

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 5

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

\$1



## GARDENING CORNER

Wilding, or re-wilding was the newest trend in 1990. How are we doing now?

PG. 15

## SPORTS

Proctor Baseball team going to Cooperstown, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Fundraiser on February 27th at Franklin's.

PG. 11



## OPEN MIC NIGHT

Red Clover Ale Company hosts a weekly open mic on Thursday evening.

PG. 3



## ICE RINK

Proctor ice rink set to open February 5th, or 6th.

PG. 14



## Brandon creates community search panel for Town Manager

### Bill Moore is interim Town Manager

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon selectboard held a special meeting Monday night at the Town Offices to allow the public to weigh in on the recruitment process for the next town manager and to decide the board's own next steps. Current town manager David Atherton submitted his resignation last week, effective February 21. Mr. Atherton will become town manager in Pittsford.

After opening the meeting, with roughly 25 people in attendance, board chair Seth Hopkins announced that he would be resigning himself from the entire  
(See Brandon SB, Page 2)



## Take me home country roads

SUNSET ON HOGBACK Mountain from the Goshen Ripton Road.

Photo by George Fjeld



SHELLY WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR of the Maclure Library in Pittsford.

## 'We know our people': our local libraries go way beyond books

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The libraries of both Brandon and Pittsford occupy historical buildings in the centers of their respective towns. Shelves of books, magazines, and DVDs beckon, promising entertainment and knowledge to all who enter. But the success of

a small-town library depends not on its collection but on its staff, and both the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) and Pittsford's Maclure Library are lucky to have dynamic, engaged directors who see their mission as far more than checking out books.  
(See Local libraries, Page 8)

## In appreciation of David Atherton, Town Manager

BY STEVEN JUPITER

As town manager, Dave Atherton spent 8 years ensuring the smooth operation of Brandon and Forestdale at a professional level that earned the town admiration from near and far. On the cusp of his announced departure from his position, The Reporter would like to thank him for his service and highlight some of his accomplishments.

Brandon has roughly 4,000 residents spread out over an area only slightly smaller than the city of San Francisco. The landscape within that area varies wildly, from dense "urban" development in downtown Brandon, to suburban-style subdivisions, individual homesteads, farms, ranches, woods, and industrial zones throughout the rest. And Mr. Atherton, as town manager, was responsible for it all.

We were extremely fortunate to have him at the helm. We've been able to live our lives with the confidence that the roads would be in good repair, the sidewalks plowed, the sewer and water systems functional, the parks and public buildings maintained... all the things that allow us to focus on our families, our homes, our jobs, our pastimes, and our businesses. When issues arose to interrupt those smooth operations—and something always did arise—Mr. Atherton was quick to respond and set things right.

We would owe Mr. Atherton our thanks even if all that were the full extent of it. However, his service to Brandon encompassed projects above and beyond what any other town manager in decades ever had to contend  
(See David Atherton, Page 7)

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1) process. According to Hopkins, multiple people had reached out to suggest that he apply for town manager himself and, though he hadn't previously considered it, he was now making his interest known and therefore couldn't participate in the hiring process. He then left the meeting, turning it over to Tracy Wyman, vice-chair.

Board member Tim Guiles then proposed a 7-point process for selecting the next town manager:

Board accepts the resignation of the current manager

Board lays out the process by which a new manager will be chosen

Board seeks community input

Board recruits candidates

Board interviews candidates

Board assesses candidates

Board makes final choice

Guiles then proposed the formation of a diverse 3-person citizen advisory group to assist the board in identifying and assessing qualified candidates, in order to maximize transparency and community input, a point which drew applause from some attendees.

During the public comment period that followed, attendees questioned whether 3 members would be enough for a citizen panel and whether the board had a sufficiently broad understanding of "diversity."

Guiles replied that the board saw the panel as reflecting "the composition of the community" but that there were "many ways to be diverse." He also stated that he was not wedded to 3 as the final number.

After additional public discussion regarding the optimal size of a citizen advisory panel, where some attendees cautioned that too many members would make the process ineffective and others warned against setting a specific number at all, it was decided that the language "up to 5 members" would be adopted.

It was also decided that the members of the panel would be chosen from among those who signaled an interest by Monday, February 13, 2023, via written letter, phone call, email, text, or conversation with any member of the selectboard. Mr. Guiles has offered his own contact information:

Tim Guiles  
44 Carver Street  
Brandon, VT 05733  
Call or text: (802) 279-2168  
Email: tguiles@townofbrandon.com

The board moved to approve both the 7-step process and the creation of a "diversity and inclusion" citizen advisory committee of up to 5 people. Both motions passed unanimously.

Discussion then turned to how the town manager position would be advertised. Guiles proposed that the search be conducted "in house" rather than through a recruitment firm that would cast a wide net. According to Guiles, "in house" simply meant seeking local candidates who are already familiar with the area.

"There's a lot of talent here," he said.

However, attendees pushed back on the idea of limiting the search to local candidates, given the realities of the labor market and the community's desire to reach candidates from differ-

ent backgrounds. It was then decided that "in house" would be taken to mean that the search would be conducted through the board's own efforts rather than through a recruitment firm or service.

A board motion to conduct the search "in house" (i.e., through the board's own efforts) passed unanimously.

Much of the debate around the hiring process stemmed from a desire in the room that both the advisory panel and the candidate search emphasize diversity and inclusivity. There was much concern that the position be advertised widely in order to reach a broad range of applicants. There was also concern that the members of the advisory panel be chosen on the basis of their ability to represent the community rather than on their ability to write persuasive letters of intent.

It was also urged that the board not limit its advertising to The Reporter, Front Porch Forum, and Facebook. It was sug-

gested that someone with experience in online recruitment be consulted.

The board then moved to end the public comment portion of the meeting, in anticipation of the planned, closed-door executive session in which an interim town manager would be selected.

In an email received later Monday evening, Tim Guiles informed The Reporter that Bill Moore had been selected as interim town manager. Mr. Moore is currently the town's Economic Development Officer. He will start the position on Monday, February 6, working with Mr. Atherton until Mr. Atherton's final day on February 21, after which he will fill the role until a permanent manager is hired.

Guiles also stated that Moore will receive additional financial compensation during his tenure as interim town manager and that Moore has signaled his intention to apply for the permanent position as well.

As of Tuesday, two candidates have already made their interest in the position known: Seth Hopkins and Bill Moore.

The next phase of the search, according to Mr. Guiles, is to draft an updated job description in the next few days and "publicize widely in our region."

*Much of the debate around the hiring process stemmed from a desire in the room that both the advisory panel and the candidate search emphasize diversity and inclusivity.*

## Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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

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





ROB MCCUEN ON mandolin shared his slot with Adam Dewey (guitar), Walter Stone (drums), Henry Romp (bass), Ellie Romp (fiddle), and Rocky Long (dobro).

Photos by George Fjeld

## Open Mic Night delights revelers at Red Clover

BY SUSAN JOHNSON AND GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—A steady stream of musicians filed into the taproom at Red Clover Ale Company last Thursday night for the weekly open mic hosted by Emily Nelson. She started the event in November, 2022. “It was a little slow at first, but now we have packed line-ups week after week,” she reported.

“We are so appreciative of Emily,” said Riker Wikoff, co-owner of the taproom. “It’s awesome, particularly at this time of year, to feel like there’s something going on in town.” Andy Gates, another co-owner, chimed in, “It’s amazing that there is no shortage of good musicians in Brandon.”

Armed with her clipboard, Emily, who has played in three different bands at Red Clover in the past, organizes the line-up. She started the evening playing her acoustic guitar and was accompanied by Wendy Fjeld on drums.

They were quickly followed by Rachel Fickes on guitar with a Crosby, Stills, and Nash song, “Cathedral,” with Sue Gage and Suzy Watters joining spontane-

ously in harmony from the audience. Wendy Fjeld was up next with a Lucinda Williams song, “Lines around Your Eyes.” Wendy, who is a seasoned musician, is finding a reason to pick up the guitar again. “It’s been a while since I was in the band,” she said. “Open Mic really motivated me and gives me an outlet to play music again.”

Ellie Romp was next on the fiddle, accompanied by Adam Dewey. Her brother Henry arrived mid-song and joined right



RACHEL FICKES SINGING Cathedral by G Nash with spontaneous accompaniment by Sue Gage and Suzy Watters.

in on his upright bass. The sister-brother, fiddle-bass combination was a sight and sound to behold. Jud Markowski from Bridport followed, bringing an unusual twist to the line-up with his accordion. Adam Dewey got the crowd rocking with his sing-a-long “Drunk and Crazy.” His former band, out of Boston, was called

Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek. With his experience, he knew how to get the crowd rowdy. Guitarist Doug Ross was up next with Hillary Collier on vocals.

He convinced his new(ish) neighbor, Lucas Montgomery, to accompany on drums. “Open mic is great because it’s casual and the audience is so appreciative,” said Doug, who typically plays covers he knows well but sneaks in an original composition now and then.

After Rocky Long resonated his dobro and sang, Rob McCuen of Bloodroot Gap and Swing Noir fame took the floor. Leading the way with his ripping mandolin playing, many of the other musicians joined in to the great delight of the crowd.

Bringing musicians together, in fact, is a great benefit of open mic night. The audience always seems to enjoy seeing the artists form new, spontaneous alliances.



HILLARY COLLIER (VOCALS), Lucas Montgomery (drums), and Doug Ross (guitar and vocals).

es. “The important thing about this,” notes Emily, “is that it’s laid back. No one has to be polished; we’re just there to have a good time.” All were entertained last Thursday and many stayed until the end. “I was only going to stay for one beer but I ended up spending the whole evening,” was a common refrain.

BRANDON REPORTER

# Guest Editorial

## Let's end trapping in Vermont

BY MEI MEI BROWN

Reading the Washington Post on January 19, 2023, I came across an article I couldn't ignore titled "Bears were mysteriously missing toes. These scientists cracked the case" by Dino Grandoni.

A scientist in Canada noticed that bears were missing toes. Investigation found that the severed toes were straight cuts, indicating that they weren't caused by a fight; rather, traps were the culprits. Traps intended for other animals. It is quite common that leghold and body-crushing kill traps catch an unintended victim, lured by the bait. While the bears aren't killed by the traps, they often are maimed for life. The picture accompanying the article

included an x-rayed bear paw with three toes severed. What does that do to the survival of that bear? How well can it dig for food or defend itself minus those toes?

