Pittsford, so close to necessities and an easy commute to Brandon, Middlebury, or Rutland. Zoned for commercial use — all options are on the table. **\$42,500**



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



Brandon Library cuts ribbon on temp space

THE LIBRARY BOARD, staff, and volunteers celebrated the opening of its temporary home in the Town Hall. It will occupy the basement meeting room while its historic building on Park Street is under renovation.

Photos by George Fjeld





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



Joan Rowe recognized the people in this photo which was taken when this group started a Rec Committee. From l to r: Ed Olsen, Jeanne Tardif, Pat Cotroneo, Joan Rowe, & John Moulton.

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Atomic mass unit
4. Criticize mightily
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. Stand in for
11. Everyone has one
12. Brew
13. Rectify
15. Popular Dodge truck model
16. Beef or chicken intestine
19. Satisfy
21. Of a particular people or localized region
23. Movements in quick tempos
24. Able to pay one's debts
25. Fleshy bird beak covering
26. Dueling sword
27. Helps
30. Court is in it
34. Touch lightly
35. Airborne (abbr.)
36. Of one
41. Baked good
45. Jai ___, sport
46. About aviation
47. Low oval mound
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. Compel to do something
55. A way to carve
56. Sao ___, city in Brazil
57. Mustachioed actor Elliott
59. American Idol runner-up Clay
60. A way to soak
61. Car mechanics group
62. Born of
63. Time zone
64. Sea eagle
65. Even's opposite

CLUES DOWN

1. Sharp mountain ridge
2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
3. Provides new details
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Ottoman military title
6. Banes
7. Horse-riding seats
8. Arms of a shirt
9. Narrow path along a road edge
13. Viper
14. Disfigure
17. Variety of Chinese language
18. Portray in a show
20. Wrongful act
22. No (slang)
27. State of agitation
28. ___ Diego
29. One point east of due south
31. 007's creator
32. The NBA's Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Examples
38. ___ Gould, actor
39. The habitat of wild animals
40. Artful subtlety
41. Infielders
42. Keep under control
43. Herb
44. Distressed
47. A way to go down
48. Type of acid
49. Take by force
51. Collected fallen leaves
52. Shout of welcome or farewell
53. Monetary unit
58. Swiss river

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

SPONSOR THE RCHS AD FOR \$275 A MONTH CONTACT GEORGE@BRANDONREPORTER.COM OR CALL 802 236-4662

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

Spring Cleaning? The animals at RCHS love old bedding!

Now that the weather is (hopefully!) getting nicer, many people clean out closets and do some Spring cleaning. If you find old bedding or towels, please think about bringing them to the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS). They make great bedding for the animals and keep them cozy and comfortable while they're here. The animals especially love blankets, quilts, fleece and towels. Please no fitted sheets. Thanks for your continued support and for thinking of the animals! If you have any questions, please contact the Shelter at 802.483.6700.

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



MEET SASHA - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. GERMAN SHEPHERD. BLACK/TAN.

Sasha is a large Shepherd, and although she may look full-grown, she is still a puppy at heart. She is currently in foster to work on her socialization along with her manners. Some things we have learned about her are that she loves toys! She will play with her humans or by herself, but either way, she is happy. She isn't great with other dogs and can be very forward and rude, so she would do best as the only child.

MEET GLENDA - 4-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. TORTI.

If you are looking for an energetic ball of energy, please consider checking out our kittens. They are goofy and playful and ready to keep you entertained. They have all been spayed/neutered, and have received their age-appropriate vaccines. It will be important to get them into your vet shortly after adoption to ensure they stay up to date on their vaccines. They are all using the litter box well at the shelter. They play with toys and their friends' tails! They enjoy being handled and are anxious to find their forever homes.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



**ADOPTION CENTER OPEN
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Here are some recently added titles

Born Extraordinary: Empowering Children with Differences and Disabilities by Meg Zucker (non-fiction)

Born Extraordinary helps parents of children with differences and disabilities to relinquish their instinctive anxieties and ultimately find joy in watching their children thrive. Zucker and her sons, all born with a genetic condition called ectrodactyly, have learned to ignore bullying and unwanted attention and to live fearlessly. Incorporating the stories of other families with visible and invisible differences of all kinds, Born Extraordinary gives parents the tools to meet their children's emotional needs while supporting the whole family unit. Parents learn how best to empower their children to confront others' assumptions, grow in confidence, and encourage dialogue—rather than silence, fear, and shame—around difference.

In Memoriam by Alice Winn

In 1914, World War I ceaselessly churns through thousands of young men. Ensnared in their idyllic boarding school in the English countryside, Henry Gaunt, Sidney Ellwood, and the rest of their classmates feel safe, as news of the heroic deaths of their

friends only makes the war more exciting. Gaunt, half German, is busy fighting his own battle—an all-consuming infatuation with his best friend Ellwood—without a clue that Ellwood pines for him in return. When Gaunt's family asks him to enlist to forestall the anti-German sentiment they face, Gaunt leaves immediately, relieved to escape his feelings for Ellwood. To Gaunt's horror, Ellwood rushes to join him at the front, and the rest of their classmates soon follow. Now death surrounds them all and no one knows who will be next.

