

The REPORTER

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

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75¢



GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Des Marais is back to highlight the “triple crown of summer beauties:” Hibiscus, Hydrangea, and Helenium.

PG. 24

SELECTBOARD NEWS:

PROCTOR

The Proctor Selectboard heard from the Board of Sewage Commissioners about issues with a sewage lagoon in need of repairing.

PG. 3



MARBLE MUSEUM

The Proctor Marble Museum recently hosted a series of short film screenings from its archive that offer a glimpse into a time gone by.

PG. 15



VAILLANCOURT TRIAL

A September trial date was set for the former Rutland childcare provider accused of murdering Pittsford's Harper Rose Briar.

PG. 22



Slidin' out of summer

SCORES OF KIDS enjoyed the last weekend of summer at Estabrook Park for the “Slide out of Summer” event hosted by the Brandon Rec, the Allie Mae Foundation, and the Brandon Area Toy Project. See page 8 for more photos, pages 9–11 for Back-to-School, and page 14 for school calendars.

Photos by Mat Clouser

Brandon seeks answers about vacant SB seat

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — Questions, confusion, and allegations have been swirling in Brandon following the recent resignation of selectboardsman Mike Markowski and the process to find his replacement among three qualified applicants—much of which may come from a fundamental misunderstanding of Open Meeting Laws and selectboard procedure.

The board called for letters of interest during their meeting on August 8 while also noting that the deadline for the letters would be at the following meeting on August 22. Shortly before that meeting, the board announced that it would also hold an executive session where they would vote on the candidates—a standard board practice, in keeping with Vermont Open Meeting Law.

Among the exceptions listed for public bodies to hold an executive session under 1 VSA § 313 is section 3, which states:

“The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, provided that the public body shall make a final decision to hire or appoint a public officer or employee in an open meeting and shall explain the reasons for its final decision during the open meeting.”

Of his own volition, Selectboard Chair Seth Hopkins contacted *The Reporter* via email following the executive session. (See Brandon selectboard, Page 2)

Temporarily out of Brandon, the town must wait and see what is to become of Shane Bartshe

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — For the last two months, the town of Brandon has been awash in fear and speculation surrounding the actions and safety of Shane Bartshe, a client of Rutland Mental Health Services (RMHS), who has had repeated legal and mental-health-related interactions with the Brandon Police Department (BPD) and emergency

services, including the alleged sexual assault of a caretaker at his residence (owned by RMHS) in 2019, and the recent statement of his desire to rape one of the Brandon Free Public Library's (BFPL) librarians.

The latter situation spawned safety concerns for Brandon residents and BFPL staff alike and caused a brief closure of BFPL due to staffing shortages after the librar-

ian expressed apprehension about returning to work until stricter security measures could be put in place, or Mr. Bartshe could be relocated. The library re-opened on August 16 with a new security plan and a host of volunteers charged with keeping watch for Mr. Bartshe, who is legally barred from BFPL and has a restraining order from the aforementioned librarian.

However, all that could change soon, as it was revealed last weekend that Bartshe—who was arrested on August 12 by BPD for disorderly conduct after blocking the

(See Shane Bartshe, Page 21)



Brandon selectboard

(Continued from Page 1)

At that time, he wrote that the board had been divided on their vote 2-2 and that they would be seeking guidance from the Secretary of State's office, given that the board must have a minimum of three votes to make a choice.

Following *The Reporter's* story covering the August 10 selectboard meeting,

there has been some unrest in the community, particularly surrounding several Front Porch Forum (FPF) posts, which included questioning the board's perceived lack of transparency, the posting of

the letters of interest from two of the three candidates, and a rebuttal from Mr. Hopkins as to some of the accusations.

In a post on FPF from August 26, Brandon resident Mei Mei Brown wrote, "I was disappointed, while reading the Reporter today, that the conversation was all handled in Executive Session. The citizens of Brandon deserve to know who has applied. The board's choice to discuss the applicants was appropriate in executive session—the failure to disclose the names was not. What do they not want us to know?"

In response to that post, Mr. Hopkins wrote, "There is no nefarious 'what do they not want us to know.' There is only a genuine desire to be human beings to one another and to treat with grace and respect the three people who are offering to step up, two of whom cannot be chosen. In business, education, and democracy, it is not unusual—while a selection process is underway—

that information be treated with special care."

In a follow-up email inquiry by *The Reporter*, seeking to gain access to the letters as well as an update on the conferral with the Secretary of State's office, Mr. Hopkins, shared the identity of the three selectboard candidates—also carrying forth their blessing at being identified and having their letters published (see below for the letters in full)—mentioned that the board had not yet received feedback from the Secretary of State's office, and noted that a citizen of Brandon had also requested the letters.

Speaking about the voting process, Hopkins wrote the following, "We were not ready to vote Monday night. It was apparent to us as we deliberated... that none

of the candidates had sufficient support on the board at that time to result in a majority vote in any direction (three of the four members)."

"All three candidates are people of goodwill who would make their own valuable contributions to the selectboard," he continued. "The individual board members

are weighing which contributions and which person would best serve the community. We take the responsibility seriously and respect that rushing to a choice for the sake of an immediate appointment was not in the board's or the Town's interest."

That citizen mentioned by Hopkins, Claire Astone, subsequently contacted *The Reporter* to say that she had requested the letters via the Freedom of Information act and to outline some of her concerns. "I have great concerns about a lack of transparency," she wrote, "and what I would deem as an attempt, though a poor one, by

Seth Hopkins to excuse their lack of process, which he posted recently on Front Porch Forum while blaming others."

"I'm more than annoyed that there was no transparency on top of no interviewing process. There was no rush needed. The board had adequate notice from Mike Markowski to be grown-ups and professionals. Why rush this?" she continued. "I don't think I have known anyone in my lifetime to use a letter of interest as the sole basis for hiring or filling a vacancy. Ever. So why?... Is having a woman on the board just something that will not be allowed to happen, especially if they have the power to not select one?"

All three select board candidates, Marielle Blais, Ralph Ethier, and Cecil Reniche-Smith, independently noted that there had been no interviews conducted between the submission of their letters and the board's vote. However, Mr. Ethier did confirm that all three had been offered interviews sometime before the next vote, which will occur at the September 15 board meeting.

All three candidates also weighed in on the process. Ms. Blais by email on August 29, Mr. Ethier by phone on August 30, and Ms. Reniche-Smith by phone on August 29, with each candidate expressing some degree of surprise at how the process had played out.

"What did greatly surprise and disappoint me was, first, that the SB had intended to fill the vacancy without the public even knowing who the three applicants are, and, second, that the SB did not seem to have a procedure in place for breaking a tie. The SB did attempt to address the first of these shortcomings after the fact," wrote Blais.

"The SB has not violated public meeting law," she continued, "but they have not been transparent. How democratic is it for four SB members to try to fill a vacancy on a town board without even letting voters know who the applicants are? Brandon deserves better." Mr. Ethier said he was also slightly surprised by the candidate's names

not being released publicly. "I think the process has gone a little different than I thought it would," he said. "But [I think we] should be patient and work through it."

For her part, Reniche-Smith remained optimistic. "I'm hopeful that the ongoing process will be a little more transparent," she said.

The board will reconvene on September 15 to make their vote. As always, members of the public are free to make public comment in person or via zoom (a link can be found online at <https://www.townofbrandon.com/town-committees/select-board/>)

The complete letters of interest are printed below, in full, with the approval of the Brandon Selectboard and each of the candidates: **MARIELLE BLAIS**

Please accept my letter of application to fill the current vacancy on the Brandon Selectboard.

As you know, when I ran for selectboard on Town Meeting 2022, I ran a close competitive race and lost by only 70 votes, 396 to 466. These results demonstrate that I already have significant support within the community.

My considerable professional and volunteer experience will facilitate my ability to work cooperatively with the selectboard members and residents.

Two years after I bought a home

in Forest Dale in 2006, I began teaching in the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, first at Lothrop Elementary School and later at Otter Valley Union Scholl, from which I retired in 2020.

In my work as a speech-language pathologist, I met many local students and their families. I volunteered in numerous capacities, including grant writing which allowed Lothrop to install a school garden, put up a greenhouse, and build a composting system large enough to handle cafeteria food scraps.

I was also, and continue to be, a union activist who held various offices and participated in contract negotiations and grievance hearings.

As a retiree, I volunteer with BRAVO, the Rutland County Humane Society, Compass Treasure Chest, Four Winds Nature Institute, and the Vermont Speech, Language, and Hearing Association.

From numerous conversations, I know women are eager to feel more directly represented on the selectboard. If appointed, I will work hard and participate actively, both during and outside of meetings.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,
Marielle Blaise
Forest Dale resident and taxpayer

RALPH ETHIER

I would like to be considered for the open selectboard position. As a longtime resident of Brandon, this is where I have grown up and raised my family. I am also a property owner and business owner in Brandon. Some of the experiences I have gained over the years running my own business, as well as other employment, are in purchasing, managing employees, processing payroll, and AP/AR. I feel I would be an asset on the selectboard.

Thank you
Ralph Ethier
56 Pearl Street

CECIL RENICHE-SMITH

I am writing to express my interest in an appointment to the newly opened seat on the Brandon Select Board. Since Brandon became my new hometown in 2019, I have enjoyed becoming a part of the thriving town community and would be honored to offer my services to the town as a Board member.

Although I am new to Brandon, my Vermont roots run deep. I graduated from Vermont Law School in 1996, and my mother was a long-time resident of Bethel. Indeed, my mother's years of

service to the Town of Bethel in a volunteer capacity have inspired me to emulate her wherever I have found myself through the years.

I came to Brandon from Oregon, where I practiced law for many years (all the time trying to figure out how to get back to Vermont!). I visited many towns while I decided where I wanted to put down roots. I was drawn to Brandon in part by my observations of the changes the town has gone through in the last few years and the efforts the community put into those changes, all of which demonstrated to me the deep love the people of Brandon have for this town; a love that I quickly developed myself. I currently work part-time at The Bookstore, where I enjoy getting to meet both town residents and visitors. I also have a small (very small) pet care business; you may have seen me out running or walking with my four-legged clients.

From a practical viewpoint, I believe my past work and volunteer experience would be of value to the town. From 2007 through 2019, I served as a Sr. Assistant Attorney General in the Appellate Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, where I represented the state in complex civil and administrative cases, among other matters.

Prior to that, I was in private practice as an insurance defense attorney. My firm held the contract for the Oregon City/County Insurance Services, and I became well acquainted with the concerns of municipal governments. Although I no longer practice law, I believe that as a Board member, my experience in those areas would be of great benefit to the town.

I am a firm believer in volunteerism, and the benefits volunteers bring to the community. My own volunteer experience has ranged from organizing book drives to stock the libraries of the Oregon correctional system to leading a Technical Animal Rescue Team for the Oregon Humane Society.

Here in Brandon, I have helped with the physical aspects of setting up the town dog park and participated in clean-up days; I recently adopted a town garden plot and am looking forward to adding my touch to the town's beauty. Brandon has a strong volunteer tradition, and I would value the opportunity through Board membership to nourish and grow that tradition so that Brandon remains a wonderful place to live and visit.

Sincerely,
Cecil Reniche-Smith

Proctor selectboard looks to repair sewage lagoon, hears several bids

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PROCTOR—The Proctor selectboard opened its August 24 meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no guests or public comments. It was noted that the paving at Gibb and Taylor Hill was going well; crosswalks had been repainted for the opening of school; the Fall Festival would take place on Wednesday, August 31 in the park and would feature the Green Brothers Band.

Town Manager Michael Ramsey offered the Highway Commission report. The following items were discussed:

- Traffic paint was obtained and traffic cones were ordered;
- A solution was sought for a rip in the lagoon liner;
- Bids solicited for new Toolcat with an estimated cost of \$70- \$90,000 before trade in;
- The South Street sidewalk is scheduled for completion in Summer 2024;
- Bases for the Marble bridge are complete and will be reinstalled when a mason is found;

- Culvert and ditch repair on Florence Road are complete with paving to be done in September.

The Board of Water Commissioners was convened and the following items were discussed:

- A complaint about water leaks in the basement of 61 Park Street was attributed to Contract 6 water project; and the Town Manager agreed to address insurance claims;

The first bid for the Gorham Bridge Road water project came in at \$50,000, which triggered a closed bidding process. The board passed a motion to seek for bids by a 4-1 majority;

- The 10 homeowners with the highest outstanding water bills will be sent disconnect notices.

- The Board of Sewage Commissioners was convened and the following items were discussed:

- A sewage lagoon liner required a temporary patch while permanent solution are sought;
- The cost to update SCA-

DA software is approximately \$30,000;

- ANR engineer inspected the Willow Street project and all remediation issues were resolved.

The selectboard was re-convened and the following items were discussed:

- The Town Manager offered training to the new Zoning Administrator;

- The search for an Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer is ongoing;

- The Town Manager has been invited to attend the International Manager's Summit in Ohio (September 17 – 20) at no cost to the town.

- Zion should close on the Vermont Marble Museum building at 52 Main Street by the end of the month.

- The community pool was officially closed for the season.

The selectboard reviewed and signed orders totaling \$62,400.98.

A Park & Ride grant application will not be submitted.

FEMA awards VT \$29 million for COVID testing

BOSTON — The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending nearly \$29 million to the state of Vermont to reimburse the costs of providing testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$28,732,217 Public Assistance grant will go to the Vermont Agency of Human Services for contracting with Cambridge, Massachusetts-based CIC Health to set up and operate community-based testing sites statewide between March and July 2022.

The grant covers the cost of 562,824 tests already performed and an additional 330,082 tests the state estimated it will need to provide.

The state had already received a \$14.3 million grant toward these costs.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the state of Vermont with these costs,” said

FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the pandemic fight is critical to their success and our success as a nation.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential funding source for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided more than \$390 million in grants to Vermont to reimburse the state for pandemic-related expenses.

Additional information about FEMA’s Public Assistance program is available at <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>.

To learn more about the COVID-19 response in Vermont, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4532>.

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BRANDON REPORTER

Op Ed

Vermonters get ready to vote on Article 22 following Women's Equality Day

On August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the US Constitution was certified, and women's right to vote was finally recognized. We celebrate this as Women's Equality Day. This year, Vermonters will have the opportunity to use that vote in a powerful way when the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, also known as Article 22 (formerly Prop 5), appears on the ballot in Vermont's general election.

