

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, January 4, 2023

\$1



OV WRESTLING

The Otters came in second at the Hubie Wagner Invitational at MUHS on Dec. 28-29. Several individual OV wrestlers made it to the podium.

PG. 5

OVUUSD

OVUU School Board discusses equity audit and budget. Board members both raised questions about and defended the necessity of the audit and its planned implementation.

PG. 3



CHRISTMAS 2022 IN REVIEW

See some photos from our area and read an inspirational message from Pastor Dwyer of the Pittsford Congregational Church.

PG. 9

THE REPORTER MARKS A NEW PHASE

The paper is now in the hands of a community-supported nonprofit. Read their first message to their readers.

PG. 4

PITTSFORD TOWN MANAGER RESIGNS

Brenda Fox-Howard left her position in mid-December. No replacement has been named.

PG. 16



The storm that stole Christmas

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—On Thursday, December 22, just as the Christmas travel surge was about to get underway, a “polar vortex” came hurtling down from the arctic and plunged the eastern half of the U.S. into freezing misery. Single-digit temperatures, howling winds, and merciless snow all combined to make Christmas 2022 decidedly less than merry for much of the country.

Accumulations of snow weren’t as severe here in Vermont as in other parts of the Northeast, but vicious winds knocked down power lines throughout the state, cutting off electricity to thousands of Vermonters. Scores of households in the Brandon/Pittsford area were left without power during a brutal cold snap. Many holiday gatherings were cancelled or postponed because of the outages and road conditions.

David Atherton, Brandon town manager and emergency (See *Christmas storm*, Page 4)



Silent Night

A CHRISTMAS EVE tradition on Park Street in Brandon: luminaries line the sidewalks on both sides of the broad thoroughfare at twilight.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

The Reporter reflects on its predecessors

Part One: Mim Welton & Dateline Brandon

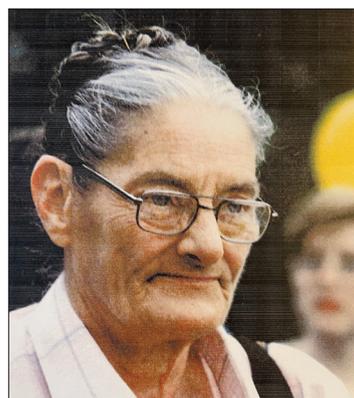
BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—The Reporter would like to celebrate the wonderful newspapers which have preceded us. There have been many dating back to the 1800s and we’ll attempt to review a few of them over the coming weeks.

First up is Dateline Brandon (1972- 1996), a masterful product of a woman driven to be the local news outlet for her town. It was a one-woman show: editor, publisher, reporter, photographer, and printer. She had help typing and with layout, but the rest of it was all Mim Welton. The cartoon on the nameplate on the front page was drawn by Warren Kimble. Mim had found him refinishing furniture in his backyard and asked for a drawing about the town. Kimble said of Mim and the Dateline “it’s a

history of all of us” and “[Mim] taught us all to see and like each other through words and pictures.”

Her office and printing press were long housed in a building that now is part of Brandon Lum- (See *Dateline Brandon*, Page 2)



MIM WELTON

RNESU Superintendent full of hope and pragmatism

BY ERIC A. LANGSTON

BRANDON — This fall, Dr. Kristin Hubert, the new superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNE-SU), welcomed the school year with hope and pragmatism. Six months into her tenure, it’s these sentiments that continue to shape her vision and work in the district.

From school closures to a mass exodus of faculty and staff, to a cultural and political reckoning that has found its way into classrooms across the country, schools and the students in them have been through some of the most unstable and challenging times in recent memory. As Covid moved from a pandemic to an endemic, Hubert’s hope that school might return to normal after more than two years

of upheaval was palpable, if measured. Roughly halfway through the academic year, challenges both old and new remain.

On a day-to-day basis, the struggles are acute. “We are really still struggling with workforce shortages in a really impactful way,” Hubert said in a recent interview.

That’s true especially for support staff like teachers aids, custodians, substitutes, and bus drivers. The boards of RNE-SU and Otter Valley Unified Union Districts recently finalized a three-year contract with the Educational Support Staff and Bus Drivers that secured a one-time wage increase of 8.20% and a 4% annual increase going forward, but at the end of December there were still 28 (See *Kristin Hubert*, Page 7)

Dateline Brandon

(Continued from Page 1)

ber. She could be found there Wednesday through Thursday night, getting the paper ready and then printing the whole thing. She was assisted by Irene Lee, who typed her handwritten stories for 17 years. Anne Mitchell pasted the paper up. And Mim cranked up the press.

I first met Mim when I moved to Brandon in 1972, when finishing high school at Otter Valley. To a teenager raised on Long Island, she was an unforgettable character with hair up in crossed braids and a cigarette hanging from the corner of her mouth. She always wore a plaid shirt and blue jeans. She rode a motorcycle with a basket and a dog. Her camera was around her neck. She took my picture many times, as she did for all my newborn children (4), and published them in the Dateline. I still have a few of those pictures hanging around. I'm sure a lot of other folks do as well.

Here's a few tributes to Mim and her paper:

Her friend and former RNESU superintendent, Bill Mathis, said of her, "she had her own sense of how things ought to be. No issue was considered of public interest until Mim had her say in the Dateline. No other person could reach across all lines, groups, political parties, or factions like Mim." Mathis recalls Governors Madeleine Kunin and Jim Douglas asking about her while riding in the back of his convertible Camaro in Brandon's annual Fourth of July parade.

She had a sharp wit as well, and would voice her opinions in her publication. Mathis said,

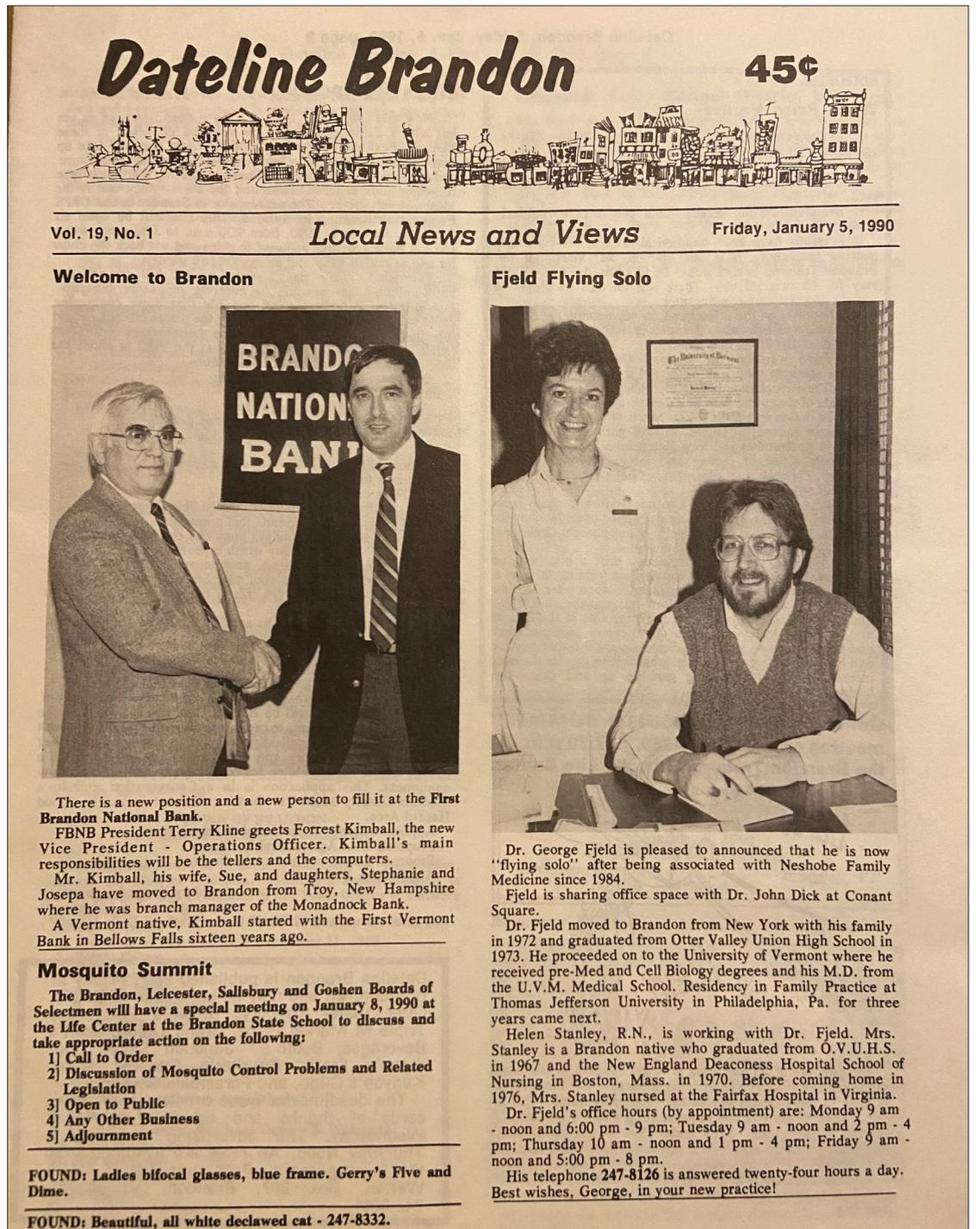
"her editorials had the punch of undiluted sulfuric acid." Her printing press was a behemoth, "3,000 pounds of cantankerous machine that only Mim knew how to run," Mathis added. "She published the pictures of every newborn child, deer harvested, educational achievement, civic accomplishment, fire, wreck, baby shower, rare bird, errant moose or otter, obituary, or other event of general interest."

