

The REPORTER

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Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Goshen

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75¢

Howard Dean optimistic about democracy, but current threats are still looming

BY JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean on Thursday, Nov. 10, warned folks in Middlebury that eroding trust in the U.S. Supreme Court and the political practice of “othering” — or scapegoating — groups of

people stand as the biggest threats to the survival of democracy in America.

But Dean, speaking before a group of around 60 people at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society sanctuary building, also voiced optimism for the

future, provided that younger citizens become more involved in the political process in a world that’s been rendered smaller by the internet and globalization.

“We desperately need to get younger people (to run for of-
(See Howard Dean, Page 3)

Democrats secured a historic majority in Vt. Legislature

BY LOLA DUFFORT, VtDigger

Vermonters once again split their ticket in a big way Tuesday night, reelecting Republican Gov. Phil Scott by his widest margin yet — and handing Democrats commanding veto-proof super-majorities in the Vermont

House and Senate.

Scott’s victory was widely predicted. And from the election season’s start, the two major parties had identified that Vermont’s legislative balance of power would most likely be decided in
(See Historic majority, Page 9)

Board flies through Brandon business

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — The Brandon selectboard breezed through a short meeting Monday night, Nov. 14, in about 35 minutes with no controversy or much discussion from the handful of community members attending.

That’s mostly because — unlike more recent meetings — there weren’t controversial items on the agenda. After approving the minutes of the Brandon Liquor Control Board and the selectboard, which had a few minor corrections, the town manager’s report was reviewed briefly as Town Manager Dave Atherton could not make Monday’s meeting.

Under public comments, Brandon Energy Committee spokesperson Jim Emerson reported that the town’s Button Up event this past weekend was “a grand success” with about 80 people attending a series of lectures and presentations at the Town Hall building.
(See Brandon selectboard, Page 21)



Photos by Matthew Gustafson

Finding her shooting star

Brandon's Breanna Elaine gains regional notoriety

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — It’s been almost a year since local singer-song writer Breanna Elaine, 25, quit her day job and dedicated herself to becoming a full-time professional musician. Since

last January, she’s made her living singing and playing her guitar at restaurants, bars, music venues of almost sort, private parties, weddings, or any kind of club or association event.

She’s done it as a single mom

with her son, Eli, now five, and from a background that was atypical in that she dropped out of high school at 15, a self-admitted rebellious teen who was determined to do things her

(See Breanna Elaine, Page 14)

Proctor eyes purchase of new fire truck

Gets first glimpse of higher budget

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — The Proctor selectboard reviewed a proposal from the Proctor Fire Department to consider purchasing a new fire truck — in an amount ranging from \$508,946 to \$697,910 — as part of its budget preparation for the 2024 fiscal year. Proctor Fire Chief Josh Webb made a 15-minute presentation outlining the need for the new firetruck and its cost.

A committee within the fire department has spent the past eight months reviewing the need to replace two current trucks — a 2004 E One 1500/780 Rescue Pumper and a 1991 S&S Peterbilt 750/1800 tanker — with a single truck that serves both functions. After several weeks of review the department settled on a truck that should have a custom six-person cab, hold 1,800 gallons of water, have a 1,500-gallon-per-minute pump, and have water dumps on
(See Proctor selectboard, Page 9)

A peek inside:

COMMUNITY FORUM

Vermont’s post-election wrap-up and analysis covers the final tally on the state’s top races and the overwhelming vote for reproductive rights, which carried every town in the state.

PG. 8-10

OPINION

Republican Gov. Phil Scott urges compromise in the upcoming session as Democrats take a veto-proof majority in the Legislature.

PG. 4

BUTTON UP

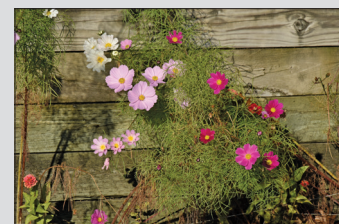
Brandon’s Button Up festival helped more than 80 households learn about energy-saving techniques as well as stock up on many free supplies and demonstrations.

PGS. 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Don’t miss this Saturday’s Silent Movie presentation of “Her Sister From Paris,” a hilarious comedy with live music by Jeff Rapis this Saturday, Nov. 19.

PGS. 12-13



Button up Brandon

Neighbors working together to warm our homes and save money, too!

On a rainy Saturday morning, the Brandon Town Hall was filled with over 80 experts, volunteers, and community members eager to share information about how area residents can easily make our homes more comfortable while also cutting energy costs.

The Brandon Energy Committee and SolarFest launched "Button Up Brandon" on November 12 to demonstrate how a relatively simple array of supplies and tools

can produce immediate benefits and savings. The 90-minute session was fun and lively, with how-to presentations and several hands-on demonstrations where participants could ask questions and try their hands at installing different types of weatherization materials.

The event was made possible with funding from generous local contributors plus grants from the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund of the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Grass Roots Fund. Tim Guile's beautiful piano music and the delicious homemade snacks made the gathering even more enjoyable for sharing questions and solutions.

Over 60 households registered for the event, receiving free materials for insulating windows and doors, including caulking, door sweeps, canned foam spray, weatherstripping, light switch and outlet gaskets, foam sections for wrapping

hot water pipes, and plastic window insulating kits along with installation advice from Building Performance Institute certified trainer Joanne Coons and the Committee's dedicated volunteers.

Expert advice was also provided by Melanie Paskevich from the NeighborWorks HEAT Squad,

Bekah Kuster of Efficiency Vermont, and BROCC Community Action's Financial and Energy Coach Darrell Green. They each outlined free and discounted ways to make even more extensive building weatherization projects affordable.

If you're interested in finding

ways to button up your own home, email brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com to learn about future events being planned for homeowners, landlords and renters. Also, be sure to visit the swap site at the Brandon Transfer Station where surplus weatherization materials will be available for free to residents.



AUDIENCE MEMBERS LISTENED to multiple presenters throughout the day.



ABOUT 80 PEOPLE attended Brandon's 'Button Up' day this past Saturday to learn energy efficiency techniques, and watch demonstrations to help them save energy in their homes.

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Howard Dean

(Continued from Page 1)
he said.

Dean's talk, sponsored by the Henry Sheldon Museum and the Hawthorne Club, was promoted under the title, "What Do the Midterms Mean for American Democracy?" While it appeared likely the GOP would retake majority of the U.S. House and control of the U.S. Senate was still in play, key Congressional election results in states like Nevada and Georgia had yet to be sorted out as Dean took the podium.



Many pollsters and pundits had predicted a Nov. 8 "red wave" would sweep many more Republicans into office as a reaction to inflation and high gasoline prices. But as one late-night comic described it, the red wave was more like a "pink trickle," as GOP gains were much more modest than predicted.

WHY?

Political analysts have pointed to backlash over the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade, and a repudiation of Trumpism. Former President Donald Trump's endorsed candidates performed poorly on Nov. 8, and his three Supreme Court appointees were key in a Roe v. Wade ruling that ultimately drove pro-choice voters to the polls on Tuesday.

Dean said the political impact of high court's current conservative tilt can't be overstated.

"If you cannot respect the courts, you don't really have a democracy," Dean said, "because that's the last arbitrator of the politicians' behavior. It's the only limit we really have on political behavior."

Confidence in the Supreme

Court has to be restored, Dean stressed.

"If you can't change the court, then our democracy is going to continue to be in some danger," he said.

Pivoting to a nonpartisan judiciary will help, the former governor said, but it will also be critical for a new generation of leaders to become involved in the political process. He noted many of the country's leaders are older folks who've been in office for many years. The average age of a U.S.

not like me, who's a visitor online and doesn't get half of the things they talk about on websites."

But rather than repudiate the internet as a thorn in the political process, it should be embraced, according to Dean, who knows a little something about that subject. Dean was the Democratic front-runner for president during much of 2003, and his campaign was the first to harness the power of the internet, being an early adopter of email for fundraising and exporting campaign messaging.

"If you're living 50% online, your lifestyle and the way you view the world is fundamentally different than people our age," he said. "And we have to accommodate that somehow in our political system."

Dean is a fan of globalization, though he conceded it's a phenomenon that's currently devoid of a guidepost or user's manual.

"What the internet has done is shrink the world in such a way ... that we are one world and one people," Dean marveled.

He stressed he doesn't foresee or support the notion of a single, multinational government. Rather, he subscribes to the concept of "smaller units of government than we have today that cooperate with each other."

Dean is in awe of the ability of young people to virtually interact with each other throughout the world, even penetrating internet barriers set up by such countries as China and Iran.

Dean believes the internet could become society's ally in turning the tide of "othering," while teaching people about the things that bind, rather than divide, society.

"One of the problems we have as human beings that's not going to go away is a political technique that relies on our ability to classify — that is, 'othering' people," Dean said. "The way you 'other' people is ... you are creating a separate

group of people who are not the same as you, and therefore it's OK to persecute them or do terrible things. Every culture does that, and some do it worse than others."

He said conservatives this year used the transgender population as their group to "other."

"Half the people upset about transgender people have no idea what a transgender person is," he said.

Dean said the academic concept known as "critical race theory," or CRT, has also emerged as a political strawman in recent U.S. elections. It theorizes that racism is

senator is 64.3 years, and it's 58.4 years for U.S. House members, according to the Library of Congress.

It's a trend that's made the U.S. a gerontocracy, according to Dean, age 73, who served 11.5 years as

Vermont governor before making an unsuccessful bid for president in 2004. He stressed he's had his fill of the political arena and now wants the next generation to step forward.

YOUNG CANDIDATES

So where are the young 20-somethings who could be groomed for political office?

They're online, Dean said. That's where many of them are now interacting, recreating, and talking politics.

"If you're 25 years old, you actually live online," Dean said. "Their reality is mostly online. It's

"If you're 25 years old, you actually live online. Their reality is mostly online. It's not like me, who's a visitor online and doesn't get half of the things they talk about on websites."

— Howard Dean, age 73

more deeply embedded in society than mere prejudice, and that its impacts can be felt in the legal system, the economy and policing.

"(CRT) is not taught in a single public high school anywhere in the United States of America, but it got the Virginia governor elected along with a terrible campaign by his Democratic opponent," Dean said, referring to last year's election of Glenn Youngkin.

MORE PEOPLE VOTING

Dean continues to be perplexed and frustrated by the large number of U.S. citizens who don't exercise their right to vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 66.8% of eligible U.S. voters cast ballots in the 2020 General Election — a national record for this century, but a reminder that one-third of the electorate stayed at home.

It's a trend that doesn't bode well for democracy, according to the former governor, who noted some people seem oblivious to the power they hold in influencing their way of life.

"The people who still hold power in this country are not the oligarchs or the people in Washington, D.C.; it's us," he said.

Dean believes the U.S. should consider following suit with Australia and around 20 other nations where it's illegal not to vote.

"(The penalty) is a slap on the wrist, but, damn it, I think we have an obligation here," he said. "You don't get to be a citizen and be a freeloader. The minimum you can do is vote. And if you don't vote, not only should you not complain, you're undermining the country. This is a system that depends on some minimal amount of participation ... At least you could have the decency to contribute to your country simply by voting."

Dean lamented what he said is a prevailing sentiment shared by some Americans that "you owe me an awful lot of freedom, and I owe you nothing."

It's a sentiment that, if left unchecked, could lead to a loss of all personal freedoms because it could lead to the ascension of a dictator who could trash the Bill of Rights, he believes.

"I don't think we talk enough about obligations in our civics and anything else we do," Dean said. "There's a minimal obligation. If you want to be an American, I think you have an obligation to participate, because the alternative is, you sign your right to participate away to somebody else, and you end up with somebody you strongly disagree with."



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Visit BrandonInn.com for availability. We are again working with the Brandon Area Toy Project to collect toys for local children. Toys should be appropriate for children from birth 'til and including 6th Grade. Pickup is Dec. 13.

BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

Thoughts from the election

Since Election Day a week ago, Americans have seen a sea-change of political fortunes and attitudes: from the conservative Trump-supporters who expected the red wave to push Democrats from power and hobble President Joe Biden's next two years in office, to moderates and liberals relieved that the nation's voter stood up for democracy, rejected the Big Lie, and called for more moderate candidates and a rejection of extremism.

We don't pretend that the next two years, with a divided Congress and a presidential election coming in two years (and with Trump in the mix), will be peachy keen, but we're hoping that the public vote says that most Americans want a government that works on solving major problems and not on ad hominem-style attacks on the opposite party.

There are three words that come to mind when thinking of ex-president Trump and the style of politics he has brought to the four these past six years: ad hominem, impunity and pugilism.

Ad hominem refers to attacking the person, rather than the argument, and Trump has made that style of political attacks his calling card. He where he ruthlessly attacks the person — their character, personality, family — in juvenile, yet demeaning ways. It's schoolyard name-calling. It's difficult to counter such callousness, such a mean-spirited nature without lowering oneself into the fray or appearing weak.

Only the voters can reject such attacks (which they did in this election) and need to do even more forcefully in the upcoming two years. If the polls say it's a losing strategy, the candidates will pivot; but if it's working, they'll do whatever it takes to win.

Impunity refers the exemption or

freedom from punishment, harm or loss — another seeming trademark Trump has mastered. From his years of bankrupting businesses he inherited to a failed presidency, he's good at getting away with the crimes he commits, mostly by pointing the blame at others (even his wife). By primarily it's his own refusal to take responsibility for his actions. With Trump, the buck never stops with him.

Many Republicans may have hoped the 2022 results were a way to rid themselves of Mr. Trump's scandals and his celebrity personality cult, and GOP leaders have repeatedly said post-election that the party is not beholden to a cult, but the proof will be in the pudding. Giving up on his philosophy of impunity — of always denying responsibility for what the damage the party reaps may be harder than they acknowledge.

Finally, it's tragic that the word pugilism — from the Greek word "boxer" and meaning someone who fights with their fists — has any connection to Trump.

Trump is a schoolyard bully who tosses names, but he hides behind others for protection; he dodges the draft; he riles up his warriors and then shelters in the White House while others are at risk. He's no fighter, yet his core followers are blinded to that reality.

But 2022 is not 2016, or 2020. The shine is off and Trump's faults are there for all to see. Let's hope that's enough to let other Republicans rise to the fore.

Angelo Lynn

CORRECTION: We incorrectly listed the date of the meeting to discuss the future of *The Reporter* as Dec. 2 at the OVUHS auditorium. Rather, the meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.



You looking at me?