Starting in early October, registered voters will begin deciding whether

or not to amend the state constitution to protect every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions, like whether and when to become pregnant, use temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care.

On June 24th, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade federal ruling, which held that abortion was a constitutional right. This decision now leaves abortion rights to be determined at the state level.

Currently, in Vermont, access to birth control, emergency contraception, and abortion remains unrestricted and is protected by state law.

However, due to the difficulty of passing constitutional amendments, the enshrining of reproductive liberty in the state Constitution is the strongest measure that Vermont can take to protect the reproductive freedom of its

current citizens and future generations. To appear on the ballot this fall, Article 22 had to be approved by the Vermont Legislature twice.

If approved by voters, Article 22 would amend the Vermont constitution to state "that an individual's right to

And a long-term research study has shown that women unable to obtain an abortion are more likely to be underemployed and experience household poverty along with their children.

personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

According to the Center for American Progress, women's incomes in states with access to reproductive rights are almost 16% higher than the women's national median wage.

A 2019 report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research showed that access to contraception increased women's earnings, educational attainment, and labor force participation. (See Article 22 Page 5)



Here comes the sun (flower)

THE BEES GET the last of the pollen out of August's blooms.

Reportr photo/Sepi Alavi

BRANDON REPORTER

Op Ed

Late abortion doesn't reflect Roe v. Wade, or Vermonter's views

Nicholas Boke, in his recent commentary entitled "And so it Begins," is buying into the narrative perpetuated by Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and others, that Article 22 (formerly Prop 5) merely codifies Roe v. Wade—when in fact it goes beyond Roe v. Wade and beyond abortion.

The language as it will appear on your general election ballot is here:

Article 22. [Personal reproductive liberty]

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

Nothing in this amendment proposal refers to women, adults, or abortion. The use of the word individual means the amendment could apply to any age or gender. If a man's and

woman's rights were in conflict, the courts would decide which prevailed, potentially to the detriment of the woman.

"Personal reproductive autonomy" includes abortion throughout pregnancy, but through more and well into the future, subject to future court interpretations, making decisions that will be removed from public participation.

The use of the phrase "compelling State interest" is a directive to the courts to use the highest standard of review to prevent interference, restrictions, or limitations on any case pertaining to personal reproductive autonomy.

The US Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade expressly rejected the concept (embodied in Article 22) that women have an absolute right to have an abortion at any stage of pregnancy for any reason.

So, the notion that Article 22 and Roe v. Wade are similar is false.

That fact was proven during an exchange in the House Human Services Committee.

Rep. Carl Rosenquist asked Eleanor Spottswood of the Attorney General's Office about legislation he introduced declaring fetal personhood at 24 weeks. Rep. Rosenquist said he assumed such legislation would prevent abortion after 24 weeks.

Her answer was: "The extent that that statute would interfere with a woman's right to reproductive autonomy, or a pregnant person's right to reproductive autonomy, that portion of the bill would not be upheld [as constitutional] under Proposal 5 (Article 22)." Readers can listen for themselves at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByeURWyyq5E>. The exchange begins at around 34:00.)

Boke is correct that most Vermonters support some level of legally unrestricted access to (See Late abortion, Page 5)

The Reporter

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Community Forums

Vermont Agency of Agriculture seeks feedback on Accessory On-Farm Businesses

VERMONT — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is seeking feedback to further understand Accessory On-Farm Businesses (AOFBs) and Act 143. This model expands opportunities for farmers to diversify operations through an AOFB, such as on-farm sales

of agricultural products as well as educational, recreational, or social events.

While this business model is vital to support the long-term viability of Vermont farmers, the current legislation can be difficult to understand and varies across the state.

Therefore, the Legislature has tasked the Natural Resources Board (NRB), with support from the Agency of Agriculture, to prepare a report to analyze current conditions, understand challenges, and offer specific suggestions to help strengthen AOFBs in Vermont.

To support this work, the Agency of Agriculture wants to hear how farmers and municipal leaders understand and implement AOFBs.

If you are a farmer interested in or operating an AOFB, please fill out the “Farmer” survey. If you are a municipal leader, please fill

out the “Zoning” survey.

The Farmers link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X9V72WL>

The Zoning link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MC7VMYF>

Condos issues reminder of Nov. 8 general election universal ballot mailing

Montpelier—On August 25, Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos issued a reminder that all Vermont voters will be mailed a ballot for the November 8 General Election and encouraged voters to update or confirm their voter registration information by August 31.

“Here in Vermont, and in red and blue states across the country, universal ballot mailing has

proven to be a secure and effective way of increasing options for Vermont voters,” said Condos. “Whether you plan to vote early in-person, by mail, or at the polls on Election Day, ensuring your voter registration information is up to date will prevent any delays in receiving the ballot that is mailed to you.”

Voters are encouraged to confirm or update their voter

registration information, including mailing address, using the MyVoterPage at <https://mvp.vermont.gov> or by contacting their Town Clerk.

The 2022 General Election will mark the first universal general election ballot mailing under Act 60, which received tripartisan support from the Legislature.

“I want to thank the Vermont

legislators who worked with us to create a universal ballot mailing process that works for Vermont,” said Condos, who oversaw the mailing of ballots to all Vermont voters for the 2020 General Election in response to COVID-19. “Vermont is proof that when you remove barriers to voting for eligible voters, they do.”

In the last decade, Vermont

has enacted a number of important voter access laws, making it one of the most voter-friendly states in the country.

Vermont was ranked first in the nation for election administration in 2020 and 2016 by MIT’s Election Performance Index, a highly regarded, data-driven measure of a state’s election administration performance.

Late abortion

(Continued from Page 4)

abortion. But unrestricted, unregulated abortion through all nine months of pregnancy is opposed by 90% of Americans, according to a poll conducted after the Dobbs v.

Jackson Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade by the Harvard Center for Political Studies and The Harris Poll.

In response to the question, “Do you think your state should allow abortion...” the answer “up to nine months” only garnered 10% support. The next option, “up to 23 weeks,” only garnered 18% support.

Full poll results can be found at: https://harvard-harrispoll.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/HHP_

June2022_KeyResults.pdf. The section on abortion includes slides 38-46.

Boke also criticizes Vermonters for Good Government for raising the fear that healthcare workers could be required to participate in those procedures that violate their conscience and are contrary to their best medical judgment.

Here again, Boke is in error.

The legislature has never taken up bills I have proposed on conscience protection—something addressed in all

but one other state. That establishes a clear legislative intent to deny it as a compelling interest.

Laws in the future could explicitly require participation under Article 22, including placing professionals’ licenses at risk should they decline to

participate in a person’s constitutionally protected right to personal reproductive autonomy.

Given that state constitutional rights—unlike federal ones—can be enforced on private parties, individuals could also sue providers directly to force participation to ensure their access to this right.

In light of national events, it is tempting for people to jump on the “protect Roe v. Wade” bandwagon as a rationale to support Article 22.

But the threat to abortion rights simply isn’t true in Vermont.

Article 22, creating an unrestricted right to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy in our Constitution, does not reflect Vermonters’ collective values.

Rep. Anne Donahue, Northfield Spokesperson, Vermonters for Good Government and Vice-chair, House Health Care Committee

Article 22

(Continued from Page 4)

tion, and improved women’s career outcomes.

And a long-term research study has shown that women unable to obtain an abortion are more likely to be underemployed and experience household poverty along with their children.

With gender equity and the economic well-being of Vermont women and youth driving our work, Vermont Works for Women endorses the Reproductive Liberty Amendment.

By passing Article 22, Vermont would become the first state to explicitly protect reproductive rights in its constitution and pave the way

for other states to follow in its footsteps.

Register to vote online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>, in person at your Town Clerk’s office, or through same-day registration at your polling location on Election Day, November 8, 2022.

All registered Vermont voters will be mailed an absentee ballot no later than October 1, 2022, so you can vote early if you want to.

By passing Article 22, Vermont would become the first state to explicitly protect reproductive rights in its constitution and pave the way for other states to follow in its footsteps.

Rhoni Basden, Executive

Director of Vermont Works for Women and Cary Brown, Executive Director of Vermont Commission on Women

Notice of Road Closure: Arnold District Road, Brandon

The Arnold District Road will be closed to through traffic starting Monday, September 5, 2022, to install a box culvert over Arnold Brook.

The road will be closed at Adams Road and Arnold Brook intersection to approximately 500 feet north. Vehicles are to use Cram Road in Leicester as

the detour.

The anticipated completion date is September 30, 2022, at which time the road will be reopened to through traffic.

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Obituaries

Kathleen Hopperstad, 71, Chase City, Va.

BRANDON — Kathleen (Kathy) Hopperstad, age 71, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2022, following a short illness, surrounded by her loving family.

Kathy was born on May 12, 1951, in Rockville Center, NY. She grew up in North Bellmore, NY, and graduated from Calhoun High School in the Merrick L.I. class of 1969.

She was previously married to Joseph Combes on September 25, 1971. After four years of marriage, they had their first daughter, Michele. They moved to Vermont a few years later and had their daughter Christine.

Many people came to know and love Kathy as a talented hairdresser in the Brandon area. She also worked at Neshobe Elementary School as a teacher's aide. She was adored by all the students and staff she met along the way.

Kathy met Elden Hopperstad in 2000 and married on April 13, 2002, in Bennington.

Kathy loved her four puppies like they were her children. In September 2018, Kathy, Elden, and their four fur babies moved to Chase City, Va., where she lived until her passing.

Kathy loved her family more



KATHLEEN HOPPERSTAD

than anything. She also loved cooking, gardening, playing cards, family get-togethers, and fishing on their pontoon boat, where she would catch Blue Claw Crabs. She had a very caring heart and would light up any room with her smile and laugh.

She is survived by her husband, Elden; her sister, Barbara Blanco of Claverack, NY; her sister, Debra Jennings (Kevin) of Brandon; her daughters, Michele Devino (Karl) of Proctor and Christine Combes (John) of Brandon; her stepson, Joel Hopperstad of Rutland; her three grandsons, Justyn Suarez and Joseph Bertrand, both of Brandon, and Zach Hopperstad of Walling-

ford, CT.

Her niece, Allison Devino (Shawn) of Brandon; nephews, Dan Jennings (Brittini) of Leicester; great-niece, Jady Devino, and great nephew, Carson Devino, both of Brandon and several cousins also survive her.

She was predeceased by her parents, Louis and Marie Jacobs of Brandon; her former husband, Joseph Combes of NC, and her two stepsons, Christopher Hopperstad of Rutland and Thomas Hopperstad of Wallingford, Ct.

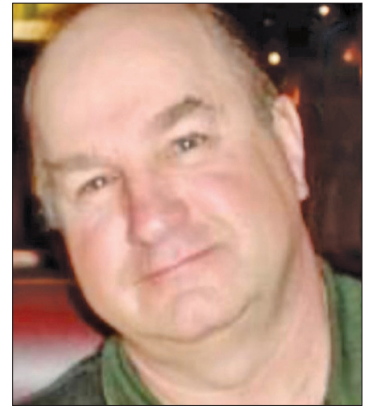
The funeral service will be held on Saturday, September 3, 2022, at 2 p.m., at the Brandon Congregational Church, and a graveside committal service and burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon on Friday, September 2, 2022, from 5-8 p.m..

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in her memory to gofund.com Kathy Hopperstad or the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, Vt., 05763.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Robert Charles Scarborough, age 74, Brandon



ROBERT SCARBOROUGH

BRANDON — Robert Charles Scarborough, age 74, passed away Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at his home in Brandon.

The son of Charles and Pauline (Trombley) Scarborough, Bob was born in Middlebury on February 5, 1948. He grew up in Forest Dale and Brandon, where he received his early education.

He graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1966. He earned his degree from the North Dakota School of Forestry, where he was a heavy-weight wrestler. Bob had been employed at Standard Register in Middlebury for 33 years.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping, beekeeping, and working in his garden. He remains the Vermont record holder for catching the biggest fallfish.

He collected Indian arrowheads and coins and loved playing with his dog and best friend, "Abby."

He was an avid Red Sox fan and liked watching Syracuse basketball and NASCAR.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne Gokey of Brandon; daughter, Amy Scarborough and her partner, John Connors, of Gloucester, Ma.; and sons, John Scarborough and his wife, Robyn, of Bomoseen, and Rob-

ert C. Scarborough, II of West Palm Beach, Fl. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A gathering, "In Celebration of His Life," will take place on Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Brandon American Legion Post #55.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in his memory to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, Vt., 05733, or to the Brandon Volunteer Fire Dept, 61 Franklin Street, Brandon, Vt., 05733.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Forrest H. Johnson Sr., 81, Forest Dale

Forest Dale — Forrest H. Johnson Sr. passed away peacefully on August 24 at his home.

The son of Miles Johnson and Shirley (Downs) Johnson, Forrest was born July 20, 1941, in Granville, Vt.

Forrest joined the Air National Guard in 1957 and attended Spaulding High School, graduating in 1960. He married Mary Aylward on October 29, 1960, in Waterbury.

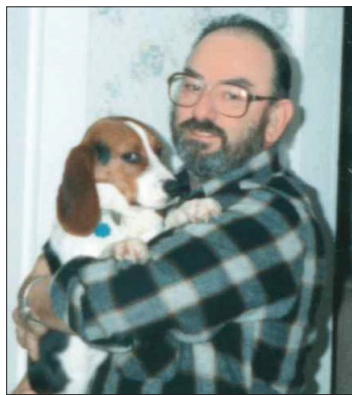
Forrest worked for GE in Burlington from 1960-1965. Forrest then returned to school at Eastern University, learning to drive semi-trucks, which led him to his next

occupation at Saint Johnsbury Trucking. In 1973 Forrest purchased his own semi-truck and became an owner-operator until 1982.

Forrest started a farm in West Virginia while also hauling water and delivering newspapers. In 1990 Forrest moved back to Vermont and opened Johnson Care Home in Hancock.

Forrest logged with his two beautiful workhorses for a time before he returned to the trucking industry, hauling cars until his retirement.

As a retiree, Forrest spent the summers in East Middlebury at



FORREST H. JOHNSON

Air Port Auto and the Winters in South Carolina. He enjoyed box-

ing, horses, reading, walking, baseball, joking around, music, dancing, and spending time with family and friends.