Künstlers in Paradise by Cathleen Schine

When 93-year-old Mamie Künstler's grandson comes to stay with her while seeking his fortune in Hollywood, the two become stuck together as the pandemic begins in 2020. Mamie was only eleven when the Künstlers escaped Vienna in 1939 and made their way to Los Angeles, where they joined a colony of distinguished Jewish musicians, writers, and intellectuals also escaping Hitler. Now, faced with months of lockdown and a willing listener, Mamie begins to tell Julian the buried stories of her early years in Los Angeles: her escapades with the likes of Arnold Schoenberg, Christopher Isherwood, Thomas Mann, and Greta Garbo. While the pandemic cuts Julian off from the life he knows, Mamie's tales open up a world of lives that came before him and reveal to him just how much the past holds of the future.



What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez by Claire Jimenez

When thirteen-year-old middle child Ruthy disappeared after track practice without a trace, it left the family scarred and scrambling. One night, twelve years later, oldest sister Jessica spots a woman on her TV screen in Catfight, a raunchy reality show. She rushes to tell her younger sister, Nina: This woman's hair is dyed red, and she calls herself Ruby, but the beauty mark under her left eye is instantly recognizable. Could it be Ruthy, after all this time? It's now 2008, and their mother, Dolores, still struggles with the loss, Jessica juggles a newborn baby with her hospital job, and Nina, after four successful years at college, has returned home to medical school rejections and is forced to work in the mall folding tiny bedazzled thongs at the lingerie store. After seeing maybe-Ruthy on their screen, Jessica and Nina hatch a plan to drive to where the show is filmed in search of their long-lost sister. When Dolores catches wind of their scheme, she insists on joining, along with her pot-stirring holy-roller best friend, Irene. What follows is a family road trip and reckoning that will force the Ramirez women to finally face the past and look toward a future—with or without Ruthy in it.

The kids are not all right

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Youth in Brandon were expressing their anger this past week, requiring Brandon Police to respond to a number of different incidents.

The week began on April 3 with a call from a concerned parent about an incident that had occurred the previous week at Neshobe Elementary School. A male student had threatened to burn down the school and shoot/kill other students and staff. An investigation was immediately opened and probable cause was found to charge the juvenile with the delinquent act of Criminal Threatening shortly after the investigation was commenced. The child was issued a juvenile citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court Family Division at a later date for arraignment.

The Brandon Police Department would like to reassure both the parents, staff, and students that attend the Neshobe Elementary School that the investigation revealed that the student in-question did not have access to any firearms and that he was not in possession of one at the time the threat(s) were made. The Brandon Police Department takes any and all threats towards our children and teachers very seriously and will do everything in our power to make sure that our schools remain as safe as possible as places for students to learn and for our teachers to work in.

The following day, police received a report of a group of four juveniles who had knocked over the portable toilet and benches at West Seminary Park and were acting in a disorderly manner towards other juveniles in the area. The culprits attempted to flee the police, but all were stopped and identified. Police are investigating the incident further. Criminal charges may follow.

In the evening, police received a report of a suspicious vehicle idling near the complainant's residence on Hollow Road. The responding officers found that a female passenger in the vehicle had been sick and vomiting, which is the reason the vehicle was stopped in the roadway. The driver and passenger subsequently left the area without further issue.

On April 5, a resident on West Seminary Street called to report that he had been assaulted by an unidentified male after he "flipped off" the subject's wife earlier in the week. The complainant did not know the alleged suspect's name or his address, but informed the investigating officer that he would

call back should he determine that information at a later time. The incident was documented for informational purposes at the time.

Police received two separate claims of fraud that day. In one case, the victim was tricked out of thousands of dollars in an online scam involving alleged fraudulent purchases. In the other, a McConnell Road resident reported that he had lost a large sum of money due to an online banking scam. The male was advised that a report would be placed on file at the police department and that he should also make a report to the Attorney General Fraud Reporting Service.

The day was not without its juvenile issues. In the afternoon they received a request for assistance with a youth locked in a car. The officer was called off when the car owner was able to open the car. In the evening a concerned mother called Police to ask for information regarding delinquent acts her son was involved in. The mother also provided police with information about delinquent acts her son's friends were involved in. A DCF notification was made concerning the matter.

Brandon Police were called to the Otter Valley Union High School on April 6 for a report of multiple students that had been involved in a physical altercation in the school with injuries resulting. The matter is still under investigation, but it is expected that three of the students will be charged with Simple Assault and one of the students will be charged with Aggravated Assault in the near future.

A call later came in from Mulcahy Drive, where a defiant juvenile was refusing to go home with his mother. After contacting the Department of Children and Families, the child was authorized to go home with his mother.

A report of erratic vehicle operation heading into Brandon from Leicester came into the police station on the afternoon of April 7.

Police located and stopped the driver in front of Autumn Mountain Winery on Franklin Street. Standard Field Sobriety Tests determined that the operator was not impaired by alcohol or drugs. Nor did he have a valid driver's license, so he was
(See Police report, Page 19)

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION



The library is now open downstairs in the Town Hall. Come see our new space!