EVENING GROSBEAKS HAVE traveled down from Canada in search of food. Hollow Road has had a small flock.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forum

Vermonters called for balance and we all need to listen

BY GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT

At 4:00 a.m. the day before every election, my team and I set out on a 14 County Tour, visiting all of Vermont's 14 counties in one day. This 500+ mile tour has a way to put things into perspective. It reinforces how beautiful our state is and how much it has to offer. And it reminds us that the differences between counties and communities can be stark.

We've been making progress to close this gap, but we must do more to make sure every family, in every part of our state, has the tools needed to be healthy, safe, and successful.

So, with the election behind us, I hope everyone elected to serve in Montpelier will work with me to level the playing field from region to region, restoring economic security and prosperity statewide.

And Vermonters want us to work together. They want balance and moderation. They made that clear when electing me with about 70% of the vote and Democratic 'super-majorities' in the

Legislature.

Of course, they don't want me to be a rubber stamp for the Legislature, nor do they want the Legislature to blindly go along with whatever I put forward. So that means we'll be debating the issues, which I will continue to do with civility, seeking consensus where possible, compromising when necessary, and agreeing to disagree or let the process run its course when we cannot resolve our differences. Vermonters want us to put their needs ahead of politics.

This type of thoughtful, balanced government — with less partisanship and political positioning — is what gets the best results.

Unfortunately, hyper-partisan political parties are driving Americans further and further apart — and seem to get the most attention from the media.

They feel the strategy focusing on issues that divide us is easier to motivate more people to go to the polls, donate to campaigns, and click on headlines.

But I don't believe that's where most Vermonters and Americans are. A large majority of us are somewhere in the center.

And most of us could live without all the labels and name calling.

Think about it. Would you ask your neighbor who they voted for before lending a helping hand in their time need? Of course not.

We need to remember to view each other as people first — fellow Americans — and judge each other by our basic decency, kindness, and generosity toward each other — not political labels.

Just because we don't agree on every issue doesn't mean we're enemies.

The vast majority of people with whom we disagree are, in fact, good people. They want to make a difference in their communities and things better for their kids, family, and friends.

Whether we're seasoned politicians or newly elected officials, each of us has the power to stop the cycle of partisan politics that (See *Vermonters/balance*, Page 5)

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Letters to the Editor

'We' are not a monolithic citizen group here in Brandon, we have diverse ideas

Sharon Stearns states in her letter to the editor (11/9/2022) that she has seen several opinions (that she doesn't apparently agree with) in FPF and the Reporter, expressing disapproval about some of the select board's recent decisions. I have also seen several of her letters expressing the same perspective and very close to the same wording as in the 11/9 letter, in FPF and in earlier issues of the Reporter. So, I guess what's good for the goose is not so good for the gander.

I was quite amazed by the statements made in Sharon Stearns letter. She stated that "we Vermonters are slow to warm to change..." and then continues using "we" to justify her opinions. And, apparently, the only way to join the "we club" is by having lived in Brandon for many years, with the exact number of years not specified.

"The majority of our community is quite happy..." she wrote. I'd love to see the statistics used to validate that statement.

I've lived in Brandon long enough (only three years, so maybe I don't meet club requirements) to know that the residents do not form a monolithic block of ideas and there are many issues some are not happy about. There's plenty of room for these issues to be discussed. Except, I guess, in Ms. Stearns world.

"Attention seeking to make Brandon like the locations left before does not build positive relationships," she wrote. Wow. Damned before the discussion

starts because I was born somewhere else.

Ms. Stearns, I CHOSE to move to Brandon. I certainly think it was a wonderful choice, and I don't want to make it like where I was born. But, Ms. Stearns, look around. Everything around Brandon (and the world, for that matter) is changing.

Maybe we could spend some time discussing things that will keep Brandon as wonderful as it has been for generations to come.

Neil Silins
Brandon

Thank you for all your support during this election

Thank you to all the Brandon residents who voted for me in the General Election! I am honored by the overwhelming support I received.

I appreciate the continued confidence you have placed in me to be your representative in the Vermont Legislature. I am proud of the work the legislature has done

to ensure the well-being of families and small businesses, as well as our advocacy for universal broadband, childcare, housing, climate, education and reproductive rights. I will continue to work on economic development, workforce training, and other issues that are important to Brandon as well as Vermont.

I am looking forward to serving our community for another two years. As always, feel free to contact me at sjerome@leg.state.vt.us or 802-683-8209 if I can be of assistance. I promise to work for you in Montpelier and do the best job I can!

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
(Rutland-9) Brandon

Thanks to Mat Clouser for his work at 'The Reporter'

I want to thank Mat Clouser for his work, however brief, as the editor of the Reporter.

I think his style has made the Reporter a more personal and readable paper. Thank you,

Mat, and the best of luck.

Neil Silins, Brandon

Health commentary

Vermont needs a new model for its health care system

BY BILL SCHUBART

This commentary is by Bill Schubart of Hinesburg, author, a former VPR radio commentator and a regular newspaper columnist.

The Vermont health care system, infrastructure and vision are broken, and Vermonters of all economic strata are the losers.

The soul of the system is fine if you can afford it or access it when you need it. That is, the quality of care provided by medical staff from nurses to nurse-practitioners to physicians' assistants to doctors is generally good. But a major legal tenet of health care is "standard of care," which is early diagnosis and treatment. If a Vermonter can't afford or get timely access to care, the existence of a health care system is meaningless to them.

I have several male friends who, between their entry into the system seeking help and an eventual diagnosis of late-stage prostate cancer, waited from eight to 13 months because appointments were so hard to come by. What,

if any, is the health care system's liability?

Failure to address such a critical statewide problem trickles down from the top. While having proven himself a solid crisis manager during the pandemic, Gov. Scott is not by nature one to address complex strategic issues and has not used his leader-

ship voice to address and correct system failures at the policy and regulatory levels.

Instead, he has focused on his "affordability agenda" — a false economy, since it continues to generate cost-inefficient health care expenses at the remedial level. Our out-of-scale investment (See Health care system, Page 6)



Brandon Voters...

Thank you for reelecting me to represent you in the Vermont House of Representatives - I appreciate your overwhelming support. Together we can create a Vermont that works for all of us!

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us | www.stephaniejeromevt.com
(802) 683-8209

Vermont/balance

(Continued from Page 4)
is poisoning our nation.

We can lead by example by treating each other with dignity and respect, living up to the responsibility we've been given, and remembering that our children are watching. We need to put aside games-

manship and divisive national agendas to make the people we serve our priority.

I'll do my part by continuing to work every single day to get the results Vermonters deserve, by listening, learning, and leading. And always putting people before politics.

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Health care system

(Continued from Page 5)

ments in curing sick people and our willful resistance to adequately funding mental health and addiction treatment, prevention, education and regulation are filling our emergency rooms and our jails. There is no more expensive way to fund population health.

Our failures elsewhere are integral to our failures in health care. A world authority on health care, Don Berwick, M.D., states in his classic “moral determinants of health”: “Circumstances outside health care nurture or impair health ... (M)ost hospitals and physician offices are repair shops, trying to correct the damage of causes collectively denoted ‘social determinants of health.’ Shift some substantial fraction of health expenditures from an overbuilt, high-priced, wasteful and frankly confiscatory system of hospitals and specialty care toward addressing social de-

terminants instead.”

Here in Vermont, poverty — expressed as lack of access to housing, adequate nutrition, physical, dental and mental health care, substance abuse treatment, early child care, and a non-toxic environment — contributes to the stressors that produce the sicknesses that sustain our hospital businesses.

We must move our investment upstream to education, prevention and serious regulation of pharma and the chemical and industrial food industries if we want to improve population health. That’s the only way to reduce the chronic diseases that drive so much health care expense now.

The Legislature tries hard, but with little policy and research support and a two-year window for action and a one-year budget cycle, it can do little more than tinker around the edges of a floundering behemoth, making it

more expansive and expensive.

In theory, a governor would convene knowledgeable voices and stakeholders to derive a consensus and form a vision for population health in Vermont. This vision would inform and integrate all agency initiatives across state government.

The Vermont Department of Health is a public health agency. Its obligation does not rise to ensuring “population health” or setting policy as it relates to designing a functional health care system, but rather focuses on protecting and promoting Vermonters’ health as it relates to clean air and water, environmental hazards, immunizations, stop smoking/drug abuse initiatives, safe-driving initiatives like seat belts and infant car seats, and collecting mortality data.

It is neither funded nor equipped to envisage and deploy an effective and cost-accessible health care infrastructure from

physician offices to clinics, hospitals, and nursing and residential care facilities.

So, who does own the vision and set policy for health care infrastructure in Vermont? Today, it’s a legally nonprofit sprawl of free-market businesses.

The Green Mountain Care Board should regulate health care infrastructure based on health care policy. But that is a vision we have yet to articulate. The lack of a boundary between policy and regulation and the necessity that they come from different agencies muddles the care board’s understanding of its role today.

Furthermore, the medical profession’s “guild mentality” segregates physical from mental care, as well as from dental care and treatment, even as established research and brain imaging have shown scientifically that they’re integrated physiologically.

By way of example: Periodontal disease causes congestive heart failure.

Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP) inflammation tests show us how psychological stress, anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions compromise the immune system and open the way for chronic disease.

We must finally lay to rest the self-serving falsehood that these are distinct channels of health care and move to a fully integrated system that supports population health.

A model for Vermont Deploy a spectrum of services, running from sole practitioners to small group practices to community health centers (including federally qualified health centers) to critical-access community hospitals to secondary-care hospitals such as Rutland, Berlin, Copley and Southwest, and finally to our two tertiary-care hospitals UVM and Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

Of Vermont’s 14 hospitals, of which eight are critical-access hospitals, we probably need only six geographically-dispersed hospitals and trauma-service ERs with allocated specialty practices such as dialysis and joint replacement.

The others can be repositioned as expanded community health centers with a broad focus on access, urgent care, diagnostics, chronic-disease management, nutrition and mental health counseling, dentistry, prevention and education.

The Health Center in Plainfield is a fine example of rural health care delivery.

A patient’s point of entry

would be based on symptomatic acuity, the first and best choice in non-traumatic injury being a local primary-care facility. Major trauma cases would be air- or surface-ambulance to a tertiary-care trauma center.

True cost-effective care and timely access are achieved by directing patients to local services from whence they can be referred up the system to more sophisticated services, based on diagnosed acuity. Emergency rooms should be used only for true emergencies, not for primary care.

Telemedicine for certain presenting systems can add system capacity.

There’s also strong evidence on the effectiveness of self-care interventions in the fields of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Guidelines exist covering conditions including depression, drug and alcohol use, stress management, migraine, hypertension, coronary heart disease, and HIV, among others.

And emerging capabilities in artificial intelligence, combined with electronic health record systems, may help address data-entry accuracy and the need for more doctor-patient time together.

In summary, I’m increasingly convinced that investing in alleviating the stressors that we as a society continue to tolerate is our most cost-effective, long-term approach to health care.

We already know there’s enough money invested in treating the dire results of these stressors to fund most of these societal needs.

Upstream investments in health care education, prevention, regulation, primary care, mental health, chronic disease management, addiction prevention and recovery will reduce the staggering sums we spend on fixing sick people, often with mediocre outcomes.

A national program of universal health care is ultimately the only way to reduce the \$4.1 trillion — \$12,530 per person — we now spend annually on health care. Here in Vermont, we spend \$6.5 billion — \$10,442 per Vermonter — not that much less than the \$8 billion annual budget for the entire Vermont state government.

No other country in the world spends what we spend on a health care system that produces outcomes ranked 28th in the world.

Obituaries

Ronald James Germond Sr., 79, formerly of Brandon

FLORENCE, S.C. — Ronald James Germond Sr., born May 3, 1943, passed away Oct. 9, 2022, at home in Florence, S.C. Ron was retired from the U.S. Navy after 29.5 years as an E8. He loved serving his country. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding his motorcycle.

Ron is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elsie. He is also survived by his sons, Ronald Jr. (Emily) of Vermont, Robert Sr. (Tina) of Pennsylvania, and Scott (Marie) of South Carolina; his sister, Charlene Germond of



RONALD GERMOND SR.

Florida; seven grandchildren, Robby, Steven, Summer, Josh (Jordan), Andrew and Avri; two great-grandchildren, Maycee Lake and Emma; sister-in-law Mary Jenkins; nieces Barbara and Beth Jenkins and Hope (Rob) Woodhead; and cousins Stevie Curtis, Doreen O’Mara and Janice Layes.

To celebrate Ron’s life a gathering of family and friends will take place at the Germond camp in Sudbury in the summer of 2023 at a date to be determined.

Jill Rifkel Ryea, 31, OVUHS grad

POULTNEY — Jill Rifkel Ryea, age 31, passed away November 4, 2022, at her home in Redwood, N.Y.

Jill was born in Rutland on September 3, 1991. She was the daughter of Clifford Ryea III and Patricia Casey. She grew up in Leicester and was a member of the 2009 graduating class at Otter Valley Union High School.

She began working at Gill’s in Rutland and later became a hairdresser at Five Elements in Rutland. She had also performed as a Runway Model at the Paramount. She was a former resident of Poultney before moving to Redwood, N.Y. Family and being a mother were her priority.

She is survived by her son,



JILL RIFKEL RYEA

Treyvon Hairston, and her partner-in-life, Jamile Hairston; her father, Clifford Ryea III, and her mother Patricia Casey and her partner, Richard Kimball; two sisters, Loretta Forrest and

Ethelyn Ryea; three brothers, Jack Ryea, John Ryea and Brent Casey; and her beloved “Mont” (Sandy and Rick Felion). Several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins also survive her.

Family and friends are invited to a gathering “In Celebration of Her Life” to be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 1-3 p.m. at the Brandon American Legion.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in St. Alphonsus Cemetery in Pittsford.

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

Proctor selectboard

(Continued from Page 1)

three sides. The purchase of the new fire truck would come out of the fire department's reserve fund. After performing a significant amount of research, and advertising for bids, the truck replacement committee narrowed the search to procuring a Custom E One for \$697,910, or a Commercial E One for \$508, 946. Since the money is in a fire department reserve fund that is dedicated for this purpose, the board will consider the request and make a decision at the next meeting.

The proposed purchase of a firetruck for the town was just one aspect of the town's larger budget that is currently being planned and discussed by Ramsey, department heads and the selectboard ahead of a January 2023 deadline for Town Meeting.