Forrest is survived by his sisters, Ann Long of Concord NH, Nancy Rivers and husband Dick Rivers of Moretown Vt.; his children Forrest Johnson Jr. of VA, Wayne Johnson, Deborah Johnson, and her Husband Tommy Lloyd of Forest Dale, Vt.; his grandchildren, Daniela Lloyd, Christopher Lloyd, and Sierra Johnson; great-grandchildren Hunter, Brady, Brooke, McCoy Lloyd, and Byron Robertson Jr., along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

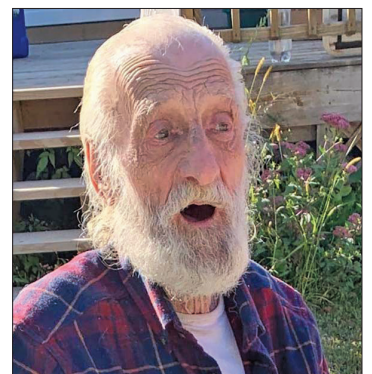
Forrest was predeceased by his daughter, Kathy Johnson, and son, Glenn Johnson.

There are no calling hours. Graveside services will be held at the Hancock Village Cemetery on Saturday, September 3, 2022, at 12 p.m. A reception will follow at the Hancock Town Hall catered by the Spanked Puppy.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in his memory to the Addison County Humane Society at <https://www.homewardbound-animals.org/donate/>

Arrangements are under the direction of the Day Funeral Home in Randolph.

Richard William Rowe, 81, Brandon



RICHARD W. ROWE

BRANDON — Richard William Rowe, age 81, passed away Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, at his home in Brandon.

"Rick" was born in Proctor on Jan. 5, 1941. He was the son of William and Evelyn (LaDuke) Rowe.

He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1959. Afterward, he served in the Ver-

(See Richard Rowe, Page 7)

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Leahy weighs in on Biden's student loan debt forgiveness

WASHINGTON, DC — Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) released the following comments on the President's announcement Wednesday, Aug. 24, on student loan debt forgiveness:

"I commend the President for proposing a way to help people with student debt. At home in Vermont, UVM, for instance, has recognized these challenges and refrained from tuition increases for the last four years while our state colleges strive to provide affordable access to higher edu-

cation for Vermont's students.

"The cost of higher education has become unsustainable for most Americans. Many find themselves saddled with high amounts of student loan debt. Too often, I hear from Vermonters who have taken out a second mortgage on their house or who are working at a second or third job to pay off their student loans.

"I know that many have been working for years — and even decades — only to make a dent in the principal amount owed

due to high-interest rates. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of those who have put off important life decisions, such as having a child, because of their student loan debt. This is a pervasive and unacceptable experience that Americans face in this country."

According to the White House, their three-step plan for decreasing American student debt is to provide targeted debt relief to address the financial harms of the pandemic, fulfilling the President's campaign commitment.

The Department of Education will provide up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by the Department of Education and up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients.

Borrowers are eligible for this relief if their income is less than \$125,000 (\$250,000 for married couples). No high-income individual or high-income household (in the top 5% of incomes) will benefit from this action.

To ensure a smooth transition to repayment and prevent unnecessary defaults, the pause on federal student loan repayment will be extended one final time through December 31, 2022. Borrowers should expect to resume payment in January 2023.

The new plan aims to make the student loan system more manageable for current and future borrowers by:

Cutting monthly payments in

half for undergraduate loans. The Department of Education proposes a new income-driven repayment plan that protects more low-income borrowers from making any payments and caps monthly payments for undergraduate loans at 5% of a borrower's discretionary income—half of the rate borrowers must pay now under most existing plans. This means that the average annual student loan payment will be lowered by more than \$1,000 for both current and future borrowers.

Fixing the broken Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program by proposing a rule that borrowers who have worked at a nonprofit, in the military, or in federal, state, tribal, or local government receive appropriate credit toward loan forgiveness. These improvements will build on temporary changes the Department of Education has already made to PSLF, under which more than 175,000 public servants have already approved more than \$10 billion in loan forgiveness.

Protect future students and taxpayers by reducing the cost of college and holding schools accountable when they hike prices. The President championed the largest increase in Pell Grants in over a decade and one of the largest one-time influxes to colleges and universities. To further reduce the cost of college, the President will continue to fight

to double the maximum Pell Grant and make community college free. Meanwhile, colleges have an obligation to keep prices reasonable and ensure borrowers get value for their investments, not debt they cannot afford. This Administration has already taken key steps to strengthen accountability, including in areas where the previous Administration weakened rules. The Department of Education is announcing new efforts to ensure student borrowers get value for their college costs.

"As a strong supporter of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, I am pleased to hear that the administration has revamped the PSLF program, which has already identified more than 100,000 borrowers eligible for \$6.4 billion in loan relief," said Leahy.

"Additionally, DOE is providing \$7.8 billion in relief for more than 400,000 borrowers who have permanent disabilities and approving \$2 billion in borrower defense claims to approximately 107,000 borrowers," he continued. "These changes also include approving \$1.26 billion in closed school discharges for students of several colleges and universities that are now defunct. Along with many, many Vermonters, I am encouraged by these changes, and I believe that we must act to help address student debt in this country, and in a significant way."

Richard Rowe

(Continued from Page 6)
mont Army Guard. He later received training as a professional barber.

He and his late father owned and operated Rowe's Barber Shop in Brandon for many years. He was a member of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge No. 25 in Brandon. He was an avid fisherman and shootist and ran a trap line.

He is survived by his son, John W. Rowe, and his wife, Michelle of Brandon; his former wife and mother of his children, Theresa Rowe of Brandon. Four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive him.

He was predeceased by his parents; a son, Richard Allen "Ricky" Rowe; a brother, Gordon Lee; and a sister, Shelia Bovi.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m., in the family lot at Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon. Members of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in his memory to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, Vt., 05733.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

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Back to school



SUMMER HELD ONE last splash for the lucky kids at Estabrook Park on a pleasant Sunday afternoon. The festivities held food, music, two water slides, and several big blasts from a t-shirt cannon.

CHILDREN EAGERLY AWAITING a t-shirt to drop from the sky, top left; a happy child cooled out on one of the water slides, top right; Middlebury's Carson Hutchins celebrated after snagging a shirt, center right; volunteers, from left, Dallas, Calvin, and Jeff Ladd served up some mighty fine hot dogs, bottom right; Jaimesun Hooker of Brandon took a plunge, bottom left; Luke and John Quesnel, right, struck a pose (photo by Paul Quesnel); Rec Director Bill Moore was caught with a smoking gun...er...t-shirt cannon, center.

Reporter photos/Mat Clouser



RNESU's new superintendent, Dr. Kristin Hubert, looks to build on lessons learned from COVID

BY MAT CLOUSER

RUTLAND — The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many problems to Vermonters, Americans, and the world. Beyond the tragic deaths of nearly 6.5 million people and the medical professionals who've faced that reality every day, there is perhaps no segment of the population that has suffered more than the children who have seen the brightness of their childhoods darkened by the specter of disease, uncertainty, and the real-time fissuring of a society in which many have been taught to trust implicitly.

Theirs is a collective trauma that we cannot yet begin to understand. As for society, of course, it stands no chance without healthy children who are inspired and invested in its future—a future that can sometimes seem terrifying even to the most stoic adults, regardless of their feelings about why.

New Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Superintendent Dr. Kristin Hubert knows this all too well but remains steadfast in her and RNESU's ability to adapt and overcome. "There have been a lot of negatives regarding the pandemic—we don't want to do long-term school closures ever again," she said in a recent conversation with The Reporter.

"That being said, we definitely—as a school system, a state, and a profession—learned a lot," she continued. "There are some promising practices that [we] got good at because of remote learning and long-term closures. For instance, we can have meetings [with all teachers] once a month without requiring anyone to travel because we've gotten much better at virtual meetings."

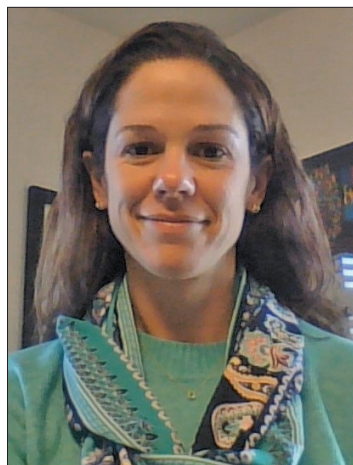
Dr. Hubert, who took over officially from Jeanné Collins on July 1, has worked as RNESU's Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for the past three years. She has an extensive career as an administrator and educator, including as an elementary principal for 13 years in Rutland and Arlington and as an elementary teacher in Fair Haven—and was named the National Distinguished Elementary Principal in 2016.

Teaching remains a passion for Dr. Hubert, who has maintained a part-time position at Castleton University in the principal-prep program. In ad-

dition to her local school work, she has served on several state-level committees, including the Vermont Principal Association, the Vermont Equity Practitioners Network, the Vermont Equity Advisory Group, and the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Advisory Board.

Additionally, Dr. Hubert has a bachelor of arts degree in English and elementary education from the University of Vermont, a masters of art degree in educational leadership from Castleton University, and an educational doctorate in curriculum, teaching, learning, and leading from Northeastern University.

"We are very excited that Kristin will be our next superintendent. She has done a phenomenal job of leading our curriculum and assessment program for the past three years, particularly during COVID and the switch to remote learning. She is familiar with our communities and our staff and students and will bring continued stability to our district as we



DR. KRISTIN HUBERT

continue to evolve in our focus on student achievement," said RNESU Board Chair Laurie Bertrand in a March RNESU.org post officially recognizing Dr. Hubert's promotion in March.

As part of that evolution, Hubert knows there will be challenges. Among them, she lists staffing shortages as one of the biggest hurdles—a hurdle she points out that affects schools and businesses nationwide. "When you have shortages like that, there's this domino effect," she said.

"We're really hopeful for this school year," she continued, "but we know that people are going to get sick. Even if

[teachers and staff] aren't sick, their kids might be sick... they might need to be home to care for their own kid. Substitute coverage and staffing continue to be a focus and a need for most school systems...."

Hubert also listed high turnover rates as a major issue to contend with. "We have a lot of new teachers and non-licensed staff," she said. "That means we have to focus on mentoring and making sure that people are acclimated to our school community—making sure that people feel supported and want to stay."

According to Hubert, the state is taking new measures to address the need for new teachers. "The Agency of Education is trying to figure out non-traditional ways to licensure she said. They're doing everything they can to get teachers in front of kids.

But teachers aren't the only ones having a problem sticking around. "Rutland county had the highest truancy numbers in the state last year," said Hubert. "We want to prioritize wellness and student health, but we also want to prioritize getting kids back in school. That's part of why we're focusing on personalization and engagement—we want kids in school."

"When we think about wellness and organizational wellness, we focus on academic achievement and safe and healthy schools—which is our physical safety and physical wellness, but it's also our social and emotional wellness," she continued, discussing part of her plan to address student engagement.

"We're really hoping to give students voice and agency," she continued, "helping them lead the way because a lot of times there are well-intentioned adults who don't necessarily understand the student experience."

A part of that involves RNESU's focus on equity, which Hubert describes as a supervisory focus that predates her

involvement with the union by a wide margin. "Equity and the experiences that we provide for our students—long before I started at RNESU—has been a value of the school system."

Hubert described equity by means of an analogy. "All kids have shoes but do all kids have shoes that fit them?" she said. "[It's not] do all students have the same thing but do all students have what they need to be successful?"

According to Hubert, the pandemic has exacerbated problems for the historically disadvantaged, such as children with disabilities or those living in poverty. "This year, we're really going to work to address some of those things, but also, it's about awareness and a common language for all of our staff," she said.

Hubert says the union employs equity coaches and has an equity committee that's made up of students, teachers, administrators, and people from the

community at large, and that the future equity work will be less at the supervisory level and more of a "groundswell" from the individual schools so that the student perspectives can be more specific to each building's needs. "Student groups there can work with the equity coach and the principals to be driving a lot of the work," she said.

"I'm new to the superintendent, but I'm not new to the system," said Hubert. "I'm certainly not new to Vermont schools. I think this year, we're doing a lot of reflecting so that we can move forward. We have a lot of new administrators and a lot of new teachers."

"It's not about disparaging or scrapping what happened in the last couple of years or even in the last decade," she continued. "It's how do we, as a profession, reflect on what's worked and what our challenges are so that we can keep moving forward... that's the theme in a lot of Vermont schools."

"[In the past] no one went to school to learn how to teach kids and lead them through a pandemic," she added. "So, the last couple years have been tough, not just on students and families but also on educators... Collective efficacy is critical to what we do—that belief that we don't do it alone."

"We're really hoping to give students voice and agency, helping them lead the way because a lot of times there are well-intentioned adults who don't necessarily understand the student experience."

—Kristin Hubert

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Pittsford's Patrick Daly takes ninth-place at the USA Youth Climbing Nationals

BY MAT CLOUSER

PITTSFORD — Ten years of training probably sounds like a long time for most. For 15-year-old Patrick Daly of Pittsford, it's practically a lifetime. And yet, that's how long he's been involved with climbing—competing for eight of those years—a solid career for almost any athlete.

Daly says his mother, Margaret, is also a climber and that he was first introduced to the sport when his older brother Michael—a former competitor who climbed in the Collegiate Nationals last spring and served as the climbing team coach at UVM for the past two years—started climbing at the Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center (GMRCC) in Rutland.

It should be no surprise that he'd do well in the sport, but how well is something else al-

together. After a string of successes at local and regional bouldering competitions, Daly brought home a ninth-place finish (out of 57 competitors) in the Youth Male A bouldering division at the USA Youth Climbing National Championships in Chicago on July 25.

Bouldering is a form of free climbing done with only hand chalk and climbing shoes on smaller rock formations or on artificial climbing surfaces that typically top out around 20 feet high, and are done without the use of ropes and harnesses, something that Daly says he's done for such a long time because lead climbing—a

traditional form of climbing on a much higher rock face that's done with ropes, harnesses, and belay—was intimidating. “The last couple of years, I've been lead climbing more and plan on competing in it next year,” said Daly.