Yvonne Daley, who contributed to The Rutland Herald and many other publications, wrote in the final edition of Dateline Brandon, "Mim didn't go to journalism school, but her newspaper represented journalism at the most essential level. It was the journal of her community. Its format was like her: no nonsense. With Mim, you always got what you saw."

The Dateline "was one of the most completely informative news media that any village area ever had," per Tom P. Whittaker. Also, "she had an ability to arrange words for interesting reading. If a picture would make a news item more interesting, she was not bound by commonly practiced rules..."

Former First Brandon National Bank President Terry H. Kline said that Mim "was the eyes and ears of our community, and when need be, the voice, the prod, the messenger. Like it or not, she forced us to think and act; to question when necessary, and most importantly, to compliment when deserved. Accomplishments and pictures always took priority over advertising."

Obviously, The Reporter has a lot to live up to.



THE FRONT PAGE of the Jan. 5, 1990 edition of Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon. The dapper gentleman seated on the right is The Reporter's own Dr. George Fjeld, author of this article. The village scene below the paper's name was drawn by renowned local artist Warren Kimble. Mim Welton designed and printed each issue herself.

Brandon Officer and K-9 partner complete narcotics detection training

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Brandon Police Officer Aiden Alnwick and his K-9 partner, Guinness, recently graduated from the Narcotics Detection School run by the Orange County (NY) Sheriff's Office. Completion of the two-month program allows Ofc. Alnwick to use Guinness in searches for drugs, specifically cocaine, methamphetamines, ecstasy, heroin, and fentanyl.

"We had a lot of fun during the class," said Ofc. Alnwick. "It's a game for the dogs, almost like hide-and-seek. When he finds an odor of one of the drugs, he alerts by exhibiting a change of behavior...usually



it's sniffing an area intensely and then sitting, and then he gets his toy."

Ofc. Alnwick and Guinness will attend a 16-week Patrol School program at the same academy in March. This additional training will teach Alnwick and Guinness how to work together to track, recover evidence, and apprehend criminals.

THE NOSE KNOWS: After two months of training, Brandon PD Officer Aiden Alnwick and his K-9 partner, Guinness, are ready to sniff out illegal narcotics.

Brandon Library receives \$100K state grant for ADA compliance

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—At the end of December, the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) got word that it will receive a \$100,000 State Economic Development Grant from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (VHCD). The money will go toward the library's planned renovation, specifically to defray costs relating to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

BFPL was one of 12 proj-

ects in Vermont selected by VHCD for grants totaling \$3.9 million.

"We appreciate the partnership with the town of Brandon to facilitate this grant," said David Roberts, president of BFPL's board of directors. "These grants are essential because we've faced greatly increased costs with regard to ADA compliance. The needed modifications are very expensive. The grant will help us make the library accessible to everyone."

OVUUSD grapples with equity audit and preps for budget vote

BY STEVEN JUPITER

FORESTDALE—The Otter Valley Unified Union School Board met at the Neshobe Elementary School in Forestdale on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, to discuss next steps after the completion of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union's district-wide equity audit, and to begin planning the budget for fiscal year 2024.

After some introductory remarks from RNEU Superintendent Kristin Hubert and OVUU Board Chair Laurie Bertrand, the floor was turned over to Tyler Weideman, RNEU's director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Weideman led the Board through a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the key findings of the district's equity audit, its recommendations, and the planning process to implement those recommendations.

The equity audit was commissioned last spring by RNEU and conducted by Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC), an independent consultant based in Bethesda, Maryland. According to MAEC's website, the purpose of an equity audit is to examine "policies, programs, and practices that directly or indirectly impact students or staff relative to their race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, color, disability, age, sexual orientation, sexual identity, religion, or other socio-culturally significant factors."

Though the results of the audit have been reviewed by RNEU, they have not yet been released to the OVUU Board or other members of the community. Release of the audit to the

Mr. Weideman, in his PowerPoint presentation, laid out three "key findings" of the audit:

- "Based on the analysis of district discipline and achievement data, there appears to be disproportionality on the basis of race [and] socio-economic status..."

- Both the climate survey and the focus groups revealed an unsafe climate for minoritized youth in middle and high school, specifically for LGBTQIA+ students."

- "Focus groups provided evidence of implicit bias, a lack of cultural understanding, and discomfort across the district when dealing with differences based on social identity."

The audit offered six "recommendations" for action:

- "Create a district-wide taskforce committed to examining equity and climate issues."

- "Appoint an Equity Officer in each school responsible for promoting equity and diversity throughout the school."

- "Develop a district equity and diversity strategic plan."

- "Offer in-depth and ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, students, and the district-wide equity taskforce."

- "Conduct periodic community forums with parents and other stakeholders."

- "Recruit and develop a team responsible for data oversight for the district."

Weidman also laid out a three-step planning process:

- Review

- a) In June 2022, administrators in the central office received the results of the audit.

- b) During summer 2022, district principals and central office administrators reviewed the results.

- c) In fall of 2022, key findings of the audit were shared with appropriate district staff.

- Plan

- a) In fall of 2022, building administrators developed Equity Action Steps.

- b) In November 2022, Equity Action Plan was drafted.

- c) During winter 2022/2023, the Equity Action Plan will be shared with school and central office administrators, RNEU staff, school boards, and the community.

- Act

- a) The Equity Action Plan will be implemented in spring and summer of 2023.

- b) All licensed faculty will participate in Inclusive Teaching & Learning training.

- c) There will be ongoing partnerships with outside organizations, such as Outright Vermont, Up for Learning, and NAACP.

- d) All administrators will participate in training called Leading Equitable Schools, offered by the Center for Educational Leadership.

- e) There will be monthly meetings of the Student Advisory Committee and the Parent Advisory Committee.

- f) There will be monthly webinars and community engagement opportunities.

- g) "Restorative practices" will be implemented.

- h) An equity mini-grant will allow for the creation of multicultural book bundles and curriculum.

After the presentation, a conversation ensued among OVUU Board members and RNEU administrators as to the definitions of certain terms, such as "implicit bias," and whether the audit even addressed the appropriate issues.

Board member Erik Pearsons expressed dismay that the audit seemed to indicate that students at OV were being treated unfairly on the basis of family income. Susannah White, RNEU's Equity

Engagement Coach, explained that much of what Pearsons was referring to was "implicit bias" and not active mistreatment. The difference between "implicit bias" and "prejudice," White continued, is that the former is a subconscious reaction while the latter is action explicitly undertaken because of those biases.

Superintendent Hubert clarified that the audit did not show that teachers or administrators at OV were knowingly discriminating against students based on income but rather that students from different economic backgrounds seem to experience disparate disciplinary treatment.

For example, the survey reported an instance where two students from different economic backgrounds, using participation in the free-and-reduced-lunch program as a measure, received different disciplinary actions for similar behavior. The student in the program was given a 3-day suspension while the other student was given a warning.

Both Hubert and White emphasized that the audit was simply a starting point for a conversation about these issues.

Board member Kevin Thornton pressed the RNEU administrators present to explain why the OVUU Board had not been privy to the audit's raw findings. Superintendent Hubert explained that the 280-page report had to be reviewed before it was shared with the community. Mr. Thornton expressed concern that the audit seemed intentionally designed to draw specific conclusions about race, gender, and sexuality while downplaying economic inequities, which he identified as a more pressing concern at OV.

Thornton also cautioned RNEU that the audit seemed designed to assign blame for "harms of the past" on certain groups. "This system of addressing these problems will lead to worse problems," he said. "How many of the 75 books [in the multicultural bundles] are about poverty instead of gender and sexuality?" He warned that focusing on the latter at the expense of the former "would be a disaster."

"An equity audit is a great first step, [but] the words we use, like 'implicit bias,' seem to be spiking people. Let's figure out how we need to talk about this so we bring people to the table rather than turn them off. We're just trying to make kids feel safe."

—Samantha Stone, parent

"We're instituting Kommissars in our schools that will be mandating books and telling teachers what to teach," he said, alluding to propaganda officers in former Soviet Bloc countries.