Ramsey said that preliminary budget numbers see an inflationary increase of close to 8% but expressed confidence that there was flexibility in that initial budget forecast and in the selectboard's ability to make wise choices when meeting the town's needs while keeping spending in check.

In a memo to the board about the initial budget, Ramsey wrote: "The draft General Fund budget contains input from department heads, along with feedback that has been expressed by Proctor's civic leaders over the past year. Among others, I have assumed 3% salary increases to try to keep

up with cost-of-living expenses, a 6.5% salary match under VMERS plan B for all full-time employees, and a 50% increase to fuel/diesel costs (not excluding contractual fuel surcharge fees). There are also larger than expected increases to the Police and Curbside Pickup expenses due to a predication of flat costs from FY22 to FY23."

"The 8% increase," Ramsey continued, "in the total budget reflects a dedication to staff, and an adjustment to unforeseen inflation; however, given the large amount of time and effort put into making a well-coordinated, transparent, and legible draft for your review, I feel confident that there is flexibility for responsible change in the numbers. As a Town Manager who recognizes that an 8% annual increase is significant, I humbly place my faith and confidence in the wisdom of the board to make decisions that are in the best interest of the town's future."

PROJECT UPDATES

In other news, Ramsey reported:

- The Gorham Bridge Water Project was completed at the beginning of November at cost of approximately \$70,000. This included the installation of 325-feet of mainline, four services, a flushing hydrant, and upgrading the plumbing inside of homes to be serviced from the rear to the front.

- The Town has had to replace two pump motors in two years. Each motor costs about \$15,000. To discover the cause,

contract engineers A+E, are tracking system data remotely to isolate the issue. The town does have a reliable backup pump that is used when the main pump is being serviced or has failed.

- The Beaver Pond Path project is approaching the right of way phase, where the town seeks agreements from landowners who are granting easements. Frank Beyette (Franklins) and Judy Taronovich (Proctor Gas) have expressed support, but also have concerns over the location of the trail. The board hopes to establish a clear path forward (no pun intended, Ramsey said) at the next meeting on November 28. Under the supervision of former Town Managers, and now Ramsey, the design has changed numerous times at the request of Mr. Beyette, which has resulted in delays and increased cost to the project.

- The South Street Sidewalk project is to be completed in 2024. The right of way phase starts in December.

- A review of the Willow Sewer Project was also discussed. The town was initially awarded \$1.4 million in upgrades to over 1,200-feet of sanitary sewer inside the Willow Street Pump Station Sewershed, some of which was buried 100-feet in the ground under the railroad. The project was financed through the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund to help mitigate illicit discharges from the Willow Street Pump Station. Total construction cost was \$950,000. The engineers were A+E and the contractor was Zaluzney Excavating.



Butterfly food

THE PODS OF this milkweed burst in time to lay seeds of rebirth just ahead of Winter's snow in Proctor.

Photo by Dale Christie

TIME FOR A WINTER RIDE?



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2009 TOYOTA TACOMA ACCESS CAB,
VG, auto, loaded 162k miles
\$15,995



2017 FORD F150 SUPER CREW,
4X4,XLT, G cyl, Turbo, 101k miles
\$28,995



2010 HONDA RIDGELINE RTL 4X4,
auto, VG, loaded,149k miles
\$15,995



2018 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW,
4X4, V-8, loaded, 101k miles
\$28,995

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_____	_____
_____	_____

(write additional names on separate sheet Total: _____)

Your Name: _____

and Phone Number: _____

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PO Box 267, Brandon VT 05733

Please do not send cash in the mail.

Names with cash or check may also be

dropped off at Carr's Gifts.

Deadline is Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022!

Tree lighting with singing will take place on

Sunday, November 27 at 3:30 pm

in front of the **Town Hall.**

Many thanks to Steve & Elsie Sherrill
for generously donating the pretty trees!!

Special election coverage

Election results:

BY MIKE DOUGHERTY, VtDigger

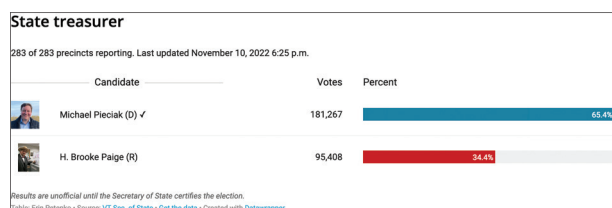
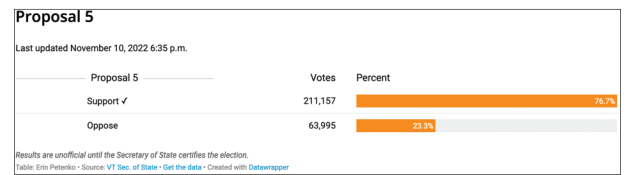
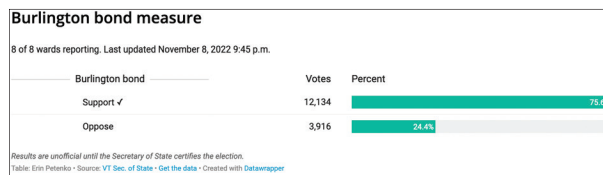
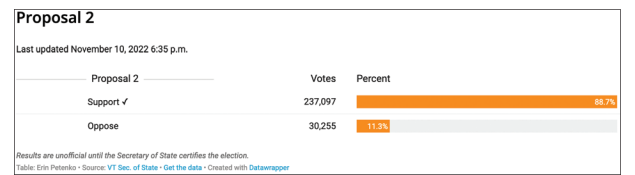
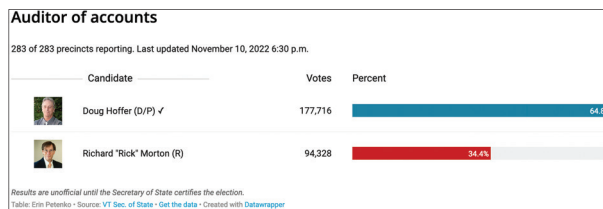
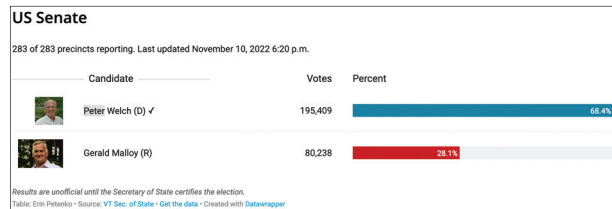
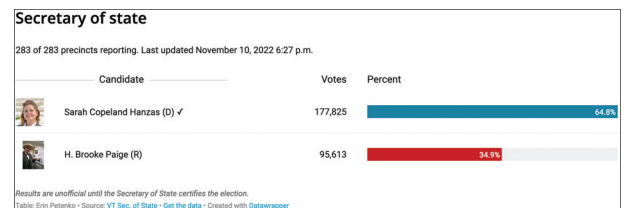
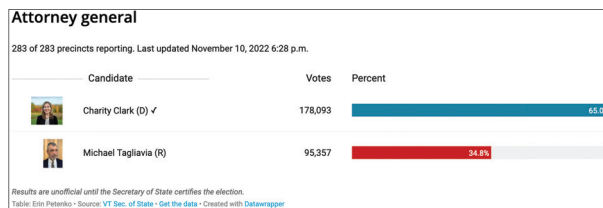
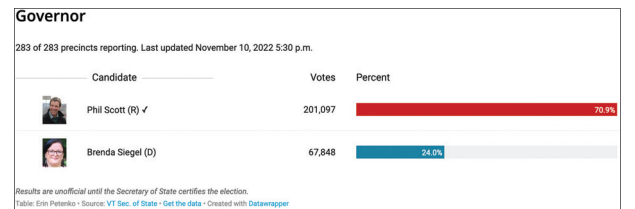
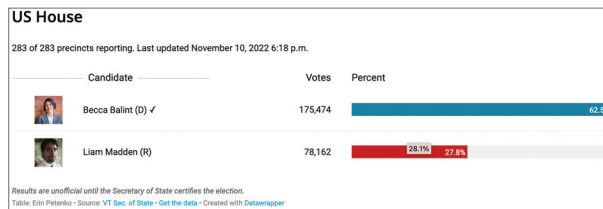
Election night in Vermont confirmed two widely anticipated historic milestones. Voters elected Democrat Becca Balint to become the first woman to represent the state in Congress — and they overwhelmingly approved a measure to enshrine reproductive rights in the state constitution, making Vermont the first state in the nation to do so.

Elsewhere on the ballot, though, Vermonters largely voted to uphold the status quo. The state's next U.S. senator is a familiar face: eight-term Democratic U.S. Rep. Peter Welch. Republican Gov. Phil Scott resoundingly won a fourth term, and former lieutenant governor David Zuckerman, a Progressive/Democrat, is set to return to his old office. Democrats easily secured open statewide posts for attorney general, secretary of state and state treasurer.

Legislative races saw few upsets, but Democrats appear to have gained enough ground to cross a crucial threshold. With Progressives, they are set to hold solid

supermajorities in both chambers of the Legislature — giving them enough votes to override potential vetoes

that Scott may issue during his next term.



Every Vermont town gave majority support to reproductive rights amendment

BY RILEY ROBINSON, VtDigger

In every Vermont town, a majority of voters on Tuesday supported Proposal 5, the measure that wrote reproductive liberties into the Vermont Constitution.

Results from the Vermont Secretary of State's Office show the campaign for Prop 5, also known as Article 22, succeeded in building a sweeping coalition of support, far beyond liberal Chittenden County and the state's more populous, deep-blue downtowns.

Overall, the measure prevailed by a vote of 77% to 23%. And virtually every corner of the state delivered a decisive victory for Prop 5 Tuesday, including typically conservative strongholds and villages with just a few dozen voters.

In Lowell, the Northeast Kingdom town that has so far reported the least support for Prop 5, a majority of voters still backed it. Of the 350 voters who cast ballots in the town, 51% approved of the measure, while 48%

opposed it. The story was similar in other conservative enclaves, such as Irasburg, Granby, Morgan — each of which posted slim majorities in favor of the amendment.

In the most liberal corners of the state, the majorities were overwhelming. Norwich voters backed the measure 93% to 7%, while Brattleboro voters supported it 90% to 10%.

In southern Vermont, a number of voters, several of them men, told VTDigger they had gone to the polls in support of Prop 5.

James Morgan, 50, of Pownal vot-

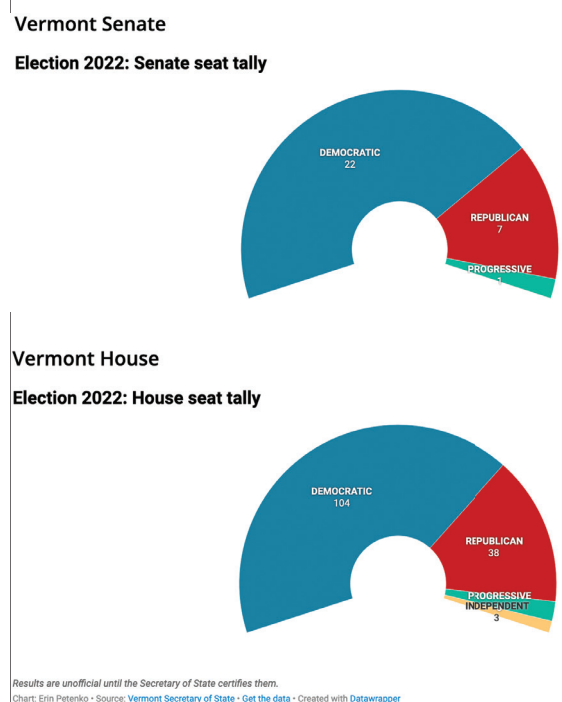
ed for Prop 5 — and for Republicans up and down the ballot.

“Why should anybody tell you what you cannot or you can do?” he said. “This is a free country.”

Jeff Lubeck of Bennington described himself as politically unaffiliated. “I go for the people, not the party,” he said. On Tuesday, he also checked “yes” on Prop 5.

“I do believe it's the woman's choice,” said Lubeck, a retiree. “Are they gonna be forced to have this kid? They should have the option at least available to them.”

(See Prop.5, Page 9)



Prop. 5

(Continued from Page 8)

As a virtual press conference Wednesday morning, the leaders of the campaign for Prop 5 heralded their success.

“There were many opponents along the way that said that Vermonters didn’t understand the implications of this amendment, but I say we fully understand, and we fully understood that our autonomy over our bodies is not up for discussion,” said Mia Schultz, president of the Rutland Area Branch of the NAACP.

The Prop 5 campaign is now “ramping down,” said Lucy Leriche, vice president of public affairs for the Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund. But the coalition of organizations that advocated for Prop 5, including Planned Parenthood and the ACLU of Vermont, would likely focus next on abortion shield laws, Leriche said, to protect Vermont abortion providers who see patients from states with abortion bans.

Of the three states where voters decided Tuesday to write reproduc-

tive rights into their state constitutions, Vermont passed its measure by the widest margin, with 77% support. Michigan passed its constitutional amendment with 57%. California voters approved a similar amendment — which explicitly protects the freedom to choose abortion and contraception — with 65%.

Michigan’s constitutional amendment differed from Vermont’s in one major way: The language of the Michigan amendment explicitly grants the state the power to regu-

late abortions “after fetal viability.”

In Kentucky, voters narrowly rejected an amendment that would have stated that the state constitution grants no right to an abortion and that the state has no obligation to fund abortions.

Leriche said she had spoken with organizers from both Michigan and California about their strategy to bring the amendment before voters, and she has received inquiries from people in other states who are interested in replicating Vermont’s constitutional change there.

“The short answer is yes, people are reaching out to us,” Leriche said.

She said people in other states are “intrigued and very interested” that Vermont’s amendment did not include any mention of gestational limits and still succeeded in a state that is often described as having the toughest constitutional amendment process in the United States.

“They see Vermont as being very forward-thinking,” Leriche said.

Historic majority

(Continued from Page 1)

the House, where Democrats and Progressives are currently one vote shy of the 100 needed to override a gubernatorial veto.

On this front, election night delivered for the Legislature’s left coalition, who will now control 109 districts in the 150-member lower chamber come January. (Democrats won 104 seats; Progressives 5.)

The Democrats have never held this many seats in the Vermont House, and no single party has controlled this many districts in the lower chamber since 1966, when Republicans held 115 seats, according to records kept by the House clerk’s office.