Daly, who is on the climbing team at Metrorock Essex Junction and competes in no other forms of athletics, has been attending high school online through the International Virtual Learning Academy (IVLA) in part so that he could have more flexibility to train—training which he does at a climbing wall in a shed at home to supplement the times when Metrorock isn't holding practices.

According to Margaret, the

process of being selected for the National Championships is long. Climbers must first compete at one or two local qualifiers. They are ranked based on how well they do there, with the top 26 climbers eligible to move on to regional competitions held throughout the coun-

try. There are two regions in each of the nine national divisions; the top 10 regional finishers from each division proceed to one of the nine Divisional Championships, where only the top six advance to Nationals. Making it to Nationals is a massive achievement in itself.

Daly says his favorite part of climbing is

the process of projecting—a process where climbers spend days, weeks, months, or even years working on climbs that are at or beyond their physical limits. He also says this can present challenges. “I've experienced a loss of motivation and plateaus in which I couldn't seem to progress,” he said. “And multiple finger injuries.”

When asked if he experienced any fear when climbing, Daly didn't hesitate to answer, saying, “Yeah, definitely. I'm still afraid of falling while lead climbing sometimes.”

There aren't many great outdoor climbing spots in the immediate area, said Daly, who lists Bolton, Smuggler's Notch, and Lonerock among his favorite spots in Northern Vermont. Regardless of where people climb, however, Daly has some essential advice. “Rest after each attempt,” he said. “And also, use chalk.”

As for his future in climbing, which he calls “a great lifetime sport,” Daly said, “I don't have any specific goals—just to improve as long as I enjoy the process.”

Bouldering is a form of free climbing done with only hand chalk and climbing shoes on smaller rock formations or on artificial climbing surfaces that typically top out around 20 feet high, and are done without the use of ropes and harnesses.



PATRICK DALY OF Pittsford recently competed at the USA Climbing Youth National Championships in Chicago, where he placed 9th in the Youth Male A (15 and 16-year-olds) bouldering competition.



Red Cross issues safety tips for family preparedness plan as kids head back to school

BURLINGTON — School bells will be calling students back to the classroom soon, and the American Red Cross, Northern New England Region, has steps everyone can take to help kids remain safe as they head back to school.

As parents prepare for the start of a new school year, it's a good time to think about emergencies, such as weather-related disasters, and draw up an emergency plan for their household. Know the emergency plan at your child's school and develop a family emergency plan so everyone will know whom to contact and where to go if something happens during the school day. Details are available at redcross.org/prepare.

“There are a lot of things to think about for the start of a busy new school year, but don't forget to include safety,” said Stephanie Couturier, CEO, Red Cross Northern New England Region. “We ask parents and guardians to consider familiarizing their children with these measures to help keep them safe as they head back to school.”

CELL PHONES ARE A DISTRACTION

The National Safety Council (NSC) reports that distracted walking can be dangerous, even deadly. Teach your students the following:

Don't text or talk on your phone while walking. If you must text, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk;

Never cross the street while

using an electronic device;

Do not walk with headphones in your ears;

Drivers can be distracted too. Never use a phone while driving. Help keep children safe by eliminating all distractions.

TAKING THE BUS

Students should get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive. Young children should be supervised;

Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop, and the driver or attendant instructs them to get on. They should only board their bus, never an alternate one;

All students should stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals, and stay in the crosswalk;

Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars;

Use a route along which the school has placed crossing guards;

Parents should walk with young children and those taking new routes or attending new schools for the first week to ensure they know how to get there safely. Arrange for the kids to walk to school with a friend or classmate.

GOING BY CAR

Everyone should always wear a seat belt;


Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly

(See Safety tips, Page 11)

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Safety tips

(Continued from Page 10)

erly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4'9") and ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old;

If a teenager is going to drive to school, parents should mandate that they use seat belts.

RIDING A BIKE

There may be more young people on bikes as the school bells ring. They should:

Wear a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing;

Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, in a single file;

Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street;

Stay alert and avoid distracted riding.

SLOW DOWN

Drivers should slow down, especially in residential areas and school zones, and know what the yellow and red bus signals mean. Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is getting ready to stop and that motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off;

Motorists must stop behind a bus, meeting the bus, or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until

the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails, or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.

KEEP LITTLE ONES SAFE

Keeping all students safe is the primary concern for everyone, but there are special steps for parents of younger kids and those going to school for the first time:

Make sure the child knows their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult, and how to call 911;

Teach children not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know;

Finally, download the free Red Cross First Aid app for instant access to information on handling the most common first aid emergencies. You can find it by searching for American Red Cross in your app store or at redcross.org/apps. Learn and practice First Aid and CPR/AED skills by taking a course (redcross.org/takeaclass), so you can help save a life.

PATH Forward to provide targeted wellness supports to VT school districts

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Agency of Education announced on Aug. 25 that it signed a contract with the Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) on a program to advance educator health and wellness in Vermont.

The PATH Forward program will provide targeted wellness supports to Vermont's educator workforce and support Vermont's supervisory unions and school districts in developing robust wellness programs that meet their individual needs.

PATH Forward is a strategic investment in school-based wellness programs to meet their immediate needs and build capacity going forward.

"Health and wellbeing is a key part of education recovery," said Secretary of Education Dan French. "As we embarked on this effort, it became increasingly apparent that educator and school staff wellness is critical to their ability to support students. Providing tailored assistance on a district-by-district basis will ensure teachers have what they need to be successful in the near term while making sure that wellness gets the attention and supports it deserves in the future."

The PATH Forward initia-

tive builds on VEHI's existing Planned Action Toward Health (PATH) wellness programs while ensuring every district has the resources and supports it needs to prioritize wellness in its community.

Starting in the fall, VEHI will conduct surveys and focus groups with Vermont educators and school staff around the state. The information gathered will be used to develop targeted programs for school districts and provide a baseline against which to measure the effectiveness of these programs down the road. VEHI will also work with the AOE and school districts to encourage school employees to take advantage of existing wellness resources.

In later phases of the project, VEHI will provide professional learning and technical support to school districts to develop or update comprehensive educator wellness programs at the local level that are targeted to the specific needs of the district. VEHI will also work with schools to make sure policies and procedures are aligned with wellness best practices and encourage, not hinder, employee health and wellness.

"Supporting the health of our Vermont educators is the top

priority of our wellness programs," said Jonathan Steiner, President of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, which manages VEHI jointly with Vermont-NEA. "We have been providing innovative programming in our school communities for over 30 years, encouraging healthy life choices and building good habits. This partnership with AOE will allow us to broaden our reach and provide the specific services each school needs."

The partnership commits \$1.395 million of the State's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP ESSER) to educator and school staff wellness. These funds come from the "state set-aside," funds designated to the AOE to support statewide education recovery needs, contrasted with ARP ESSER funds that are sent directly to Vermont school districts.

VEHI will also use some of the contracted funding to provide services and program supports directly to school districts to reduce the burden of funding and administering these programs on the local level.

Westside teens win Elmira College's Key Award

BY MAT CLOUSER

WEST RUTLAND — A little more than a week ago,



MALLORY HOGAN

Arianna Coombs and Mallory Hogan.

The award is presented to outstanding students during their junior year of high school or preparatory school, in a tradition that goes back to 1935. This year's award was given to 761 students across 14 states and Puerto Rico. Recipients receive an \$80,000 scholarship over four years, \$20,000 per year, upon enrolling at Elmira College.

"This award is given to those who have exhibited their potential to excel academically and serve as leaders," said Charles

Lindsay, president of Elmira College. "We hope they will choose to make Elmira College their place."

Speaking to students during the 2022 Key Award Ceremony on August 22, Patrick Gillette, director of admissions, said, "We know you are someone who would thrive as a member of the Elmira College campus community, and we want to invest in your success at Elmira College."

The more than 120 attending recipients met with Elmira College professors, staff, current students, and athletic coaches; attended information sessions about EC

programs, and toured the campus.

West Rutland Principal Jay Slenker expressed his joy, if not surprise, at the announcement. "Both are outstanding

student-athletes, National Honor Society members, and wonderful contributors to the WRS community," he said.



ARIANNA COOMBS

Elmira College (Elmira, NY) announced the winners of its Key Award. Among the winners were two West Rutland seniors (as of August 31, 2022),

Brandon "Rocks"

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who has gone in and looked at my rock jewelry and bought one. I really want to say thank you to Ann at Brandon Florist for giving me my first place to sell my rock jewelry. Ann is great! Ann has always encouraged me and my business!



I also want to thank Karen at The Creative Nest for showing my jewelry in her store and for being so supportive of me too!

From,
Hunter Barnhardt

Calendar of events

September

Tuesday:

Chess Club

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

Brandon Public Library Pins & Needles Crafting Group

The club will meet 5:30–7 p.m.

Brandon Public Library Teen Advisory Group

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

Brandon Public Library Book Discussion Group

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

Brain Club: Virtual Weekly Community Education Series

Brain Club is a weekly community education series (6–7 pm resuming July 12) where we will be joined by professionals from various fields to teach us about different ways that brains of all types navigate everyday life, followed by Q&A from the audience. Each week will have a presenter or panel about a different topic, oriented around a monthly theme. All webinars are recorded for on-demand viewing.

Wednesdays:

Brandon Public Library Meditation Group

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

Music At The Riverbend Summer Concerts

The warmth of the late-day sun on your face . . . the swell of music and the smell of popcorn carried on an evening breeze . . . Brandon's wonderful summer concert series have attracted over 100 folks to each performance and over 200 to some of them!! Every Wednesday night in July and August, the beautiful grounds behind the Brandon Inn is the site of free concerts for our community. We have an eclectic line-up of bands on tap. Join the folks who come out and relax with some quality music with their friends and neighbors. The kids have fun running around the pretty grounds next to the Neshobe River, and we all enjoy free popcorn! Adult beverages are served up by the Brandon Inn, available in the outdoor lounge area, so you don't miss a note of the music. At this time rain outs will NOT be held inside the Inn. We'll try to put a sign out that states "No Concert Tonight". Thanks for your support in our fundraisers and for coming out to support the great bands we have year after year. It's great to be part of live community music! Make a secure online donation here to help support the Brandon Summer Concert Series. Many thanks to the generosity of the Brandon Inn for sharing their space with us! For more information, contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or info@brandon.org

Thursdays:

Summer Storytime Playgroup with Sophie

Join us at 10 am at the Maclure Library. for stories, crafts, snacks and free play!

2:

Andy Karl and Orfeh live at in Southern Vermont Art Center

Don't miss Tony Award® nominees and Broadway's

most dynamic couple, Andy Karl and Orfeh, at the Southern Vermont Art Center's Arkell Pavilion from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The concert is an eclectic mix of pop, R&B, and Broadway show tunes sure to move and groove you!

Tickets range from \$35-\$80 and can be purchased at SVAC.ORG. The Arkell Pavilion is located at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, 930 Southern Vermont Arts Center Drive, Manchester, Vt., 05254. (802) 362-1405

laying the foundation stones of the new United States of America.

"The Mount Independence State Historic Site allows you to experience history where it happened," said Laura V. Trieschmann, Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer. "This is one of the nation's most significant Revolutionary War sites, and this reenactment weekend brings the events from 245 years ago to life." The weekend will offer a chance for visitors to experience a bygone era with hands-on history activities for all ages and interests. Saturday's highlight is the popular Baldwin

'Artists in the Archives: Community, History & Collage' will be on view at the Sheldon Museum from September 2, – January 7, 2023

Local history museums and archives are vital to building healthy communities and anchoring our understanding of the world. Collage artists have unique skills that are particularly useful in our historical moment. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Sheldon Stewart-Swift Research Center, an international network of collage artists was invited to engage the Sheldon archival collections. Under the curatorial direction of Kolaj Institute Director Ric Kasini Kadour, and with the support of the Research Center staff, twenty-three artists from seven countries created collage prints that reflect upon the idea of community in the 21st-century world.

In this exhibit, artists from Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Ukraine, and several US states created collages to explore how the archival material expresses an aspect of a community. The resulting artwork offers commentary on how community ties formed around food, local industries, and social activities, how the natural environment fostered social connections and the intimate lives of women.



"NOTHING WILL BE the same without you," collage by Klara Espersen (Denmark), 2022.

Artists also probed the Eurocentric character of the local community and the marginalization of people of Asian, African, and Jewish descent, largely absent from the Sheldon's collections.



COLLAGE BY RIC Kasini Kadour.

Guest curator Ric Kasini Kadour will be at the opening reception Friday, September 2, 2022, from 5-7 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. A book accompanying the exhibit, published by Kolaj Institute, will be available in the museum store.

3:

Brandon Town Hall: The Silverbacks Blues & Rock Band

Another chance to dance the night away with The Silverbacks starting at 7:30 p.m. A Blues and Classic Rock band that offers authentic Blues and vintage Rock and Roll tunes. The band offers a great selection of songs that are recognizable and thoroughly danceable.

Tickets: Couples: \$14, Adults, \$8, Seniors and Students, \$7. Sponsored by Heritage Family Credit Union. Saturday, September 10, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

3 4:

Revolutionary war encampment at Mount Independence

"Soldiers atop the Mount" reenactment weekend honors soldiers who built and garrisoned Mount Independence. Immerse yourself in a Revolutionary War experience at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, Vermont, on Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4, 2022, for the "Soldiers Atop the Mount" annual weekend encampment. This event honors the soldiers who built and garrisoned Mount Independence in 1776–77,

Trail Walkabout (10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), with experts at stations around the trail and reenactor camp talking to visitors about Revolutionary War subjects specific to those locations. Later in the day, reenactors will demonstrate period life, skills, and military activities, and in the afternoon, present a woods skirmish, leading visitors to follow the action.

Sunday morning, a reenactor portraying an American chaplain stationed at Mount Independence will present a sermon that was preached on-site during the American Revolution. Throughout the day, reenactors will offer several short history vignettes and demonstrations. A reenactment of the reading of the Declaration of Independence, from which the site gets its name, will happen at

Kennedy Park Concerts

September 10 Jim Shaw
September 24 Patrick Fitzsimmons

All shows 11a-1p in Kennedy Park.
Sponsored by the Downtown Brandon Alliance.