Parent Samantha Stone, who was attending the meeting with her son, Luca Cifone, a recent OV grad, noted that her children had had felt unsafe at Otter Valley and questioned whether Mr. Thornton could empathize if his own child hadn't had similar experiences there.

In later conversation, Stone and Cifone expressed frustration that the former administration at OV seemed unable to address the hostile environment that marginalized students experienced at the school. Cifone, who identifies as LGBTQIA+, stated that he and most of his friends left OV because of explicit acts of violence and hostility. Cifone completed high school at home while many of his friends went to the tech centers in Rutland and Middlebury.

"School was unsafe," Cifone said.

"An equity audit is a great first step," said Stone. "But the words we use, like 'implicit bias,' seem to be spiking people. Let's figure out how we need to talk about this so we bring people to the table rather than turn them off. We're just trying to make kids feel safe."

Mr. Thornton, in a subsequent e-mail, reiterated his skepticism about the design of the audit.

(See OVUUSD, Page 6)

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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

A new chapter for
The Reporter

BY STEVEN JUPITER

This week, The Reporter embarks on a new adventure. After decades as a for-profit enterprise, much of that time as a subsidiary of The Addison Independent of Middlebury, we are sallying forth on our own as a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper (or CSN). What once seemed a distant point—a whirlwind way off on the horizon—is now upon us in all its undeniable urgency. Stories must be written. Photos must be taken. Pages must be laid out. There's a fine line indeed between panic and exhilaration.

The feedback we've gotten from the community so far has been a mix of hope, appreciation, and wonder at our willingness to take on such a big project. It's going to be a stressful, laborious process for sure. But we anticipate that it will also be rewarding on many levels. And it's the promise of those rewards that motivates us.

Our goal is to bring the communities we serve together, to keep them informed, and to keep them engaged. Even though the towns we cover have been interconnected in many ways for more than 200 years now, folks in one town are often unaware of what's going on in the communities that surround them. We hope to create a sense of common purpose, a sense that whatever the differences from one town to the next, we're all in it together.

The great benefit of the approach we're taking as a community-based nonprofit is that the emphasis will be squarely on our communities. Our intention is to focus on what's happening right here. We will cover local government, schools, and major events, but there are also a lot of good

people here doing a lot of interesting things and we want to make sure we all know about them. We will also address statewide and national issues when there's a direct impact on our local lives.

To be blunt, though, it's a challenging environment for local media these days. Easy access to online news and entertainment has made it difficult for a small-town paper to survive financially. Even in a relatively small area, there's a lot to cover and it will be hard for us to get to it all with our limited resources. We hope that as we move forward, we'll have the means to hire the staff needed to put out a truly comprehensive local newspaper. We're looking to our community to financially support the news. For the time being, we hope you'll all help us by contributing material and reaching out to let us know what's going on in your communities. We can't cover what we're unaware of.

We must acknowledge that we're simply the latest in a long local tradition. At least as far back as the mid-1800s, there's been a newspaper covering Brandon and its neighbors, sometimes several papers at a time. Over the years, with the advent of radio, television, and internet, the reliance on printed news diminished. By the late 20th-century, we had a handful of local folks like Mim Welton, Frank Farnsworth, Ed Barna, and Roy Newton keeping the printed tradition alive with offerings like Dateline Brandon, The Brandon Bugle, and the original incarnation of The Brandon Reporter itself. We appreciate all that they have done.

We owe tremendous thanks to Angelo Lynn, publisher of The
(See New chapter, Page 5)

***It's a long way down***

TEXAS FALLS STUNS after the storm.

Reporter photo/Sepi Alavi

Christmas storm

(Continued from Page 1)

management director, made the call on Friday to open the Brandon Town Hall as a warming shelter for those whose homes were too frigid to remain in. "Normally we would've used Neshobe [Elementary School in Forestdale]," said Atherton. "But the weather was so bad that asking the designated employee to drive from Cornwall to open up the school just didn't make sense. Town Hall still had electricity and heat and we could open it ourselves."

While downtown Brandon did not suffer prolonged outages, many other neighborhoods in the area did lose power for extended periods. Some homes didn't have electricity from Thursday night until the following Monday. Green Mountain Power had crews working around the clock to restore service as quickly as possible. Over Christmas weekend, there were multiple posts on Front Porch Forum thanking GMP for its immediate response during extremely challenging conditions. Many in the area

shared and praised a social media post from Kamuda's Market of Pittsford regarding a request they'd received from GMP to provide food to those in need during the outages.

David Atherton noted, however, that Vermonters are a hardy lot and anticipate winter outages. Many people have generators and/or wood stoves as backups. "Generators are the best investment," he said. In fact, the warming station set up at the Town Hall ended up serving only a handful of people because so many affected homes already had generators.

"We lost power temporarily, but our generators came on and we were able to continue operations," said Dianne Harvey, store manager at Hannaford in Brandon. "We didn't lose any food, but the Hannaford in Middlebury had to bring in trucks to remove food from their refrigerated cases."

Jeff Biasuzzi, Brandon zoning administrator, cautioned that generators are not without problems, though. They can produce

power surges that can overwhelm household appliances and cause them to fail. They're also expensive to run, burning \$4 or \$5 worth of gas per hour.

In the event of similar storms, Atherton suggests that you make sure your phones and computers are fully charged, that you notify GMP immediately if you experience an outage, that you have nonperishable food on hand, that you maintain road access to your home, and that you check on your neighbors. Vermont Emergency Management puts out a guidebook to "Family Emergency Preparedness" that should be available at your Town Office.

By Wednesday, December 28, Green Mountain Power's website indicated that only 6 customers were still without electricity in the entire state. Life seemed back to normal. With Christmas 2022 behind them, folks were able to regroup for New Year's Eve. By January 1, temperatures had risen and the snow had all but melted, leaving nary a trace of the storm that stole Christmas.

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REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary.

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New chapter

(Continued from Page 4)

Addison Independent, who bought The Reporter from Roy Newton in 2005 and kept it running, despite the tricky economic realities of local journalism. It says something about Mr. Lynn's commitment to community that he's willing to turn this operation over to a new nonprofit at considerable effort and expense. The Reporter also received expert management from Lee Kahrs, Alyssa Zollman, and Mat Clouser. They all made our community a better place.

And, for now, it falls to us—myself, Dr. George Fjeld, and Barbara Ebling—to find a way to keep the flame alive. We certainly won't

be able to do it alone. We need to expand the Board and hire staff. We need to develop networks of community contributors. We need to increase the paper's circulation. It's a daunting task, one we undertake with humility. We will stumble along the way. We ask in advance for your understanding and good humor. We hope we will exceed expectations, but we expect we will sometimes fall short. Please don't hesitate to let us know what's working and what isn't. And please know we come to this with the best intentions.

We look forward to starting this journey together with all of you.

Brandon Energy Committee



Editor's note: This is the second in a series of monthly articles submitted by the Brandon Energy Committee.

BY JIM EMERSON

BRANDON—The Conservation Working Group of the Brandon Energy Committee, in collaboration with SolarFest, had great success with our first "Button Up Brandon" event. As one participant indicated after utilizing the free weatherization kit we provided: "We have been in our old house for 20 years and never had it so comfortable, and for such little effort!"

We also had success in securing grant money to support this and more such events. We have decided to put on two more unique Button Up programs. On January 21, we'll focus on Brandon renters, providing free weatherization materials and training on additional supports available from Efficiency Vermont, the Heat Squad, and BROC. These agencies offer hundreds of dollars of benefits to all. For income-qualified tenants, thousands of dollars of weatherization upgrades are available (with landlord approval, of course).

Any Brandon renter can register for this event at www.solarfest.org/brandon. The event will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the 21st at the Brandon Town Hall. Free refreshments and child care will be provided. You will come away with training, materials, and knowledge that will make your apartment more comfortable and affordable for the rest of the year and into the future.

The other Button Up event will focus on landlords on February 25. This program will provide an update on the new tax benefits and incentives for weatherizing apartments, upgrading heating and cooling systems, and the like. We will also cover the specific support programs offered by

Efficiency VT, Heat Squad,

and BROC. In addition, 3E Thermal of Barre offers an excellent weatherization support program for landlords who have more than two income-qualified tenants in a single building.

We are considering one further event later this spring that will focus on what businesses can do to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases.

For next fall, we have started planning to bring the Window Dressers program to Brandon to further support our Button Up Brandon efforts. The Window Dressers program provides free or low-cost insulating window inserts, much like interior storm windows, to help retain heat.

We should note that SolarFest has been wonderfully supportive

of these efforts, having connected us with a wholesale supplier of weatherization materials, assisting us in securing grants for these events, and assisting with training and promotional efforts. Our hats off to this group that has fallen in love with Brandon!