Looking closer to home, we see other harm done by trapping. During the last four months, two dogs have been killed when caught in traps set for wildlife. They, like so many domestic and wild animals, are innocent victims of a "tradition" whose time has passed.

Today, trapping is sport, not survival—and a very inhumane sport at that. Traps on land are checked once a day, those in water once every three days. Think of how slowly those minutes tick by if you are the one con-

finied by that trap. Your release occurs by being bludgeoned, drowned, or another gruesome process to end your life.

These animals have done nothing to deserve this horrific death or maiming. Some of them chew their foot/leg off to escape. Others are seen dragging a trap. Infection will set in, the limb may rot off, and many will die a miserable death because of a trap encounter.

It is time to stop this cruel and unnecessary killing of animals. Trying to communicate with the Fish & Wildlife Board or Department is fruitless, as their goal is to provide more opportunities to sell licenses for revenue. Sadly, they do not follow the science.

Our only hope to end this animal torture is through legislation in Montpelier. It is anticipated that within days at least one bill will be introduced in the

House to ban certain forms of trapping. To understand how a bill becomes law (or not), all bills are first assigned to a committee relevant to the topic to review (Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife/Energy & Environment, in this instance). There is no guarantee that the proposed bill will ever come out of the committee. Many bills sit in the committee for the two years of the biennium and then die. We cannot let that happen. Please write to the members of the committee and ask them to

*(See End trapping, Page 5)*

*During the last four months, two dogs have been killed when caught in traps set for wildlife.*



### Tiny birds beware

SECRETIVE COOPER'S HAWKS like to hide out in tree canopies, just waiting for unsuspecting smaller birds to catch for dinner...

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

### Telephone gap integrated resource project proposal Invitation for Public Comments and Public Meeting

ROCHESTER—The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service is pleased to

invite comments for the proposed Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project located on the

Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts of the Green Mountain National Forest. The 72,250-acre project area includes National Forest System lands within Rutland, Windsor, and Addison Counties, Vermont including the towns of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon, Pittsfield, Pittsford, and Stockbridge. The Telephone Gap project proposal is now available for public review and the Forest Service is seeking public comment before preparing an environmental assessment.

The Telephone Gap project proposed management activities are the culmination of nearly three years of field inventory and public involvement conducted by Forest

Service staff. Resource and public benefits of the project include improved wildlife habitat, restored soils and wetlands, a sustainable network of roads and trails, increased recreation opportunities, and timber harvesting to provide wood products for the local and regional economy while enhancing forest health and diversity.

Written comments will be accepted during the 45-day public comment period ending March 13. A detailed description of the Telephone Gap project proposed action, associated maps and direction on how to submit comments can be found on the project website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60192>

A public open house to learn more about the project proposal is scheduled for the evening of

February 9 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Barstow Memorial School located at 223 Chittenden Road,

Chittenden, Vermont, 05737. After a brief introduction, the open house will provide an informal opportunity to ask Forest Service staff questions regarding proposed activities. Maps and information will be available for review.

Comments received from the public will be used to help focus the environmental analysis on resource issues of concern. A preliminary environmental assessment is anticipated to be complete by June 2023 that will be available for a 30-day public comment period. A final environmental assessment is anticipated to be complete by fall 2023.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project proposal, public open house or how to submit comments, please contact Jay Strand at 802-767-4261 x5522 or email at [jay.strand@usda.gov](mailto:jay.strand@usda.gov).

## The REPORTER

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

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.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

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

# Brandon Police Department statement on Tyre Nichols

The Brandon Police Department would like to express our disgust and disbelief at what occurred in Memphis, Tennessee on January 7, 2023, in which 5 former Memphis Police Officers savagely beat 29-year-old Tyre Nichols after being pulled over for a car stop. In all my years of policing, what I observed in the video footage of the incident was not law enforcement, nor any semblance to policing, nor just basic human decency and morality. What I observed was needless brutality that did nothing but tarnish the names of the good men and woman across this country who serve as law enforcement officers. It is incomprehensible to me that

something like this occurred in our modern society. Our goal as police officers is to defend Civil Rights, protect the people in our communities, and uphold the United States Constitution. What happened in Memphis did not reflect any of those ideals.

As law enforcement officers, we have been given a very humbling and huge responsibility when it comes to being entrusted with serving and protecting our communities. We have the authority to fine individuals, take away their freedom, and on rare occasion, may have to take a life during the course of our duties to protect ourselves or others. These are things that I remind myself of on a daily basis and

do not take them lightly. These are ideals that all police officers, deputies, and troopers across the United States should remind themselves of every day. Our job is to help those in need, not do harm to them.

The Brandon Police Department remains committed to maintaining its professionalism, keeping our community safe, to protect individual rights, and to respect the sanctity of life for all. Our hope as an agency is that in the end, justice will be done and that we as a society will reflect, learn, and change to prevent anything like this from ever happening again.

*David Kachajian,  
Chief of Police*

# End trapping

*(Continued from Page 4)*

move the bill forward. Write to your local representative(s) (Stephanie Jerome for Brandon, Butch Shaw for Sudbury and Pittsford). They may tell you ‘the bill is in the committee’ and ‘I can’t do anything until it is on the floor’. Yes they can. They see their fellow legislators on a very regular basis under the Dome. Tell them how you feel about trapping and that you

want them to reach out to the committee members, as well as fellow legislators, to encourage action on the bill to move it to a vote on the floor.

Three quarters of Vermonters oppose trapping (VT Center for Rural Studies at UVM, 2017). It is time that Vermont’s legislation reflects the desires of the majority of its citizens. For more information, visit [www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org](http://www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org).

## Why I’m Running for Brandon Select Board—Again

**BY MARIELLE BLAIS**

Public service is important to me, both professionally and as a volunteer. I have taught preschoolers to graduate students and adult learners. My teaching centered on students with disabilities, especially communication disorders and/or learning disabilities. During thirteen years of teaching as a speech language pathologist in the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union—six years at Lothrop and seven at Otter Valley—I’ve been fortunate in getting to know many community members. Though I’ve retired from teaching, I continue to volunteer for several local and statewide organizations. I would like to serve Brandon as a member of the Select Board.



**MARIELLE BLAIS**

As someone who grew up in a large family on a small farm in Derby, Vermont, I learned early that if I wanted something, I had to work for it. Decades later I’m still grateful for the financial aid which made it possible for someone like me to get a good educa-

tion at UVM without amassing huge debt. I have degrees from UVM, Middlebury College, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My skills pertinent to select board work include

proofreading, editing, grant writing, representing union members in grievances, and negotiating labor contracts. I will work diligently both during and outside of meetings.

As a voter I want to know where select board members stand on important town is-

issues. Initially in new roles I tend to observe and listen, but once familiar with procedures and policies, I will express my opinions openly and respectfully. A diversity of perspectives, I believe, is essential for making select board meetings welcoming to the greatest number of people. Often attendance at select board meetings is sparse, but when more voters attend, the discussions are noticeably more robust and interesting.

On Town Meeting Day 2022, I lost my race against a Brandon Select Board incumbent, 396 to 466. I would have been disappointed to have lost in a landslide, but I was very pleased with these results, which suggest I have considerable support in Brandon. During the next few weeks until Town Meeting Day 2023, I look forward to hearing from voters about what they love about Brandon and what they would like to see improved.

Thank you,  
Marielle Blais  
2143 Forest Dale Road  
[mblais634@gmail.com](mailto:mblais634@gmail.com)

## In Provence, it's all about the Romance



Saturday February 11th, and

Sunday February 12th 5pm-9pm

\$79/person (plus tax & gratuity)

Menu will also be available a la carte and take out

### Soup

Clam Chowder  
Roasted Red Bell Pepper Cream Soup

### Appetizer

Caesar Salad with Sautéed Shrimp in a Cheese Cup  
Oyster Crêpe with Champagne Cream Sauce  
Escargot in Red Bliss Potato Cup with Garlic Butter & Swiss Cheese  
Pâte de Campagne with Cranberry Chutney & Mesclun Greens

### Main Course

Salmon Wellington with Confetti Couscous, Tomato Tarragon Lemon Butter  
Beef Bourguignon with Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Maine Lobster on Red Beet Risotto ~ \$10 surcharge  
Cavatelli with Red Pepper, Asparagus, Mushroom, & Pesto Cream Sauce

### Dessert

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Ganache & Fresh Raspberries

11 Center Street Brandon Vermont

Tel: 802-247-9997

# SUBSCRIBE

to THE BRANDON REPORTER

Annual subscription for just \$50, and \$45 for seniors  
[brandonreporter.com](http://brandonreporter.com)

## WE NEED U



# Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

## House of Representatives settles into routine

The Vermont House of Representatives is finally settling into the routine of the daily work of committee hearings, caucus meetings, and ongoing training and informational meetings that are required at the start of a new biennial session. With so many new members, this training is invaluable to both the new and returning members! Some of the subject matter we have reviewed includes the House's policies on preventing and reporting sexual harassment in the workplace, safety policies in the event of a fire or a medical emergency, and active shooter protocols (Yes, we have actual fire drills!). We have reviewed the "Rules of the House" and received extensive training on floor decorum and proper dress (business professional). We have discussed the rules of debate and an extensive "how to" conduct ourselves on the floor of the House. In this past week we received an interesting program and lecture on what is or is not an ethical practice financially or legislatively for a member of the General Assembly. I do appreciate the time we, as legislators, spend on these important subjects because after 14 years serving in the House our policies are constantly evolving with the times and I learn something new every day.

The beginning of a new biennium always brings a rush of introduction of new proposed legislation in the House and this

year the pattern is no different. As of this writing, 124 bills have been introduced, surpassing the pace of the 2021–2022 biennium. Some of these bills are "re-runs" of bills that did not make it to the finish line in the last session; others are "clean up" bills which are typically for adjusting or correcting an error in legislation passed in a previous session. And most interesting to watch are bills introduced by new members of the Assembly as they try to fulfill promises made to their new constituents during the election season!