12:30 p
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o.m.
 admission is \$7.00 for adults, free for children under 12. Admission includes visiting the museum. The museum shop, an excellent selection of books and other items, will be open on both days. Food and beverages, and light snacks are available for purchase on both days. Mount Independence is located at the end of Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersection of Vermont Routes 22A and 73 in Orwell. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, through October 9. Call (802) 948-2000 for schedule details or visit the website at <https://mountindependence.org/>

Sheldon Museum: A quartet of presentations at the Sheldon Museum

Starting at noon, Bob Hooker will show several interesting objects he has excavated in his yard with a little family history thrown in as well—his grandfather and great-grandfather were both blacksmiths on the property where Bob lives.

Rod Michaud will discuss his extensive collection of mechanical banks and toys, like the 1886 Uncle Sam mechanical bank included in the Sheldon's exhibit.

Pam Pezzulo will share how she started her collection of antique children's sewing machines like the Hansel and Gretel machine in the exhibit, and show some examples from her collection.

Musician Rick Ceballos collects banjos and has a few proto-banjoes from Africa. He will talk about the Ngoni in the Sheldon's exhibit along with a few other instruments.

9:

Sheldon Museum Tick Talk

David Allen, Associate Professor of biology at Middlebury College will present "The Ecology of Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases" in the Sheldon's barn. Allen studies the ecological, climate, and landscape factors which determine tick-borne disease risk. He uses a mix of fieldwork, lab-based and modeling methods.

Over the last two decades, tick populations and cases of tick-borne diseases (like Lyme disease) have increased dramatically in Vermont. Tick populations are influenced by a complex set of biotic (e.g., deer and mouse populations) and abiotic (e.g., climate) drivers. As a result, it is hard to say what is responsible for the dramatic change to tick populations. This talk will present a brief introduction to tick biology. Allen will also discuss his research trying to understand what drives tick-borne disease risk in Vermont.

Free and open to the public, seating is limited, first come-first served. Bring a bag lunch if you'd like!

Sheldon Town Hall: Beekeepers Statewide Conference

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Vermont Beekeepers will hold their summer membership meeting for the second year in a row. This is not an FOTH event. If you think you might want to take a class in beekeeping or just learn more about it, you can register for the meeting at the door. Registration for non-members is \$10.

Sheldon Museum of History : Book signing with Megan Price, author of the series "Vermont Wild."

From 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Megan Price is a Vermont Lakes native whose heritage is 100 percent Welsh. True to her heritage, her original plan was to sing, but she decided writing was more likely to pay the bills. Megan Price, a news reporter, was later elected to serve three terms in the Vermont Legislature and later worked for health reform to benefit elderly Vermonters that resulted in a Department of Justice investigation. For the past decade, she has focused on writing the stories of retired game wardens. The result is "Vermont Wild, Adventures of Fish & Game Wardens" which has proven a hit with ages nine to 99 in Vermont and nationwide.

The wardens' stories are told in the first person and immortal-

ize their true encounters with hungry bear, angry moose, raucous raccoons and endless clever poachers. The stories are read aloud in schools from Maine to Texas taken to hunting camp and shared in nursing homes. To date, Megan has put more than 100 of the men's stories into print, with the photos of the men and a brief bio in each book.

The signing will be held at the Poultney Museum of History and Art, 168 York Street, Poultney, Vt.

Four collectors present their acquisitions at the Sheldon Museum, September 14 at noon

Four collectors who lent objects to the Sheldon Museum's current exhibit Addison County Collects will share stories about their collections with the community in the Henry Sheldon Museum's barn.

Bruce Yelton will share information about the East Middlebury Iron Works, which was built in 1831, and the iron slag he lent to the Sheldon's exhibit.

Sas Carey, whose mission in life is to support and preserve traditional Mongolian nomadic life, will share some of her rich stories and show some of the Mongolian clothing she has collected over the years.

A collector of sticks and stones, Diana Bigelow takes her collection one step further by creating whimsical figures from the natural materials, and the ballet dancer on display is one of many figures she has made over the last few years.

Eva Garcelon-Hart will talk about her experience organizing the artwork of NYC artist Władysław Brzosko and the exhibit of his works she curated at Middlebury College in 2008. Brzosko, originally from Poland, spent ten years after moving to the US from Paris creating a series, "Memories from the Warsaw Ghetto," depicting the doomed April 1943 Jewish uprising to which he was an eyewitness.

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited; first come, first served. Bring a brown bag lunch if you'd like.

For more details about the series, visit www.HenrySheldonMuseum.org or call the Sheldon at 802-388-2117.



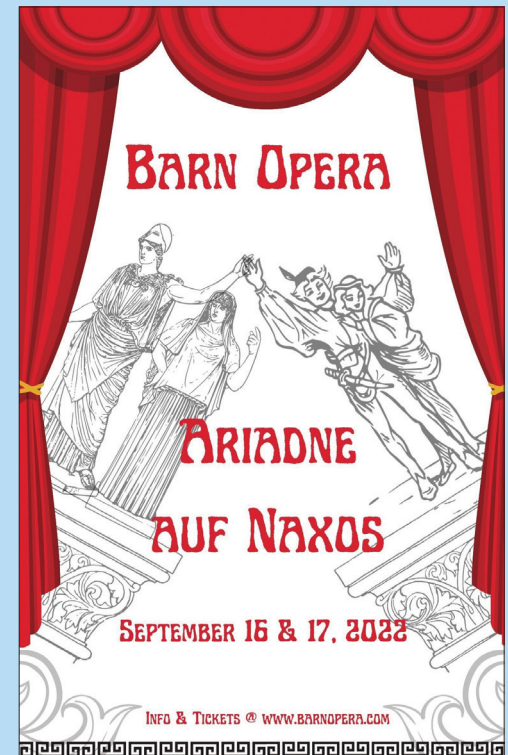
17:

West Rutland hosts annual Block Party

The annual West Rutland Block Party will take place on the Town Hall Green and Marble Street from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Marble Street from Campbell Street to Main Street will be closed to traffic to host the festivities. The day will feature games, craft vendors, and food trucks. The musical entertainment will feature West Rutland's Rock Lab, Tony's Polka Band, and Satin & Steel. The event will be topped off with an evening fireworks display.

Admission is free. Bring a chair and your dancing shoes.

Vendors featuring ethnic food, artisans, and makers are welcomed. A 10' x 10' space is \$20. Call 802-438-2263 for more information.



Sept. 16 & 17, 7:30 p.m. BARN OPERA presents Strauss' Comedy Ariadne auf Naxos

BARN OPERA, is thrilled to return to live performance with Richard Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos. Known for innovative takes on masterworks, this BARN OPERA production will be no exception. Artistic director (Joshua Collier) has a new concept that takes the already comedic opera, and turns it on its head, providing a night of operatic self-deprecation, and airing the perennial rivalry between the Operatic and the Musical theatre mediums. While the first act will be sung in colloquial English, the second act will be in the original German—the first time a German opera will be sung in its original language at BARN OPERA.

The production centers around "The Richest Man in Vermont" who, for a dinner party, rents out the most spectacular event space

in the region—the BARN OPERA House—for which he has commissioned a new opera seria from one of the most famous up-and-coming composers to be premiered. His wife, however, hates the opera, and much prefers a Broadway review for the evening's entertainment.

The first act sees both groups, equally disdainful toward the other, arguing about which performance would happen first. There are petty insults and witty barbs, but then the assistant for the "Richest Man in Vermont" announces that rather than two individual shows, they would combine the shows to create one show, all to be complete by 10pm. With only half an hour to organize, and with many competing interests, sparks fly and hijinks ensue.



Enjoy 2022 at Brandon Town Hall
and Community Center

Saturday, September 3, 7:30-10:00 pm

“The Silverbacks” Blues & Classic Rock Dance Band

Another chance to dance the night away with The Silverbacks, Brandon’s hometown rock band that offers authentic Blues & Classic Rock & Roll. You’ll hear Dire Straits, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bruce Springsteen, CCR, Eric Clapton and more recognizable and thoroughly danceable tunes!

Tickets: Couples \$14, Adults \$8, Seniors and Students \$7.
Sponsored by Heritage Family Credit Union.

Saturday, September 10, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie: “The Flying Ace” (1926)

Town Hall proudly presents one of the earliest all-black motion pictures, “The Flying Ace,” which was added to the National Film Registry this past December. A rare example of movies produced for black-only theaters found at the time in some parts of the nation. It tells the story of a WWI pilot tasked with solving the mysterious disappearance of a railroad payroll.

Free Will Donation Event.
Sponsored by Gary and Nancy Meffe.

Saturday, September 17, 7:30 pm

“Moose Crossing” Classic Jazz Band

Hailing from Poultney, VT, Moose Crossing plays youthful, energized takes on classic jazz tunes from Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington and beyond! They also perform funkier jazz-infused takes on rock and pop tunes from the Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Bruno Mars, the Doors & more.

Tickets: Adults \$8, Seniors and Students \$6.
Sponsored by American Legion Post 55, Brandon, Kathy & Wayne Rosenberger, Lyn & Jim DesMarais, Stacy Holden & Kirk Thomas, Donald Abelson & Joseph Everett, Nifty Thrifty, in memory of Martha Thurston, Peter and Louise Kelly.

Saturday, September 24, 7:30 pm

“Dissipated Eight” A Cappella Group

This Middlebury College favorite returns for their 6th year. Their signature harmonies, touch of comedy and interactions with the audience make them a Town Hall favorite. Their stage presence, comedic routines, solos and group numbers are sure to make this an enjoyable evening. You will hear a variety of songs from modern day pop to traditional barbershop.

Tickets: Adults \$8, Seniors and Students \$6.
Sponsored by Pam & Steve Douglass, Patty Wood, Harold & Jean Somerset, New England Woodcraft, Vermont County Store.

Sunday, September 25, 3:00-6:00 pm and

Monday, September 26, 6:00-8:00 pm

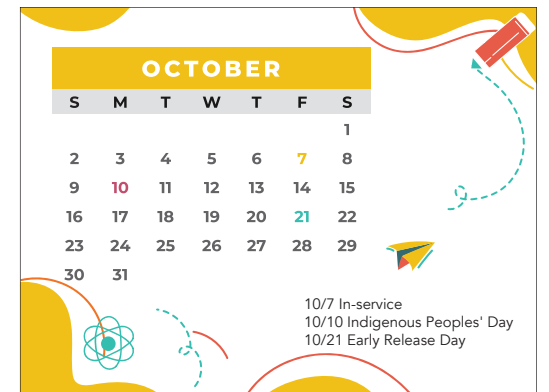
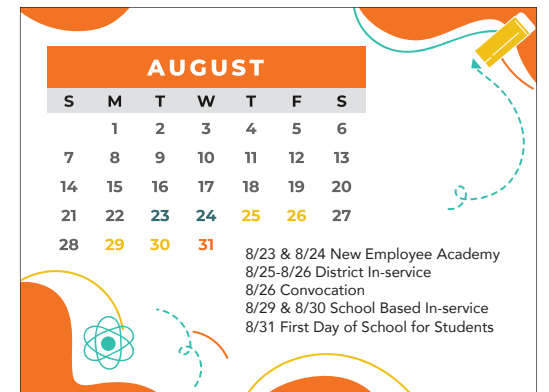
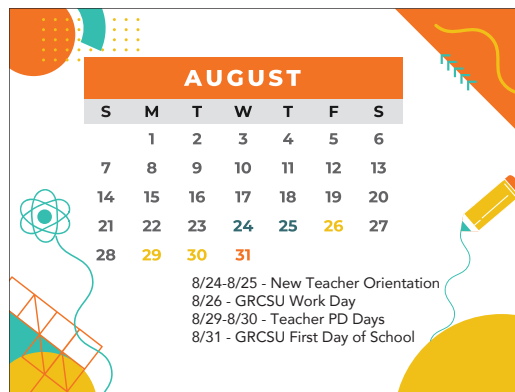
“Brandon Has Talent” Auditions

This show is a highlight of our 2022 season & is a fun night for the audience as well as the performers. If you like to sing, dance, play an instrument or have a special talent, just contact Dennis at denniswarden@gmail.com or 802-247-5420 to be a part of the 8th Annual “Brandon Has Talent” show!

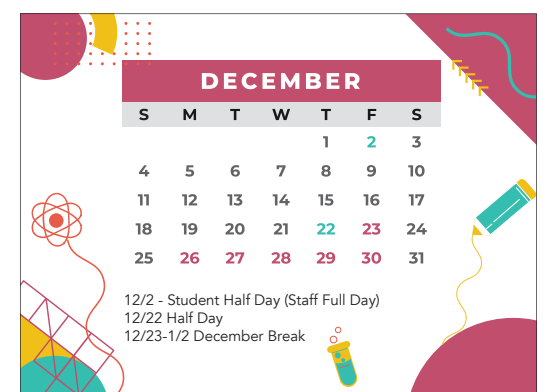
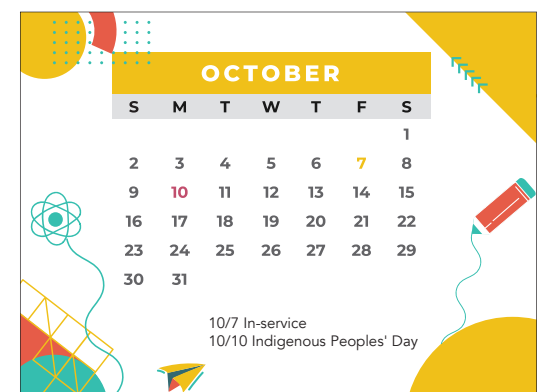
Friends of Brandon Town Hall

Handicap Accessible...501(c)(3) organization • brandontownhall.com

RNESU academic calendar



GRCSU academic calendar





THE VERMONT MARBLE Museum in Proctor will reopen in the fall.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Vermont Marble Museum delves into Proctor's history with two vintage films

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PROCTOR—The heart of Proctor is made of marble, in both a literal and a figurative sense: Literally, the center of the town is physically dominated by the stone—a graceful marble bridge crosses Otter Creek, and the Vermont Marble Museum is immediately adjacent; figuratively, Proctor owes its very existence to the stuff, as the town was created in the 1880s specifically for the operations of the behemoth Vermont Marble Company, whose first president was Redfield Proctor.

Almost everything one sees in the village today was built by “the company” either to produce marble or to cater to the workers. Proctor was a quintessential “company town” until the Company effectively went out of business in the 1970s, when it was sold to OMYA.