The Brandon Energy Committee has structured our group of seven Brandon Energy Committee members into four working groups. We have invited additional volunteers to support the work of these groups. These working groups were established as we found that working in groups was more productive and rewarding, or should we say just plain more fun!

We will report on our Transportation, Generation, and Education Working Groups, their plans, and accomplishments in future articles. Should you wish to join our efforts or learn more, please let us know at brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com



OV SENIOR CALEB Whitney on the podium at the 50th annual Hubie Wagner Invitational Tournament, on December 29th, 2022, in Middlebury. Photo provided

OV Wrestling has terrific tourney at MUHS

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — A deep Otter Valley wrestling team walked away from last week's 50th annual Hubie Wagner Invitational Tournament in Middlebury as the team champions. But, Middlebury Union High School Assistant Coach Jon Ashley over the weekend released corrected results that placed OV in second just nine points behind Colchester.

Nevertheless, the Otters had a great tournament.

OV senior Caleb Whitney at 138 pounds was the only Otter to win a weight class, defeating Granville, N.Y.'s Nathan Barber, 6-2, in the final and pinning five

opponents while winning seven matches. But several other Otters reached the podium:

- Lincoln Wilcox, third at 132 with a 6-1 record with five pins.
- Kingston Cotter, fourth at 138 with a 4-3 record and three pins.
- Carter Giles, third at 145 with a 5-2 record and four pins.
- Tucker Babcock, second at 153. Babcock pinned seven opponents to reach the final, where he lost a 4-2 decision to Colchester's Jordan Lavoie.
- Chase Cram, second at 160. Cram finished with a 5-2 record and four pins.
- Isaac Whitney, second at 182 with a 5-1 record and four pins.



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Obituaries

Doris May Reed, 96, Middlebury

BRANDON—Doris May Reed, age 96, passed away Sunday, December 25, 2022, at Helen Porter Nursing Home in Middlebury.

Doris was born in Rochester on July 19, 1926. She was the daughter of Robert and Lulu Minkler. She grew up in Rochester, where she received her education. She had worked for many years as a supervisor at Nexus Corporation in Brandon.

She is survived by two sons and one daughter: Lester French of Ledyard, CT; Ralph French of Leicester, VT; and Nancy Fox of Stonington, CT. She is also survived by nine grandchild-



DORIS MAY REED

dren, eight great grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her first husband, Levi French, her second husband, Raymond Reed, Sr, a son, Chester French, two sisters, Arlene Forbes and Roberta Brown, and two brothers, Lester Minkler and Wesley Minkler.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in South Village Cemetery in Westmoreland, NH.

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

Rev. Wayne Holsman, 87, Ripton

RIPTON—The Reverend Wayne Alfred Holsman, age 87, passed away on Friday, December 23rd, 2022, at Mountain View Center, in Rutland.

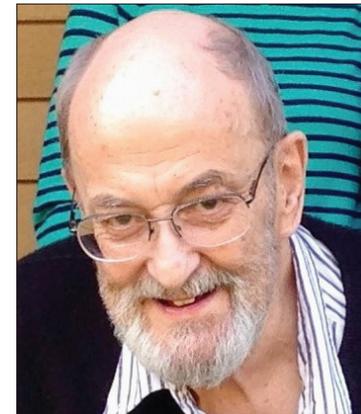
Wayne was born on September 8, 1937, in Ware, MA. Wayne was the last birth recorded in the town of Quabbin, MA, before it was flooded to create the Quabbin Reservoir. Wayne grew up in the Amherst/Pelham area, and attended public schools there. Wayne graduated from Amherst College. He obtained his divinity degree from Hartford Seminary before serving as Congregational minister for churches in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont.

A believer in sharing resources and supporting those in need, Wayne was proud to have served in the founding of ACAG/HOPE. Devoted to human and animal rights, Wayne tirelessly advocated and worked with groups associated with those causes. Coming from a poor family himself, Wayne also helped students who wanted to attend college with that process.

In 1987, Wayne made the decision to stop drinking, and with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, Wayne stayed sober from that point forward. From 1987 on, Wayne worked to help others in their recovery. The family would like to express their unending gratitude for the late Joyce Meacham, who was so instrumental in Wayne getting sober.

Wayne was an avid sports fan, and loved talking sports with anyone and everyone. He also loved learning, especially about history, current events, and classical languages. He also enjoyed any conversation about politics, human or animal rights, why the Patriots were a disaster, and religion.

Wayne leaves behind his wife, Eleanor Holsman, to whom he had been married for 56 years. He



REV. WAYNE HOLSMAN

also leaves his daughter, Kristin, and her husband Paul Francoeur. He adored his grandchildren and is survived by Ben, Amie and her wife Jen Miller, Ryan and his partner Kayla Weiss, and his great-granddaughter Sora Francoeur Miller, and his great-grandsons Rowan F. Miller and Shay F. Miller. He also leaves behind his nephew, Ed Davidson (and family), with whom he loved to laugh, and his foster brother, Greg Goodrich. He was predeceased by his beloved grandson, Sam Francoeur.

Wayne loved, and was loved by, many people. He was so thankful for the friendship of many, including his friends Dana, Mac Cox, John Dick, and Nick Atwood.

A celebration of Wayne's life will be held on January 7, 2023 at 1 PM, at the Salisbury Congregational Church. George Valley will officiate. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place, at a later date, in the family lot, at Brookside Cemetery in Leicester.

Memorial gifts, in lieu of flowers, may be made to an animal shelter of one's choice.

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

OVUUSD

(Continued from Page 3)

“The audit itself was both structurally flawed and deeply biased—in other words, it appears to have been designed to lead to a set of predetermined conclusions,” he wrote. “I raised concerns about this over a year ago that have never been addressed.”

“It’s foolish for the RNESU administration to create yet another bureaucratic superstructure at a time when we’ve got major concerns about paying for basic educational needs,” he added.

The next stage in the audit process will be to share the plan with the school boards and the com-

munity. Superintendent Hubert stated that a draft is being prepared. A parental advisory group has been formed for those who would like to be involved.

The board was then addressed by Brenda Fleming, RNESU Director of Business & Finance. Fleming updated the board on the purchase and operation of modular units at OVUHS, Otter Creek Academy (OCA), and Neshobe School. The unit at OCA will likely be completed over the holiday break and the unit at Neshobe will likely be ready for use in February. The RNESU Board has set aside \$450,000 for a modular

unit at OVUHS.

Ms. Fleming also led the board through an update on the budget, which is scheduled for a vote in January. She had done a preliminary equalized tax rate before CLA (Common Rate of Appraisal). According to Fleming, the unified tax rate before CLA is \$1.208, down from \$1.278, representing a 7-cent tax decrease. This is expected to manifest in lower property taxes in 2024, making the current year more attractive for larger capital expenditures.

The board also discussed the use of the Burditt and Ely funds, which were established to benefit Pittsford and Neshobe, respectively. According to Board Chair Laurie Bertrand, the Burditt fund is still healthy but the Ely fund will likely be depleted within six years at current rates of withdrawal. It was suggested by the manager of the fund that it be allowed to replenish.

The board will vote on the budget at the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at OVUHS.

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Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory

Kristin Hubert

(Continued from Page 1)

“We settled the new contract, and we’re hoping to find more [employees] as the contract takes hold,” Hubert said, but “you can’t create a bus driver out of thin air.” Even with the new contract, competition for support staff is fierce.

“Those professionals are people who can be grabbed by other industries. We’re not just competing with other schools, we’re competing with trucking companies, and DunkinDonuts, and UPS. In a way, we were contributing [the shortage] to the pandemic, but now it’s just Vermont’s reality,” Hubert said.

To make matters worse, a perfect storm of Covid, RSV, and the flu has exacerbated an already thin crew. At times, bus runs have to be combined because a driver is sick, which can significantly increase students’ commute. Teachers have to give up planning blocks and lunch breaks to cover for other teachers. Occasionally, classes have to be merged.

“It’s not regular enough to find the need to respond in a different way, but it has been impactful. It makes it hard to do our daily jobs. We’ve been fortunate to be able to keep all schools open,” Hubert said. Not every district has been so lucky.

STUDENT DISPARITIES

Despite these shortages, Hu-

bert, who replaced long-time Supt. Jeanné Collins on July 1, and was the district’s director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for three years prior, is determined to help the district tackle disparities common throughout the student population. Unequal outcomes for students existed before the pandemic, but transience, isolation, unequal access to technology and wifi, and food insecurity were all exacerbated by Covid and school closures.

“We know there are some places where students have unequal opportunities,” Hubert said. “Whether it’s because of the school they attend, or because a student or family lives below the pov-

erty line, or because a student has a disability or learning impairment, we know that our outcomes are skewed.”

Both students and parents have voiced frustrations about their experiences in the school system. Hubert said she’s committed to not only creating space to let those voices be heard, but inviting them to be part of the solutions that shape the district.