Of note is the introduction of a proposed amendment to the Vermont Constitution. It is required by that historical document that amendments may only be proposed by Senators and only in every other biennium. This proposal introduced in the Senate, now known as Proposition 1, would amend the Constitution in Section 50 of Chapter II and pertains to the election of Assistant Judges, Sheriffs, and State's Attorneys. The proposed change would allow the General Assembly to establish, by law, qualifications for a person to be elected to the Office of Sheriff. This is an interesting concept because currently there are no qualifications for a person to hold this important county law enforcement office. This position is one of the very few elected positions in Vermont that have a four-year term and if an unqualified individual

is elected, and as we have seen most recently, it is nearly impossible to remove a duly elected sheriff from their office. Should this proposal be affirmed in both the Senate and the House, it will begin the long, arduous process of five plus years to amend Section 50 of the Vermont Constitution!


The Governor has introduced his Fiscal Year 24 budget to the Legislature. With the addition of the recent amount of Federal Funding, this \$8.4 billion proposal is, to quote Governor Scott, "The infusion of this new federal funding is the biggest deal since the 1930's Federal Big Deal." Stay tuned as the money dance has started in the money committees of Appropriations, Transportation, and Corrections and Institutions. A lot more to come as the year progresses.

I can be reached anytime by email at [bshaw@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bshaw@leg.state.vt.us), by phone at 802-483-2398 or by mail at PO Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763. I am always available to have a conversation with you concerning our Legislative District and your Vermont State Government.

*Representative Butch Shaw  
Pittsford-Proctor  
Vice Chair-House Committee  
on Transportation  
Chair-Rutland County  
Legislative Delegation*


## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com). Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.




## BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • [www.barnardfuneralhome.com](http://www.barnardfuneralhome.com)

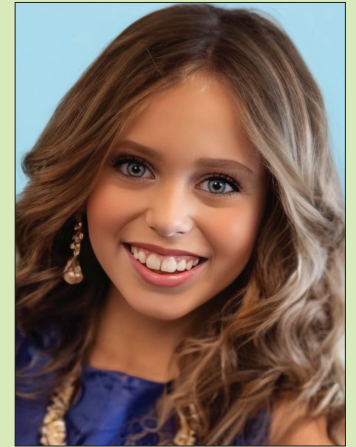
(802) 483-2811  Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory 

## Leicester student nominated as state rep for national nonprofit

LEICESTER—Leicester student Ashlynn Ketcham, age 9, has been nominated to be a state representative for Be Strong, a national nonprofit whose mission is to save and improve the lives of students using a peer-to-peer approach by strengthening mental, emotional, and relational health, building resilience, and preventing bullying.



**ASHLYNN KETCHAM**

Ashlynn also received the Presidential Volunteer Award from the Silver Bells of the Brandon Area Toy Project in December. Silver Bells is a nonprofit that delivers essential items, gifts, and fun activities to local nursing homes. They help raise funds for other groups as well, by supplying goods such as books and teddy

bears.  
Thanks, Ashlynn, for your community service! And congratulations on your well-deserved recognition!



## Enjoying Winter like a Norwegian

CAROL, ANNKA (IN sled), Hannah and Ned cross country skiing at Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center.

Photo by George Fjeld

# David Atherton

(Continued from Page 1)  
with. And he pulled them off so well that anyone visiting Brandon today would have no idea of the complex efforts undertaken to make Brandon look so good.

Mr. Atherton became town manager in 2015, a time when Brandon was still grappling with the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Irene in 2011. Repairing the damage was a yearslong process. It included not only the restoration of roads, but also the implementation of water management measures designed to prevent flooding, projects that Mr. Atherton saw to completion. No one who didn't know Brandon before 2011 would look at our downtown now and suspect the kind of impact the hurricane had on us.

Just a few years later, the Segment 6 project, which massively reconfigured downtown Brandon again, was one of the largest endeavors of its kind in Vermont history. For two years, the Route 7 corridor through town was overhauled completely: new pavement, sidewalks, curbing, streetlamps, traffic lights, water and sewer lines, electrical lines, and even traffic patterns. While it was easy to grumble about the inconveniences of it all at the time, we now have a charming, modernized downtown that earns praise from everyone who visits.

Without Mr. Atherton's guidance, none of it would've been possible. The project had stalled

for decades. With a terrific selectboard on his side, Mr. Atherton was able to initiate, execute, and complete an undertaking that had stymied so many before him.

Very much on the heels of that huge project, Mr. Atherton oversaw the renovation of Park Street, one of Brandon's most traveled roads, directing traffic out of downtown to Forestdale, the Brandon Gap, and all points east. The street was regraded and repaved. New water and sewer lines were installed, replacing many pipes that had been in service since the 1800s. A novel water-runoff system with collection areas full of water-loving plants was added. The construction was another temporary inconvenience that resulted in a better village for everyone.

Mr. Atherton has announced that he's become Pittsford town manager, a position which recently became vacant. It's a move that makes a great deal of sense: Pittsford has a slew of major infrastructure projects in the pipeline for which Mr. Atherton's skill and experience will be invaluable. We hope he will be able to do for our neighbor what he was able to do for us.

It's no exaggeration to say that Brandon today is in vastly better shape than it was in 2015, when Mr. Atherton first took his post. We're sorry to see him go. Everywhere we look in Brandon, we see evidence of his success here. Thank you, Mr. Atherton.

# Brandon Energy Committee

## Requesting ARPA funds for Brandon



BY JIM EMERSON

The Brandon Energy Committee presented a request that the Town Select Board set aside \$300,000 of the +/- \$750,000 unallocated ARPA funds for a solar-energy system that would save the town roughly \$24,000 a year in electricity costs. This would benefit all taxpayers in Brandon. With recent tax law changes, the Town qualifies to get at least 30% of this \$300,000 back as a refund, and possibly 50%. This \$90,000 to \$150,000 rebate, payable within about a year of completion, could be used for other projects that would further improve the town.

It is great to have concerns about the eventual decommissioning of old solar panels be considered up front, before the town makes a decision to pursue investing in this relatively new, 'latest and greatest' technology. It

is fitting to delve into this concern with an eye toward minimizing any long-term adverse effects and with as good an understanding of the costs as we can get.

We certainly should learn our lesson from the environmentally costly experience we have created with the waste generated by the internal combustion engine (ICE) and its energy source. We have been experimenting with this ICE technology for over 120+ years, without effectively confronting many of this industry long term adverse impacts.

There is a lot being researched about this decommissioning topic, and Europe has taken the lead in holding those who construct panels to be responsible for their safe recycling and disposal. What a concept! Short of the United States following suit, states may pick up on this. As of

now, my understanding is that the EPA does classify solar panels as hazardous waste, and thus sets requirements for recycling, but leaves that burden (costs and all) with the owner of the panel.

I also understand that 85% to 90% of the materials are readily recyclable with today's technology. And that many of these materials are cost

*A growing number of industry experts are indicating that with mining costs increasing steadily and manufacturing paying greater attention to recyclability of their products (thank you Europe), recycling solar panels will be a profitable new industry in the coming decades, employing thousands.*

beneficial to recycle now. A growing number of industry experts are indicating that with mining costs increasing steadily and manufacturing paying greater attention to recyclability of their products (thank you Europe), recycling solar panels will be a profitable new industry in the coming decades, employing thousands.

Also, recent studies suggest that a solar panel's utility will last 40 to 50 years, not the original 20 to 30 years projected as recently as 7 years ago. There is reasonable hope that more effective recycling technology will be developed in the coming decades.

In fact, new methods for building panels are being implemented as we speak. One report (See Solar funding, Page 8)

## Notice to property taxpayers – 3rd quarter payment due

Notice is hereby given that payment for the property taxes assessed upon the grand list of the Town of Brandon for the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 is due February 15, 2023. Please furnish the remittance slip with your payment. Payments may be made by mail or by dropping in either of the two drop boxes located in front of the Town Office and at the Neshobe School or electronically through our on-line payment service which can be found on our website. Thank you.

Susan Gage,  
Town Treasurer



# 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SALE!



**2016 NISSAN FRONTIER**  
SV King Cab 4X4, 6 cyl, Auto, 108k miles  
**\$18,995**



**2017 GMC CANYON**  
SLE 4X4, XTD Cab, Cap, Auto, Loaded, 64k miles  
**\$25,995**



**2014 VOLVO XC70**  
T6, AWD Wagon, Leather, Loaded, 174k miles  
**\$12,995**



**2019 TOYOTA TACOMA**  
DB Cab 4X4, Long box, SR5, V6, Auto, 37k miles  
**\$35,995**



**2013 SUBARU CROSSTREK**  
Premium AWD, Auto, Loaded, 106k miles  
**\$13,995**

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

**Wimett Trading Company**  
at the Big White Barn in Leicester

Michael Jackman, 50 Years Experience  
David Wimett, 37 Years Experience  
Mark Grant, 9 Years Experience

**802-465-4688**

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

More than a decade of delivering Quality!

# Local libraries

(Continued from Page 1)

The Reporter sat down with Molly Kennedy (MK) and Shelly Williams (SW), directors of the BFPL and Maclure, respectively, for a conversation about their experiences running institutions that are in many ways at the hearts of their communities.

What is your background? How did you get started as a librarian?

SW: I'm originally from New Jersey. I worked in retail for 20 years, for a grocery store, before moving to Vermont. I didn't go to school for library science but when I started working part-time at Maclure, I got my Vermont Certificate of Public Librarianship. In a small town, what's more important than having the right degree is knowing how people fit into the community. We had a girl with a Master's of Library Science and she never really clicked. In Vermont, it would be more useful to have a degree in sociology. When our previous director left the position, I applied for and got the job. Suddenly I was the full-time director.

MK: I grew up in Brandon. I volunteered at BFPL when I was a teenager. I went away to college. I was a visual communications major. But when I came back, I also got my Certificate of Librarianship, like Shelly. It's less about how to organize books than how to run the small business of a library, because that's what it really is: there's a lot of admin and paperwork. But the training doesn't prepare you for the social-work aspect. I worked here part-time for a while—I like to say my two younger boys grew up behind the desk—and when the director retired, I applied for and got the job. Shelly and I came into our

positions around the same time. We kind of grew up together as librarians.

What drew you to libraries? Why are they special to you?

MK: I always pretended I was a librarian when I was a kid. I used to stamp dates in my own books and pretend I was checking them out. I love books, I love reading, but libraries are really about the people and the community.

