

# The REPORTER

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Wednesday, September 15, 2021

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## Brandon to assess weatherization options to support homeowners

BY NEIL P. ALLEN

BRANDON — On Friday, the Town of Brandon will be meeting with state Rep. Stephanie Jerome and Executive Director Heather Starzynski of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, a community development nonprofit in West Rutland focused on homeownership and weatherization, to assess the town to see what assistance NeighborWorks can provide for homeowners in modernizing their homes.

"We will be doing a drive through town on Friday to see what homes may be good for

retrofitting," said Town Manager Dave Atherton at the selectboard meeting on Monday.

"This is a good opportunity to get in on the ground floor with them," said Jerome. "It is a step in the right direction and one piece of the puzzle to help more people in Brandon."

"There's a lot of groups with programs out there," said select board member Tim Guiles. "It's the outreach to the community that is missing."

"There's so much work being done in Vermont, it's hard to get a handle on it," added Jerome.

That bit of news preceded a short selectboard meeting spanning half an hour, during which Brandon Energy Committee member Jim Emerson apologized to the selectboard for providing wrong cost estimates for a solar project the town might consider funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and for his actions on the committee in which he did not understand that town committees had to comply with the state Open Meetings laws.

"I provided the board with  
(See weatherization options, Page 16)

## OVUU board to meet Sept. 15 to discuss school facilities, middle school expansion

BRANDON — At its upcoming meeting this Wednesday, Sept. 15, the Otter Valley Unified Union School board will conduct a brief tour the Otter Creek Academy at Sudbury at 6 p.m., after which the rest of the meeting will be held at the school facility starting at 6:10. The meeting leads off with communications with parents/citizens/staff during its public comments and the board's "Let's Talk" report.

An hour of the meeting, from 6:15 to 7:15, will be devoted to board professional development in the form of a presentation on "Trauma Informed Classrooms and alternative settings to meet students' emotional and behavior needs."

Following that discussion and presentation, the board will devote a half hour or more to discuss district facilities, including the Sudbury Campus and OV North Cam-

pus facility cost estimates, as well as discussion on a Middle School expansion to OVUHS. The discussion will also cover the 2021 enrollment numbers for the school district, the OVUU facilities task force review and will review the board's annual work plan.

Citizens who wish to attend the meeting and tour the Sudbury school and campus are required to wear facial coverings, even if fully vaccinated:



### Hidden view

THE NESHOBE RIVER cascades down the falls below Brandon's Green Park in a seldom seen view of the river as it flows into the 6-acre flats and wetlands that is framed by Brandon's Smith Block, the Congregational Church, Hanaford, Pearl Street and the railroad tracks. The area is being considered as part of several walking paths through and around the town, known as Brandon's Greenways, an initiative that has been in the works for the past several years.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn



OV SENIOR DEFENSIVE star Marissa Connors bats the ball far downfield and was key to the team's defense against Windsor on Monday afternoon. The teams battled to a 2-2 tie, including a 10-minute overtime where the teams played seven-on-seven, but neither could score.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

## Vermont's COVID cases and hospitalization counts surge

BY MIKE DOUGHERTY  
VTDIGGER

MONTPELIER — Vermont set recent records for daily Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations over the past three days, through Monday, Sept. 13.

The Department of Health reported 108 new Covid-19 cases and one new death on Monday.

Over the weekend, the state reported 405 total new cases and three additional deaths. Saturday's

total of 222 cases was the highest one-day count since April 10.

Totals for Saturday and Sunday were increased from the counts initially reported. Saturday's total jumped from 184 to 222, and Sunday's total moved from 141

(See Record COVID cases, Page 5)



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## Sports



OV JUNIOR RYLEIGH LaPorte is in the thick of an offensive goal to make it 2-0 against Windsor midway through the third period. Windsor would come back with a last second goal in the third period and another in the fourth period to send the game into a 10-minute seven-on-seven overtime at 2-2.

Reporter photos by Angelo Lynn



SENIOR CAPTAIN RILEY Keith gets position and control of the ball on her opponent at midfield during Monday's game with Windsor.

## OV Field Hockey wins and ties

BY ANGELO LYNN/  
ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — The Otter Valley Union High School field hockey team picked up two wins and a tie in recent action, including a hard-fought contest against Windsor on Monday that ended 2-2 after a 10-minute overtime dual featuring seven-on-seven.

The Otters improved to 3-0-1 heading into a Saturday game at Brattleboro, whom they defeat-

ed 6-1 earlier in the season.

On Sept. 8 the Otters upended host Woodstock, 3-2, in what Coach Jodie Keith described as a strong all-around effort. OV's goals came from senior middle Brittney Jackson (assisted by Mackenzie McKay), Alice Keith (assisted by Ryleigh LaPorte on one of OV's 18 penalty corners) and LaPorte, unassisted. OV goalie Lily Morgan made seven saves.

On Sept. 9 the Otters knocked off visiting Division I rival Rutland, 2-1. LaPorte, assisted by Riley Keith late in the first quarter, and Riley Keith, on a penalty stroke early in the second quarter, scored for the Otters, who carried most of the play.