The Vermont Marble Museum occupies one of the company's old buildings in downtown Proctor. Though the Museum has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic, it's planning a “soft re-opening” in October. To reconnect with the community, it sponsored a showing and discussion of two short vintage films about the Company at the Union Church in Proctor this past Saturday evening. The films were *Mountains of Marble* (1937) and *Marble Today and Tomorrow* (1958).

The program attracted an au-

dience of roughly 40 people and began with an introduction by historian Kevin Thornton of the Marble Museum, who explained that the films had been recently rediscovered in a private collection and digitized with assistance from Fred Pond of the Vermont Historical Society (in attendance) and a grant from the John M. Bissell Foundation. Barbara Lacy of the Union Church was also present to welcome the audience.

The two films differed in some obvious respects—the 1937 film was in black and white while the 1958 film was in color, for example—but both shared an extreme reverence for marble as a material and narrators who sounded vaguely like Cary Grant.

It was possible to enjoy the films simply as artifacts of their eras. Mountains of Marble even had a brief scene with a woman doffing her satin dressing gown in a marble-clad bathroom. The narrator admonished the audience to “look at the marble” while an unexpected glimpse of nudity caused the room to erupt in laughter.

The opening of *Marble Today and Tomorrow* featured slabs of marble swirling about in pinkish light—very much a kitschy mid-century aesthetic. The work had the retro vibe of a school filmstrip trying hard to make a dry subject seem cool, almost to the point of a Simp-

son's parody. There were many images of men's hands caressing the smooth contours of various pieces of marble.

But both films followed the same basic outline. They each offered an account of how marble came into existence as the pressurized remains of sea creatures. Vermont is rich in marble because it used to be covered by a prehistoric ocean, of which Lake Champlain is all that's left.

Each film explained how the stone is located, extracted, processed, and shipped. They each showed several examples of Vermont marblecraft in New York City (e.g., Rockefeller Center, United Nations) and Washington, D.C. (e.g., Supreme Court, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier).

Both films made clear that people at every level of the company made marble their lives: Geologists, miners, cutters, polishers, and carvers. It's notable, though, that neither film featured any interviews with executives, since throughout its history the company was led by men—all Republican—who seemed to pass the governorship of Vermont from one to the next like a corporate perk. It's impossible to overstate the company's influence on Vermont politics in the 19th and 20th centuries. Vermont Marble Company ran Vermont for a long time.

When the films were over, Mr. Thornton took the floor again and solicited questions

and stories from the audience. There were questions about quarry-worker compensation (\$0.42/hr. in the 1930s), injuries (one-to-two fatalities per year, according to available records), and current reserves of marble in Vermont (only Danby still produces in quantity).

It was a mostly older crowd; many had come because they had family connections to the company. One gentleman recalled that his father had been a scab at the Company during a strike and had been run off the road by angry union workers. He'd had to pull a pistol to defend himself. Mr. Thornton added that five men from Center Rutland had gone to prison for beating up scabs.

Vermont today is hardly considered a hotbed of ethnic diversity, but the marble industry in the 19th and 20th centuries attracted workers from Ireland, Canada, Sweden, Italy, and Poland, among other countries. “Ethnicity was hugely important,” said Thornton. “The conflicts among the different ethnic groups made union organizing really difficult. It was hard to get them to see themselves as workers first and whatever their ethnicity was second.”

As tight-fisted as the Company could be with wages, it built schools, a library, a hospital, and houses (not all of which were heated or fitted with toilets, however). “The fact that the

Company provided so much in Proctor created a very different feeling than up in Barre, where there were several different marble companies, and none did much for their workers,” said Thornton. “It's probably why there are still so many people in Proctor who remember the company affectionately.”

It was clear that many in the audience appreciated the opportunity to share their families' experiences in the company's heyday and their memories of growing up in Proctor as the company was winding down. And so, the films will be shown again, according to Thornton, though no specific plans have been made. He's currently working on a documentary film about the Marble Strike of 1935 and would love to hear from anyone with stories or memories of a parent or grandparent who worked for the Company. He can be reached at kevin.p.thornton@gmail.com.

And the next time you drive through Proctor, or any Vermont town that ever had a quarry, notice the preponderance of marble. It's everywhere in Vermont. For nearly 100 years, it was the state's bread and butter. You can't understand the history of Vermont without an understanding of the role of marble and the Vermont Marble Company of Proctor.

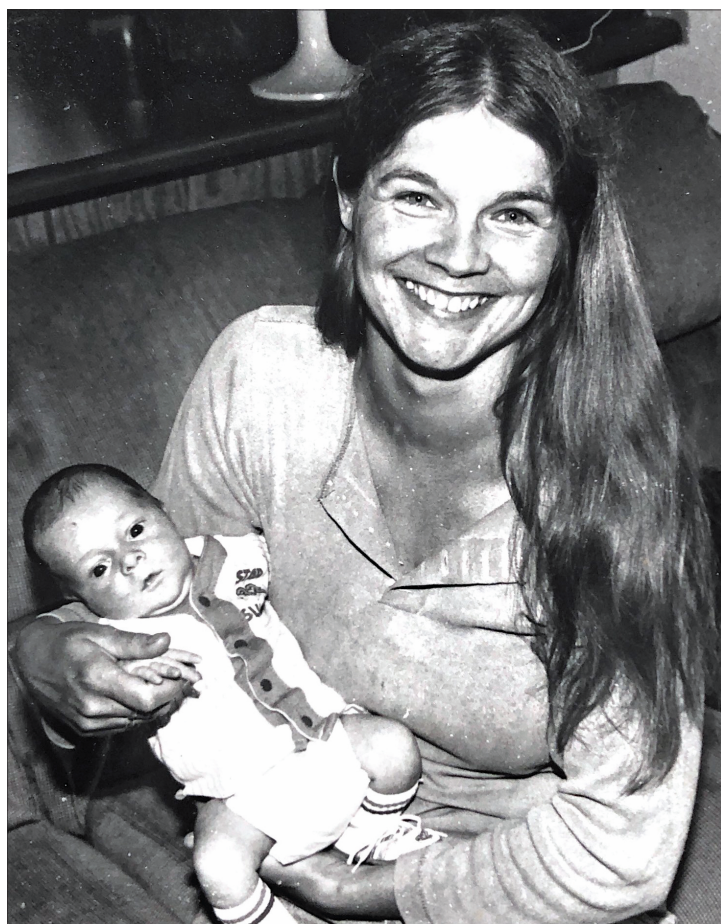


Mim's Photos

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



Jessica Doos emailed in recognizing a few people in this band photo. She recognized Mark Pelletier on the far left guitar, Tad Merrick in the middle, and she wasn't 100% positive but thought the gentlemen on the mic is Roger Lynam.

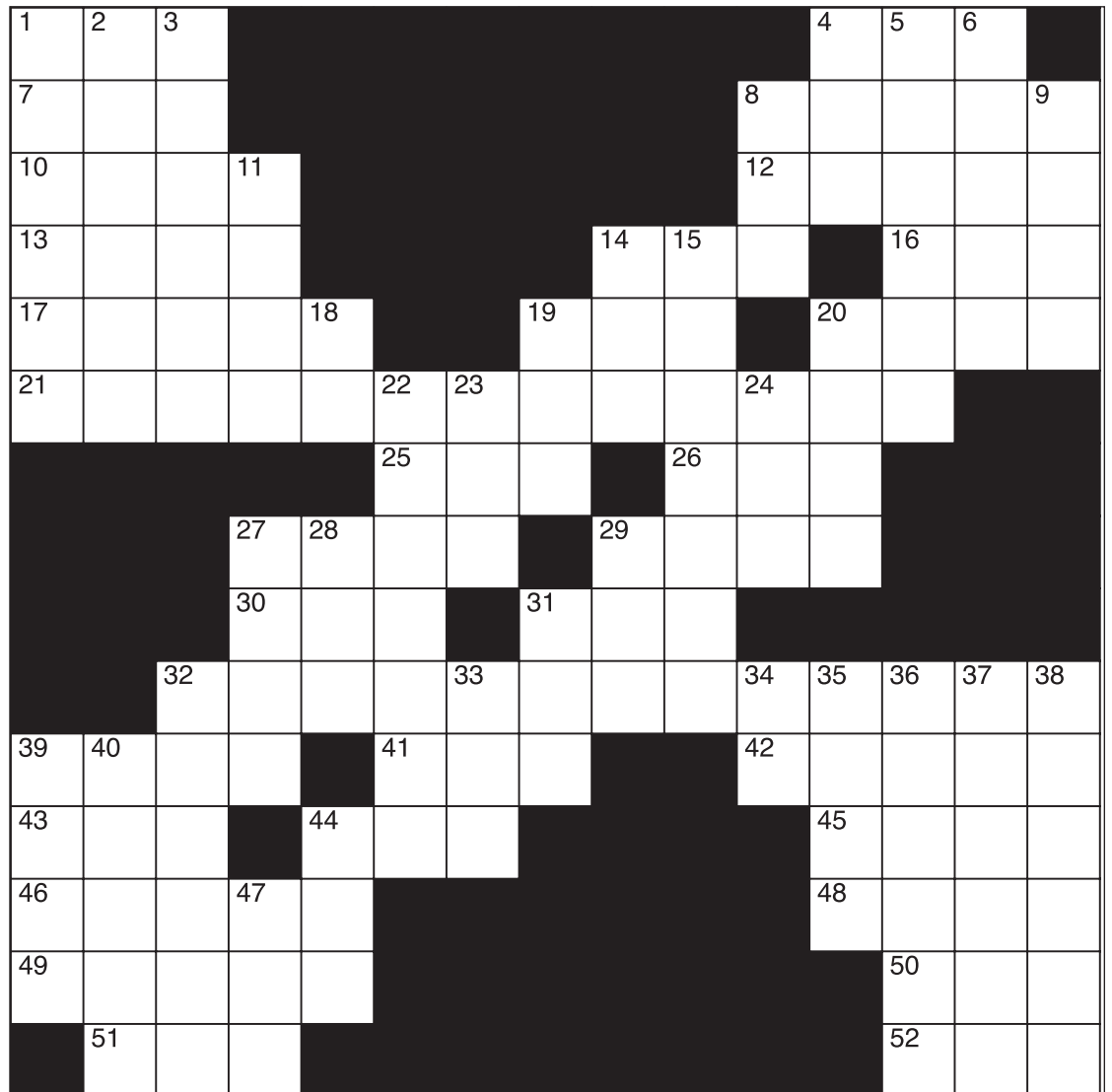
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxi
4. Cattle disease (abbr.)
7. Before the present
8. They burn in a grill
10. Enough (archaic)
12. "A Doll's House" playwright
13. Long loop of cloth worn around the waist
14. Napoleonic Wars battle
16. Chinese surname
17. Fragrant essential oil
19. Follows sigma
20. Model
21. A place with many dining options
25. BBQ dish
26. Corn comes on it
27. A sheep in its second year
29. Triad
30. They ___
31. Actor DiCaprio
32. TV's "Edith Bunker"
39. Sustenance
41. Man who behaves dishonorably
42. Cause a loud, harsh sound
43. A way to take in liquids
44. Gene type
45. The Miami mascot is one
46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
48. Casino machine
49. Contains cerium
50. Something with a letter-like shape
51. Handwoven Scandinavian rug
52. Legendary actress Ruby

CLUES DOWN

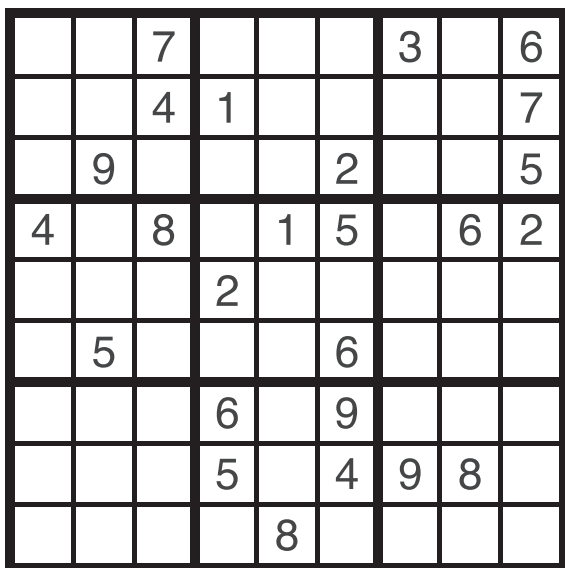
1. Conqueror
2. Kin relation
3. Increases the value of
4. Pack
5. Popular nut
6. Dogs' enemies
8. Former OSS
9. Unpleasant person
11. Come again?
14. Beverage container
15. Rock formation
18. Dorm official
19. The bill in a restaurant
20. Type of jug
22. Importance requiring swift action
23. Outfit
24. Small Eurasian deer
27. Weight used in China
28. A major division of geological time
29. Popular beverage
31. Confined condition (abbr.)
32. Practical joking
33. Pouchlike structure
34. Pound
35. Lilly and Manning are two
36. Stopped discussing
37. Baltimore ballplayer
38. Candymaker
39. One thousandth of a second (abbr.)
40. Northern sea duck
44. Partner to cheese
47. Cannot be found



Sudoku

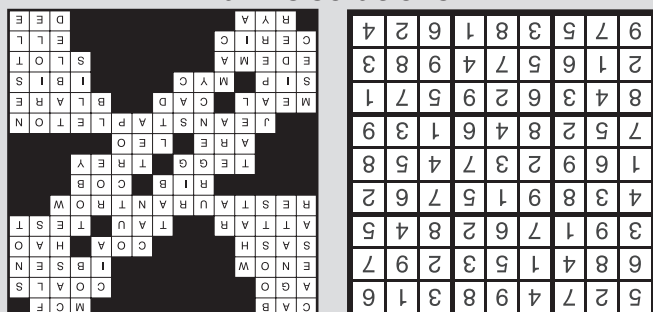
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

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



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle solutions



Rutland County Humane Society has launched its ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

Join RCHS and know you are a partner in helping abandoned, stray, and abused animals find their forever home. Your membership enables us to provide medical care, food, and comfortable warm kennels PLUS all the time and love they need to become healthy and begin the next chapter of their lives. Please consider joining RCHS, and as an added bonus, receive discounts at our partner vendors: Brandon Blue Seal, Castleton Pet Supply, Catamount Pet Supply, Happy Paws Daycare, S. E. Smith, Inc., and The Pet Cage! Go to www.rchsvt.org/membership to join now!