In the 30-member Senate, Democrats and Progressives held on to their 23-seat supermajority, although they lost a seat in Rutland County and unexpectedly won in Chittenden-North, a new district that was widely assumed to be a safe Republican pickup following this year’s redistricting process.

Scott, meanwhile, swept every single town and city in Vermont. His little-known Democratic challenger, Newfane political activist Brenda Siegel, fared even worse than Progressive/Democrat David Zuckerman did in 2020. Scott this year took home nearly 71% of the vote, compared to 69% in 2020, when Zuckerman challenged the governor as he was receiving near-universal plaudits for Vermont’s response at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. (Zuckerman was elected to a second stint as lieutenant governor on Tuesday.)

“Not everything came our way. We’re disappointed that we couldn’t get Brenda higher,” said Vermont Democratic Party executive director Jim Dandeneau. “But otherwise I think it was a pretty unreservedly great night for us.”

For Scott press secretary Jason Maulucci, the takeaway from election night is not a mixed message. “Vermonters want balance,” he said.

“They don’t think that any one

party has all the ideas. And they don’t want — as (Scott) said last night in his remarks — they don’t want him to be a rubber stamp for the Legislature, just like they don’t expect the Legislature to sign off on every single one of his proposals,” Maulucci said.

The night held some down-ballot disappointments for Democrats, particularly in Franklin County, where the party had hoped to make gains but instead lost a seat. And in Stowe, the most expensive House race this cycle, Democratic nominee Scott Weathers lost badly to independent Jed Lipsky, who had been backed by the outgoing Republican incumbent, Heidi Scheuermann.

But Democrats successfully flipped five House seats from red to blue with Jubilee McGill in Addison County, Carl Demrow in Orange County, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman in Rutland County, Dennis LaBounty in Orleans County and Josie Leavitt in Grand Isle County.

The party also ousted a Republican incumbent in Orleans County, Rep. Vicki Strong of Albany, who lost to Democratic Rep. Katherine Sims after redistricting pitted the two against each other in a newly single-member district.

The Vermont Democratic Party, which outraised the Vermont GOP 5-to-1, ran a robust field operation this year, which included six regional offices spread out across the state. On the Friday before the election alone, Dandeneau estimated field organizers knocked on some 5,000 doors.

Recruitment also played a big role in Tuesday night’s outcome. Republicans fielded just 89 candidates in the House. Democrats and Progressives together fielded 130.

Much of the Democratic recruitment edge was driven by Emerge Vermont, the organization that has been building a bench of Democratic women for nearly a decade. The organization’s count shows 48 of its 59 alumnae on the ballot this year won their races — including Vermont Sen. Becca Balint, D-Windham, who will become the first

woman the state sends to Washington after she won the race to replace U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt. in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the Vermont House alone, 36 members who will be seated next year will have passed through Emerge’s trainings. That’s nearly a quarter of all House lawmakers.

It is not surprising, then, that the historic gains by Democrats will get the General Assembly ever closer to gender parity. There will be 81 women serving in the House and Senate next year — more than ever before — representing 45% of all lawmakers, according to Elaine Haney, Emerge Vermont’s executive director.

But nearly half is not nearly good enough, she said.

“It has never been a majority women ever, ever, ever — since 1791,” she said. “So personally, for me, I’m not happy until it’s a majority of women for many years. I’m sorry. That’s equity to me.”

Next year’s crop of lawmakers will also include more women of color than have ever served at the Statehouse at once. They include Sen. Keshia Ram Hinsdale, who was reelected to the chamber from

Chittenden County this cycle after becoming the first-ever woman of color to win a seat in the Vermont Senate in 2020. In the House, Saudia LaMont won a seat in Morristown, Mary-Katherine Stone in Burlington, and Leonora Dodge and Rep. Rey Garofano in Essex Town.

“Five women of color won their elections yesterday — that’s the same number of women of color serving in one session than have served in the Legislature in all of Vermont history,” Ram Hinsdale, an Emerge Vermont co-founder, said in a statement. “That is a more representative democracy for all of us.”

Dandeneau said there’s no single simple explanation for the Democrats’ legislative sweep on Tuesday.

“But the big picture is that we spoke more effectively with more Vermonters and they liked what we had to say — much more than what they’re hearing from Republicans. Republicans were tossing red meat to the base and not talking to voters who need help,” he said.

A big factor in the night’s margins, Dandeneau argued, is the “extremism” of many of the Republi-

can candidates nominated by the party.

“With the exception of (Jarrod) Sammis, all of the electorate deniers got trounced last night, and all of the culture warriors got run out of town,” he said.

Scott, an anti-Trump moderate, has resisted calls to drop the “R” next to his name on the ballot and shrugged off criticism from Democrats that he is doing too little to denounce and root out growing extremism within his party. But the distance between the Vermont GOP and its standard bearer is nevertheless evident — and growing each day. Notably, the party and the governor held two separate election night events on Tuesday.

“It’s sometimes frustrating for the governor,” Maulucci said. “He’s shown every two years, for the past 22 years, a winning playbook in Vermont for Republicans. It’s moderation. It’s fiscal pragmatism, social tolerance. Balance. And I think in many legislative districts, they didn’t have that option on the ballot for their House and Senate candidates.”



PEOPLE AT A Vermont Democratic Party gathering in Burlington cheer as they learn that Proposal 5 passed on Election Day. Democrats have never held this many seats in the lower chamber, and no single party has controlled this many districts in the chamber since 1966, according to state records.
Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

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Senator Baruth to lead Vt. Senate

Other familiar faces make-up leadership in Legislature

MONTPELIER — Vermont Senate Democrats met Sunday to elect a new slate of leaders and unanimously nominated Sen. Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden, to serve as president pro tempore, the chamber's leader.

The pro tem is formally elected by the full chamber when the Legislature reconvenes in January, but since Democrats and Progressives are again slated to control 23 votes in the chamber, their nominee is all but certain to assume the post. Baruth is set to replace Senate President Pro Tempore Becca Balint, D-Windham, who is vacating her office to represent Vermont in the U.S. House.

A novelist and University of Vermont professor of English, Baruth was first elected to the Vermont Senate in 2010 after making a name for himself as a political blogger and Vermont Public Radio commentator. The Burlington resident previously served as Senate majority leader and as chair of the Senate Committee on Education. One of the Senate's more liberal members, Baruth is perhaps best known for his support for gun control — an issue that is expected to return to the Legislature's agenda next year.

The contest for the Senate's top job was settled behind the scenes weeks, if not months, ago, and the elections Sunday, which took place in the Statehouse's legislative lounge (six senators also Zoomed in) were largely a formality. There were no public challenges, and all votes were unanimous.

Senate Majority Leader Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, was reelected to her current post. Sen. Andrew Perchlik, D/P-Washington, was elected assistant majority leader, a role informally known as the Senate caucus' whip. Sen. Dick Mazza, D-Grand Isle, the Senate's longest-serving member, was re-nominated to serve as the chamber's "third member." Alongside the pro tem and the lieutenant governor, the third member sits on the Committee on Committees, the quietly influential panel responsible for doling out committee assignments and chairmanships.

Asked by a reporter during a break in the afternoon's events how long he'd served in that role, Mazza, who joined the House in 1973 and the Senate in 1985, guessed upwards of 20 years. Senate Secretary John Bloomer, who graciously answered VTDigger's phone call on a Sunday, knew the precise answer off the top of his head: 1997.

But even as the caucus welcomed back many old — or as Sen. Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden, quipped, "known" — faces, it is

also seeing unusually high turnover. Seven new Senate Democrats will be inaugurated in January.

They include Rep. Becca White, D-Hartford (who is the youngest woman ever elected to the upper chamber); Rep. Tanya Vyhovsky, P/D-Essex Junction; Nader Hashim, a former Vermont House member; former interim Winooski city manager Wendy Harrison; Montpelier Mayor Anne Watson; Burlington School Board member Martine Gulick; and former Essex Selectboard member Irene Wrenner, who surprised many — including Democrats — when she won her race in the newly created Chittenden North district, which was widely assumed to be a lock for Republicans.

One familiar face to show up virtually Sunday was Sen. Mark MacDonald, D-Orange, who Zoomed in from rehab following a stroke that sidelined him from the campaign trail in the weeks before the election.

"I understand that some merit badges are due for many senators who went around Orange County door-to-door knocking on the doors and campaigning on my behalf in the last week," said MacDonald, who faced a tough challenge from Republican John Klar.

Democrats clinched supermajorities in the Vermont House and Senate on election night, and expectations are high that the party will deliver on long-sought priorities now that it has enough votes — and then some — to override Republican Gov. Phil Scott's vetoes.

It takes 20 votes in the 30-member Senate to override a veto. And in a short speech after his nomi-



PHIL BARUTH

nation, Baruth noted it takes 23 members — what he termed the "magic" number — to suspend the rules. Having enough votes to suspend the rules is a powerful tool, especially in the waning days of the legislative session, when many high-priority bills often fall by the wayside simply for lack of time.

"That's the difference in the final week between getting your whole agenda and getting half your agenda," Baruth said. "People who are here know that in those last three days, sometimes we lose a lot of bills. It's my intention not to lose any bills in the end-game anymore."

But even as Baruth celebrated his caucus' power, he sought to manage expectations. Democrats and Progressives in the Senate are not a monolith — and come from sometimes starkly different districts. He signaled that he was particularly sensitive to concerns that an "arrogant" supermajority would be oblivious to the "average Vermonters' lives, their pocketbooks, their wallets, their bills."

"I just want to make clear that Democrats and Progressives in the House and the Senate, when we design legislation, we do it from data, we can do it from testimony, and we do it with hard skull sweat on the policy — but always agonizing over the costs. Always," he said.

Senators-elect also went around the table for nearly an hour to talk, in broad strokes, about their three biggest priorities for the coming two-year legislative session. White most succinctly summed up what topped the list for nearly all of her colleagues. "My three are: climate change, housing affordability and childcare," she said.

The House Democratic caucus is scheduled to meet Dec. 3 to elect its leaders. House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, has already said she will ask her colleagues to re-nominate her to her current position, and no challengers are expected to emerge.



ALISON CLARKSON

Sports

FISU World Conference to address climate change and winter sports

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — The FISU World Conference, scheduled to coincide with the opening week of the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games, will feature athletes, advocates, authors, innovators, environmental leaders in both the private sector and government, and researchers, focusing on The Intersection of Climate Change and Winter Sports. The conference will be held Jan. 13-15, 2023.

Esteemed author, environmentalist, journalist and activist Bill McKibben; Nathan Chen, the reigning men's Olympic figure skating gold medalist; and national wilderness activist Aaron Mair headline the list of speakers at the conference. Topics will include alternative energy, farming, forestry, food activism, the science of ice and snow and diversity in the outdoors.

"Winter sporting communities and athletes alike are seeing first-hand the impact of climate change on winter sport," said Ashley Walden, Adirondack Sports Council executive director and a member of the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games' Organizing Committee. "It's an incredible honor that so many experts and industry leaders have agreed to join us in Lake Placid this winter to educate and advocate on this critical topic."

McKibben, called "probably America's most important environmentalist" by the Boston Globe, is the co-founder and senior advisor at 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement. McKibben is

a distinguished scholar in environmental studies at Middlebury College of Middlebury, Vt., who has organized 20,000 rallies worldwide, led the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline and launched the fossil fuel divestment movement.

Last February, Chen became just the seventh American figure skater to capture Olympic gold in the men's individual competition. Chen is currently attending Yale University where he's majoring in statistics and data science. In 2021 he joined Team Panasonic and now promotes the "Panasonic Green Impact" initiative, which strives to achieve carbon neutrality.

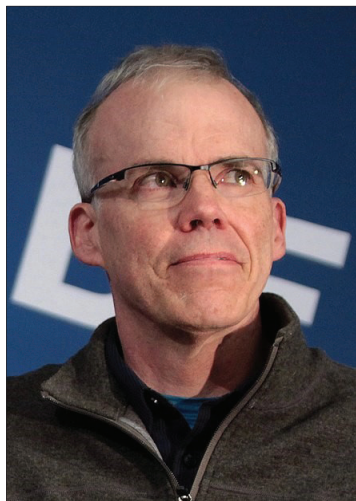
Mair currently serves as the Adirondack Wilderness campaign director for the Adirondack Council. He was the 57th president of the Sierra Club. Mair also founded Albany's Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corporation and Albany's W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center.

Other speakers will include athlete-activists and filmmakers from Protect our Winters (POW)

Kitty Calhoun and Graham Zimmerman; Earthday.org president Kathleen Rogers; author Kristin Kimball; and Players for the Planet co-founder Chris Dickerson. Climate and environmental experts from New York State agencies, including the State's Olympic Regional Development Authority, will discuss New York's efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable infrastructure that will continue to support winter sports. Academic experts and researchers from Paul Smith's College, Clarkson University and Texas A&M University will be joined by representatives from Canadian universities Wilfrid Laurier and the University of Waterloo. Additional speakers and panelists are expected.

The FISU World Conference will be held in conjunction with the Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games, a winter multisport event and educational festival for collegiate athletes aged 17-25, set for Jan. 12-22, 2023. The global event is expected to draw 1,500 athletes from more than 50 countries and 600 universities. Athletes will compete in 12 winter sports with competitions held in Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, North Creek, Wilmington, Canton, and Potsdam.

"The Lake Placid 2023 FISU



BILL MCKIBBEN

Covid levels in Vermont 'low' for 2nd week

BY NATALIE WILLIAMS

Vermont's Covid-19 levels remain "low," according to the state Department of Health's latest weekly surveillance report on Nov. 9, 2022.

The state's Covid levels returned to "low" last week after two weeks of "medium" levels.

There were 442 Covid cases reported in the past week, down from 532 cases the week before. The department bases case numbers primarily

on PCR testing rather than at-home antigen tests.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported three of Vermont's 14 counties — Bennington, Essex and Rutland — had "medium" Covid levels. The remaining counties had "low" levels.

The CDC recommends that high-risk individuals in medium-level counties wear masks and take actions to protect themselves from Covid.

Cases and hospitalizations have remained mostly flat at a national level in recent weeks, The New York Times reported.

In total, 763 people have died of Covid in Vermont since the beginning of the pandemic, including nine reported in the past week. The number of people who died in October increased to 30, while four deaths have been reported this month.

Games represents the first time that sustainability is a major theme in an international collegiate multisport event and is designed to be a model for future FISU Games," added Karlan Jessen, Lake Placid 2023 FISU World University Games' head of legacy and sustainability. "It's especially great since we are able to offer this conference at little or no cost to anyone who chooses to attend, with a special focus on attracting students."