“We recognize that there is an awful lot that we don’t know and we would be naive and arrogant to say we deeply understand the experience of being a student in our schools or a parent to a student in

our schools. It is work we are digging into,” she said.

Several initiatives, including a new parent advisory council and a new student council have been spearheaded this year to inform the conversation. Otter Creek Academy has a new group called Up for Learning, which Hubert said encourages students to develop their own agency and voice while encouraging a deeper level of engagement within the school.

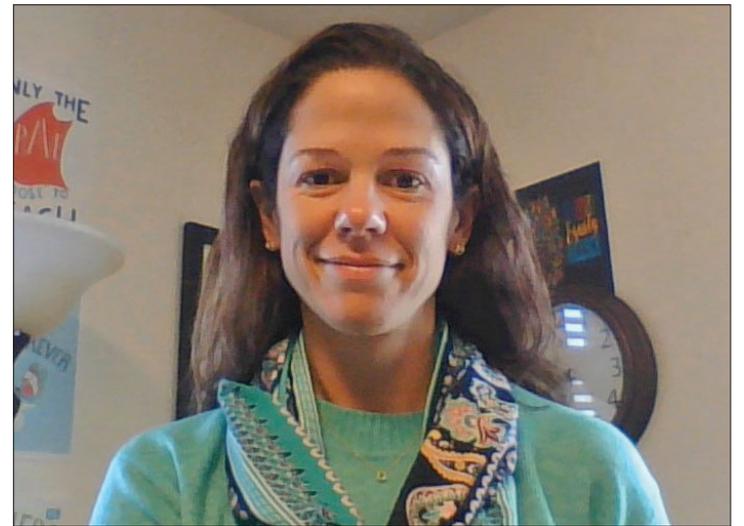
“It’s about trying to understand the student and parent experience and making sure our schools are reflective of their values and their wants,” Hubert said. “We want all of our students to have a common experience.”

Hubert recognizes the limitations of her inclusivity vision. While schools can play a crucial role in student success, many face societal disparities that teachers and staff have little control over. “It’s hard because you have kids and parents who are demanding change and want to see change happen...but you can only do so much in a school,” Hubert said.

LIFE LESSONS

Part of the work Hubert hopes to oversee is preparing students for the obstacles and inequities they’ll face outside of the classroom. Helping them find their voice and agency while learning to advocate for themselves out in the real world will be a life skill they can carry with them wherever they go.

What makes the Rutland North-east community well positioned to



KRISTIN HUBERT

address the frustrations this school year brings is its dedication to both kids and each other, Hubert said. From teachers and staff stepping up to cover for one another to active student and parent engagement, it’s clear to Hubert that whatever differences the district faces at a local or national level, there is a unifying theme throughout RNESU.

“These towns rally around students,” she explained. “They show up to sporting events, to arts, to plays, to concerts, to parent nights. They really, really show up for kids. We’re a very passionate community. There isn’t always the same thinking or agreement, but I have not been a part of any meeting or conversation where people’s best intentions were not very clear, where people weren’t kid-first or kid-focused.”

It’s this sense of community that continues to give Hubert hope.

“We’re truly trying to help parents create kids who are the citizens of tomorrow, so we’re not as a society stuck in this cycle where we can’t talk to one another,” Hubert said. “We want and need our kids to do better than that. Teaching kids how to have civil discourse, how to have a conversation with others who don’t agree, how to recognize voices that are different from [theirs] and make space for those voices is far from easy or quick work, but that definitely is the work of this school year.”

It’s an ambitious goal that Hubert knows is only achievable with the community behind her. “Administration can’t do that in isolation. Teachers can’t do that in isolation,” Hubert said. “It takes everyone’s voice to do that.”

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- MAPLEFIELDS** - US Rt 7
- PROCTOR**
- FRANKLIN’S RESTAURANT** - Willow St
- WEST STREET MARKET** - West St



Calendar of events

January

Call 802-236-9130 for more information.
(Please note that Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 are days Larry has other commitments and will not be available.)

Rebecca Orten as Saint Lucia.
From 7 – 8 p.m.
St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church in Brandon 19
Conant Square
Brandon, 05733

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

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.

Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

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

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

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

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

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

Goings on around town

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

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

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on email list.

\$15/class

Thursday 5th:

Swedish Sancta Lucia Festival

The legend of Saint Lucia tells the story

of her bringing food to the Christians hiding in the catacombs and wearing a crown of candles on her head to help light her way; freeing her to carry food with both hands. Lucia Day is traditionally celebrated on December 13th, which in the old Julian calendar was the darkest day of the year and the light of Lucia pointed the way up out of the way of darkness. Due to Covid, it has been rescheduled to January, but within the 12 days of Christmas prior to the Epiphany.

The pageant is directed by Mr. Rustan Swenson, a native of Sweden, and now living in Middlebury. He has directed this pageant in Middlebury and Orwell in previous years, with George Matthew Jr. on the piano and the church's historic pipe organ. The daughters of Jenny & Rev. Mark Orten, chaplain of Middlebury College, along with Ainsleigh Linnea and Nellie Pierce, will be singing in Swedish in the pageant, with

Tuesday 10th:

Alzheimer's Support Group at Community Health
Community Health is offering a monthly support group to those who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease as well as family members/loved ones.

Courcelle and her team of care managers will hold their first Alzheimer's support group meeting at 4 p.m. at Community Health Allen Pond, 71 Allen Street, Rutland, Suite 403. Future meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Saturday 14th:

Adult Snowshoe Scavenger Hunt

Come Join MALT for a morning of snowshoeing and exploration on Chipman Hill. Snowshoes will be provided. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Just bring a willingness to have fun in the snow!

We'll meet at the Chipman Hill parking lot in the morning, give a quick snowshoe how-to, then you'll be able to complete the photo scavenger hunt at your own pace. This hunt will challenge you to be creative and pay attention to your surroundings. Those who complete the scavenger hunt will be entered to win a MALT-swap bag for two, filled with sunglasses, hats, and other gear. We'll also have a fire set up at an overlook to enjoy at the end. Hot cocoa will be provided. Please dress warmly, bring a phone or camera to take photos.

This event is for Adults 18+. Registration is required. Register online at maltvt.org/events. Member adult \$5/person, Non-member adult \$8/person. Drop in whenever you'd like between 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.. Snowshoes must be returned by 1:30PM.



Photo by Susan Elliot

Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk, January 19

Join our friendly and knowledgeable birders on our monthly marsh walk in this Audubon Important Bird Area. 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@rutlandcounty-audubon.org



Chaffee Art Center watercolor class Thursday, January 12th 6-8p.m.

Instructor: Dale Bills
\$35 per person, all materials included
Min: 5
16 South Main Street
Rutland
05701

Holidays 2022



Holidays 2022 in review: a Christmas Eve message

The longer we live, the longer our kaleidoscope of Christmas memories. Why do these memories remain so powerful? Why do they elicit such strong emotional responses? One reason is that Christmas carols, whether heard or sung, become part of us. Close your eyes for a moment and replay the voice of a favorite singer or voices from a choir. Do you hear what I hear? It is different for every one of us.

In addition to what we hear in our imagination, we also hold vivid images of lights, candles, Christmas trees, stockings, gift packages, and in many of our homes, a Nativity set or creche. Our Nativity set, part of my family's Christmas collection, has been with me for over fifty years, and although carefully wrapped and put away each year, some of the pieces are a bit worn and chipped. Nevertheless, I would not attempt to replace it.