We are opening this week with thanks going out to **Tim Guiles, Gary and Nancy Meffe, Janice Meade, Sarah Pattis, Ed and Cindy Thomas, Janet Mondlak, Stacey Doucette, Nancy Iwanicki, Jeff Haylon, Cree and Doug Perkins, and Maureen Pearl** for moving the last of the items out of the library and helping with the final set up at the Town Hall. Come visit us there...we're looking pretty good and we can't wait to see you!

Tuesday 10 am–7 pm
Wednesday 10 am–7 pm
Thursday 10 am–6 pm
Friday 10 am–6 pm
Saturday 10 am–4 pm

THIS AD IS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
told to ground his vehicle in the parking lot of the business and remain there until he was able to obtain a ride. Officers then cleared from the traffic stop.

Soon after, police received a call that the male was dumping trash and was drinking Listerine to excess in the parking lot where his car was parked. When police spoke to the operator, he said that he did not know he couldn't put trash in the dumpster and retrieved the trash and put it back in his vehicle. The operator also said that he was not drinking Listerine.

Youth struck again on Easter Sunday, when a report came in of a fight involving a baseball bat at Estabrook Field. Police are investigating the incident.

Later in the day police received information about a possible intoxicated male that had violated his court conditions by consuming alcohol and was driving in the Brandon area after leaving his residence on River Street. He was later located by an officer on patrol and the male was later determined, after roadside screening, to be

impaired by alcohol and/or in violation of his current court conditions. Patrick Shores, 61, of Brandon, was cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division at a later date for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol (Second or Subsequent Offense) and Violation of Conditions of Release.

In the evening, police were dispatched to a residence on Wyman Road for a report of an out-of-control juvenile that was assaulting family members and smashing things inside of the house with a hammer.

In other police activity:

On April 3

- Investigated a juvenile problem at Neshobe Elementary School.
- Made traffic stops on Forest Dale Road, Carver Street and Center Street for speeding, defective equipment, failure to use a turn signal and operating a cell phone while driving, issuing three warnings and a ticket.
- Conducted a property watch for a business on Forest Dale Road.

On April 4

- Responded to an accidental panic alarm at the Brandon Public Library on Franklin Street set off by the construction crew there. the ongoing library remodeling.
- Apprehended four juveniles who had been wreaking havoc on West Seminary Street/Center Street.
- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle on Hollow Road.

On April 5

- Investigated a report of simple assault on Seminary Street.
- Received a report of the theft of cash from the Lilac Inn on Park Street.
- Received Fraud complaint from a resident on Center Street.
- Received a call for assistance from a juvenile locked in a car.
- Received a fraud complaint from a resident on McConnell Road.
- Took in two dogs found on Grove Street near Brandon Self Storage and reunited them with their owner.

- Received a call concerning a lost article at Hannaford's Supermarket.
- Aided a concerned regarding delinquent acts her son was involved in.
- Responded to a minor car crash on Center Street between a passenger car and a U-Haul truck.
- Received an accidental 911 call.

On April 6

- Helped with traffic control on Franklin Street, where a disabled tractor trailer unit was causing a road hazard.
- Responded to a multi-student fight at Otter Valley Union High School.
- Took fingerprints for a school employee and an adoption.
- Aided with a custody dispute on Mulcahy Drive.

On April 7

- Made a traffic stop on Franklin Street for erratic driving.

On April 8

- Investigated an open door

at a building on Conant Square and found no evidence of suspicious activity.

• Received a report of a stolen license plate from a resident on North Street. Investigation ongoing and stolen plate reported to a stolen license plate database.

• Received a report of vandalism to a car on Center Street.

• Assisted State Police in their search for a stolen vehicle that was possibly located on North Street in Brandon.

• Assist Brandon Area Rescue Squad with a lift assist.

• Conducted property watches at a residence on Richmond Road and at Jiffy mart on Grove Street.

On April 9

• Responded to a juveniles fighting at Estabrook Field on Grove Street.

• Stopped a driver on River Street for DUI.


• Responded to a domestic assault on Wyman Road.

SUBSCRIBE

to **THE BRANDON REPORTER**
Annual subscription for just \$45

WE NEED U

brandonreporter.com



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

people will want to be around you as you can be the life of the party when you come out of your shell.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Don't be surprised if your energy level is high this week, Leo. This leads to you feeling restless at home and even at work. This could be a fine time to take up a hobby.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Capricorn, you are surrounded by positive energy and eager to be out and about with friends this week. Start exploring all of the possibilities around you.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
This may be a good week to devote a large chunk of time to being alone. Some time with just your thoughts and a little silence could be everything you need.