SW: I was very interested in genealogy and spent a lot of time in libraries. But the libraries in New Jersey are very different. Vermont is the most unique library system in the country. Each library is a kingdom. It's sacred to its community. People are very protective of their local libraries here.

What are some of the benefits of running a small-town library?

SW: No one is anonymous. People share their lives with us. Vermonters can be a bit tough on the outside but they're the nicest, most caring people. The library is the community's cohesive element.

MK: The relationships. Definitely. You get to know your people. You know what they're going through. You know if they need something extra. You watch their kids grow up. They belong to us. They become family.

BFPL doesn't issue library cards. Why not?

MK: We trust people. We know everyone. The only books that consistently disappear are the ones on witchcraft and numerology. If someone checks those out, it's pretty certain we're never getting them back.

Have you noticed a change in the role of local libraries over your career?

MK: We get asked for a lot of tech help now. People come in



**MOLLY KENNEDY, DIRECTOR of the Brandon Free Public Library.**

Photos provided.

just to use the internet or even to ask for help with their phone.

SW: Yes, absolutely tech. One of my people was coming in and playing solitaire on his phone and I noticed he was using a magnifying glass...turns out he had minimized the screen and couldn't figure out how to fix it. I helped him get it back to normal.

MK: BFLP has a 3-D printer. People have to send us their design files and we'll print them out for them. This is a service that didn't even exist just a few years ago.

Have you noticed a change in readers' tastes over the years?

SW: Not really. People always love crime novels and thrillers. Some of these books are pretty quick reads, so folks will read a dozen in a week and come back for more.

MK: No. New York Times bestsellers and historical fiction, especially WWII, are always the most popular books at BFPL. For nonfiction, it's mostly books about nature. Those books are bit harder to digest, so people tend to read them more slowly.

We're seeing school boards around the country push to remove certain books from school libraries. How does that make you feel?

MK: Exasperated. It's not ethical.

SW: I'm glad we're not a municipal library. We have an independent board of directors and I feel like they back me. They block a lot of that sort of pressure.

MK: My board would absolutely back me as well.

What are some of your favorite classic books?

MK: Moby Dick. I love that book. I also love Sylvia Plath.

SW: The Wild. White Fang by Jack London.

What are some of your favorite recent books?

SW: Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan. It's the only book that our book club has unanimously enjoyed.

MK: Exit West by Mohsin Hamid.

What do you recommend to someone who wants to become a librarian?

MK: Volunteer! Find out if it's really for you.

SW: Yes, volunteer. Get a feel for it. We have kids from Otter Valley come in. We'll figure out what they can do in the library that fits their personalities. Some kids love to arrange the books. Some kids love to be at the desk.

# Solar funding

(Continued from Page 7)

indicates that China has already started to employ the use of some major material components in solar-panel construction that make recycling easier. Even racking systems are being converted from aluminum to steel, which is far more cost effective to recycle.

My preliminary study of this topic suggests that according to research done by New York State, current costs to decommission solar panels are between 3 cents per watt and 4.5 cents per watt. Were the town to build a

108kW solar array, the cost according to these studies would be in the range of \$3,240 to \$4,860. The experience of a decommissioned large solar project in Minnesota (racking and all) was that the expenditures to decommission the system was just over \$3.4 million. The resale and salvage costs of the panels and steel framing was just over \$5.2 million, leaving a \$1.8 million surplus. The age of the system was not clear.

These examples may oversimplify what it will take for our town to decommission any solar

project we build. The Energy Committee will be doing more research on this topic to gain more confidence that our recommendations are well founded. One approach to address these concerns is to require the installer to be responsible for decommissioning costs and requiring that these costs be part of the original bid for the system installed.

Another concern brought up at the Select Board meeting last Monday was that the State of Vermont, under its Public Utility Commission (PUC) rules, would

require that the Town provide a letter of credit to cover estimated decommissioning costs at the start of the project. A closer read of the PUC regulations indicates the following:

1) there is no decommissioning requirement for systems under 150 kW,

2) while systems of 150 kW to 500 kW are required to decommission their systems at the end of their useful life, though there is no requirement for funds to be set aside for this activity

3) it is only when you exceed 500 kW that the extensive re-

quirements for decommissioning really become applicable.

We are proposing a 108 kW system. However, this does not take away from the need for a more rigorous analysis of decommissioning costs that the Energy Committee will undertake in the coming weeks.

Your input, questions and concerns will assist us in doing our job more effectively. Please contact us at [brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com).





## The path less taken

THE NESHOBE GOLF course grooms three miles of cross country trails.

Photo by Susan Johnson

# NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

62 years in business in Brandon



Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

# INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

## DIGITAL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD

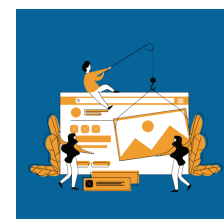
Here at the *Addy Indy* we have always seen it as our job to help connect your business with its clients.

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

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



ONLINE ADVERTISING



DIGITAL DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT



WEB DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

## CONTACT US TODAY TO GET STARTED!

802-388-4944

[digital@addisonindependent.com](mailto:digital@addisonindependent.com)

[addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing](https://addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing)



Tap into your home's equity with a

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT	OR	FIXED HOME EQUITY LOAN
<b>Prime - 1%</b>		<b>5.5% APR</b>
for 12 months		for five years

Reserves or security blanket for unexpected expenses

Home and energy improvements

Large purchases

Tuition

Call us today to find the right program for you, or apply online at [nbmvt.com](http://nbmvt.com)

National Bank of Middlebury

EOE EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC

NMLS# 403372

[nbmvt.com](http://nbmvt.com) • 877-508-8455

**Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC):** Home Equity Flex revolving loan program. \$50,000 minimum, up to a maximum of \$250,000, combined loan-to-value ratio will not exceed 80% for primary residences and 70% for year-round second homes. 10-year draw period followed by a 15-year repayment period. The APR will be equal to Wall Street Journal Prime Rate minus 1% for the first 12 months and then the discounted rate will end and the APR will equal the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate plus a margin of 0% thereafter. The maximum APR is 18% under this variable interest rate loan. No draw fee, no annual fee. Additional .25% reduction in interest rate is only available to consumers using autopay from a National Bank of Middlebury personal checking account.

**Home Equity Loan (HE):** 5-year home equity loan at 5.5 interest rate, APR 5.5% \$5,000 minimum, up to a maximum of \$250,000. Combined loan-to-value ratio will not exceed 80%.

Available for primary and second year-round 1-4 family homes. Customary closing fees are \$430. An appraisal may be required at the owner's expense. No penalty for prepayment. Loans are subject to credit approval. Offers are subject to change and promotions may end without notice.

# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Pippa Hoag

GRADE: 5

SCHOOL: Lothrop Elementary

HOMETOWN: Pittsford

MEDIUM: Colored Pencils

TEACHER: Matthew Aucoin



**STATEMENT FROM PIPPA'S TEACHER:**

“Pippa loves art and has been creating ever since she could hold a crayon. This piece is Pippa’s drawing of a Svalbard Reindeer, which accompanied her written research report on Norwegian beasts. Pippa used colored pencils and a reference photo to create

this piece. She used blending and shading to great effect here, and have the reindeer a warm personality with a glint in its eye. Note the fun detail of the plant stuck atop the right antler!”

# Sports



## OV Cheerleaders come in 4th!

CHEER TEAM MEMBERS from left to right: Brookelyn Kimball, Grace Kenyon, LaJay O'Connor, Zoe Elliott, Abigail Hayes.



OVUHS WRESTLING TEAM triumphant in last weekend's tournament.

## OVUHS Wrestling team places first in the 20th OV invitational

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — On the strength of second-place finishes in five weight classes, the Otter Valley Union High School wrestling team on Saturday took first place in its own tournament.

Lincoln Wilcox (132 pounds), Caleb Whitney (138), Tucker Babcock (152), Chase Cram (160) and Simon Martin (195) all reached finals for the Otters.

Otter Valley scored 168 points to take the team crown, followed by New York teams Beekmantown (135) and Northern Adirondack (122). Monument Mountain (Mass.) was fourth, and Vergennes took fifth with 106 points. The Eagles were eighth at 58 in the 16-team field.

By weight class, local wrestlers who finished in the top six were:

- 113 pounds: 3. Connor Meacham, Mt. Abe.
- 132: 1. Brace, VUHS; 2. Wilcox, OV. Brace pinned Wilcox in the final and won all five of his matches via pin.

- 138: 2. Whitney, OV. Whitney lost in the final to Beekmantown's Sawyer Bell, who was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

- 145: 1. Conant, Mt. Abe; 3. Carter Giles, OV. Conant defeated Fair Haven's Liam Robinson in the final, 4-0.

- 152: 2. Babcock, OV. Babcock pinned four foes until being pinned in the final by Massena, N.Y., wrestler Coldon Hardy.

- 160: 1. Lavoie, VUHS. Lavoie won all five matches of his matches by pin, including over OV's Cram in the final.

- 170: 4. Drake Felkl, OV.

- 182: 1. Preston, VUHS; 4. Isaac Whitney, OV. Preston rolled to his title with four straight pins.

- 195: 2. Martin, OV. Martin lost a tough, 7-6 decision in the final to Monument Mountain's Luke Harston.

- 220: 3. Wyatt Allenson, Mt. Abe; 4. Bruce Dusablon, OV. Allenson pinned Dusablon in their third-place match.

## Proctor Baseball going to Cooperstown

BY GEORGE FJELD

Proctor- For the second time in the last decade, Proctor's varsity baseball team will journey to Cooperstown, NY to play on the Championship field at the Baseball Hall of Fame. Invited by former Proctor coach, Mike Perrone, the team will play a game against the Warrensburg, NY varsity. Current coach, Jeff Patch, is looking to raise \$2,000 for the day trip. Patch said "We'll take a school bus to save money."

Catcher Cameron Cannucci says "It'll be a really good experience for the entire team, a lot of fun!" "We're not looking at a win or loss, just the experience." That experience will include a tour of the Hall of Fame. Cannucci says he's looking forward to seeing David Ortiz' display, as he was his favorite player.