Other events during conference week include the special "A Night at the Wild Center" in Tupper Lake on Saturday, Jan. 14, and a film festival Sunday, Jan. 15 that will showcase short films on sports and the environment.

"A Night at the Wild Center"

has limited reservations for \$25 and includes a light seasonal dinner, a special guest speaker, docent tours of the center's Climate Solutions exhibit, and walking tours of the Wild Lights Exhibit. The film festival and other conference sessions are free and open to the public with limited seating. Conference content will also be available virtually during and after the event.

Reservations are now being accepted by visiting the Lake Placid 2023 FISU Games' official website, lakeplacid2023.com/save-winter. Questions about the Conference can be directed to: savewinter@lakeplacid2023.com.



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MIDDLEBURY

XC SKIING • SNOWSHOEING • FATBIKING • RENTALS & LESSONS

Calendar of events

November

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

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

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

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

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

16:

League of Women Voters Speaker Series: The Impact of Climate Change on Vermont

The League of Women Voters of Vermont, in partnership with Kellogg-Hubbard Library presents the first in its 2022-23 lecture series on the impact of climate change on Vermont.

This season will look at its effect on the personal, economic, and ecological levels, closing with action that has been taken and what we can do individually and as a community.

The first program, on Wednesday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m., presents a panel discussion of "What Climate Change Means to You." The panel, moderated by Peter Walke from Efficiency Vermont, will focus on the effects of climate change on Vermonters. Panelists include Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont State Climatologist; Jared Ulmer from the Vermont Department of Health; and Julie Moore, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

The program will be hosted via Zoom and is open to the public.

Attendance is free, but all guests must register at www.kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs.

[kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs](http://www.kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs).

17:

Audubon West Rutland Marsh Birdwalk

Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area from 8:00–11:00 a.m.. No experience necessary. Go the entire 3.7 mile loop or go halfway. Meet at the marsh boardwalk kiosk on Marble Street at 8 am.

All are welcome! More info: birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org

"Out of This World" Film Series at Wallingford Town Hall

From, 7–9 p.m, our "Out of This World Film Series" returns with a special treat, H.G. Wells' "Things To Come." While much of the fare in our series is laughably low-budget sci-fi schlock that welcomes audience ridicule and laughs, this film is quite different. This is a foreboding look at the future that predicts a World War, the disintegration of society into warlord-controlled chaos, all salvaged in the future by a science-based idealistic society that rescues humanity from doom. The cast is amazing, including Raymond Massey, Ralph Richardson, and Cedrick Hardwicke. The production design of the film is stunning, especially when you remember that it was created eighty-six years ago! You might chuckle at some of the older-style dramatic flourishes, but you will be impressed by Wells' amazing screenplay and his predictions for the future of humanity.

Remember, it's FREE, but you're welcome to bring a snack and a cushion might help you endure our metal folding chairs. We'll provide plenty of context and commentary and, as always, welcome input from our delightful audience.

AND - that's not all! We'll return with more science-fiction treats on December 8th and 15th!

18:

Next Stage Arts presents an evening with Ethiopian ensemble QWANQWA

Brought together by a shared passion for the power of Ethiopian music, this group shines an experimentalism based in the virtuosity of rooted traditions. With swirling masinko (one-stringed fiddle), wah-wah-violin, bass krar boom, and the unstoppable rhythm of heavy kebero (goat-skin drum) beats, powerful traditional lead African diva vocals, QWANQWA keeps the people wrapped in celebratory attention. After making a splash at world renowned festivals Roskilde and WOMEX, and after 3 European tours under their belt, this world traveling ensemble is hitting the road for a MacArthur Foundation backed Debut US tour in 2022.

QWANQWA draws inspiration from East Africa regions of Ethiopia and beyond.

Delving deep into regional beats and moods, the repertoire ranges from a trance-like song of the Eritrean tribe of Blen to a Somali rock number to Mahmoud Ahmed sing-a-longs. The music is characterized by tight arrangements and extended experimental moments. The live show ranges from intimate to wild, from whispery conversations to full blown rock show, and it is hard to believe these psychedelic sounds are coming from traditional harp and violin. It is driving, powerful, and different from anything else coming out of Ethiopia in this current Golden Age of Ethiopian music.

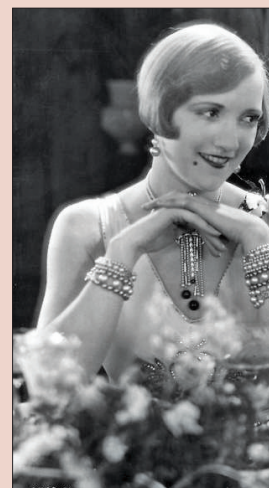
The ensemble was founded in 2012 by American violinist Kaethe Hostetter, who first worked in Ethiopian music as a founding member of the critically acclaimed Debo Band. Since relocating to Addis in 2009, she has participated in numerous exploratory and professional projects, as she honed her sound and immersed herself further into the culture of her surroundings. In this sense, QWANQWA, the Amharic word for "language," is a project creating dialogues between cultures.

Current members of QWANQWA are Endris Hassen (masinko), Kaethe Hostetter (violin), Bubu Teklemariam (bass krar), Selamnesh Zemene (vocalist), and Misale Legesse.

At 7:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, VT. Tickets are \$18 advance / \$22 door.

18 20:

Annual Okemo Ski and Snowboard Swap to benefit Okemo Mountain School



CONSTANCE TALMADGE
'Her Sister From Paris' (1929)
with live music.

Silent comedy to be shown at Brandon Town Hall

BRANDON — The scene: Europe. The cast: Rich people. Get swept off your feet by not one but two privileged ladies, played by the amazing actress Constance Talmadge in this effervescent battle-of-the-sexes comedy.

Silent film with live music returns to Brandon Town Hall with a screening of comedy 'Her Sister from Paris' on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. The program will be presented with live music by silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis. The screening is free and open to the public, with donations accepted and refreshments for sale.

In 'Her Sister from Paris,' Ronald Colman and Constance Talmadge play a wealthy American society couple living in Vienna.

Due to an argument, she leaves to live with her mother. At the railway station she meets her identical twin, a celebrated actress in Paris (also played by Talmadge), who agrees to trick the husband to help resolve her sister's marriage.

The fun starts when both the husband and his friend, an official at the British Embassy, fall in love with the sister, leading to a dizzying round of complications.

Among the most popular stars of the silent era, Constance Talmadge specialized in light "society" comedies. However, she was also an accomplished actor, showcasing her acting and pantomime skills that made her a versatile actress able to tackle any role.

The movie provides local audiences with an opportunity to experience silent film. The movie was intended to be shown: on the big screen in restored prints, with live music, and with an audience.

"If you can put pieces of the experience together, it's a wonderful thing."

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Annual Okemo Ski and Snowboard Swap to benefit Okemo Mountain School is the best place to gear up for the winter with new and used equipment at great prices.

You will find everything you need to get out on the hill this winter... skis, snowboards, boots, bindings, helmets, goggles, gear, and more! The best part about it is that all proceeds go to benefit the Okemo Mountain School in Ludlow. The OMS Ski Swap will once again take place in the Round



HE AND Ronald Colman star in 'Her Sister From Paris' (1925), a silent comedy to be screened

presented with live music at the Town Hall, Sat., Nov. 19

back together again, it's surprising how these films snap back to life," said Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based silent film accompanist who creates music for silent film screenings at venues around the country. "By showing the films as they were intended, you can really get a sense of why people first fell in love with the movies."

In creating music for silent films, Rapsis performs on a digital synthesizer that reproduces the texture of the full orchestra and creates a traditional "movie score" sound. Admission is free; donations are welcome to help support ongoing Town Hall renovation efforts.

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CONSTANCE TALMAGE PLAYS dual roles in 'Her Sister From Paris' (1925).

at the Jackson Gore Inn.

ear's swap dates and times are: Saturday, November 18th, 4-7 p.m. (3-4 p.m. early buy hour; \$5

admission or free for Okemo employees) Saturday, November 19th, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday, November 20th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Also, if you are interested in selling your old gear (please no skis, boots, or bindings older than 5 years), you can sell it on consignment at the swap. 25% of the selling price goes to Okemo Mountain School – the remainder you will receive in a check about 3 weeks after the swap. You may also choose just to donate your equipment – all donations are tax-deductible. All gear must be dropped off on the following days and may not be brought to the swap during sale hours. Equipment drop-off is at the Round House at the Jackson Gore Inn of Okemo Mountain. For drop off, please drive around the back of the Roundhouse by going past the main entrances to the Spring House and Hotel, and past the loading docks toward the ski slopes.

Drop-off dates and times are:
Saturday, November 12th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday, November 13th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Okemo Mountain School is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the academic and athletic development of serious snow sports athletes. Student athletes are given the opportunity to train in alpine ski racing, snowboarding, and freestyle skiing, while pursuing a rigorous course of academic study. Okemo Mountain School relies heavily on fundraisers like the Swap to help keep tuition affordable.

Come to the Swap and gear up for the winter while supporting a great cause!

Further questions, please contact Kate Foster at kfoster@okemomountainschool.org

19:

Town Hall Theater Silent movie: Her Sister from Paris

The scene: Europe. The cast: Rich people. Get swept off your feet by not one but two privileged ladies, both played by amazing actress Constance Talmadge, in this effervescent battle-of-the-sexes comedy. Plus, comedy short subject. THIS IS A FREE WILL DONATION EVENT. Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset, Vermont Country Store.

Gingerbread House Making Workshop Chaffee Art Center

You are invited to our FREE Gingerbread House Making Workshop with DOUBLE THE FUN from 11 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

1. Make an edible gingerbread house.
2. Create and decorate your own textile house with ribbons, pinecones, and more. Make a snowman out of cotton balls, and trees from sugar cones!

Holiday Fest and Silent Auction at the United Methodist Church

A silent auction, arts and crafts, baked goods and chocolate treats will be available for purchase, plus luncheon items. AND the Chocolate Fountain will be returning after an absence of 3 years! Proceeds benefit Companions in Wholeness, a multi-church program to alleviate hunger and homelessness in Rutland. From 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

23:

Annual Gingerbread Contest Entries Due at Chaffee Arts Center

Interested bakers, schools, businesses, organizations, families, individuals, and young people are invited to submit their imaginative gingerbread creations.

The gingerbread designs will be on display in our historic 1890's mansion starting at the Gingerbread Showcase on December 3rd from Noon to 2 PM, until December 23rd.

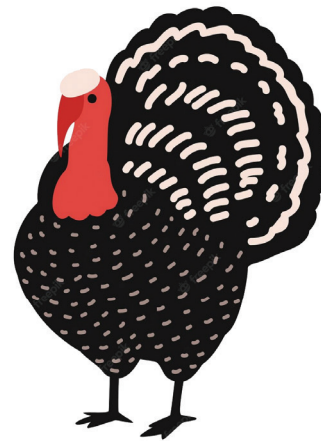
\$10 per entry.

Details, rules, and entry form at www.chaffeeartcenter.org Pre-registration appreciated.

Awards: People's Choice in all categories

Drop Off: November 22 (3 p.m. – 5 p.m.) or November 23 (10 a.m.– 2 p.m.)

Happy Baking!



24:

Neshobe Pie Gobbler Fun Run

After a two-year hiatus, the Neshobe Pie Gobbler Fun Run is back. Runners and walkers will toe the starting line on Thanksgiving morning at 8 a.m. This is an equal-opportunity event where speed doesn't matter—every 10th finisher, plus the winning male and female, will receive a freshly made pie donated by a Brandon-area resident or business.

This a low-key fun run/walk that traverses approximately three miles of Neshobe Golf Course's cart paths. It's self-timed and will be held rain, shine, or snow. Bring your visiting friends and family and create a new Thanksgiving morning tradition.

Later in the day, pie winners can share their baked goods at the holiday dinner table.

"We held this event the first time in 2019, and we've been looking forward to hosting it again. More than 50 runners and walkers participated on a cold, windy, and wet day," said Bill Moore, Brandon's Recreation Director. "Sure, there's a little elbowing, speeding up, or slowing down at the finish line in an effort to be the next pie winner, but it's all in good fun."

Participants can register in advance at www.RunReg.com/neshobe-pie or in person starting at 7 a.m. at Neshobe's clubhouse. There is a registration fee of \$20 for 18 and under, \$25 for 19 to 64, and free for seniors 65-plus.

Proceeds benefit Brandon's Recreation Department. The first 100 participants will receive a giveaway as part of their registration fee.

Questions can be directed to Sue Hoxie, Race Director, maplerunmarketing@gmail.com.

25 26:

Holiday craft fair in Bridport, Vt.

Join us from from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Masonic Hall on Middle Road. Over 50 crafters with handcrafted, quality merchandise at country prices.

Annual Audubon Seed Sale, December 3 and 4



Stock up on birdseed and save some dough. Garland's Farm and Garden at 70 Park Street. 9 am to 2pm.

Membership in Audubon not required, but you can join at the sales. Cash or check only. Learn more about feeding birds and how you can help protect them. More info at birding@rutland-countyaudubon.org

Breanna Elaine

(Continued from Page 1)

her way.

And it's going pretty well. She's developed a steady flow of gigs each weekend, including a couple gigs during the week, and, most gratifying, she's releasing her new album, "Seedlings," this January — a year to the date of her independence from the 9-5 day-job she wanted to move past. She's sings of that moment in her single "I Don't Care," which will be released just ahead of the album and included on it.

We sat down with Breanna earlier this fall for an interview, and to hear her story of a budding singer, with aspirations of greatness and a gritty determination to make it work. Here's that story through her own words:

Q: You were working as a licensed nursing assistant, supporting your four-year-old son as a single mom, and you get this idea for a song that says "quit the job and pursue your passion." That's three months before you actually follow through and your life in fate's hands. Tell us about that moment.

A: "It just hit me that I wasn't happy and I was wasting my life not doing what I wanted to be doing.... At the time, I had just left my boyfriend and was temporarily living in a women's shelter with my son. Well, for me to quit my job was, I didn't know if I might be insane. But I was at a really like, you know, when you're going through like trauma and terrible things, you're more connected to the divine because you don't have total control, and you're just trusting things to work out.



"And so I could feel this energy of what I was meant to do, of what I was supposed to do, and finally I gave in. I was like, 'Okay, I'll do what I am supposed to do because nothing else is working, or making, or fulfilling me. So I listened to that inner voice. And I quit my job. And I worked really hard. And I've been fully booked every weekend ever since. The universe did not disappoint me.'"