ARIES March 21-April 20
You don't want to have mundane tasks hanging over your head, Aries. Try to check as many of them off your to-do list this week as you can. This will free up a lot of free time.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, you may be looking forward to an evening out with a romantic partner or close friends. Try to narrow down a day this week or next. Have a few restaurants at the ready.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Pisces, discussions at work could get a bit heated. It's best to distance yourself from these situations as best as you can.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
Taurus, you may be planning a much-needed vacation at the present time. Figure out a place you've never been and then fill your itinerary with plenty of fun things.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Take advantage of some free time to get things done around the house, Libra. Cleaning or other home improvements should be a priority.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
There's a lot of activity expected close to home, Scorpio. A new business may open or there could be a movie star who is spotted in town. Maybe you'll get new neighbors.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
You likely will have to devote a lot of attention to practical matters in the days to come, Gemini. This includes taking a hard look at your spending and making cuts.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
The thought of financial prosperity has

April 13 Lowell George, musician, (d)
April 14 Anderson Silva, mixed martial artist (48)
April 15 Bessie Smith, Blues pioneer (d)
April 16 Merce Cunningham, choreographer (d)
April 17 Liz Phair, singer-songwriter, (56)
April 18 Haile Gebrselassie, runner, Olympic gold medalist (50)
April 19 Ali Wong, actor, comedian (41)



Gagnon Lumber

Native Vermont Lumber

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

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

89 Stevens Road Pittsford, VT | 802-483-6550
Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com

We do Trees!

**Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing
Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood**

Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals



Black Bear

Tree, Land & Forest

Thad Poremski
(802) 345-2815

Business & Service Directory

Get your business noticed!
ONLY \$10/week!

Accounting

LAURIE L. BERTRAND
 Certified Public Accountant

*Bookkeeping & Payroll Services
 Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation*

Experience You Can Count On
 4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only
 465-8362 • fax 465-8438



Accounting

Sharon L. Stearns, CPA, PLLC
 Accounting, Tax & Consulting Services

Individuals, Small Business & Non Profits | Bookkeeping Payroll Quickbooks | Tax Planning & Tax Return Preparation

P. O. Box 22, 900 Pearl Street, Brandon, VT 05733
 sharon@stearnscca.com • www.stearnscca.com
 (802) 247-8300 • By Appt. Only

Auto Body Shop

Certified Collision Experts

I-CAR Certified Technicians

All Makes and Models Working with all Insurance companies

(802) 388-9961
 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
 2196 Rt 7 South, Middlebury
 stonecdjr.com



Auto Repair

Hometown Service from Your Hometown Dealers!

Factory-Trained Technicians Servicing all makes and models

G Stone Motors
 36 Boardman St., Middlebury
 (802) 388-6718
 gstonemotors.com

Stone
 Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
 2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury
 (802) 388-9961
 stonecdjr.com



Auto Sales and Leasing

STONE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM
 NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS

Tina Thompson
 Sales & Leasing Consultant

We will take anything in trade!

Bus: 802-388-9961
 Fax: 802-388-6708
 tthompson@stonecdjr.com
 www.stonecdjr.com

2149 ROUTE 7 SOUTH | P.O. Box 748 MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753-0748



Excavating

1963 — Celebrating Over 50 Years — 2022

Markowski
 Excavating, Inc.

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

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

Real Estate

Emilo
 Real Estate

Let Us Sell or Find Your Roost!

173 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
 EmiloVTRealEstate.com | 802.388.4440-office
 Roxanna Emilo, Broker/Realtor/Owner | 802.349.9837 - cell
 emilovtrealestate@gmail.com
 Christine Fraioli, Realtor | 802.989.2234 - cell | 802.453.6416 - office
 cftv@gmavt.net



Residential Care Homes

Wintergreen
 Residential Care Home

Level III • ERC Care • State Licensed

Keep Your Loved Ones Close to Home

Please call for info 802-247-5987
 3 Union Street
 and 360 New Road
 Brandon, VT

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

- 24 Hour Personal Care
- Home Cooked Meals
- Private Rooms
- RN Overviewed
- Exceptional Staff
- Medication Management
- Daily Activities
- Transportation & Hospice Care Provided

Restoration

Disaster Recovery, Inc.

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

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

Service **877-765-6340**
 Fully insured & certified



Storage Containers

STORAGE CONTAINERS
 Rentals & Sales

Delivered To Your Location
 Safe & Secure • Water Tight
 Great for Seasonal Storage,
 Renovation Projects
 or Job Sites

BANKI
 CONTAINERS SOLD, RENTED & TRADED

483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



Ad design included in price.
 Call The Reporter today at
 802-247-8080 or email ads@brandonreporter.com

OV softball triumphs

(Continued from Page 9)

Porte. #5 Lancour hit into an easy 5-3 play for the Proctor defense. #24 Bryn Blanchard hit to 3rd, forcing the second out of the inning but making it to first and rounding to second on a passed ball. #20 Alivia Sheldrick hit a single through the infield, taking first, but Proctor's defense caught Bryn Blanchard at 3rd for the 2nd out of the inning. #23 Lauren Palmer struck out with the 3rd out of the inning, bringing the score to OV 3: Proctor 0.

Second inning Proctor strikes out in order 1, 2, 3. #13 Grace O'Connell steps out to the plate

with her signature bat twirl taking a walk to first. #8 Sierra Cormany drops a single over the 2nd base for the first out of the inning. #3 Laporte drove an RBI single to center and showed her speed stealing second. #6 Gallo's hard drive caught by Proctor's 3rd baseman. #5 Lancour takes a walk followed by an RBI single by #24 Blanchard. #20 Sheldrick takes first with a walk followed by #23 Palmer's single to left center. #13 O'Connell drives a hard grounder played well by the Proctor 2nd baseman for the 3rd out of the inning.