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



MEET AQUAMARINE 4-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE.

Domestic Short Hair. Grey Tortie with White. 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!

MEET ROSE 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE.

Terrier Mix. Grey with White. If you are looking for a sweet and goofy gal, please consider Rose! She is sweet, smart, and loves to be around people. Her favorite past times are going for walks, rolling around in the grass, and hopping around her favorite people. Yes, she hops! When she gets excited, she will hop around you with her toy and wait for pets. Rose is looking for an active family to go for hikes and walks with and then relax on the couch after. She is great at just relaxing with you, but ready to go whenever you are. If you are interested in learning more about her or scheduling an appointment, please call the Adoption Center at 802-483-6700.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

New in Large Print, donated by Linda Thomas in honor of Brenda Whittaker:

"The Soviet Sisters" by Anika Scott- a gripping story of spies, blackmail, and double, triple bluffs following the lives of two spy sisters after WW2.

"The Darling Dahlias and the Red Hot Poker" by Susan Wittig Albert- The garden group faces romance, political drama and an arsonist as a hurricane makes its way toward their little town of Darling, Alabama.

"The Scalper" by Richard Prosch Short stories from the old west featuring two outlaws plot the demise of a woman from the past; a gunman is plagued by ornery cats; an emerging artist threatens the status quo of an old Wyoming camp and more.

"An Impossible Imposter" by Deanna Raybourn (Veronica Speedwell #7) Veronica Speedwell and her natural historian beau Stoker are summoned to investigate the return of a man thought long dead- who stands to inherit a legendary collection of priceless Rajasthani jewels.

"The Daughter of Doctor

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Our Library of Things is growing! We now have available for use in the library: a sewing machine, a serger, a 3-D printer, an OWL camera and a button maker. New for check out we have a projector, microphone, green screen and other goodies!

Moreau" by Silvia Moreno-Garcia (also available in regular print) A reimagined tale of the mad genius, his daughter, a melancholy assistant, the doctor's human-animal hybrids and the man who threatens their carefully balanced existence.

New DVDS:

BBC's The Green Planet

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Mr. Malcolm's List

In nineteenth-century England, jilted by London's most eligible bachelor, Julia convinces her friend to play the role of his ideal match. Soon, Mr. Malcolm wonders whether he's found the perfect woman or the perfect hoax.

An American Pickle

An American Pickle stars Seth Rogen as Herschel Greenbaum, a struggling labourer who immigrates to America in 1919 with dreams of building a better life for his beloved family. One day, while working at his factory job, he falls into a vat of pickles and is brined for 100 years. The brine preserves him perfectly and when he emerges in present day Brooklyn, he finds that he hasn't aged a day. But when he seeks out his family, he learns that his only surviving relative is his great-grandson Ben Greenbaum (also played by Rogen), a mild-mannered computer coder whom Herschel can't even begin to understand.

"Porch Pirate" still at large after snatching booty from Conant Square residence

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Police began their week with a report of a theft of a Sony Play Station on Ballantine Drive that took place in December of 2021. As a result of an investigation into the complaint, Kris Ward, 23, of Rutland City, was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on Oct. 3 at 11 a.m. for arraignment on the charge of petit larceny.

Along with Brandon's Animal Control officer, Police responded on Aug. 23 to a report of an opossum stuck under a tree grate on Center Street. The opossum fled into a neighboring business, where it was captured. It was released away from the downtown area without harming the animal.

Later in the day, Police and Brandon Area Rescue responded to a mental health issue on McConnell Road involving an elderly female household member acting out and being aggressive towards other family members. She was subsequently transported to the Rutland Regional Medical Center without incident.

Shortly after 9:20 that evening, officers and Brandon Rescue responded to an address on Forest Dale Road, where a two-year-old was having an allergic reaction. The call initially came in as a 911 hang-up call but was later determined to be a medical emergency. The child was taken to the hospital via ambulance for treatment.

Police were called to Birch


Hill Road on Aug. 24 to conduct a welfare check at the request of a father whose daughter was going to a residence to pick up her belongings at her ex-boyfriend's. The woman's father had not heard back from her since she went to the residence, and he was concerned for her well-being. Officers subsequently located the woman, who was safe and sound.

Police received a report of a theft from an apartment by a "porch pirate" at a residence in Conant Square on the evening of Aug. 25. After talking with the complainant, an investigation into the incident was initiated.

Shortly after, they joined the Brandon Fire Department and Pittsford EMS at the scene of a two-car motor vehicle crash at McConnell Road and Stearns Road intersection. Both drivers sustained minor injuries. Both cars were totaled as a result of the crash. One of the operators was issued diversion paperwork for being a minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

Around 12:40 p.m. on Aug. 27, police were called to assist Brandon rescue for the third time during the week to help them enter an apartment building on Jones Drive to evaluate an elderly female suffering from dementia-related issues.

(See Police report, Page 19)



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Leo, the novel approach you'll want to take regarding a situation this week may be met with some opposition. Don't let that deter you from trying something innovative.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, even though there have been some big changes in your life of late, there is room for more modification. You simply have to go with the flow for the time being.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
It's easy to get thrown for a loop when so many things are changing rapidly, Libra. Keep your eye on the prize and you will likely come through on the other side just fine.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Scorpio, the way others see you isn't who you really are. Keep doing what you are doing if you are pleased, as you don't have to change your colors to appeal to others.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Reevaluate your priorities this week, Sagittarius. You don't need the best or the

biggest to be happy. Focus on your health and the little things instead.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
This is the week to focus on nourishing your spiritual self, Capricorn. If you are religious, attend a service or volunteer for your house of worship; otherwise, meditate at home.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Aquarius, a sense of nervousness may have you acting without thinking things through. Team up with someone you trust to thoroughly vet ideas before diving in.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Pisces, be careful what you say to others because you don't know what that person will repeat. Avoid gossip at all costs.

♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 1 Zendaya, actor, singer (26)
- Sept. 2 Lili'uokalani, Queen of the Hawaiian Islands (d)
- Sept. 3 Sadhguru (Jassi Vasudev), author, yogi and mystic (75)
- Sept. 4 Richard Wright, novelist (d)
- Sept. 5 Freddie Mercury, singer (d)
- Sept. 6 Idris Elba, actor, (50)
- Sept. 7 Chrissie Hynde, musician (71)

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

Later in the day, Police patrolled the area around the quarry off Grove Street after a report of an ongoing problem with youths hanging around there. Officers will be conducting more foot patrols in the area in the future to dissuade further trespassing.

The same evening, they again assisted Brandon Rescue, this time with a man who had fallen on River Street and hurt his back.

On the night of Aug. 28, a female came to the police department to advise them of a custody dispute between her and her estranged husband. Upon further discussion, the female became uncooperative and refused to provide the information required to begin an investigation.

Later, police got a call about a juvenile at the Brandon Motor Lodge who did not want to return to her residence. Arrangements were subsequently made to have the juvenile stay at the neighbors for the night.

At around 10 p.m., Police responded to a request for a welfare check on an elderly female on Mulcahy Drive. Her family had not heard from her in a while and were concerned. When police located the woman, who was safe and sound, they found that her phone had died and that she was unable to make any calls. The officer relayed this information to the family.

In other activity, Brandon police:

On Aug. 22

- Received a report of threats/harassment.
- Took fingerprints for school employment, foster parents, foster grandparents, and teacher licensure.
- Responded to a late report of theft from a building on Ballantine Dr.
- Assisted a vehicle owner by creating an incident report after her vehicle was damaged in an alleged hit-and-run at an unknown location. Damage documented for insurance purposes.
- Assisted the Pittsford Police Department in serving a defendant a notice against trespass at a residence on High Pond Road.
- Made a motor vehicle stop on Grove Street at Arnold District Road for defective equipment and issued a warning to the operator.
- Conducted speed enforcement along Route-7 in Brandon on the town's southern and northern borders. Stopped one vehicle and issued a warning to

the operator.

On Aug. 23

- Made a motor vehicle stop for speeding on Franklin Street. Warning issued to the operator
- Conducted a routine business check at Cattails Restaurant on Grove Street.
- Patrolled Center Street on foot. No suspicious activity was observed.
- Took fingerprints for school employment and teacher licensure.
- Made a motor vehicle stop on Franklin Street for driving on the shoulder. The officer determined that the operator was fixing his satellite for navigation in his vehicle, which caused him to be distracted and swerve. Warning issued to the operator for driving on roadways laned for traffic.
- Freed an opossum trapped on Center Street.
- Served a subpoena to an individual at the Brandon Police station.
- Responded to a mental health issue on McConnell Road.
- Made a business check at the Brandon Free Public Library on Franklin Street.
- Made motor vehicle stops on Franklin Street, Grove Street, and McConnell Road for speeding. Issued four warnings and a ticket.
- Conducted speed enforcement on McConnell Road and Champlain Street. Stopped one driver for speeding and two drivers for violations unrelated to speeding.

- Made a motor vehicle stop for an equipment violation on McConnell Road and issued a ticket to the operator.
- Assisted Brandon Rescue with a two-year-old having an allergic reaction on Forest Dale Road.
- Made a motor vehicle stop at Pearl Street and Conant Square intersection for a stop sign violation. Warning issued to the operator.

On Aug. 24

- Conducted a welfare check at a residence on Birch Hill Road
- Conducted directed speed enforcement on Grove Street.

On Aug. 25

- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street. One operator stopped for speeding.
- Made motor vehicle stops on Grove Street, one for speeding and one for operating a vehicle while using a cell phone. Warnings were issued to both

operators.

• Received a report of a theft from an apartment in Conant Square.

• Responded to a two-car crash at McConnell Road and Stearns Road intersection.

On Aug. 26

- Conducted VIN verification for a snowmobile.
- Served emergency care orders on behalf of the Rutland Unit for Special Investigations.

On Aug. 27

- Enforced speed limit on McConnell Road, Carver Street, and later in the day, Grove Street. Issued three tickets for speeding and several for other violations.
- Made motor vehicle stops on McConnell Road, Carver Street, Center Street, and Grove Street. Issued two speeding tickets, two warnings, a ticket for operating a cell phone while driving, and a ticket for an unrelated violation.
- Assisted Brandon Rescue in gaining entry into an apartment building on Jones Drive.
- Received report of kids hanging around the rock quarry off Grove Street.
- Patrolled rock quarry off Grove Street on foot.
- Received a complaint from Brandon Motor Lodge on Franklin Street concerning individuals slamming and banging doors and revving their car engines.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a male who had fallen on River Street.

On Aug. 28

- Patrolled Center Street on foot.
- Offered help to a homeless female staying in the gazebo on Park Street.
- Conducted directed traffic enforcement patrol on Carver Street. No activity was observed.
- Made motor vehicle stops on Center Street, Prospect Street, and Forest Dale Road. Two tickets were issued for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, and one for speeding.
- Conducted directed traffic enforcement on Champlain Street. No traffic violation activity was observed.
- Received in-person report of a custody dispute.
- Patrolled Estabrook Field on foot for a planned event.
- Received information regarding a hit-and-run accident in Leicester the day prior.
- Assisted with a juvenile problem on Franklin Street.
- Made a welfare check on a Mulcahy Drive resident.

Hunters reminded of rules on importing deer and elk

VERMONT — Hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt deer or elk need to keep in mind that a regulation designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease (CWD) remains in effect, according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

CWD is a fatal disease of deer and elk brain and nervous system. Abnormal prion proteins produce lesions in the brain that cause disorientation and emaciation in conjunction with other abnormal behaviors. This highly contagious disease is always fatal to deer. For the latest information on CWD, check these websites: www.vtfishandwildlife.com and www.cwd-info.org.

com and www.cwd-info.org.

The potential exists for CWD prion proteins to be introduced to the environment through the bodily fluids of CWD-positive deer, elk, or moose and then persist in the environment for extended periods of time.

The Vermont rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with CWD and captive hunt areas or farms state that it is illegal to import or possess deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states and Canadian provinces that have had CWD, or from captive hunt or farm facilities with the following exceptions:

(See *Hunting rules*, Page 21)

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Shane Bartshe

(Continued from Page 1)

roadway in front of his residence on Franklin Street—was no longer living in Brandon.

The latest revelation—obtained through a series of emails between Acting State’s Attorney Ian Sullivan, Brandon town officials, BPD, BFPL, and RMHS CEO Dick Courcelle—brought with it more questions than answers, particularly surrounding the conditions and potential duration of his absence, as well as new development stemming from a July 7 felony aggravated assault on law enforcement case in Rutland where Mr. Bartshe was also said to be obstructing a roadway.

In an email sent on August 25, Mr. Sullivan—whose only interactions with Bartshe come through Bartshe’s legal counsel due to several pending cases against him—offered the following: “Mr. Bartshe’s defense attorney recently sought to continue a hearing. The defense attorney asserted that Mr. Bartshe was in a crisis bed in another county. I do not [know] how long he will be in a crisis bed.”

“Assuming the crisis bed is temporary,” Sullivan continued, “Mr. Bartshe would likely return to the community at some point, although I do not know (and

no one is under any obligation to tell me) where he will go whenever the crisis bed ends.”

In an email sent the same day, BPD Chief David Kachajian wrote, “Our department was just advised by Nicole Desins, the embedded Mental Health Outreach Worker for the Vermont State Police, that Mr. Bartshe is no longer living in the Town of Brandon and that he was accepted into a mental health program that is not in the immediate area.”

“No specific location was provided due to HIPAA confidentiality,” he continued, “but it does appear that he is no longer in the Rutland County area. I hope this information is helpful and that it brings at least a little peace to the employees at the library and those in our community who have had to endure the issues that his behavior has caused recently and in the past”.

Friday, on behalf of RMHS—which has yet to make a public statement of any kind—Mr. Courcelle echoed and refuted some of the information that Sullivan and

Kachajian provided.

“A misunderstanding appears to have resulted from the police department’s conversation with Ms. Desins... it is true that our client is not, as of this writing, in Brandon; this is not a permanent placement. We fully expect that he will be returning to his Brandon apartment. He will be returning at some point to collect his belongings, but it is also possible, if not likely, that he will be returning from his current, temporary residence to his Brandon apartment,” wrote Courcelle.