That independent, risk-taking attitude is captured well in her song's first stanza that is also a beautifully sung, passionate ballad of doubt in the day-to-day struggle, but belief in the self-assurance of what is right for her: "How can I live my life the right way?"

I'm bound to be homeless

if I don't work my days away.

Small town musicians don't make a living wage

and our hearts are a bit different in many types of ways.

(Refrain:) Well, the days drag on and I sing my song,

and I believe in my magic,

so I wish upon myself

as I'm a shooting star.

I live on this music,

It's all that I eat...

So when the money is gone

and the cupboards are bare,

I don't care, I don't care, I don't care..."

(Do yourself a favor and google Breanna Elaine, I Don't Care, and you'll be treated to a YouTube video of the song.)

Q: Your songs, including the single "Belly of a Whale" that will be released ahead of the upcoming album, are not always as hopeful and self-assured, but have a lot of personal heartache.

How is it to put bare your soul in those songs?

A: "Belly of a Whale" is a song about loneliness. It's about the death of my father (when she was four), emotional distance with my mother, I guess. And it talks a little bit about the partner I had at the time (two years ago) and how I just felt disconnected and lonely. At first I thought I wasn't going to play it out. Because it was just too

personal, you know, I thought no one wants to hear this. But they do and it's actually a lot of people's favorite.

It is a little personal. And it's not like a happy song, which I understand is not for everyone, but, you know, I'm realizing art isn't always happy. Because it's a reflection of our life and our experience, and that's not always happy.

You know, it's telling the story of how I was feeling in life in that moment. Truthfully, and when I wrote it, I wasn't thinking about other people hearing it. I write the music because I'm creating art from, you know, from my place for me, not because I'm writing a song that they'll like.

Q: When did you start writing and singing your own songs?

A: I'm written and played music since I was maybe eight or ten, but it wasn't good. But I kept at it because it just comes out of me. But I didn't keep it or play it in front of anybody until much later. But I had lost so many songs because I hadn't recording anything. So I started to sing and record some. And then eventually, when I was older, you know, people pushed me. And I was like, "Okay, I guess I'll do an open mic." And usually the response I get, I'm like, wow, okay, I'm good at this. People like this. Okay. Let's see what happens if I, you know, tried to get a gig. And I got gig. And I was like, this is going okay, let's see what happens if I just quit my job because it sucks. And I'll just do this full time."

Q: When did you start singing?

A: My mom says she always remembers me singing, even as a little kid. I think I was a music nerd, that's just what made me happy. My mom played the guitar and she's a good singer, and I hear my Dad was really good on the trumpet and he would always be singing. I didn't really hear him ever play the trumpet, but I was told he was a very, very good trumpet player. I'm not really sure what happened. He went a different way in life. But I was told he was very good.

But I guess my singing started in school and in a church youth group. This guy, who was also our neighbor, was the youth group leader and he made a band out of us kids. I had been playing the violin. That was the first thing I played. They had violin classes in our elementary school and I didn't want to be in band because, I thought, I'm too old for that, too cool. I'm not going to play oboe or anything and march in a marching band, so I got pretty good at the violin, but I eventually took up the bass guitar in the church's youth group band.... And I would sometimes sing and play the bass guitar...



I also sang in elementary school. They had, like chorus in school plays and stuff. And the music teacher noticed that I was good at it, and not so good at math, so he encouraged me... like we had these school events when everyone would go to the gym and we would sing songs and whatever. And then once in a while, they would have a kid be a soloist. And I did some of that, which was probably my first ever time to sing in front of other people, like in that way, right? And then, you know, my friends would always be like, 'Oh, sing us that song,' while we were out on the playground or whatever. And I would sing songs for them, because they would ask me to.

Q: You also play the banjo a little bit, right?

A: Right, I was house sitting, when I was much older, like watching my boyfriend's dog as he went away on a trip. And he had taken the guitar with him. And I didn't notice until he was already gone. And I had a song in me and I had to get it out. I was tearing the house apart looking for the guitar, and it wasn't there. But I found a banjo in the closet. And so I pulled it out and figured out how to tune it. And then I wrote my first major song.

I don't really play it that often, but I do have maybe, like eight to 10 songs on the banjo... I've always heard it's harder than the guitar to play; maybe like the rolls and stuff, if you want to get fancy, but I don't get that fancy.

Q: You said you dropped out of

school when you were 15. Why?

A: I liked music and like English and writing, but the rest of it. I just didn't have a great time with. And I was just a rebellious pain in the ass, and I didn't want to do anything else that I didn't like. And that was it.

Q: So, you got your GED since dropping out, and you've had day jobs as a LNA, and you've been singing with various groups and on your own for the past several years. Where do you practice and how's that going?

A: Well, most of my gigs, probably 99%, are solo... just me and my guitar singing at events and during the dinner hour at restaurants and bars, that kind of thing. But I also have a band, and George Nostrum, who owns the sound space in Rutland, which is a rehearsal space, he's like counseled me a lot on the business aspect of things. Like a mentorship, and that's been really helpful.

Q: Any particular place you go to get your inspiration?

A: Well, dumping your boyfriend is good for creative creativity. So I do it every once in a while, just for fun. (Laughing.) So, boys beware. But honestly, you get some songs when you first start dating, like love songs. And then you get those angry songs at the end. I like the angry songs. It's more emotional. I like the grit, the edge.

Where do they come from? I just have it. It's an overflow. It's like a well. You keep dipping in your bucket, but more comes up

(See Breanna Elaine, Page 15)

Breanna Elaine

(Continued from Page 14)
from somewhere. There's always been water in the well within. I like the metaphor of the garden, the seeds you plant. That's why the title of the album is "Seedlings." I really don't know where it comes from but I've got this endless creative energy, and I've had it my whole life. It never runs out.

Q: So, you're 25, you've been on your own for a year as a full-time musician, your new album is coming out in January and you have two promising singles on it, at least, you're living in an apartment in Brandon and you say that songs are still flowing out of you constantly. What's the key takeaway for you in those 25 years?

A: I used to party and be wilder, but today, I just focus on myself. I think when you work on yourself, and you're in a good place, you attract the type of people that you want to be around. So I work on myself and connections happen organically.

Q: Where did you learn that?

A: Well, I learned it from being an unhealthy person and seemingly attracting the wrong types of people. And then I realized what you put in, you get out. So if you're in a good place in life, good things will happen because you're putting out good energy. If you're unhappy, you're putting out bad energy, and people who are also in a negative space are going to be attracted to that. It's the way I learned a lot of things in a really short amount of time, actually, but at least I can use that to my advantage now.

Q: When did you start learning those lessons?

A: Well, when I was a kid

things were not all peachy keen... The things I've been through in my life create a certain perception and a certain space form which I write things that maybe a lot of people haven't experienced or have no idea about. So, maybe I'm able to write more because I've experience a lot of stuff, and that might make be a good

writer...

Q: What else have you learned?

A: Well, I used to be like, 'Oh, everything sucks. Why did this all happen to me?' But now I'm like, I'm glad everything's happened to me. Because now I am this person. And I can see things in a certain way. And I can use all my experience good and bad to my advantage. And I can also use it for my art, and I am just natu-



rally very, like emotional, and, you know, 'artist brain' I call it. I'm unstable. And I like it. I don't really want to regulate it that much, because it makes good art.

Q: How would you describe your music and your voice?

A: It's hard for me to describe my own music or my own voice or to connect down to like certain adjectives. Also I have multiple voices. Like, I could sing a classical sounding song. Or I could sing punk rock. So it really depends on my mood and what type of sound I'm going for. My natural voice and style is kind of like an earthy, gritty, folky sound. That's what comes out naturally. I don't usually try to write anything. It's just comes out the way it is. I don't sit down and say I'm gonna write a blues song. Like, it just is there and comes and I don't really have any great control over it.

Q: Did you ever do voice practice or training?

A: Well, I went once to like a summer camp that my music teacher suggested when I was little. It was like, a few weeks of summer camp. And they did like some sight reading and vocal exercises and stuff like that. Other than that, no.

I didn't used to even warm up. I was like, warm up. I don't need to do that. You know, because I didn't take care of anything. I was like, oh, yeah, I'm fine. Just go sing it.

But I also used to like smoke cigarettes and stuff. So I wasn't like, oh, I need to protect my voice or anything. I was like, rock and roll. Let's go.

Q: Do you smoke now?

A: No. Before I would like shotgun a beer on my way to the show. Now, I don't do anything like that. I don't smoke. I don't

drink at all. I eat very healthy, and I do lots of yoga. And of course, I warm up my voice before I sing. Because it's good for the voice and I want to make it last. And if I'm going to make a career of this, I need to be protecting my voice.

Q: What's next after the album?

A: I like to do more like edgy type music, but it's stuff that I can't really play at restaurants while people are eating with their families. But I do have that. And I think after, you know, after I release this album that I might go back to explore some of that and record it. And now I am starting to play different places, like Off The Rails, which is like a bar, and the Angler Pub, like a bit more rowdier, and Charlie O's in Montpelier. So I'm like, Okay, now I have to shift from playing Country Club Dinner Music for people in their families to nitty gritty music I've been missing. And so I'm kind of just expanding my repertoire more with covers and also bringing back some of the songs that I used to play when I was a teenager at open mics and bars and stuff like that.

Q: What's your dream?

A: I want to play on stages where people pay to see me. Restaurants and bars are fun, but I want to be at a venue where I'm putting on a show, and people pay to come and see me because they want to see me, not that they stopped for dinner and I happen to be there. And I think that's what every artist wants. And eventually, I am going to be rich and famous, and I'm gonna play at huge stages, like Beyonce, and it'll be great. Or maybe like Jewel, I don't know. I've got a lot of sides to me, and music that I still have inside.

Vermont gets \$4M from Google over invasive location-tracking

MONTPELIER — Attorney General Susanne Young today announced that Vermont will receive \$4 million from a multistate settlement with Google over its location-tracking practices related to Google Account settings. The settlement also requires Google to be more transparent with consumers about its practices, including giving users detailed information about the types of location data Google collects and how it's used.

The multistate settlement announced today was negotiated by a coalition of 40 attorneys general and totals \$391.5 million. It is the largest multistate privacy settlement negotiated by attorneys general in history.

"Vermonters deserve to make informed decisions about how

their location data is being tracked," said Attorney General Young. "This settlement highlights the importance of protecting consumer privacy and demonstrates that the Attorney General's Office will continue to hold companies accountable for disregarding the privacy concerns of Vermonters and violating the law."

Location data is a key part of Google's digital advertising business. Google uses the personal and behavioral data it collects to build detailed user profiles and target ads on behalf of its advertising customers. Location data is among the most sensitive and valuable personal information Google collects. Even a limited amount of location data can expose a person's identity

and routines and can be used to infer personal details.

The attorneys general opened the Google investigation following a 2018 Associated Press article that revealed Google "records your movements even when you explicitly tell it not to." The article focused on two Google account settings: Location History and Web & App Activity. Location History is "off" unless a user turns on the setting, but Web & App Activity, a separate account setting, is automatically "on" when users set up a Google account, including all Android phone users.

As detailed in the settlement, the attorneys general found that Google violated state consumer protection laws by misleading consumers about its loca-

tion tracking practices since at least 2014. Specifically, Google caused users to be confused about the scope of the Location History setting, the fact that the Web & App Activity setting existed and also collected location information, and the extent to which consumers who use Google products and services could limit Google's location tracking by adjusting their account and device settings.

The settlement requires Google to be more transparent with consumers about its practices. Google must:

- Show additional information to users whenever they turn a location-related account setting "on" or "off";

- Make key information about location tracking unavoid-

able for users (i.e., not hidden); and

- Give users detailed information about the types of location data Google collects and how it's used at an enhanced "Location Technologies" webpage.

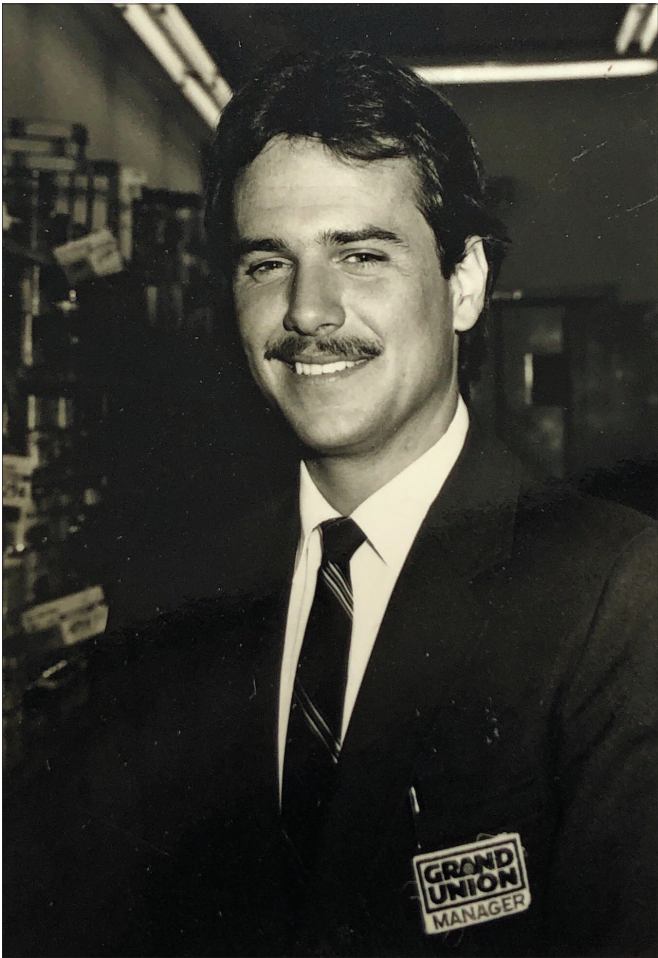
The settlement also limits Google's use and storage of certain types of location information and requires Google account controls to be more user-friendly.

A copy of the settlement is available at <https://ago.vermont.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022.11.14-Google-VT-AVC.pdf>



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



Michael Dwyer recognized Fola Betourney who worked as a Special Educator at Otter Valley from the 1980s until around 1993. She and her husband Kevin moved from East Middlebury to Florida. Fola was a strong advocate for full-inclusion education.