Third inning starts with another

strikeout for OV's pitcher, McKay. Proctor's #22 hits a bloop infield fly to land her on first. OV's McKay strikes out the second batter. Proctor's #3 hits up the middle to score first base followed by Proctor's #14 walk. OV's #6 Gallo makes a nice catch to end the threat.

OV's bottom half of the inning starts with #8 Cormany walking her way to first followed up by #4 McKay's bunt single and #3 Laporte's single to advance all runners. #6 Gallo wears a pitch forcing in a run. #5 Lancour watches a wild pitch allow a run in before taking the walk for first. #24 Blanchard takes a walk and then goes to 2nd on a passed ball to #20 Sheldrick who gets her perfect pitch and drives it

to right center for a bases-clearing double. #23 Palmer hits into a 1-2 play by the Proctor defense. #13 O'Connell singles up the middle bringing to the plate #8 Cormany, who hits into a custom 1-2 out.

Top of the 4th, Proctor's Randy takes the walk to first and immediately steals 2nd base. OV's McKay strikes out the next three batters leaving Proctor's lone base runner on 2nd.

OV starts the bottom of the fourth with a walk by #8 Cormany who steals 2nd. #4 McKay uses a good eye to take the walk to first. #12 Newton comes in to pinch run for #4 McKay and makes the best of her wheels by stealing 2nd. #3 Laporte drives a 2 RBI double to clear the bases. Proctor changes pitchers and #6 Gallo is the first to face off. She matches up and takes the walk to first. #5 Lancour takes a walk and quickly steals second as the rain begins to fall again. #24 Blanchard comes to the plate and watches #6 Gallo score on a passed ball. #24 Blanchard takes the walk as proctor's pitcher struggles to find the zone. #20 Sheldrick pops up for Proctor's catcher to make a fine defensive play. #23 Palmer walks after one long, long foul down the left field line. Proctor's coach comes to the circle to talk with his pitcher. #13 O'Connell dumps what should have been an out behind second base into a double. #8 Cormany pops up brining #4 McKay to the plate who follows a foul down the right field line with a walk to first. #3 Laporte hits to the first baseman who throws home for the 3rd out of the inning.

Top of the 5th and #4 McKay strikes out Proctor's 1st batter, number two batter takes first on a passed ball and McKay finishes it out by striking out the third batter. Otter Valley changed pitchers to #8 Sierra Cormany who strikes out her first and only batter of the inning.

Bottom of the fifth with a new pitcher for Proctor, #14 pitches to OV #6 Gallo who hits a high fly

to left center and a missed catch allows her first base and 2nd on a passed ball at the plate. #5 Lancour takes a walk and #6 Gallo steals third. #24 Blanchard 2 RBI double to left center starting off a 9-run inning. #9 Hayes takes a walk and Proctor changes pitchers again. #22 Thibault flies out bringing #13 O'Connell to the plate who walked forcing in another run. #8 Cormany takes the walk to first bringing in #4 McKay to the plate who also walks forcing in another run. #3 Laporte hits an RBI single to right center. #6 Gallo to the plate who finds her perfect pitch and hits a long base-clearing bomb of a home run. #11 Thomas hits a double on a missed pop fly to shallow center bringing up #24 Blanchard to the plate who uses a good eye to take the walk to first base. #9 Hayes strikes out to end the inning.

Top of the 6th, #8 Cormany pitching strikes out her first two batters followed by a hit right to first base for an easy out.

Bottom of the 6th and #22 Thibault hits a long single to center followed by another long single to center by #7 Seigle. #8 Cormany hits an infield single to load the bases for #15 Hobbs who drops an RBI single to left. #3 Laporte takes 4 balls and the walk forcing in a run. #27 Desabrais connects with a laser line drive to center for an RBI. #11 Thomas comes to the plate and laces a base-clearing home run to right center. #12 Newton singles to right.

Top of the 7th and Proctor's #4 hits an infield single. Next batter strikes out followed up by batter #3 who hits into 1-3 play at first. Proctor singles again. Proctor's last batter flies out to #9 Hayes to end the game.

If this scrimmage indicates anything for the upcoming season things are looking bright for the Otter Valley Softball team and their fans.

-our apologies to Proctor as we did not have their roster for names and numbers.



OV'S 2023 SOFTBALL team. Back row (l to r) Coach Kelly Trayah, Grace O'Connell, Mackenzie McKay, Ryleigh LaPorte, Bryn Blanchard, Sydney Gallo, Alexis Hayes. Front row (l to r): Sierra Cormany, Kaylee Maloy, Lauren Palmer, Charlotte Newton, Randi Lancour, Mykenzie Thibault.

Photo by Frederick Pockette

Otters softball team ready for 2023

BY FREDERICK POCKETTE

BRANDON—The Otter Valley girls' softball team is ready to ride the experience of their seven seniors to a successful 2023 season. It all starts with their three senior captains. Anchoring the outfield is two-year starter and two-year southern All-Star Ryleigh LaPorte, who will be patrolling centerfield for the Otters. Sydney Gallo, who has really stepped up her defensive game this year will be the starting shortstop. Finally, McKenzie McKay has the job of replacing the Otters' top pitcher, Ryleigh Keith, who graduated last year. "In our two scrimmages this year, [McKay] has just been fantastic," remarked Otters coach Kelly Trayah. Trayah went on to comment on how happy he is with all of his tri-captains. "They have been wonderful this year. We

have seen a different side to them as captains."