“It is impossible to know when that may be, as we are currently managing his needs day-to-day with dynamics outside our control,” he continued. “It was stated that our client is in a crisis bed in another county. This is inaccurate. He is located outside of Brandon at present, but he has not been in a crisis bed.”

On Monday afternoon, Mr. Sullivan sent a new email detailing the conditions of release following separate arraignments involving Mr. Bartshe regarding his 2019 sexual assault case and the felony assault case from July 7.

“In the felony assault on law enforcement case, my office sought to hold the defendant without bail, pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7553a.

Our motion and accompanying exhibits are attached to this email,” wrote Sullivan. “Ultimately, after hearing arguments from the State’s Attorney’s Office and Mr. Bartshe’s attorney, Judge Fenster preliminarily denied the request and will set the matter for a weight of the evidence to make a final decision.”

According to Mr. Sullivan’s email, Judge Fenster did, however, add more stringent conditions of release than were previously given to Mr. Bartshe, including:

- A 24/7 curfew—a legal term amounting to home confinement, except for medical appointments, legal appointments, or while with his care provider—that would not change if Bartshe were admitted to a residential program outside of Rutland County;

- Mr. Bartshe’s inability to possess “dangerous or deadly weapons;”

- Language stating that Mr. Bartshe shall not engage in violent or threatening behavior. Violent behavior includes physical contact with another without consent, un-

lawful restraint of another, or physical contact by “mutual affray”—a legal term for fighting that does not include self-defense; threatening behavior includes conduct that would cause “a reasonable person to fear unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury, or death, including verbal threats, written, telephonic, or other electronically communicated threats, vandalism, or physical contact without consent.”

BFPL Director Molly Kennedy expressed some relief at the recent developments pertaining to library and librarian safety, noting that community support has been a positive outcome from the past two months of tension and unease. However, it’s not currently enough to keep BFPL from changing course regarding security.

“[The current security plan] seems to be working, and our community has really stepped up to fill in the volunteer hours,” she said. “I’ve been humbled by this, although not surprised in the least. We will continue on this way until we get confirmation that [Bartshe’s] status is either appropriately supported or relocated. We’ll take it week by week, as we’ve been doing.”

As Kennedy noted, questions remain as to whether or not Mr. Bartshe is or will be receiving additional treatment from RMHS or any future program where he may enter into care. HIPAA restrictions make discerning that care extremely difficult.

According to BPD, Bartshe repeatedly expressed his unhappiness with his living conditions in Brandon and was thought, in some cases, to be acting out due to that displeasure.

As Chief Kachajian wrote in his August 25 email, “For his sake, I also hope that he does at least get into a situation where he gets the help, structure, and close supervision that he needs so that no one else has to re-live this same type of situation in another community.”

Questions still abound as to the sufficiency of care received by Mr. Bartshe while a client of RMHS, as well as what his future holds, and it remains to be seen if these changes will have a positive effect on him, Brandon, or whatever city or town he ultimately resides in—questions that might never be answered.

For now, everyone must wait and see.

If you, or anyone you know, are experiencing difficulties with the mental health system and would like to share your story confidentially, please contact The Reporter via email: news@brandonreporter.com
Anonymity will be respected.

Hunting rules

(Continued from Page 19)

- Meat that is cut up, packaged, and labeled with hunting license information and not mixed with other deer or elk during processing;

- Boneless meat;
- Hides or capes with no part of the head attached;

- Clean skull-cap with antlers attached;

- Antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;

- Finished taxidermy heads;

- Upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

Vermont’s CWD importation regulations currently apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces that have detected CWD in either captive or wild animals:

Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska,

New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

“CWD is a very persistent disease that can resurface after years of absence,” said Mark Scott, Vermont’s director of wildlife. “Vermont’s CWD regulation is designed to help prevent CWD from infecting Vermont’s deer and the drastic population reduction measures that would be required if it appears here. Hunters bringing deer or elk from any of the CWD-listed states or provinces into or through Vermont simply have to get them processed according to the regulation before doing so.”

A fine of up to \$1,000 and a loss of hunting and fishing licenses for one year applies to each deer or elk imported illegally.

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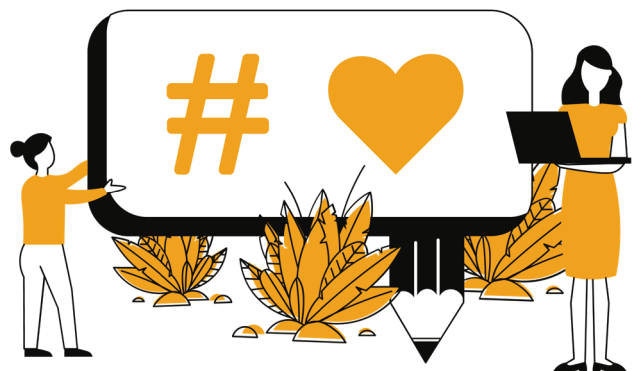
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Ex-Rutland child care provider charged three years ago in infant's death to stand trial in September

BY ALAN J. KEAYS/VTDigger

RUTLAND — A former Rutland child care provider charged more than three years ago with manslaughter and child cruelty in the death of six-month-old Harper Rose Briar in her care is set for trial next month after a prosecutor pushed back on delaying it.

"I'll reiterate what I said at the last status conference, which is that Harper's family very much wants to see this case go forward," acting Rutland County State's Attorney Ian Sullivan said during a video hearing on Tuesday, August 23.

"They have expressed to me that they do not want to see additional delays," Sullivan said.

Judge David Fenster agreed, at least for now, to keep the case against Stacey Vaillancourt on the jury drawing list for Sept. 21, with a trial expected to last about five days afterward.

Fenster had suggested moving the trial back a month to October because several cases were set to draw juries in September. During the hearing, Robert McClallen, Vaillancourt's attorney, said he would have supported moving the trial to October.

Vaillancourt, 57, was arraigned on the two charges in March 2019. She pleaded not guilty to both offenses. She faces up to 25 years in prison if

convicted of the charges.

The Pittsford infant died on Jan. 24, 2019, at the child care facility that Vaillancourt ran out of her home on North Street in Rutland.

It was Harper's second day at the home when Vaillancourt gave her a fatal amount of diphenhydramine, an "over-the-counter (sedating) antihistamine used for the treatment of allergic reactions," according

provided care for Harper that day.

An autopsy report from the state's chief medical examiner's office showed that Harper's death was a homicide caused by "diphenhydramine intoxication."

Dr. Elizabeth Bundock of the chief medical examiner's office wrote that diphenhydramine is not to be used in infants without a physician's order, accord-



STACEY VAILLANCOURT WAS brought to Rutland Criminal Court for her arraignment in March 2019.

Photo by Robert Layman/Rutland Herald

to a police affidavit filed in the case.

According to the affidavit, Vaillancourt told investigators she was the sole person who

ing to the police affidavit.

"The level of diphenhydramine in Harper Briar's blood at the time of death represents more than one therapeutic dose," the affidavit stated. "The blood concentration at the time may represent one large administration or multiple small administrations."

The prosecution has alleged that Vaillancourt provided the drug to sedate the infant.

McClallen, Vaillancourt's attorney, said at his client's March 2019 arraignment that she had run the daycare for 25 years but stopped operating it following the death.

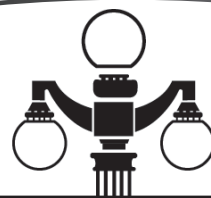
The case prompted some Rutland County residents to post lawn signs reading "Justice For Harper Rose."

After the hearing on Tuesday, Sullivan declined to comment on the case or to discuss the reasons for the delay in bringing the case to trial.

Speaking generally, he said the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed down the court system. With jury trials only recently restarting, he said priority has been given to defendants who are incarcerated for lack of bail.

Vaillancourt has been free on a \$25,000 bond since her arraignment.

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Middlebury Ski Club Director

The Middlebury Ski Club, located in Middlebury, VT, is looking to hire a new Director of Operations for the 2022-2023 season.

Since 1956 the MSC has taught thousands of young athletes the skills they need to become excellent skiers and ski racers, many of whom have gone on to become NCAA racers, Olympians and World Champions. At the heart of the MSC is our children and the goal to help them fulfill their potential while also trying to keep skiing and ski racing as affordable as possible. This is done through the immense support of a dedicated group of coaches, parents, The Middlebury Snow Bowl and our greater community.

This is a year-round, part-time position (15-20 hours/week) with the majority of the work between October and March. Qualified applicants should have ski racing experience and need to be able to work well with children. This position requires strong organizational skills and attention to detail. Interested applicants should have good communication, leadership and motivational skills along with the ability to Interview, hire and assist in training new coaches. This is an excellent opportunity to become part of a robust skiing and ski racing culture that fosters a family and community connection at one of New England's most intimate and respected mountains.

Link to Position on Middlebury Ski Club website:
www.middleburyskiclub.org/director_of_operations.
 Interested applicants should contact
 Holmes Jacobs at holmesmjacobs@gmail.com.

Application deadline is September 15th.
 We are also accepting applications for Alpine Ski and Race Coaches!

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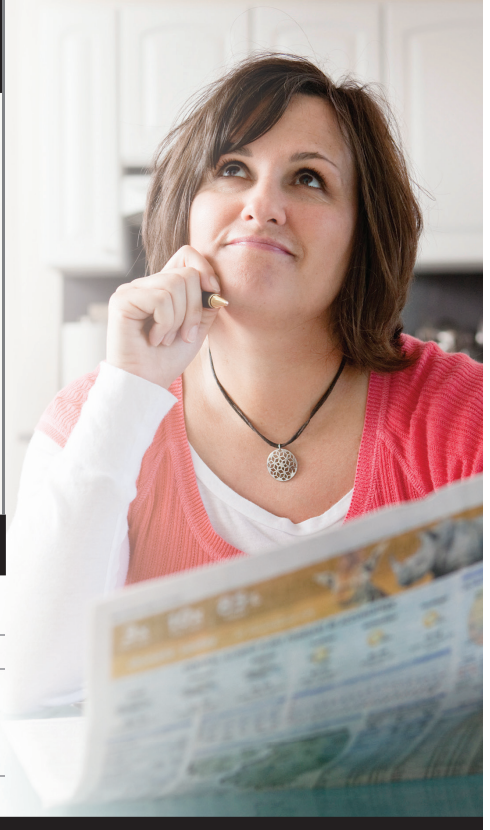
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GARDENING CORNER

August beauties: The triple crown of late blooming flowers

BY LYN DES MARAIS

I've been looking closer at the huge shape, variety, and color of hibiscus this week as it comes completely into flower. I am always humbled by the diversity of the natural world. I was also looking at lawns this week, parched as they are, waiting for rain, and thinking about what I had just read in Bill Bryson's book, "At Home," where he states:

"Making food out of plants is hard work. The conversion of wheat, rice, corn, millet, barley, and other grasses into staple foodstuffs is one of the great achievements of human history but also one of the more unexpected ones. You have only to consider the lawn outside your window to realize that grass in its natural state is not an obvious foodstuff to non-ruminants such as ourselves."

I am so grateful to our Stone Age ancestors for figuring out this problem so that I may, with a full stomach, contemplate three gor-

geous late blooming flowers we can all grow here in Brandon.

HIBISCUS

It's August, and it's hibiscus time. Like the gorgeous peony and many other plants, Hibiscus mainly comes from Asia and India. There are more than 300 kinds. They are the state flower of Hawaii and the official flower of many pacific nations. They are used medicinally, many are edible, they make a lovely tasting tea, and pollinators love them. They are also gorgeous to look at.

The hardy hibiscus varieties in local nurseries (zones 4 to 8) are among the last plants to emerge in spring. They die back completely in winter. Be patient and keep the markers in the ground, or you may just pull them up with their dead stalks when weeding in the spring—they are worth waiting for!

Hibiscus produces enormous flowers in white, pink, and red. There are several glorious Rose of Sharon around Brandon (zones 5-9), which, with lilacs in spring, bookend the flowering season for me.

Like lilacs, you can leave them in their glorious bushy and ever-expanding shapes, or you can choose a "standard" or tree form variety. Either way, hibiscus should find its way to your garden. Although

hardy, I have found it best to keep hibiscus in full sun (six hours or more a day) and sheltered from the wind. Deer avoid these plants, so it's a good choice if deer are an issue.

HYDRANGEA

Hydrangeas are amazing. They also deserve a place in your garden. Once established, they are fairly easy to grow and need no extra maintenance, except for water (its name always reminds me to keep it hydrated).

Hydrangeas range from the gorgeous white blossoms of Annabelle to the lime green of Lime-light or Little Lime, as well as the flowers that start white and turn pink or dark pink or red—the strawberry series, Firelight, and magical Ruby Red, to name a few.

These are versatile plants with hundreds of varieties. There are large and small ball-shaped flowers, cone-shaped and cap-shaped. Some flowers are lacy; others are tightly bunched. There are climbers, and even the leaves can differ widely, including oak leaf-shaped varieties.

They range in hardiness from zones 3 to 7. They can grow to be 15 feet, or you can buy a dwarf variety; there are shrub or bushy varieties and the "standard" or tree form. Some hydrangeas tolerate shade better than others. Some tolerate the cold or heat better. Look at the labels carefully, and do some research before you buy. Better yet, if a friend is dividing some of theirs, start your love affair with these long-bloomers that way.

They are quite low maintenance and vigorous growers once they get started. As with any tree or



ONE OF A plethora of hibiscus spilling the tea all over Brandon, top left; a standard "tree form" Hydrangea in full bloom, right; an example of Helenium—beauty on the eyes, even if it's nicknamed "sneezweed," bottom left.

Photos by Lyn Des Marais



shrub, they are much harder to move than perennials, so think about where you want them first. They dry beautifully. Deadhead to encourage more blooming. Deer love munching on hydrangeas.

HELENIUM

The last in our Triple Crown of August beauties is Helenium which has the unfortunate common name of sneezweed. One theory for the name is that it was added to snuff (historically, snuff was tobacco you inhaled in your nose) to make you sneeze and rid

your body of evil spirits.

Despite its unfortunate nickname, Helenium is a beautiful native plant that's as tough as old boots. They can handle extreme cold and heat and drought, and drenching rain. They grow about three feet high. They are easy to grow from seed. They come in many beautiful reds, oranges, and yellows and look like daisies but in miniature "can-can" variety is particularly robust. It's a sunflower but not fussy at all. Give it a try.