On the last trip in 2017, Jacob Patch who accompanied the team but did not play, met hall of famer, Vladimir Guerrero who was there for a media day after his induction into the Hall and came out to spend some time with the team. Jacob, who pitches and plays shortstop, is hopeful to meet another but mostly "I'd like to pitch in the game."

Lucas Merrill, pitcher and short-

stop also, is excited "to play on the championship field for New York State." He hears that the field is very well maintained. Regarding the regular season, Merrill thinks they have a chance to do well in the Southern League, as they have all of their players back from last year.

To raise money for the trip,

Merrill and Patch said they had held a bottle drive and are planning a spaghetti supper at Franklin's, 25 North Street in Proctor on February 27th. Planned cost will be \$13.95. Owner Frank Beyette will provide the spaghetti, sauce and meatballs. He said, "I will donate 100% of the dinner proceeds to the baseball team."

fresh local and organic produce

hormone free dairy products

no artificial colors or preservatives - ever!

lots of great tasting food that's good for you

WASHINGTON STREET / MIDDLEBURY  
OPEN DAILY 8-7  
388-7276 / MIDDLEBURY.COOP

MIDDLEBURY  
NATURAL  
FOODS  
CO-OP

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

**\$0 Cleanings!**

For most insured patients. Call for details.

Further Heightened Sterilization Standards



**Middlebury  
DENTAL GROUP**

1330 Exchange Street, Suite 107  
• Middlebury •

802-388-3553

MiddleburyDentalVT.com

Welcome Before & After Work or School!

# Calendar of events

## February 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](mailto: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](http://www.gmttc.com).

### Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

Free math tutoring is available in downtown Brandon

on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4 p.m. at Fellowship Hall — the smaller brick building next to the Brandon Congregational Church.

Larry Rowe is offering help to any Otter Valley students who have questions or difficulties with mathematics or would like help with their math homework. Rev.

Sara Rossigg will be in her office — 20 feet away from the worktable — during these sessions to ensure everyone feels comfortable and is safe.

Call 802-236-9130 for more information. (Please note that Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 are days Larry has other commitments and will

strength and more.

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

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

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

\$15/class

## Fridays

### Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

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

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

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

## Sundays

### Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at [ceastman88@gmail.com](mailto:ceastman88@gmail.com)

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

## Goings on around town

### Maclure Library True Story, Theme: Love

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., True Story is a storytelling event based on the popular NPR program "The Moth."

We invite all storytellers to sign up at the the library. your story must be true, told in the first person, without

notes, have a beginning, middle, and end and follow the theme. Your story can funny, sad, exciting, emotional or all in one!

Not a storyteller, but love to listen? Join the audience!



not be available.)

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

From 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue

### Tomasio: Abstractions of a Metaphorical World at Castleton Bank Gallery through March 11

CASTLETON, VT —Thomas Hacker, aka Tomasio, creates robust energetic acrylic paintings that explode off the canvas in every imaginable hue. These multilayered works ask the viewer to look into themselves to find the organization and abstract forms shifting in the pigment.

Tomasio's work is on display at the Castleton University Bank Gallery from Jan. 21 - March 11. An artist reception

will be held at the gallery on Feb. 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tomasio's creative work ranges from music, poetry, sculpture, and fashion. Working at Spring Lake Ranch as a peer support specialist, Tomasio helps people in the wood shop, collaborates on artistic endeavors, helps ranchers unravel problems, and plays piano for the community of Shrewsbury.

"Painting is a process where-

by I channel sensory information leading to internalization, retention, interpretation, analysis, and finally abstraction. I am able to then reintroduce this stimulus back onto a canvas in creative form," Tomasio said.

View Online: <http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/Tomasio-Abstractions-of-a-Metaphorical-World-at-Castleton-Bank-Gallery-Jan-21-March-11/32472>

in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

## Thursday 2nd

### Jerome Lafayette Narramore presents Black and Brown Vermont at Castleton University

Jerome Lafayette Narramore, a biracial descendent from west Castleton's little-known Black community, presents the recently excavated Black History of his mother's town of birth at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2, at Jeffords Center Auditorium.

Narramore will speak about the challenges of mixed-

## Sweetheart's Club Square Dance (Advanced, Plus, Mainstream)

Graduates and learners of club level western square dance are invited to come dance to caller Ken Ritucci for annual Sweetheart's Dance. 1 to 2 pm is Advanced Dancing, 2-4:30 is Mainstream (Class level) and Plus alternating. Trinity Episcopal Church, 85 West St, Rutland. \$8.00 per dancer. Refreshments and 50/50 raffle.



identity, genealogical discovery, and how the conditions his ancestors lived in prevented him from fully knowing his own familial legacy.

orian, genetic genealogist, author, and producer of documentary "A Whiteman Walks Into a Bar", Narramore also oversees several DNA projects and is the lead curator of several DNA projects and curator of the Facebook group, "Black & Brown Vermont," which is dedicated to crowdsourcing data about the Black and Brown history in Vermont.

event is free to the public. Sign-up is required and can be found on the Castleton website.

Online: <http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/2022-02-01-Lafayette-Narramore-presents-Black-and-Brown-Vermont-a-Castleton-University>.

### Friday 3rd

"Is Not a Four-Letter Word" with Lisa Danforth

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Website: <https://wbon.org>

business could be costing you the future you're working so hard for.

possible to have a thriving personal life and a thriving professional life, simultaneously. Yet, we need to figure out what we want and how we go about getting it. Not everything matters equally.

In each "YES" and "NO," you're 'setting in' the invisible line of boundaries that shape your time and financial freedom, your energy, and your most important relationships (including yourself).

is a nonrenewable resource, so when you say "YES" to prioritize one thing, you're choosing to deprioritize something else. There's always a tradeoff.

In this interactive talk, you'll learn:

- What boundaries are and what they are not
- Why we struggle to establish boundaries
- How boundaries improve relationships
- Communication tips for how to share your



### Saturdays 4th 25th:

Puppet Making at the Chaffee Art Center

Come create with us for four Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pre-registration required \*\*\$25 per class or 4 classes at \$85\*\*

Instructor: Heather Wilson  
\*\*\$25 per class or 4 classes at \$85\*\*  
4th - Paper Bag Hand Puppets  
11th - Pipe Cleaner & Stick Finger Puppets  
18th - Paper Plate Puppets

25th - Sock/Mitten Puppets

- boundaries
- The power of a pause

### Saturday 4th

Getting Started On Your Family History, Virtual

Learn best practices on how to research and document your family history

Join us to learn how to start uncovering your family history. Lynn Johnson will help you learn best practices for conducting sound research as she explains different types of records, their value, where to find them, both online and in local repositories, and how to assess each piece of information to make sure it fits. Using

examples from her family research, Lynn will also outline mistakes that can derail your progress and provide tips to help you avoid them. Classes at the Vermont Genealogy Library will be Zoom webinars from 10:30 to noon. Cost is \$10.00. Please visit our website, [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org) for additional details and for registration.

### Sunday 5th:

"Embracing Solitude" at the Science Pub in Castleton  
Join us from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Lake Bomo-seen Lodge in Castleton for Science Pub with VIRGINIA THOMAS Assistant Professor of Psychology, Middlebury College "Embracing Solitude"

A free event open to everyone. Come to learn, eat and drink, and meet new and old friends.

Embracing Solitude: Solitude and loneliness are not at all the same, as Professor Virginia Thomas' research confirms. Solitude is a positive state that plays a significant role in psychological well-being. Prof. Thomas will walk us through her findings: why people seek solitude, how to enjoy and benefit from time alone, and how social media and Covid-19 have affected solitude positively and negatively.

### Tuesday 14th:

The Rutland Extension Master Gardener Group presents author Martha Molnar

At 7:00 P.M. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St, Rutland, VT 05701

Martha LeB Molnar has a certificate in Botany from the NY Botanical Gardens. She is a freelance writer and commentator, and this is her third book. Martha will talk about her new book, *Playing God in the Meadow: How I Learned to Admire My Weeds*, in which she and her husband, having found their dream acreage in Vermont, try to stave off the non-native invasives. This is not just for gardeners! You can buy the book from Phoenix to read ahead of time, or just come and enjoy Martha's compelling rendition.

# Show your sweetheart some Valentine's sugar



We're running a Valentine's Day special feature in Feb 15th issue of *The Reporter*!

For only \$10, you can take out a 2.25" x 3" ad with a message of up to 20 words and your choice of vintage, modern, floral, or playful graphic.

Please send your message and a check to **Brandon Reporter, 294 Wheeler Road, Brandon, VT 05733**. You may drop off your message & check at that address as well. Please include a phone number or email where we can reach you if we have questions. **Or you can scan the QR code below to pay online.**

Messages received after 2/13 will not be included. Messages without payment will not be included. Messages with profanity will not be included. Keep it wholesome, folks!



LOVE  
LOVE  
LOVE  
LOVE

Dearest Pookie,

My favorite place to be is together with you.



Wherever you are is where I want to be.



Love,  
Schmoopie



Sample valentine

I Wish You a Happy Valentine's day

Vintage sample



Floral sample



Playful sample



Modern sample

# Ice Ice Baby: Proctor ice-skating rink plans to open this week

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PROCTOR—While many folks have appreciated the relatively mild winter so far, enthusiasts of outdoor winter recreation have been deprived of

nally have their chance in Proctor: lower temps mean it's possible to open the ice rink.

Preparations are underway to flood and freeze a concrete expanse to create a smooth,



PROCTOR ICE- GETTING it ready by flooding the surface on a cold day.



ROLLER SKATING ON the rink on a warmer day.

some of their favorite pastimes. Mild temperatures have meant no snow and no ice. But this week, people who have been hankering to ice skate will fi-

skate-able surface. The same expanse of concrete serves as a roller-skating rink in the warmer months.

Megan Cannucci, who man-

ages the facility with her husband, Brian, said, "we spray layers of ice with a fire hose [to create the rink.]" It can take more than 24 hours of spraying to build up enough ice to skate on safely. Andre Greb, who coaches girls' varsity basketball at Proctor High School, is the wizard who executes the transformation.

The rink does not charge admission and skates are free to borrow. The rink has child's

size 8 to adult's size 13. On-site donations to maintain the facility are accepted. There's also an indoor concession stand where beverages and snacks are available for purchase.

"The rink is always supervised," said Cannucci. "And we have four security cameras on the rink at all times. We haven't really had any problems, but the kids know if they misbehave, we'll call their parents."