And the experience does not stop with those three. Senior Grace O'Connell will split catching duties with sophomore Kaylee Maloy. Meanwhile, Bryn Blanchard will be joining fellow senior LaPorte in Otter Valley's strong defensive outfield. Blanchard returns to right field as a 2 1/2-year starter. Left field will be played by a very speedy sophomore, Randi Lancour, who also brings a good bat to the lineup.

First base was supposed to be played by Alivia Sheldrick. Unfortunately, Sheldrick broke her foot and three toes in a scrimmage this past Friday and will be sidelined to begin the year. Filling in at first base in her absence will be the duo of O'Connell and senior Alexis Hayes. Starting at second base will be first year var-

sity player, Lauren Palmer, who brings solid defense to the position and, once she adjusts to the speed of varsity pitching, should also add another solid bat. The hot corner will be played by Sierra Cormany. Cormany will also see time as the team's second pitcher and utility player. Joining her in that role will be fellow junior MyKenzie Thibault who will see time in lots of positions, including pitching. Finally, offering blazing speed off the bench and the ability to fill in where needed is sophomore Charlotte Newton.

In addition to all this, the Otters have a strong JV team to rely on if they need further help. So come on out and root on the 2023 Otter Valley Otters girls' softball team. You will not be disappointed. It should be a fun exciting year.

K. A. Bagley
inc.

Full-Time Lawn Care & Landscaping Positions Available

Immediate positions available working Monday - Friday and some Saturdays.

PAID HOLIDAYS, PAID SICK TIME, PARTIAL UNIFORMS & COMPETITIVE PAY.

Experience isn't necessary but having a positive attitude, loving to work outside, and being reliable is.

To apply, call 802-352-9088 or stop by at 307 Kelly Cross Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769

MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT IS HIRING!

Central Vermont's premier, 4-season, destination wedding & vacation venue is looking to add key team members!

Email Resumes to: hr@mountaintopinn.com

HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR

This role combines housekeeping duties for our guest rooms and common areas, with a supervisory role providing direction and management to our Housekeeping Team. Full-time/Year-round. Previous experience preferred.

FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR

This critical role is the "go-to" for our guests! You'll interact with guests daily, along with our third party software to create guest satisfaction while continuing to be a central hub for resort-wide communication. Full-time, year-round salaried position with benefits.

ALSO HIRING FOR THESE ROLES:

Activities Coordinator • Barback/Bartender • Event Staff • Guest Services
Floral Designer • Housekeepers • Dishwashers • Front Desk Agent
Trail Guides • Restaurant Hosts • Pool Servers • Event Set-Up Staff

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION. FULL & PART-TIME POSITIONS. MUST HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION.

MOUNTAIN TOP RESORT

195 Mountain Top Rd Chittenden, VT • www.mountaintopinn.com

Brandon Museum

(Continued from Page 2)
American settlement. In fact, according to the Moriartys, Lake Bomoseen was a prime locus for Native American activity for thousands of years.

"We've seen a [spear] point from Crystal Beach [on Bomoseen] that's at least 12,000 years old," said Matt. "Most people who go to Crystal Beach today would have no idea." Both Matt and Ellie are involved in the continuing exploration of a site in West

Haven that has yielded a trove of pre-Contact Native American artifacts over the years.

The artifacts recovered at the Granger House will be studied, identified, and scanned by the Innovation Lab that Matt and Ellie run at Castleton. The lab uses cutting-edge scanning technology to create 3-D digital renderings of objects. The renderings can then be fed into a 3-D printer to create an exact replica of the object, albeit in monochromatic plastic. Though the colors may be way off, the surface features are precise. The technology allows researchers to handle exact facsimiles of artifacts that would normally be too fragile.

"This is the cutting edge of archaeology," said Matt. "We're doing work here at Castleton that larger programs

aren't. We've been able to bring in a significant amount of funding."

The Moriartys, along with several students, will be bringing that scanning technology to Brandon Town Hall for an "Artifact Roadshow" from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 27. Anyone who has unearthed, stumbled upon, or otherwise come into possession of relics and artifacts that they haven't been able to identify is welcome to

Anyone who has unearthed, stumbled upon, or otherwise come into possession of relics and artifacts that they haven't been able to identify is welcome to bring them for the Moriartys and their team to examine.

bring them for the Moriartys and their team to examine. *No monetary valuations will be given.* The goal is simply to provide as much information as possible about the age, origin, and purpose of the artifacts.

The Moriartys will also scan objects in order to build a database of local relics. Participants will be asked to fill out information sheets specifying where the objects were found, etc. There is no charge for this event, which is being sponsored by the Brandon Museum.

So, if you have what you believe may be Native American relics or colonial-era artifacts, bring them in and let the Castleton U. team have a look. You may be surprised by what you have and will surely be entertained by the whole experience.