On Monday, the D-II Otters settled for a 2-2 tie with visiting Windsor, the defending D-III champion.

OV took a 1-0 lead in the first period when Jackson found the cage, with the assist going to Al-

ice Keith.

OV controlled much of the first half, but the lead remained the same until the third period, when McKay scored on LaPorte's assist to make it 2-0 at 4:51.

But Windsor (whose record is 1-2-1 vs. a tough schedule) pushed hard for the tie with two fourth-quarter goals, one from Meagan Holling and the equalizer at 4:41 from Alexina Peckinpugh.

Both teams had great chances

in 7v7 overtime. Morgan made a big save on the Jacks' Peyton Richardson, and LaPorte, Alice Keith, Riley Keith and McKay threatened for OV.

Of that game, Coach Jodie Keith noted Windsor is a well-coached team with whom they have a "friendly rivalry" but "we knew it wasn't going to be an easy game for us."

Keith said she was "pleasantly surprised" when they were up 2-0 midway through the third

(See Field Hockey, Page 13)



OV JUNIOR MIDFIELDER Sydney Gallo fights for the ball during a hard-fought 2-2 tie with Windsor.



JUNIOR FORWARD RYLEIGH LaPorte was tough on the Otters' offensive front as she challenged opponents, often stealing the ball to keep the Otter forwards on attack.



## Field hockey

(Continued from Page 7)

period, but said the absence of two players on the team allowed for only three substitutes throughout the game which added to the Otters' fatigue in the final period.

"We definitely ran out of energy," Keith said, noting that further physical conditioning would be a priority in practice for the rest of the season. Numbers on the squad were low this year, she said, as they have only 16 players for the 11 positions.

Keith singled out senior defenseman Marissa Connors as key in stopping many of Windsor's attacks and clearing the ball downfield, while also men-

toring two younger defensive players, sophomore Elizabeth Atherton and freshman Matelin LaPorte on defense.

Senior middies Alice Keith and Brittney Jackson and junior Sydney Gallo played well in midfield, Keith noted, while crediting forwards Riley Keith, a senior, and Ryleigh LaPorte, a junior, for a great game on attack and getting a lot of corner shots.

"There were a lot of teaching moments," in the game, Keith said, but added that the girls are improving on their stick and passing skills and that "overall, I thought they played really well."



OV SENIOR FORWARD Riley Keith steals the ball at midfield and returns play to the Otter's offense in one of many aggressive plays she made during the team's 2-2 tie against Windsor on Monday afternoon.

Reporter photo/ Angelo Lynn

## Climate Council launches series of public events for statewide climate action plan

MONTPELIER, Vt. — From hotter days to more frequent and intense storms, Vermont's climate patterns are clearly shifting and impacting our state. This fall, state officials, local leaders and members of the Vermont Climate Council invite the public to attend one of several events to learn about the development of the state's Climate Action Plan and help prioritize approaches.

"Join us at an upcoming meeting to discuss how climate change is affecting you and your community and offer feedback on proposed strategies for the Climate Action Plan," said Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore. "Your perspective matters. The Climate Action Plan will serve as the State's roadmap for lessening the impacts of climate change, and the ideas and feedback you share with us will inform the Action Plan."

In 2020, the Vermont Legislature passed the Global Warming Solutions Act. The Act requires Vermonters to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and helps communities prepare to face more extreme weather caused by climate

change. The Act also directed the Vermont Climate Council to develop a Climate Action Plan to guide this work. The Action Plan aims to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next several decades, prepare and protect Vermont communities and landscapes from the greatest risks of climate change and create new jobs to enable this transformation. The initial plan will be adopted on December 1, 2021.

While climate change affects everyone, some people face greater risks due to where they live, their race, ethnicity, income, disability, health, age and/or occupation. Advancing solutions that address the needs of Vermonters facing the greatest risk is a key aspect of the plan.

There are multiple opportunities to join an upcoming event, either online or in person. All events are free and open to everyone interested in attending. Food will be provided at each in-person event. Please note that in-person events are being held in outdoor pavilions or shelters and will observe COVID-19 safety protocols: all attendees

are asked to wear masks.

- Tuesday, September 21, 5:00-7:00pm: Elmore State Park Pavilion | 856 VT-12, Elmore, VT

- Wednesday, September 22, 5:00-7:00pm: Emerald Lake State Park Pavilion | 65 Emerald Lake Ln, East Dorset, VT

- Thursday, September 23, 5:00-7:00pm: Lakeside Park Pavilion | 32 Mill St, Island Pond, VT

- Sunday, September 26, 3:00-5:00pm: Airport Park Pavilion | 500 Colchester Point Rd, Colchester, VT

- Thursday, September 30, 6:00-7:30pm: Virtual event via Zoom

- Tuesday, October 5, 6:00-7:30pm: Virtual event via Zoom for BIPOC communities

- Wednesday, October 6, 6:00-7:30pm: Virtual event via Zoom

For more information about the Climate Action Plan, please visit <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/>. Event details can be found at <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/getinvolved>.

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