Cannucci hopes to have the rink ready for skaters by the end of the week (Feb. 5 or 6). The hours are Monday through Friday 3:30 – 9:00 pm and Saturday/Sunday 12 noon – 9:00 pm.

The rink is located behind Proctor High School.

Whether you're ready to land a triple-triple or just want to glide around with friends, head over to Proctor this weekend and get out on the ice!

Stop by any of these **20+ locations** for your copy of **The Reporter!**

Interested in selling *the Reporter* at your business?

Call 802.388.4944 ext. 104 or email [frontdesk@addisonindependent.com](mailto:frontdesk@addisonindependent.com) and chat with Sadie!



**Meet Sadie!**  
Our Circulation  
Manager

The  
**REPORTER**

**BRANDON**

**THE BOOKSTORE** - Conant Square

**BRANDON DISCOUNT BEVERAGE** -  
Conant Square

**CARR'S GIFTS** - Center St

**CHAMPLAIN FARMS** - Grove St

**GOURMET PROVENCE** - Center St

**HANNAFORD'S** - Supermarket Dr

**JIFFY MART** - Grove St

**JIFFY MART** - McConnell Rd

**JUNCTION GROCERY** - Forest Dale Rd

**MAE'S PLACE** - Park St

**UNION STREET GROCERY** - Union St

**WALGREEN'S** - Union St

**CHITTENDEN**

**WOODEN BARREL** - Chittenden Rd

**MIDDLEBURY**

**PARIS FARMERS UNION** - Rt 7 S Middlebury, VT

**PITTSFORD**

**CHAMPLAIN FARMS** - US Rt 7

**KAMUDA'S** - Arch Street

**KEITH'S COUNTRY STORE** -  
US Rt 7- ALL LOCATIONS!

**MAPLEFIELDS** - US Rt 7

**RUTLAND**

**RUTLAND CENTER SUNOCO** -  
Rutland Rd., West Rutland





## Into the Wilding: Trading lawns for meadows

BY LYN DES MARAIS

BRANDON—After giving the reader a brief history of gardening, Abby Adams, in her book, “The Gardener’s Gripe Book,” ends up describing the 1990s thus: “Meadows are in, lawns are out. Grasses are invited into flower borders, where the Black-Eye Susan is replacing the Rose. Open pollinated species are preferred over the newer hybrids. After 500 years, the practice of moving plants from one part of the world to another is now repudiated.” Welcome to the wilding or re-wilding movement.

Abby predicts this won’t last as, “nothing does in gardening.” Despite Rachel Carson’s seminal book, “Silent Spring,” our lawns, fields, woods, and wetlands have been awash in chemicals since the Second World War. Wilding, or re-wilding, tries to undo the chemical damage, undo the monoculture of lawns and remove exotic species that have, too often, become pests. A few examples of invasive species all around us in Brandon are grapevine, purple loosestrife (which is really fuchsia in color), oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, exotic bush honeysuckle, buckthorn, several varieties of euonymus (burning bush), and Norway maple. These invasive plants do not feed native populations. Usually there are no animals or bugs that can control them (they overpopulate). Finally they harm their new

environment ecologically or economically in some way.

So 30 years on from the 1990s, how are we doing? Home gardeners and professional gardeners, in backyards and large parks, seem to be planting natives in droves. Are we mowing less (I’m not) or setting aside some space for meadow grasses, milkweed and other native plants at edges of maintained spaces? I am. Are we as a group trying to reduce water, pesticide, and herbicide usage? We do plant for pollinators, don’t we? We are beginning to maintain meadows for grassland birds. We are trying to reverse some of the damage done. We are re-wilding, perhaps, inch by inch. Can we do more and better? I’m sure we can. In an effort to do better we are being encouraged to make our lawns more productive.

It’s hard to give up my lawn

Various groups use the same statistics about lawns from the EPA to encourage xeriscaping (low water desert-type plants), artificial lawns, Japanese stone gardens, pollinator habitat, or vegetable gardening. Our 40 million acres of lawns in the USA use 9 billion gallons of water per day, 200 million gallons of gas (for lawn mowers that use gas), and 70 million pounds of chemicals. Any extra chemicals that are spread but aren’t used are washed into our waterways. That’s a lot of chemicals to expose our selves, children, and grandchildren to.

I’m seeing changes here in Brandon. Someone has an entirely edible garden surrounding their house where a lawn once was. It’s beautiful. Others are adding shrubs, trees, and plants from sunflowers to vegetables to their lawns. Others are allowing wild verges to thrive on their property. Still others are employing usable ground covers (thyme, mint). Clover is a particularly lovely pollinator friendly ground cover. Clover seed is carried right here in town at several stores.

Despite all that I know, I still mow an enormous “lawn.” I never sit on it, walk on it, picnic or grill on it, or do anything with it. I just look at it and see it—so neat and tidy. I’ve had neat and tidy driven deep into my psyche from generations of farming ancestors. It’s hard for me to give this up. Can I encourage the lazy side of my nature? Wilding, after all, is less maintenance: less mowing, less work, less machines, less gas spillage. What if I just make pathways in the taller grass? What if I mow twice a month instead of once a week? I have even tried to give up a flower bed, or three, for vegetables. Disaster. Let’s just say I’m no Jon or Courtney Satz. My corn is inedible, my tomatoes are small, my strawberries are tasty but fill less than a quart. My cabbage, spinach and kale wilted. My peppers...let’s call it “failure to progress.” The only things that thrived were asparagus, potatoes, and zuc-



**WILD FLOWER MEADOW.**

Photo by Lyn Des Marais

chini—no surprises there. The only things that loved the heat and lack of water were my herbs and they bolted (went to seed). Did I thin my beets and carrots? No. Do I know to do this? Yes. Did we have a hot, dry summer? Yes. Did I ever turn on my drip irrigation system? Not once. I was too busy weeding flowers to notice I guess. Or perhaps I may have moved the drip system to my flower beds. Happily I’ve forgotten.

That’s why I try hard not to give

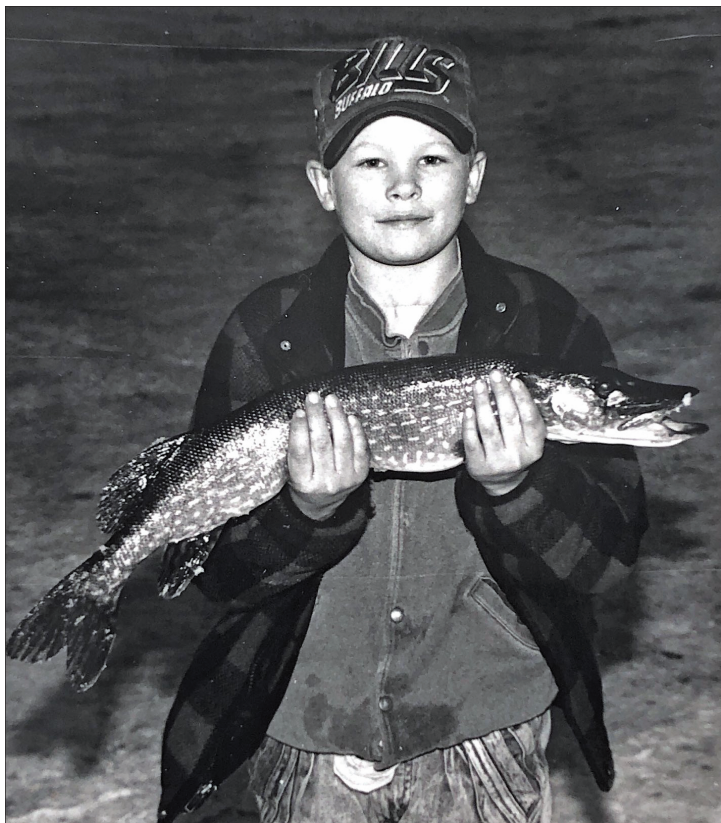
out too much advice in this column, I rarely take it myself.

So this summer sit back, kick your shoes off and have fun re-wilding. For the next several months I’m going to, I hope, entertain and inspire you with stories and pictures of other gardeners in our corner of Vermont. I’m hoping to have a guest writer or two on meadows, pollinators and real re-wilding, which is, as you can imagine, much more work than I described.



# 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](mailto:ads@brandonreporter.com)  
if you can identify someone in these photos.  
Or call us at 247-8080**

## Recognized



Kurt Kimbell of Brandon recognized the two men each holding a turkey as Ray Lamoureux on the left, who still lives in Brandon. Kurt disagrees with Terry Ferson as to the identity of the man on the right. Kurt says it is Donnie Clark, who is now deceased.

Denise Gebo of Shoreham also identified the two men with the turkeys. The man on the left is her brother, Ray Lamoureux and the man on the right is Donnie Clark. Denise spoke with her brother Ray who says the photo was taken about 25 years ago. He agrees the man on the right is Donnie Clark.



Terry Ferson confirmed the identification of the woman holding the present as Lisa Frasier. Marielle Blais correctly identified her, while Sanford Rouse identified her as Lori Mumaka, however, her maiden name was Lisa Mannuka previously.



Kurt Kimball also identified the Priest in the photo as Father Croce, who was in Brandon for some time. Father Croce married Kurt Kimball and his wife years ago.