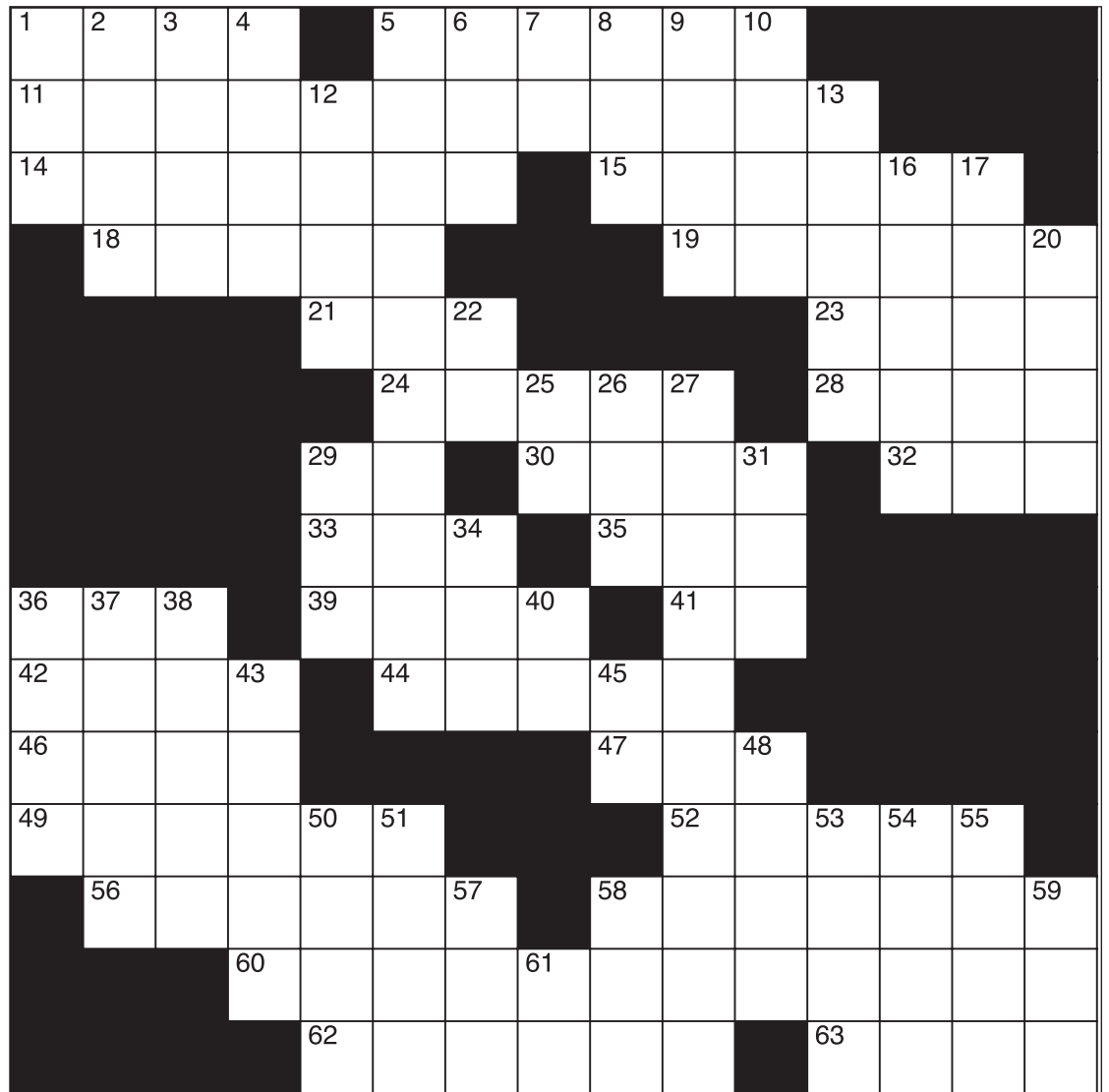
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mountain
5. One dependent on something
11. Gratitude
14. Glazed ceramic ware
15. Paddling
18. Step
19. More greasy
21. Upper-class young woman
23. Light beige
24. Belief in a supreme being
28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia
29. A beloved princess
30. Transfer property
32. Field force unit
33. Automated teller
35. When you hope to get there
36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
41. Blood type
42. Stringed instrument
44. Curses
46. Barbary sheep
47. Belonging to a thing
49. Supporters
52. Leaf-footed bug
56. A shower of water
58. Attribute to
60. Intermittent
62. Soda waters
63. Scottish island

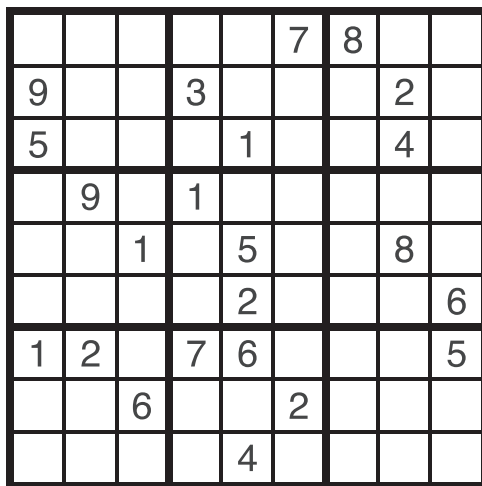
CLUES DOWN

1. Klutz
2. Relaxing places
3. Expel saliva
4. The extended location of something
5. Certified
6. Cease to exist
7. Powerful legal pro
8. The OJ trial judge
9. Popular greeting
10. "90210" actress Spelling
12. ___ Blyton, children's author
13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
16. Battery cell with a nickel alode
17. Full of bacteria
20. Remains of an old building
22. Exist
25. It gets you into places
26. Witness
27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
29. Father
31. Touch gently
34. Licensed for Wall Street
36. Herring-like fish
37. Lute used in N. Indian music
38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
40. Atomic #62
43. Religious
45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
48. Influential civil rights organization
50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
51. Turn away
53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
54. Smooth-feeling fabric
55. Competently
57. Sea eagle
58. General's assistant (abbr.)
59. It helps you see
61. Emerging technology



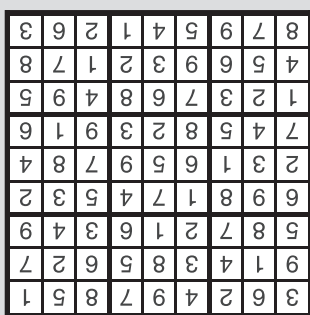
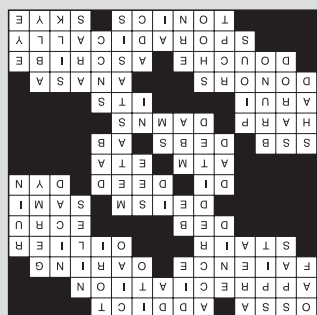
Sudoku

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



Thanksgiving Safety Tips for Pets

Thanksgiving is right around the corner! While you're making preparations for your holiday feasts and family gatherings, Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to offer some tips on how to make your holiday festivities as safe and enjoyable as possible for you and your pets! Thanksgiving is all about the food, but not all people foods are safe for pets. Keep their noses away from the mixing bowl while you get the pumpkin pie ready. Raw eggs can lead to food poisoning, and artificial sweeteners can be harmful as well. Make sure to keep the leftover turkey away from your pet, too. Dogs and cats have a hard time processing fatty foods like turkey skin, and even small pieces of bone can lead to gastrointestinal injury. With company arriving, your furry friend seems anxious, try putting them in a quiet room away from the action with a favorite toy and plenty of fresh water. Lastly, with holidays comes travel, so if you're bringing your pet along, make sure you are prepared. Your pet should have an updated ID, as well as any supplies/medications needed for travel and for the time you plan on being away from home. For more information, contact the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700.

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MEET JAX - 7-MONTH-OLD. MALE. HUSKY AND TERRIER MIX. CAMEL.

Jax is a young boy who needs an experienced handler. He has a lot of energy and is mouthy when he gets over-excited. He needs someone to work on his manners like jumping and chewing on the leash. He can't go home with cats and is fine with some dogs. Due to his jumping and mouthy puppy behavior, he may not be a good fit for young kids. He was brought to RCHS due to his owner's inability to care for him. Please do your breed research on the Husky breed as he has many breed characteristics. Jax needs strong leadership and guidance, and he will be your friend for life. If you are interested in Jax, please call to schedule an appointment at 802-483-6700.



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Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Adult fiction:

"Book of Extraordinary Tragedies" by Joe Meno

Siblings and former classical music prodigies, Aleksandar and Isobel were once destined for greatness. The pair were inseparable until each was forced to confront the absurdity of tragedy at an early age and abandon their musical ambitions.

Now in their twenties, they find themselves encountering ridiculous jobs, unfulfilling romantic relationships, and the outrageousness of ordinary life. When an illness forces Isobel and her three-year-old daughter to move back into the family home, Aleks becomes deeply involved in the endless challenges that surround his relatives. Once Isobel begins playing cello again, Aleks comes to see a world of possibility and wonder in the lives of his extraordinarily complicated family.

Did you know?

If we don't have a book you're looking for, we can get it through Interlibrary Loan? It's one of our free services for patrons!

"Before You Knew My Name"

by Jacqueline Bublitz

Alice Lee arrives in New York City on her 18th birthday, carrying \$600 in cash and a stolen camera. One month later she's dead, the city's latest Jane Doe. Ruby Jones has traveled halfway around the world to the City to reinvent herself, and stumbles upon the body of a brutalized young woman in the Hudson River. Ghostly Alice is sure Ruby can solve the mystery of her death, and Ruby just wants to forget what she saw. But she can't stop thinking of the young woman, who she was and what led to her death and where the murderer

might be now. It's an obsession that will change Ruby's life, and Alice's life and death.

"The Cloisters" by Katy Hays

When Ann Stillwell arrives in New York City to work at the Met, she disappointingly ends up placed at The Cloisters: a gothic museum and garden renowned for its medieval art collection and its group of enigmatic researchers studying the history of divination.

Desperate to escape her painful past, Ann is happy to indulge the researchers' more outlandish theories about the history of fortune telling. But what begins as academic curiosity quickly turns into obsession when Ann discovers a hidden 15th-century deck of tarot cards that might hold the key to predicting the future. When the dangerous game of power, seduction, and ambition at The Cloisters turns deadly, Ann becomes locked in a race for answers as the line between the arcane and the modern blurs.

Man selling drugs in Conant Sq. warned by police to leave area

BRANDON — It was a relatively quiet week for Brandon Police. The week began with a call on Nov. 7 from an individual who was concerned about an elderly male resident who lives alone. Police provided information about numerous options to the caller, including subscribing to a Lifeline service and keeping social connections with people in the community.

Later in the day police received a report of a missing male from a residence on Carver after he failed to return home from an overnight camping trip. Police entered the subject into the NCIC National Database as a missing person. The missing person's mother later contacted the police to say that her son had returned home and that he was safe and sound.

A few hours later a mother called the police to request a welfare check on her son, who resided at a residence on Grove Street, as she believed that he was having mental health crisis and needed to be evaluated. The responding officer made contact with the male and his spouse and determined that the subject was fine, in a good state of mind, and did not need any mental health assistance at this time.

Close to 7:30 p.m., Police aided a Department of Children and Families case worker, providing safety and security during a DCF at-home follow-up visit to a residence on Brookdale Street.

The Forest Dale Senior Center called on the afternoon of Nov. 8 to report that two catalytic converters had been cut off from a bus at the center and stolen. Police obtained evidence. The investigation is ongoing.

Ana officer responded to an incident on Carver Street on Nov. 9, where an elderly woman claimed that she had been thrown out of her home, was weak and hungry, and had been sleeping out on the streets. Upon making contact with the woman, police discovered that she did not speak English. They attempted to find out more about her situation with the help of a translator. A short time later the woman's daughter arrived on the scene and let the officers know that her mother had mental health issues and that she had wandered off while she (the daughter) was doing errands earlier. The elderly woman was then returned to her residence with her daughter.

At around 10 p.m., officers were called to the intersection of High Pond and Cobb Hill Roads, where a wounded deer was found. The investigating officer determined that the deer had been struck by a vehicle, which fled the scene and left the wounded deer along the roadside.

Brandon Police Report

Because of the injuries sustained by the deer, the officer humanely dispatched the animal to keep it from suffering.

Police received another call about a vehicle and deer accident at the intersection of Hollow Road and Champlain Street on Nov. 10. While enroute to the call, the responding officer was advised that a deputy sheriff from the Rutland County Sheriff's Office happened across the scene, was out with the operator, and that she would assist the driver. There were no injuries in the accident.

At around 2 p.m. on the 10th, two suspicious vehicles were reported loitering for over a half-an-hour in the parking lot of the Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street. The information received by the caller was documented for police information purposes.

Another report of suspicious activity came in on the afternoon of Nov. 11. An anonymous caller reported that a male hanging out in front of the Brandon Liquor Store in Conant Square approached him and offered to sell him cocaine and heroin. The responding officers located the suspect and found drug paraphernalia on his person as well as a small amount of marijuana. Some evidence was seized at the scene for later drug testing and/or investigatory purposes. At that point, the male was warned to leave the area and not return, and the subject left without further issue.

On Nov. 13, police received a report of people trespassing on a construction site on Conant Square where the new car wash is being built. An officer made contact with the group and they exited the property without further incident.

In other activity, police:

ON NOV. 7

- Advised a resident on elder care options.
- Documented for insurance purposes a hit-and-run motor vehicle crash in a parking lot in Brandon in which a passenger side mirror was damaged.
- Took fingerprints for employment.
- Investigated a missing person report.
- Made a welfare check on a Grove Street resident.
- Assisted a DCF case worker in providing safety and security during a DCF at-home follow up visit to a residence on Brookdale Street.