OVUU

(Continued from Page 4)
issue of religious freedom and conscience but rather a stance on transgender-student rights. The issue was first described as a freedom of speech issue but then moved to freedom of religion. Mr. Gildrien thought the Board would be taking an inflammatory stance against its own policies by sending the letter. After board discussion about these issues, the board declined to send a letter to the Vermont Principals Association regarding transgender issues and the removal of MVCA from the VPA.

Superintendent Kristin Hubert advised 1) that there will be PCB testing in the schools over the next year; 2) the State

has changed from SBAC to Cognia for student testing and all RNESU schools will start testing after April break.

Laurie Bertrand reported there will be presentations at the next meeting (4/11/2023), on social/emotional learning and mental health and safety. The Board will be getting an update on the Neshobe School's incident and will review the facilities' summer work. The locker room discussion will be held in May; however, Brenda Fleming will be talking about some changes to the locker rooms during the facilities discussion.

The complete minutes are available on the OVUU website.



Cotton candy skies

A GORGEOUS SUNSET over Conant Square in Brandon on April 6. Vanessa Mills captured these stunning colors as she left work for the day.



SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY,
OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com

Nearly 3/4 of VT's school districts are under scrutiny for special education

BY PETER D'AURIA/
VT DIGGER

Thirty-eight Vermont school districts and supervisory unions — nearly three-quarters of the total — are under state scrutiny for their special education practices, according to a list provided in response to a public records request.

At first glance, that number appears to be a sign of alarming deficiencies in the state's special education practices and raises questions about whether Vermont's students are receiving the services they need — and are legally entitled to.

"It is serious," said Rachel Seelig, Vermont Legal Aid's Disability Law Project director. "I do think that the state needs to be putting a lot of time and effort into getting students the services and support they need."

But Seelig, as well as multiple superintendents interviewed by VTDigger, noted that the special education compliance rules are extremely strict. Even small mistakes — a document submitted just a day late or a wrongly used phrase — can land a district under state scrutiny, they say.

And some superintendents expressed frustration at the state Agency of Education, saying they have struggled to receive clear communication about special education requirements from the state.

"I don't think we've ever heard outcry about monitoring like this, ever, in our entire careers," said Julie Regimbal, the superintendent of the Missisquoi Valley School District, which appears on the agency's list.

"It's hard to correct a plan if they don't tell you what you're doing incorrectly," she added.

What is targeted monitoring?

Through a process known as "cyclic monitoring," Vermont education officials evaluate districts and supervisory unions once every three years for compliance with state and federal special education laws.

If, during cyclic monitoring, the state finds a district to be out of compliance with those laws, the district enters "selective monitoring," in which local administrators are required to show that they have corrected those deficiencies.

If a district still fails to come into compliance with regulations even after selective monitoring, it is placed under the highest level of scrutiny, called "targeted monitoring."

According to a list provided in response to a public records request, 38 districts and supervisory unions were placed in "targeted monitoring" — 74.5% of the state's total, not counting career and tech center districts.

The list was first obtained through a records request by Mill Moore, the executive director of the Vermont Independent Schools As-

sociation, and provided to VTDigger.

Moore declined to comment on the school districts on the list but said he was aware that many schools, both public and private, have struggled to hire special education staff.

Lindsey Hedges, a spokesperson for the Agency of Education, declined multiple requests to make state education officials available for an interview.

In emailed responses to questions, Hedges said that districts could be placed in targeted monitoring "to address issues pertaining to data integrity, accuracy, and

the ethical requirements associated with data submission."

Districts could also face scrutiny for "dispute resolution requests, administrative complaints, communication disclosing non-compliance, and/or critical and/or special investigative audits and findings related to special education," she said.

'Needs assistance'

Every year, the U.S. Department of Education assesses each state to determine whether it is complying with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a federal law that lays the foundation for special education across the country.

In 2020, U.S. Department of

Education officials ranked Vermont as "needs intervention," the second-most serious classification. Vermont students with disabilities performed poorly on standardized tests and received inadequate support when leaving high school, according to the federal government. The state was also dinged for taking too long to address complaints.

Only one other state, New York, was ranked at such a high level of concern that year.

In 2021 and 2022, Vermont was classified as "needs assistance," a category that signals less concern but suggests a state is still not meeting federal requirements. Roughly

half of U.S. states have been placed in that category for the past two years.

Federal officials, however, declined to issue findings of more serious noncompliance for the past two years due to Covid-19.

It is unclear how much, if any, of Vermont's targeted monitoring program is due to its federal classification.

"Everything the Agency of Education does has some connection to both federal and state education laws, rules, and regulations," Hedges, the state spokesperson, said in her email.

BRANDON, VT,

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER 12 V.S.A. SEC 4952 ET SEQ.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust

v.