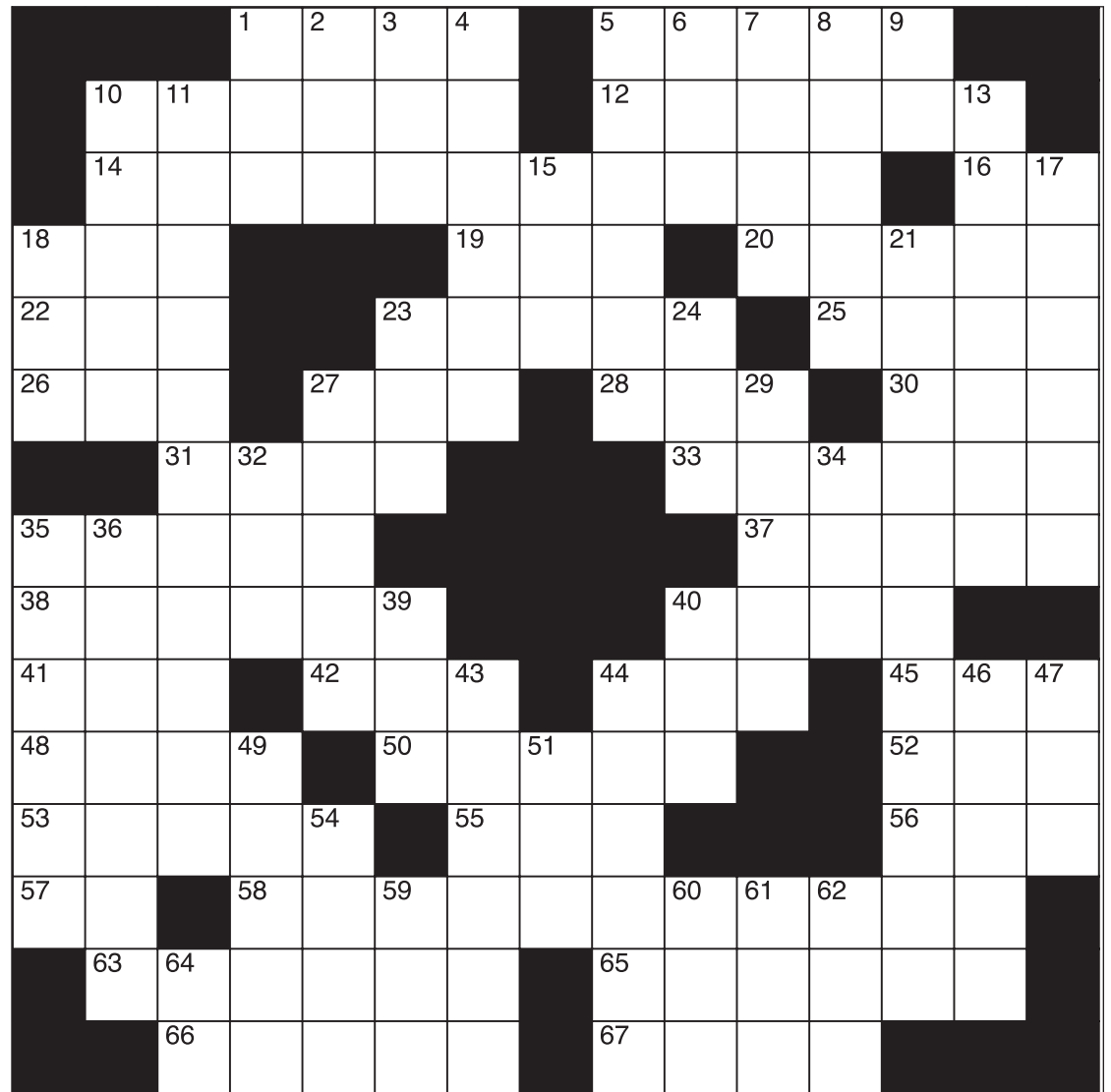
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Shed tears
5. Luxury jewelry designer
10. Goddess of wisdom
12. Convert into a particular form
14. Working-class people
16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
18. A princess can detect its presence
19. Red-brown sea bream
20. Defunct retail empire
22. Vase
23. Demeter's equivalent
25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
26. French and Belgian river
27. Small amount
28. High schoolers' test
30. Animal's foot
31. Some is red
33. Per \_\_: each
35. Swedish jazz pop duo
37. Plate for Eucharist
38. Train line
40. Russian pop duo
41. Stake
42. Plant by scattering
44. Female sibling
45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
48. Popular cookie brand
50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
52. A team's best pitcher
53. Vomits
55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
56. Men's fashion accessory
57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
58. Expensive cut of steak
63. Popular James Cameron film
65. A \_\_: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
66. Kids' snow toys
67. Flip side to yin

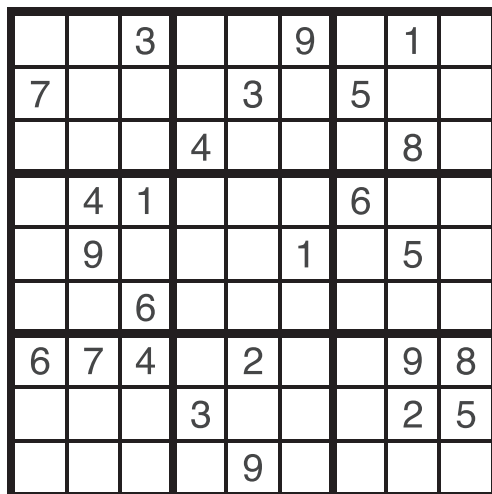
## CLUES DOWN

1. Global public health agency
2. Snake-like fish
3. Midway between northeast and east
4. Dabbed
5. TV show
6. Folk singer DiFranco
7. Canadian flyers
8. Of the dowry
9. Commercial
10. The act of imitating
11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
13. Lands of an emir
15. Swiss river
17. Island
18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
23. Garfield is one
24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
29. Small savory Spanish dishes
32. Body part
34. Touch lightly
35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
36. \_\_ Hess: oil company
39. Antelope with a reddish coat
40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
43. Pink Floyd's Roger
44. Short and thick
46. Small, sac-like cavities
47. Performer \_\_-Lo
49. Entrails of animal used as food
51. \_\_ King Cole, musician
54. Where construction is done
59. Chap
60. Investment vehicle
61. Often mixed with tonic
62. Holiday beverage egg \_\_
64. Against



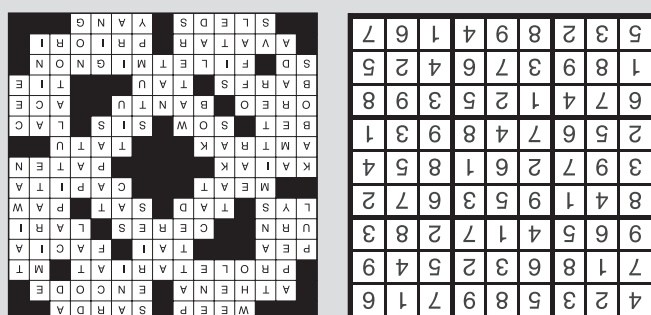
# Sudoku

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



## February is National Pet Dental Health Month!

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to remind you that February is National Pet Dental Health Month. An astonishing 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats shows signs of oral disease by age 3. Symptoms of gum disease in dogs and cats include yellow and brown build-up of tartar along the gum line, red and swollen gums, persistent bad breath, or pain or bleeding when you touch the gums or mouth. Watch for a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth, and depression. If you notice any of these symptoms, please seek veterinary care. Pet owners should have a regular dental care regimen at home, which includes brushing the pet's teeth with specially formulated toothpastes. Make sure your veterinarian checks your pet's teeth at their annual visit, and talk to your vet about a plan for good oral health for your pet. Left untreated, periodontal disease can cause oral pain, tooth loss, and potentially other complications. Talk to your vet to create a plan for your pet so you can stay ahead of any potential dental issues.

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

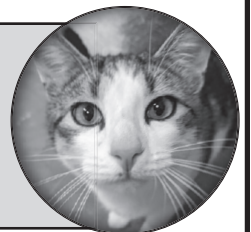


#### MEET PRINCE - 4-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PIT MIX. CHOCOLATE.

If you are looking for a stoic, smart, and sweet pup, please consider Prince! He lives up to his name and is very regal. He also had some skin concerns when he came in, but we addressed them and they no longer seem to be an issue; all he needs is a home, now. He is a very smart boy; he knows "sit", "shake" (both paws!), and "lay down", and is learning the meaning of "leave it!" Prince doesn't seem bothered by other dogs when on a walk, but we feel he would be too assertive when playing. He also shouldn't go home with any cats or young children. Prince gets a little nervous around some strange men, but he is learning how to appropriately react. He is very eager to learn and responds great to treats

#### MEET PRANCER - 1-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TABBY WITH WHITE.

Prancer is a sweet boy, but he does need some time to adjust to change. He arrived at RCHS on December 10 as a stray. He is currently in our Community Cat Room where he is socializing nicely with his new feline friends. If you are interested in meeting Prancer, please call the Adoption Center at 802-483-6700.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.



# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

We have several upcoming events this month! Tuesday, 2/7 - Pokemon and MTG commander EVERY Tuesday from 3:30-5pm. Wednesday, 2/8, Forget Me Not, Grief Support Group, 5:30-7pm. Friday, Feb 3rd, 3:30-5pm - TAG, our regular first Friday Meet up! Thursday Feb 23rd, 2 pm, Making Slingshots with Sue Wetmore. Ages 7+up. Saturday, Feb 25th, Advance Directive Workshop with Becki Lund of La Dimora.

## Did you know?

Storytime runs every Thursday at 11 am. Stop in for stories and activities!

uspended and secrets come to light.

### "Tick Tock, The Sisterhood #34," by Fern Michaels

Donated in memory of Zola B. Sawyer.

The secretive network of women across the globe investigate the attack of one of their own and the possibility that their organization has been breached.

most dangerous creation yet as ransom- "Code 6".

### "Like the Wind" by Robin Lee Hatcher

Donated in memory of Matilda E. Whittaker.

Olivia Ward lost everything, including custody of her daughter, when she divorced her abusive and manipulative husband. When he's killed in an accident, her daughter comes home. But can they salvage their relationship after her husband spent years lying to Emma about her mother? And will private investigator Tyler, who's been hired by Olivia's ex-father-in-law, find dirt on Olivia or find love in an unexpected place?

### "Hard to Break" by Michael Ledwidge

Donated in memory of John Trimmer.

Mike Gannon returns as the man who is "hard to break." While on vacation with his son in Alaska, Gannon is kidnapped after finding a plane crash with six dead men, a huge amount of money, and a conspiracy.

## We have a few more recently donated large print books from Brenda Whittaker

### "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Finney Boylan

Donated in memory of Tish H. W. Morris.

After leaving her abusive, cheating husband, Olivia McAfee moves to a small town in New Hampshire. When her teen-aged son becomes a suspect in a murder, lives in the little New Hampshire town are

### "Code 6" by James Grippando

Donated in memory of Tom P. Whittaker.

The playwright daughter of a big-data mogul becomes embroiled in the kidnapping of a childhood friend who works for her father, and whose kidnappers want her father's

# Cat on a coal tin roof

## Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — An argument between two intoxicated people on River Street On Jan. 23 began the week for Brandon Police. While officers found no evidence that a crime had been committed, the parties involved were left at separate residences and the scene was cleared without further issues.