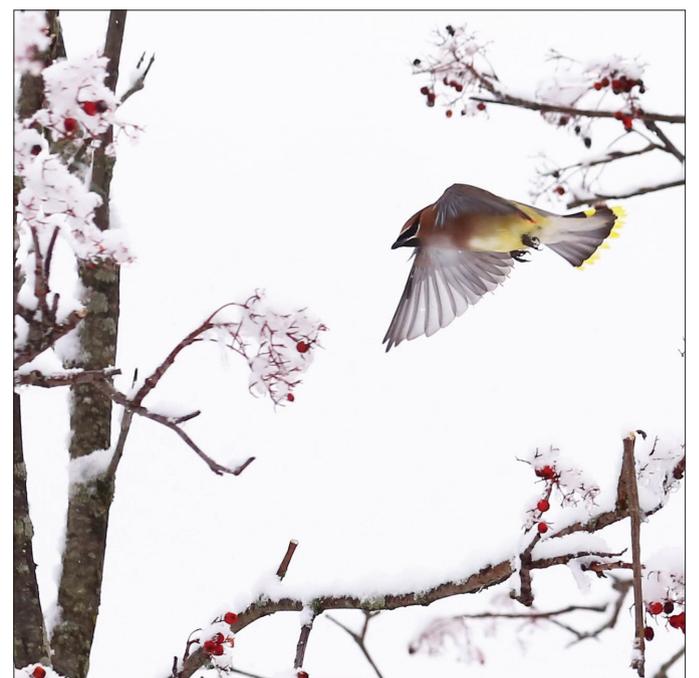
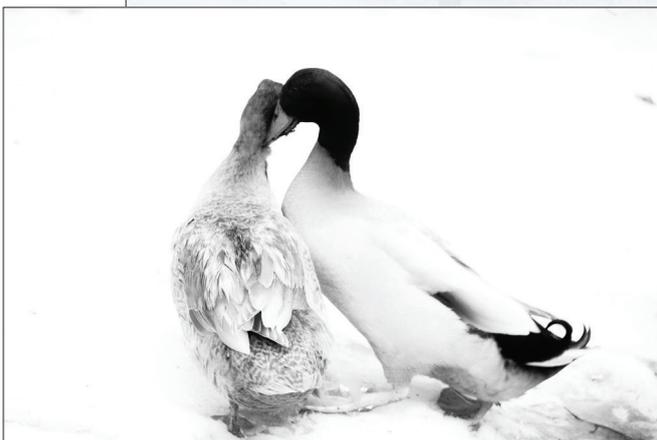
Along with the sounds and pictures of Christmases past, we also recall bits and pieces of the familiar lessons we have heard this evening. How did you first hear the Christmas story? Did your parents or grandparents read to you? Did you learn it in Sunday school? Did you have a favorite television special? Though not exactly religious, I remember when "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was new. Did you ever participate in a Christmas pageant? I was once a singing shepherd, a one-time only appearance. Then came decades of singing in a choir. Those continued experiences certainly reinforced the Christmas narrative.

Inevitably during the Christmas season, we think about those friends and family members no longer with us in person. Because they live in our hearts, we keep them with us to become a part of our own personal Christmas pageant. Sometimes the sting of disappointment touches us over gifts never received or never give. Yes, Christmas has its moments of sadness. Many of us probably know someone who expresses "Bah, humbug." One of my acquaintances, lapsing into cynicism said, "Christmas is only for children."

You—we—would not be here on Christmas Eve if you believed that statement. Let us now move from all the joys, all the hopes, and the fulnesses of heart that lie deep within our memory bank to Christmas present, Anno Domini, 2022, and our presence together in this church. Once again, we have a grace-filled opportunity to contemplate the magnitude and marvel of the child Jesus coming into this world in such humble circumstances. Love came down on Christmas Day.

Consider applying this principle of physics to Christmas then, now, and forever. Energy is never lost. It assumes a different form. Let us return, like shepherds and wise men, to stand, to kneel at the extraordinary event, the moment of the birth of Emmanuel, God-with-us—God is with us, not was with us. Let all the Christmas energy of warmth, love, peace, goodwill, and generosity go forth into a world that so sorely needs it. Sing in your hearts the words you know by heart the whole year through.

By Michael Dwyer, Pastor at the Pittsford Congregational Church



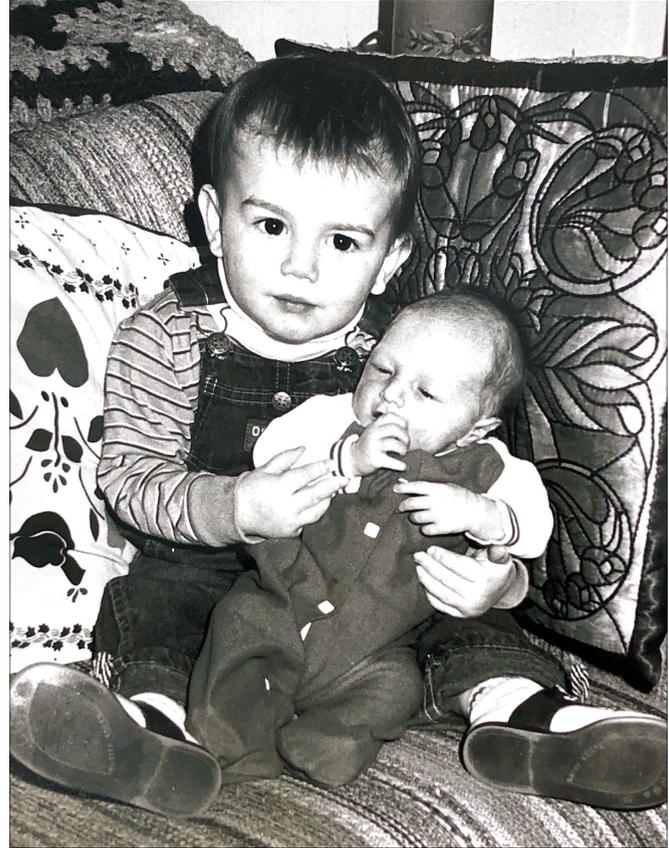
CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM left: a pair of ducks cuddle in the storm; a wreath welcomes visitors to Proctor village; St. Brigid church in West Rutland; a Christmas message delivered by Pastor Michael Dwyer of the Pittsford Congregational Church; a cedar waxwing feasts on mountain-ash berries in Brandon.

Photos by Dale Christie and Steven Jupiter



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

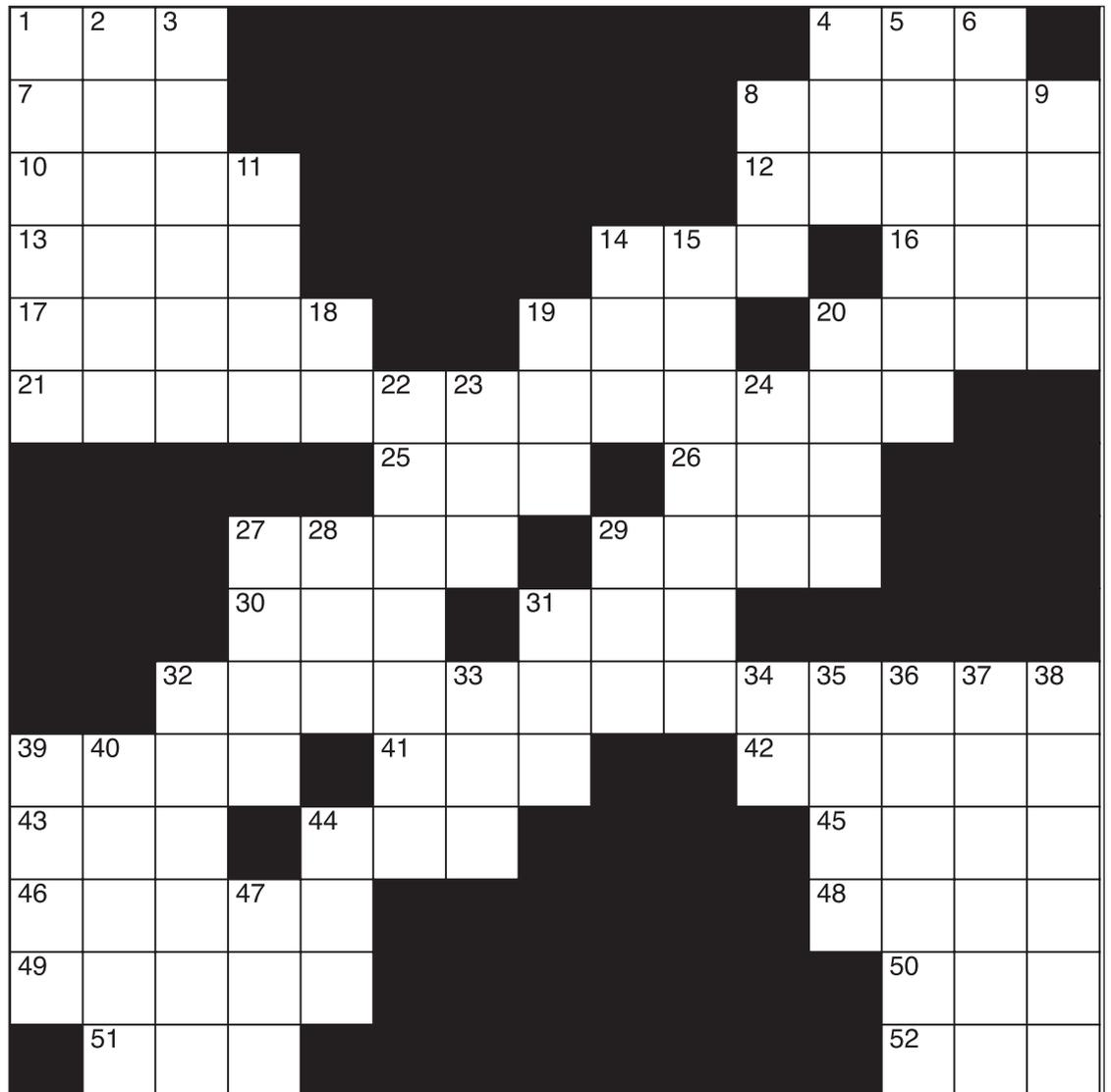
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. "Heidi" author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie ___ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt

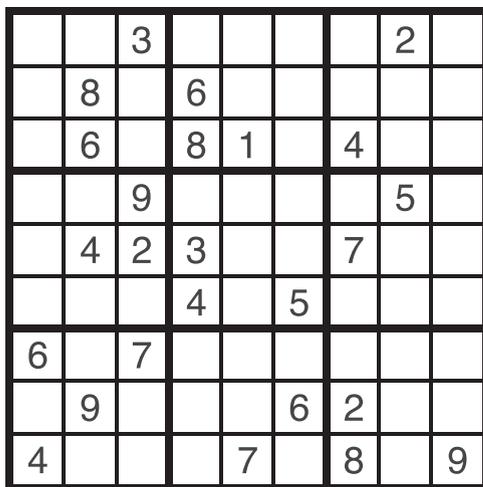
CLUES DOWN

1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. A major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team's best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing



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

Thank you from the Rutland County Humane Society!