(See Police report, Page 19)

SPREAD THE WORD!
Have an event to add to our calendar?
EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Start evaluating personal habits that may be holding you back, Leo. Upon closer examination, you may discover that there are some things you can easily change for the better.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, much to your relief, your hard work could start paying off very soon. It has been a long time coming, so enjoy any rewards that come from your efforts.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Consider a partnership that falls into your lap, Libra. It may provide you with some new social and business connections. There's a lot of opportunity coming down the pike.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Scorpio, it is alright to desire some quiet, but too much excitement is surrounding you lately for things to settle down just yet. Ride this wave a little longer.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
A week full of possibilities and positivity lies ahead for you, Sagittarius. The only question is, "what are you going to do with it?" Bring a friend for the ride.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Capricorn, no matter how much work you have on your plate, rest assured that you have all of the resources available to get things done successfully.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
The stars are interested in showering you with plenty of love right now, Aquarius. This could be one of the most enjoyable weeks you've had in quite a while.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Romance could bloom this week if you are interested, Pisces. You also may be able to solidify an existing relationship.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 17 RuPaul, drag queen (62)
- Nov. 18 Margaret Atwood, writer (83)
- Nov. 19 Adam Driver, actor (39)
- Nov. 20 Judy Woodruff, news anchor (76)
- Nov. 21 Coleman Hawkins, musician (d)
- Nov. 22 Billie Jean King, tennis player (79)
- Nov. 23 Mamie Till, Civil Rights activist (d)

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

ON NOV. 8

- Investigated a theft at Forest Dale Senior Center.
- Stopped a car for tailgating on Franklin Street and issued a warning.

On Nov. 9

- Checked the welfare of a resident on Carver Street.
- Addressed a parked car blocking traffic on Park Street.

- Responded to minor car accident in the Otter Valley Union High School parking lot and documented it for insurance.

- Removed a wounded deer from the scene of a hit-and-run on High Pond Road/Cobb Hill Road.

ON NOV. 10

- Received a report of an “Amer-

ican Tree Farm” sign taken from a property on High Pond Road.

- Responded to an accident at the intersection of Hollow Road and Champlain Street.

- Investigated suspicious vehicles in the parking lot of the Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street.

- Took fingerprints for teacher licensure.

- Patrolled Center Street on foot.

ON NOV. 11

- Investigated a suspicious person report on Conant Square.

- Received report of a motor vehicle accident on Park Street.

ON NOV. 12

- Responded to an alarm at Otter Valley Union High school which turned out to be false.

- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street.

- Patrolled Park Street on foot during the Foley Brother’s Chili Festival on Park Street.

- Made two separate motor vehicle stops on Franklin Street for cell phone violations. Warnings issued.

- Received a complaint of possible information sharing from an employee at a local business. Investigation has been started.

- Patrolled Center Street on foot.

ON NOV.13

- Investigated suspicious activity on Steinberg Road.

- Dealt with trespassers at a construction site on Conant Square.

- Issued a warning to a driver on Franklin Street for driving without headlights on.

- Enforced traffic and speed limit on Franklin Street. Issued two tickets for speeding.

VT law enforcement decertifies Police Officer Anthony Moriglioni

PITTSFORD — For the second time in less than two months the Vermont Criminal Justice Council voted to permanently de-certify a Vermont law enforcement officer’s certification.

Former Springfield Police Department officer Anthony Moriglioni had his law enforcement certification permanently revoked without the option of re-certification. After reviewing the complaint, investigation, and policies, the Professional Regulation Subcommittee concluded the facts established violations of professional misconduct. Moriglioni resigned from the Springfield Police Department in January of 2022 and is no longer working in law enforcement.

A Stipulation and Consent Order

was presented to the Council that outlined the policy violations and the recommendation of permanent revocation without the option of re-certification. The Council met on November 1, 2022, and by unanimous vote approved the Stipulation and Consent Order. The de-certification also gets reported to the National Decertification Index (NDI), a nationwide registry of certification and license revocations relating to officer misconduct.

Moriglioni was found for multiple violations of police conduct, according to a press release by Vermont Criminal Justice Council Deputy Director Christopher Brickell, including using physical force on a driver stopped for a windshield issue, which led to a search of drugs

in the car and ultimately on the driver’s body. Moriglioni grabbed the driver by the neck with his hand and held it tightly for 25 seconds before the person spit out something in his mouth.

In another violation, Moriglioni pursued a car doing 65 mph in a 50-mph zone in a reckless manner without putting on police car lights or calling the pursuit into the office (a standard procedure). After calling off the chase, he later pursued the car again, during which the driver almost hit another police car and ended up stopping in a parking lot. The verbal abuse and unprofessional conduct that ensued by Moriglioni was also grounds for dismissal, the council found.

State officials, educators and law enforcement tackle school safety at governor’s conference

BY AUDITI GUHA, VtDigger

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Emergency preparedness, behavioral threat assessment and responding to active threats were all up for discussion at Wednesday’s daylong Governor’s School Safety Conference.

“It’s about finding and assessing the risks involved,” Gov. Phil Scott said during a press briefing between sessions at the DoubleTree conference center in South Burlington on Nov. 1, 2022.

Scott described the event, which was closed to members of the media, as a “fascinating conversation” and opportunity for collaboration

among educators, administrators, and public safety and state officials. “It’s all of us working together, pulling in the same direction so that we can identify the problems before they blossom.”

Sponsored by the Vermont School Safety Center, which is a collaboration between the Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety, the annual conference comes after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Established in 2016, the center looks to enhance the emergency preparedness in K-12 schools and to share tools and best practices.

Hosted by the Agency of Educa-

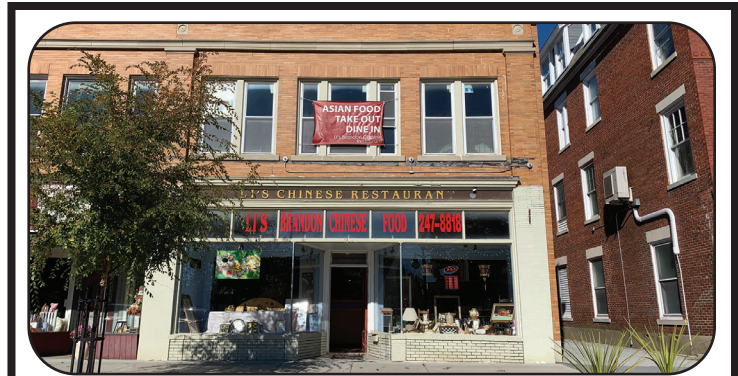
tion, this year’s conference was free for the first time since its inception about a decade ago. About 350 people registered for the event, according to Ted Fisher, a spokesperson for the Agency of Education.

Fisher said the event was closed to the media in order to support inclusive learning and encourage candid dialogue. State officials held a brief Q&A for reporters in between sessions.

The conference brought together school and district leaders, educators, community members, school mental health professionals, emergency services professionals and

(See School safety, Page 21)

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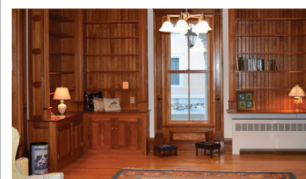


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Brandon selectboard

(Continued from Page 1)

The event, which included music and snacks, focused on educational presentations that showed homeowners how to save money on energy-saving home measures. (See a separate report of the event on Page 2.)

In one of the few action items on the agenda, the selectboard reappointed Atherton and Fire Chief Tom Kilpeck as the town's members to the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC), following its first year of service. As directed by the Vermont legislature, the REMC must appoint one emergency management representative and one emergency services presentative from each town.

HEARING ON LIBRARY

GRANT

The selectboard confirmed that a public hearing will be held on Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Offices to review and take any public questions or comments about a library grant the town recently received. The \$55,181 Planning Grant from the Vermont Community Development Program pertains to the Brandon Free Public Library's upcoming renovation and addition.

Specifically, the grant will help the town "obtain the views of citizens on community development; to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program; and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement

on the use of these funds."

The VCDP funds received have been used to accomplish the following:

- Completion of a feasibility study on the Brandon Free Public Library, exploring design, costs and the environmental impact of expanding and renovating the library.
- Work products included an architectural feasibility study, structural and mechanical design, historic review, environmental assessment work, cost estimates, financing plan, and development schedule.

REGIONAL TOURISM

The selectboard also passed a resolution to continue participating in a Rutland Regional Planning Commission program that

would create a county-wide website that maps recreational assets to serve as a one-stop regional recreation tourism site.

Called RAMP, for Rutland Regional Asset Mapping Project, it includes an interactive map with a focus on the consortium towns and organizes information and data on hiking and biking trails, parks, downtowns, village centers, historical points of interest, museums and art studios.

The next phase of the project has Brandon solely partnering with the RRPC and leveraging the municipal planning grant funding to create town specific sites that also feature a coordinated community calendar. The end result, said Brandon Recreation and Economic Development manager Bill

Moore, will be a "comprehensive regional website that has up-to-date data that is being curated by the individual towns with support from RRPC planner Maggie O'Brien." Moore said the town was "excited to once again lead the county in the effort to boost the visibility of the region," adding that it will "once and for all solve the 'master community calendar' problem."

The project is financed by a matching grant paid for by the RRPC.

The selectboard approved routine spending warrants in the amount of \$338,652.49 and a Library Grant warrant for \$24,342.49 before adjournment.

School safety

(Continued from Page 19)

law enforcement to share experiences and learn about protecting the physical safety of students, staff and schools. It also focused on tackling the mental health impacts of crises at home and around the country.

The keynote speaker, threat assessment expert and author Marisa Randazzo, discussed the history of

active shooter incidents and tools that can mitigate the risks, according to the event agenda.

Breakout sessions addressed topics such as opportunities and challenges when building a behavioral threat assessment and management team, and collaborating with the Department for Children and Families when managing students of concern.

Officials said they expected the event to serve mainly as a learning experience but that discussions could, down the road, lead to increased regulatory oversight of school safety.

"I think we're on a trajectory to get more intentional," Secretary of Education Dan French said. "One of the things we're contemplating at the agency and in our partnership with other agencies is how to strengthen the regulatory and the statutory framework in school

safety."

While the national focus has been on school violence and students' mental health, Wednesday's event also included discussions about emergency planning for fires, chemical spills and environmental problems. "So it's an all-hazards approach," said Erica Bornemann, director of Vermont Emergency Management.

French said the conversation around school security has expanded beyond just the safety of school

buildings.

"Fifteen years ago, that was where we started this journey, really making sure that the physical aspect of buildings was more secure," he said. "And now you are seeing an evolution to get into issues of the social and emotional aspects of threat assessment. It's a comprehensive understanding."

GMNF open to the public for Christmas tree cutting

RUTLAND — U.S. Forest Service officials in Vermont are welcoming the public to select and cut a Christmas tree on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) with the purchase of a \$5 permit. Permits are now available for purchase either online (an additional \$2.50 service fee applies) or in-person at our GMNF offices in Manchester or Rochester Vermont.

In support of the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, this year the Forest Service will provide fourth grade students with a free Christmas tree voucher by registering at everykidoutdoors.gov. Fourth graders who register must present a printed voucher to redeem a Christmas tree permit. Christmas trees for personal use may be cut on the GMNF, subject to the following conditions:

FEES AND AVAILABILITY

- Permits can be purchased either online or in person at a GMNF office.
- Purchasing permits in person can be done by calling one of our offices located in Manchester or Rochester. Please confirm that our office locations are open by making an appointment prior to travel.

- Permit cost is \$5 and is non-refundable. Online permits require an additional \$2.50 service fee.

- Two permits are allowed per household per year.

- Trees obtained under the Christmas tree permit may not be resold.

Rules for Harvesting

- Trees may only be cut within designated areas as indicated in maps (links available below).

- Trees over 20 feet tall are not covered by the permit.

- The tree must be cut at a point no higher than 6 inches off the ground.

- Permit holders must remove all trash and litter resulting from their activities. This includes removing all woody debris from road surfaces, ditches, and culvert openings where cutting took place.

PERMIT CONDITIONS

- Permit is not valid in: Congressionally-designated wilderness areas; active timber sale areas; and developed recreation sites including campgrounds, picnic areas, and day use sites; and the following management areas as designated by the 2006 Forest Plan: Ecological

Special Areas, Existing and Candidate Research Natural Areas, Alpine/subalpine Special Areas, and the Robert Frost Recreation Special Area (see maps).

- Permit must be attached to the tree before transporting it from the site where it was cut.

Christmas Tree Cutting Area Maps

You can find maps at tinyurl.com/GMNF-tree-permits to access Christmas Tree Harvest maps for the Manchester Ranger District (South) and Rochester-Middlebury Ranger District (North)



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Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

CHANGING COLORS, CHANGING SEASONS




This fall's colors lingered into late October and early November throughout central Vermont. Top left is a magnificent maple captured in its fall glory by Proctor photographer Dale Christie; middle right are canoers paddling in early November past the island on Lake Dunmore taken by Angelo Lynn; Proctor's Beaver Pond is captured in this bird's eye view by Christie; and at left is the morning fog in central Addison County captured by photographer, and Reporter's graphic designer, Sepi Alavi.




**Photos by Dale Christie,
Angelo Lynn and Sepi Alavi**


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Christy Lynn



Tom Van Sant



Angelo Lynn

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The REPORTER

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NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF PERSONNEL RECORDS

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

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

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

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

Classifieds

HOMESHARE

CORNWALL: - 5 miles to Middlebury! Share a spacious rural home w/ senior couple who enjoy nature, theater & community involvement. \$300/mo. plus help w/ snow removal, tasks around the house & occas. errands. Bedroom,

sitting room, private BA. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, bg check req. EHO.

ADDISON: - Peaceful location, 30 minutes to Middlebury. Compact, furnished apartment connected to family home. Seeking housemate to help w/ mowing, stacking wood, &

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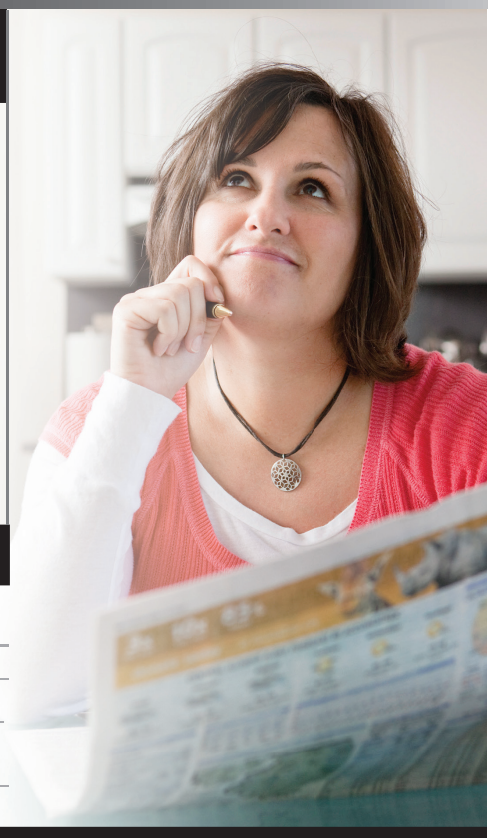
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<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
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