Andrew Montroll, as administrator of the estate of
Bobbi-Jo Piscopo a/k/a Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom a/k/a Bobbi-Jo Sundstrom a/k/a Bobbi Jo Sundstrom
occupants of: 45 Carver Street, Brandon VT

In accordance with the Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure entered December 22, 2021, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Bobbi-Jo Sundstrom to Summit Financial Center, Inc., dated May 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 175 Page 439 of the land records of the Town of Brandon, of which mortgage the Plaintiff is the present holder, by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Summit Financial Center, Inc. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated May 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 175 Page 454; (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated March 19, 2010 and recorded in Book 206 Page 462; (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated April 2, 2012 and recorded in Book 215 Page 753; (4) Assignment of Mortgage from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity, but solely as Trustee for NRZ Pass-Through Trust VI dated April 1, 2016 and

recorded in Book 231 Page 612; and (5) Assignment of Mortgage from Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity, but solely as Trustee for NRZ Pass-Through Trust VI to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust dated February 15, 2022 and recorded in Book 253 Page 792, all of the land records of the Town of Brandon for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 45 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont on May 4, 2023 at 10:30 AM all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

• Being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom by Quitclaim Deed of Richard C. Sundstrom, dated March 3, 1998 and recorded in Book 131 at Page 39 of the Town of Brandon Land Records, described as follows, viz:

• Being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom and Richard C. Sundstrom by Warranty Deed of Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom dated April 17, 1992 and recorded at Book 110, Page 163 of the Brandon Land Records and in which deed said lands and premises are described as follows:

• "The premises conveyed

herein are known as 45 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont.

• Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo by Warranty Deed of Bernard T. Greene and Melanie A. Greene dated July 7, 1991 and recorded in Vol. 107 at Page 335 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.

• Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bernard T. Greene and Melanie A. Greene by Warranty Deed of Charles E. Greene, Jr., and Bonnie L. Greene dated November 10, 1977 and recorded in Vol. 83, Page 364 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.

• The premises are more particularly described by the deed in the record chain of title recorded in Vol. 75, Page 436 as follows:

• The brickyard house and lot, so-called, situated on the westerly side of Carver St. in the Village of Brandon and being bounded as follows: on the north by lands of Thaddeus A. Denton, on the east by said Carver Street and on the north and west by the so-called brickyard pasture now owned by George Knapp. It is believed that the "north" in the last quoted line is a typographical error, and should read "south".

• Reference is hereby made to the aforesaid deeds and their record and to the reference therein contained and their records. All in further aid of this

description."

Reference is hereby made to the above instruments and to the records and references contained therein in further aid of this description.

Terms of sale: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a bank wire, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date the Confirmation Order is entered by the Court. All checks should be made payable to "Bendett & McHugh, PC, as Trustee".

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

DATED : March 28, 2023

By: /s/ Rachel K. Ljunggren
Rachel K. Ljunggren, Esq.
Bendett and McHugh, PC
270 Farmington Ave., Ste. 151
Farmington, CT 06032

GOLD SPONSORS:



SEASON SPONSORS:



girl named Tom
LIVE! WINNER OF NBC'S THE VOICE
Tonight!
THURSDAY, APRIL 13 | 7:30 PM

WINNER OF AMERICA'S GOT TALENT
TERRY FATOR
ON THE ROAD AGAIN
THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | 7:30 PM

WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?
FRIDAY, APRIL 21 | 7:30 PM

TUSK
THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TELEVISION DUALS
SATURDAY, APRIL 22 | 7:30 PM

ANTHONY RODIA
TOTALLY RELIABLE Tour
NEW!
FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | 8:00 PM

THE WIZARD of Oz
THE PARAMOUNT PLAYERS AND GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PRESENTS
JULY 14 | 7:00 PM • JULY 15 & 16 | 2:00 PM

MELISSA ETHERIDGE
SUMMER TOUR '23
NEW!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 | 7:00 PM

NEW!
GEORGE THOROGOOD THE DESTROYER
AND ALL OVER THE WORLD
50 YEARS OF ROCK
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | 7:30 PM

Paula Poundstone
From the #1 rated NPR show, "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!"
NEW!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 7:30 PM

JETHRO TULL'S MARTIN BARRE
A BRIEF HISTORY OF TULL
NEW!
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 7:30 PM

CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC
5 WORLD CLASS ILLUSIONISTS - 1 INCREDIBLE SHOW
NEW!
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 | 7:30 PM

Comedian BOB MARLEY
NEW!
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 | 8:00 PM

The Metropolitan Opera **HD LIVE**

Sponsored by: Kathy & Bill Harm

DER ROSENKAVALIER Strauss | Saturday, April 15, 12 PM

CHAMPION Terence Blanchard / Libretto By Michael Cristofer | Sunday, April 30, 12:55 PM **Encore**

DON GIOVANNI Mozart | Sunday, May 21, 12:55 PM **Encore**

DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE Mozart | Sunday, June 4, 12:55 PM **Encore**



An Electrifying Afternoon

Feat. **SOLAR RAFFLE**

ENTER TO WIN:
\$10,000 cash
or \$20,000 solar array

*Plus other cash prizes for those who are present.

AT THE Solar Powered Paramount Theatre

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 4-6 PM

Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar provided by: *Roots*

Be Same Sun of Vermont's guests and see

ELECTRIC EVERYTHING!



CARS, TRUCKS, TRACTORS, LAWNMOWERS, JET SKIS, MOTORCYCLES, HOT WATER HEATERS AND HEAT PUMPS

Center Street will entirely be populated with EVs - See the future now!

More shows added every month!



PARAMOUNT THEATRE

30 CENTER ST.
RUTLAND, VT
802.775.0903

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT:



ONLINE BOX OFFICE

PARAMOUNTVT.ORG