The Board of Directors, staff and animals at the Rutland County Humane Society would like to send out a special "thank you" to our community for being so supportive of us! Whether it's volunteering your time and talents, adopting an animal or supporting us with donations, you're always there for us and we couldn't do what we do without you! May the new year fill your heart with new hopes, open up new horizons and bring promises of brighter tomorrows for all creatures. Our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

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



MEET AVA - 3-YEAR-OLD. FEMALE. WHIPPET/LAB MIX. BLACK/BROWN.

Ava is not only adorable, but she is as sweet as can be! She was brought to RCHS on December 9 with her sister, Nova because their family was moving. Ava still has a lot of puppy-like behavior like jumping, so she may be too much for young kids. She has lived with other dogs and did well. She has shown playful curiosity with cats. She is a very happy-go-lucky lady who is looking for an active family to join. She is waiting for her spay appointment on December 22.

MEET SAPPHIRE - 2-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TIGER.

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



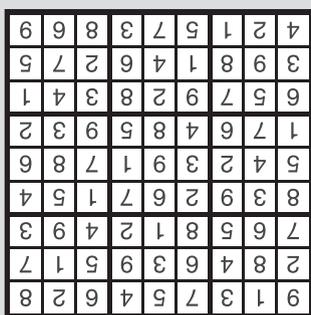
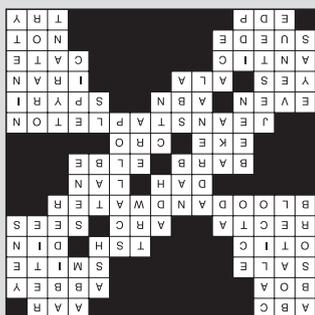
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS





Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Children's books:

"A Very Mercy Christmas" by Kate DiCamillo

When Stella gets the sudden idea to go caroling, she has a little trouble getting someone to join her. Her brother, Frank, is not interested. The Watsons are very involved in a precarious fruitcake attempt (but happy to send their pig, Mercy, out for the occasion). Her friends are also too busy. Will Stella need to sing by herself—with enthusiastic contributions from the pig, the cat, and the horse she picks up on the way? Or does the evening hold a miracle Stella hadn't expected?

"Wibble Wobble Boom" by Mary Ann Rodman

Claire can't wait to get out on the ice and skate, skate, skate! She's going to jump, leap, and twirl! She just knows that pretty soon she'll be on TV and dazzling audiences everywhere. But when Claire and her mom arrive at the Ice Center for Claire's very first skate lesson, it's nothing like Claire thought it would be. In this

Did you know?

We have a wonderful selection of hats, mittens and scarves from the Brandon Congregational Crafters? All are free!

humorous tale of expectation meets reality, Claire discovers beautiful performances require lots of skill, and it's going to take many small failures and perseverance if she wants to skate like a pro.

"City Under the City" by Dan Yaccarino

Bix lives with her family in a city where people rarely talk or play together and no longer read books. Instead, they stare at small portable screens, monitored by giant eyeballs. The Eyes are here to help! With everything. But Bix would like to do things for herself. Running from an Eye, she discovers another world: the City Under the City. There, she befriends a rat who leads her to a library and its treasure trove of books and knowledge. As she explores the abandoned city,

she's thrilled to learn about the people who lived there, with no Eyes. But she misses her family, and decides to head home, where, just maybe, she can help defeat the intrusive Eyes—and show her people how to think for themselves and enjoy each other's company.

"Cat Kid Comic Club: Collaborations: A Graphic Novel (Cat Kid Comic Club #4)" by Dav Pilkey

After their chores, Naomi, Melvin, Poppy, Gilbert, Curly, and their siblings present even more amazing mini-comics: a thrilling ride in "Chubbs McSpiderbutt," an action-packed romp in "Frogzilla," reflective haikus in "In the Autumn Pond," a candy-coated mystery in "Mallo Cop," and much, much more. By working together, the baby frogs discover that small things can have a huge impact.

Don't forget we also have three Launchpad tablets (no wi-fi) filled with educational games, two Dash robots, an Indi Robot, and snowshoes for kids all available for checkout!

Snowy roads and utility poles make for a bad combo

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — In the past two weeks Brandon Police have had their share of domestic disputes, mental health issues and theft reports, along with an embezzlement.

Police were called a domestic assault on Fox Road on Dec. 19, where they arrested a juvenile, who was later taken to Rutland Regional Hospital for a psychological evaluation. The following day police were responded to a domestic disturbance between a man and woman in an apartment on Mulcahy Drive. The altercation was a verbal one. The woman involved claimed of discomfort due to her high blood pressure and Middlebury Rescue was dispatched to the scene to evaluate the individual. She subsequently refused transport to the hospital while the man involved left the apartment to de-escalate the ongoing issues the two subjects have been having. Police also received a report of a stolen vehicle from a residence on Barlow Ave. The car, described as a black, Toyota Camry with a Vermont license plate of KHH893, was recovered later that day in Rutland City.

Dec. 21 brought a report of another theft. This time, items were taken from a vehicle on Corona Street. The two thefts in a row prompted Brandon police to remind residents to make sure and lock their house and car doors and not to leave any valuables inside of vehicles where they could be an attractive target for would-be-thieves. Later that same day officers responded to a residence on Fox Road after a mother said her daughter made a false accusation on Facebook about her and was planning on running away. The incident was determined to be more of a mental health issue and the family may need to reach out to DCF to receive further assistance and/or guidance from that agency to help with the problem at-hand.

On Dec. 22 Greg's Tire on Franklin Street reported that an employee had stolen money from the business and forged and uttered checks as well. Ariel Fitzgerald, 21, of Rutland City was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division for arraignment on Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. on the charges of Embezzlement, Forgery (4 counts), Uttering (4 counts), False Pretenses & Tokens (2 counts), False Pretenses & Tokens (Attempted-2 counts).

Later in the day the National Suicide Hotline contacted the police about a suicidal juvenile female who had called them and stated that she was doing self-harm to herself with a knife. The responding officer quickly located the individual on Franklin Street. The juvenile had some superficial injuries on her arm from where she tried to cut herself and was later transported to the hospital for treatment. The juvenile's parents were notified and responded to the hospital.

An elderly resident on Forest Dale Road asked for police assistance in locating the owner of a garage tent which had blown into their yard during a storm. The officer located the owner of the tent garage, who did not realize it had blown away, and told him about its current location. The owner indicated that he would remove the tent garage as soon as possible from his neighbor's lawn.

Later in the day police responded to a report of threats that were made towards two tractor trailer drivers whose vehicle had gotten stuck in a driveway at a residence on McConnell Road. The drivers had attempted to turn around due to a fallen tree branch across the road. The responding officer de-escalated the situation between the parties with the property owner allowing them to remain in his driveway until they could arrange for a tow truck to pull them back up onto the road.

On Dec. 27 police attempted to convince a male residing on Cobb Hill Road, who was suffering from a health issue, to go to the hospital upon the request of a family member. The male refused to go to the hospital. The caller was advised to speak with the man's doctor for further guidance. Soon afterward Rutland County Sheriff's Deputy contacted police to report a domestic disturbance, having arrived at a residence on Middle Road to serve court paperwork on one of the involved parties. It was determined that no crime was committed, however, both parties were separated.

A Church Street tenant contacted police on Dec. 30 to report that his landlord had "illegally" kicked him out and was

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO: July 23-Aug. 23
There's more than meets the eye this week when someone from your past suddenly pops up on your radar again, Leo. Learn all of the facts before you make assumptions.

VIRGO: Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, try to stay in the loop around the office. Doing so might pay professional dividends that could open the door to new possibilities.

LIBRA: Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You've been keeping quite busy, Libra, but don't forget to make time to touch base with friends and loved ones from time to time. Keep those lines of communication open.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Patience is a virtue of which you are in short supply recently, Scorpio. You have no control over the timeline on certain things and that can be frustrating. Wait it out.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23-Dec. 21
It's time to tackle all of those tasks you have been putting since the end of last year, Sagittarius. If you need help getting organized, reach out to someone you trust.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Think about all the possibilities you have before you, Capricorn. When you consider all of the positives in your life, the negatives just may fade away.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Your name is on the lips of so many people. That is likely because you are affecting change wherever you go. Keep forging ahead because you are helping others.

PISCES: Feb. 19-March 20
Now that spending has ceased, take a closer look at how you can budget for the new year. Make your money work for you, Pisces.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 5	Hayao Miyazaki, animated filmmaker (81)
Jan. 6	Joan of Arc, saint (d)
Jan. 7	Gerald Durrell, naturalist (d)
Jan. 8	Cynthia Erivo, actor, singer (36)
Jan. 9	Simone de Beauvoir, writer (d)
Jan. 10	Max Roach, jazz drummer (d)
Jan. 11	Aldo Leopold, writer, environmentalist (d)

Police report

(Continued from Page 12)

refusing to give him his belongings back. The investigating officer determined that none of these things actually occurred. The tenant later took his belongings and left the residence permanently without further issue.

In other activity, Brandon Police:

ON DEC. 19

- Arrested a juvenile on Fox Road for domestic assault.

ON DEC. 20

- Received report of a car stolen from Barlow Ave.
- Responded to a domestic disturbance Mulcahy Drive.
- got a call about a lost prescription
- Made a welfare check at the request of an employer for an employee that resides on Carver Street.
- Responded to Mulcahy Drive for a citizen dispute between a group of several individuals.

ON DEC. 21

- Received a report of a theft from a motor vehicle on Corona Street.
- Made a welfare check on an elderly female on Union Street.
- Checked residential properties on Grove Street and Deer Run Road at the request of their owners.
- Responded to a 911 hangup on Van Cortland Road. Rd.
- Took fingerprints for a student teacher.
- Received a report of the theft of a snowblower from a residence on Ballentine Road.
- Responded to a juvenile problem on Fox Road.

ON DEC. 22

- Responded to a report of embezzlement at Gerg's Tire on Franklin Street.
- Aided a self-harming youth on Franklin Street.
- Removed a dead deer that is causing a traffic hazard on Franklin Street.

ON DEC. 23

- Responded to an exploded transformer on Town Farm Road.
- Assisted an elderly resident in locating the owner of a temporary garage that had blown into their yard.
- Responded to a report of threats that were made towards two tractor trailer drivers.
- Responded to a report of a downed guide wire on Forest Dale Road.

- Responded to a report of light on in a locked business on Grove Street.

- Responded to a call of suspicious activity at the Junction Store.

ON DEC. 24

- Patrolled for cell phone violations on Franklin Street. One operator was stopped for a violation.

- Stopped another driver on Franklin Street for a cell phone violation and issued a warning.

- Responded to a juvenile female having a mental health issue at Walgreens.

- Arrested Adam L. Irons (30) of Pittsford, Vermont for Criminal DLS.

ON DEC. 25

- Assisted with continuing traffic control on McConnell Road for Green Mountain Power.

- Made traffic stops on

Grove Street at Lovers Lane and Franklin Street at Alta Wood Drive for speeding. Two warnings issued.

- Checked on an elderly customer with health issues who did not have any power at her residence on North Street.

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a lift assist on Fox Road.

ON DEC. 26

- Responded to a deer and car collision at the intersection of Grove Street and Lovers Lane.

ON DEC. 27

- Enforced speed limit in the Forest Dale area, issuing two warnings.

- Made two traffic stops on Forest Dale Road for speeding, issuing two warnings

- Attempted to convince a

(See Police report, Page 16)

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TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT WWW.PITTSFORDVERMONT.COM ADOPTION OF TOWN OF PITTSFORD WATER SYSTEM ORDINANCE

This ordinance includes the Town of Pittsford authority, definitions, application, operator as superintendent of water system, connection fees, work commencing before permit issuance, permits for construction of water service lines, extensions, or additions to the water system, service lines, discontinued water service lines, inspections, water meters, water mains and appurtenances – operation, repairs and replacement, lawn sprinklers, use of water for unauthorized purpose, turn-offs for repairs or drought; notice to users, fire hydrants, tampering, etc. with property belonging to the town, water rates and billing, control of cross connections and backflow, other penalties, and severability. A full copy of the ordinance is posted on the town website. Please reach out to the Town Manager with questions at PO Box 10 Pittsford, VT 05763 or by telephone at (802) 483-6500 ext. 20. Citizens have a right to petition pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973 for a vote on the Ordinance.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT WWW.PITTSFORDVERMONT.COM ADOPTION OF TOWN OF PITTSFORD ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

This ordinance includes the Town of Pittsford authority, purpose, definitions, nuisances, collar and license requirements, enforcement, penalties and costs, impoundment, investigation of vicious dogs, potentially vicious dogs, other laws, severability, and effective date of the Town of Pittsford Animal Control Ordinance. A full copy of the ordinance is posted on the town website. Please reach out to the Town Manager with questions at PO Box 10 Pittsford, VT 05763 or by telephone at (802) 483-6500 ext. 20. Citizens have a right to petition pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973 for a vote on the Ordinance.

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Police log

(Continued from Page 13)
male residing on Cobb Hill Road, who was suffering from a health issue, to go to the hospital upon the request of a family member.

- Assisted a woman with documents needed for working in a foreign country.

- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Middle Road.

ON DEC. 28

- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street.

ON DEC. 29

- Conducted routine property watches at Union Street Grocery on Union Street, Brandon Liquor Outlet in Conant Square and Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.

- Investigated a report of cows loose on Grove Street near Ace Hardware. The animals were not located anywhere in the area.

- Received a complaint by a concerned parent of a child disseminating pornographic photos of herself for money over the internet.

- Made traffic stops on Town Farm for a stop sign violation and Grove Street for speeding. Three warnings were issued.

- Helped locate a woman reported missing from a Middle Road residence.

- Responded to the area of Maple Street and Union Street for a report of a dog laying in a ditch on the side of the road..

ON DEC. 30

- Helped the Brandon Town Offices locate the owner of a stray dog left at the town offices by a good Samaritan.

- Responded to a landlord tenant dispute on Church Street.

- Investigated a report of a drunk driver on Grove Street.

- Responded to report of suspicious activity at the Brandon Senior Center on Forest Dale Road.

ON DEC. 31

- While on speed enforcement patrol, located a pile of litter on Franklin Street. The owners were identified agreed to retrieve the trash promptly. No ticket issued.

- Made traffic stops on Church Street ear Union Street, Town Farm Road, and Forest Dale Road at McConnel Road for stop sign violations, issuing one ticket and two warnings.

- Made traffic stops on For-

est Dale Road for speeding and issued four warnings for speeding and one for driving without a license.

- Served a Trespass Order on a Brandon resident as a result of a Landlord/Tenant dispute on Wood Lane.

- Aided a parent with a defiant child.

- Responded to a call about suspicious gunshots in the woods near a residence on Richmond Road.

- Removed a box on the railroad tracks that was causing a traffic hazard on Union Street.

- Assisted Middlebury Police in locating an individual on Union Street that they needed to have cited for DUI.

- Stopped two drivers for suspected DUI. One was determined to have a criminally suspended drivers license.

- Stopped a driver on Center Street for defective equipment ans issued a warning.

- Arrested Adam L. Irons (30) of Pittsford, Vermont was arrested for Criminal DLS following a traffic stop on Franklin Street.

ON JAN. 1

- Stopped a vehicle on Wood Lane for a stop sign violation.

Warning issued .

- Responded to a hit and run accident at the intersection of Union Street and High Pond Road, identifying the suspect. Charges pending.

- Responded to a verbal argument that took place at a household on Grove Street.

- Responded to a burglary alarm activation at the Neshobe Golf Club on Town Farm Road. The premises appeared to be secure.

- With K9 Guinness, investigated suspected drug activity at Estabrook Field.

Pittsford Town Manager suddenly resigns post

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Brenda Fox-Howard, the Pittsford Town Manager, has resigned after less than a year in the position. In an e-mail dated December 9, 2022, Howard informed the Pittsford selectboard that she would be resigning. In subsequent discussions with the board, it was decided that December 16, 2022 would be her last day.

“She didn’t give a specific reason,” said David Mills, member of the selectboard. “In the meantime, Ann Reed, the Assistant Town Manager,

and Alicia Malay, the chair of the selectboard, are handling those duties. Ann was pretty well informed with what was going on. There really isn’t anything we’re falling behind on.”

Malay added, “It’s a shame it didn’t work out but sometimes that happens. We’re confident we’ll get the right person in there soon. But the people of Pittsford should know that everyone in the Town Office has stepped up to keep things running smoothly.”

We will continue to report on this story as it develops.

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