The following day, Jan. 24, was a difficult one for pet owners. At around 4 p.m., police were contacted by the Brandon Animal Control officer to help rescue a cat stuck on the roof of a building on Railroad Avenue. A little over an hour and a half later police got a call reporting a man and woman shouting for help from the Cattails Restaurant parking lot. The people in question had been transporting their dog, which had been hit by a car in Sudbury, to the animal hospital for treatment, but the dog had passed on route. Understanding their distress, the officers involved offered their condolences and told the couple that they could stay there for as long as they needed to feel comfortable to drive once more.

On Jan. 25 police received a Medic Alert call from a woman believed to be having a heart attack. Dispatch notified Brandon Area Rescue, who went to the house with the responding officer, where the woman was evaluated on-scene by EMS personnel. Later in the morning police were called to Wood Lane for a report of a single-vehicle crash. There they found a Black Chevy Silverado in the front yard of a residence off Wood Lane. The truck appeared to have driven over a snowmobile and then hit the front porch of the house. Police determined that the vehicle had been driven on private property at the time it crashed rather than on the public street. No one was home at the residence, which police had responded to numerous times in the past for ongoing motor vehicle complaints. Because the crash did not occur on a public highway, the incident was documented for informational purposes only.

Just after midday On Jan. 26, police received a report of a person having a cardiac arrest at the Otter Valley Union High School. While on route to the school, Dispatch cancelled all responding emergency units, as there had been a miscommunication. The cardiac arrest was inside a regional ambulance on route to another medical facility and not actually at the high school in Brandon.

In a related incident, Police stopped a box truck on Grove Street near Arnold District Road about an hour later. Despite the vehicles responding to the cardiac arrest operating their lights and sirens, the operator of the truck would not yield and/or pull over to allow them to pass. The operator was issued a ticket for failing to yield to an emergency vehicle.

School officials at Otter Valley Union High School contacted police later in the day with concerns about a student who had brought an Air Soft pistol into school. Further investigation revealed that the student had brought the toy gun into school for a friend to have and that it was never seen by any students nor had anyone been threatened. It was determined that there was no threat to any of the students or staff at any time. The matter will be handled with disciplinary action through school administrative channels.

Just after 5 p.m. the same day, Brandon Police, Fire and Brandon Area Rescue responded to a possible structure fire on Goldspink Avenue. It was determined that the smoke observed was from a battery pack that had been left on top of a burning wood stove and had melted to the top of it.

In other activity Brandon Police:

### On Jan. 23

- Conducted a background check for an individual wanting to do a ride-a-long at the Brandon Police Department.
- Responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on River Street.
- Patrolled Center Street on foot.

### On Jan. 24

- Assisted an operator of a possibly disabled vehicle parked on the side of Route 7/ Grove Street.
- Attempted to serve a subpoena at the request of the Rutland County State's Attorney's Office on an individual residing on Furnace Road.
- Stopped a vehicle for speeding on Franklin Street and issued a ticket for operating without proof of liability insurance.
- Assisted Hinesburg Police Department in getting in touch with a Brandon resident concerning an untimely death.

# WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Philosophy and religious principles are of interest to you lately, Leo. Explore the metaphysical and dive into these subjects with all of your energy.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, you could be longing for a vacation, so why not make it happen? If you've socked away some cash, put it towards a trip to recharge and relax.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Make an effort to reconnect with someone you have known a long time who has become absent from your life. Resolve to maintain this connection in the years ahead.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Honest communication can take you through a rough patch you might be having with your romantic partner, Scorpio. Speak openly and honestly to resolve the issue.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Keep your eyes focused on the future, Sagittarius. It's easy to dwell on what happened in the past, but that won't matter much in the grand scheme of things.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A miscommunication could find you

spending money you just don't have right now, Capricorn. This may be an instance when you need to seek a professional to sort it all out.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, a project that has been on the calendar for some time finally gets completed. It has been a long time coming, but the results are better than you expected.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Go through some old photos and reminisce, Pisces. It can be a quiet way to spend a day or two and enjoy the memories.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 2 James Joyce, writer (d)
- Feb. 3 Amal Clooney, lawyer (45)
- Feb. 4 Rosa Parks, Civil Rights activist (d)
- Feb. 5 Michael Sheen, actor (55)
- Feb. 6 Bob Marley, actor, Reggae singer/songwriter (d)
- Feb. 7 Eddie Izzard, actor, comedian (51)
- Feb. 8 Dmitri Mendeleev, inventor of the Periodic Table (d)

### ARIES March 21-April 20

Excessive spending in recent days may have you feeling nervous about your finances, Aries. In addition to bills, you could be waiting to be reimbursed. Be patient

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, you may have been working so hard you haven't had time to spend with family and friends lately. Clear your calendar and make some time for recreation.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

This week you may lock yourself behind closed doors and enjoy some alone time for a change, Gemini. Relax with a good book or binge watch some television.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

A friendship could be tested when you get into a quarrel over money, Cancer. You each have different philosophies on spending. Try to see both sides.

# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

- Took fingerprints done for school chaperone, nursing license and substitute teaching.
- Conducted a welfare check on an individual on Triangle Court.
- Assisted the town of Brandon Animal Control Officer with a stranded cat.
- Stopped a vehicle on Marble Street for defective equipment and issued a warning.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity on Grove Street.
- Responded to a report of a possible intoxicated driver on Grove Street.

### On Jan. 25

- Notified Brandon Area Rescue of a Medic Alert call.
- Responded to a single vehicle crash on Wood Lane.
- Served subpoena for video records at the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union.
- Took fingerprints for a school volunteer, school employment, school chaperone and nursing license.
- Responded to Champlain Street for a single vehicle car crash.

### On Jan. 26

- Received a report of a person having a cardiac arrest at the Otter Valley Union High School.
- Stopped a vehicle on Grove Street near Arnold District Road for failing to yield to an Emergency Vehicle.
- Took fingerprints for a bank employee and nursing license renewal.
- Investigated a possible juvenile problem at Otter Valley Union High School.
- Responded to a possible fire on Goldspink Avenue.

### On Jan. 27

- Investigated a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot at the Otter Valley Union High School
- Conducted routine property watches at Property Junction Store & Deli on Forest Dale Road, the Masonic Lodge on Park Street and Union Street Market on Union Street.
- Stopped vehicle for speeding in Conant Square and issued a warning.
- Patrolled Center Street area on foot.

### On Jan. 28

- Made traffic stops on Grove Street and Franklin Street for speeding, tailgating, and defective equipment, issuing three warnings and one ticket for failure to possess license certificate.
- Aided a resident on Grove Street with a civil divorce issue and documented the incident for informational purposes.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a Life Alert in Conant Square.

### On Jan. 29

- Made traffic stops on Franklin Street and Champlain Street near Conant Square. Issued a warning for speeding and for operating a vehicle without lights.
- Enforced traffic laws on Carver Street/Church Street.
- Mistakenly received a citizen dispute report meant for Pittsford police.
- Received an anonymous call about a possibly impaired driver somewhere in Brandon. The vehicle described was not located.
- Patrolled Park Street.

## Joint Statement on Behalf of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council and the Vermont Police Academy

The death of Tyre Nichols at the hands of law enforcement is indefensible. The suffering of Mr. Nichols, and the failure of law enforcement officers involved to intervene, leaves all of us outraged and disgusted. This senseless and preventable act of violence has resulted in criminal arrests, none of which will satisfy a family's abrupt and unjust loss of life.

There are no excuses for these types of police actions. The officers involved have betrayed their department, their oath of office, and brought shame on every law enforcement officer nationwide who works diligently to protect the communities being served.

The Vermont Police Academy, with continued help and guidance from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council, will continue to engage with community stakeholders in ways that align with our values: protection and preservation of human life, treating all with dignity, and assuring accountability for each of us. All law enforcement officers take an oath that their agencies and com-

munities expect them to live up to:

"On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always maintain the highest ethical standards

and uphold the values of my community, and the agency I serve."

We can do more than offer condolences to a family—we can demonstrate leadership by changing not just technical rules, but changing the culture of our profession itself.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWN OF GOSHEN - INVITATION TO BID CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR CURBSIDE OR DROP-OFF COLLECTION OF GARBAGE, RECYCLING & FOOD COMPOST**

The Town of Goshen is seeking sealed bids for weekly curbside and weekly drop-off collection of garbage, recycling, and food compost. Interested parties should visit [www.goshenvt.org](http://www.goshenvt.org) to download a bid packet. Questions may be addressed to the board, [selectboard@goshenvt.org](mailto:selectboard@goshenvt.org). Bid proposals are due February 22, 2023. The bid award is contingent upon voter approval for either drop off or curbside collection, which will take place at Town Meeting on March 6, 2023. Bidders may submit one or both bids.

Mail sealed bids to:  
 ATTN: SELECTBOARD  
 Town of Goshen  
 50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, VT 05733.

Clearly mark SEALED BID-GARBAGE on the exterior of the envelope.

## The Deeper Dig: To go big, or go bigger, on child care

BY RILEY ROBINSON/  
**VtDigger**

**TUNBRIDGE** — Despite Vermont parents' overwhelming demand for spots in child care and preschools, the supply remains limited. Parents all over the state sit on waitlists for months or even years. If they do score a spot, tuition likely could cost them more than if they sent their toddler to an in-state college for the workday.

And yet, despite the tight market for early childhood services, the educators still usually make less than \$20 an

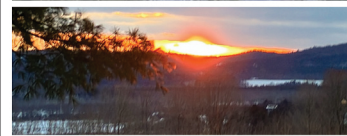
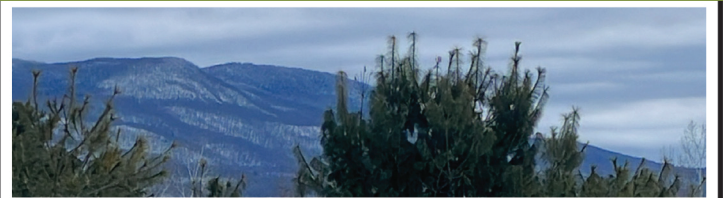
hour, and often don't receive benefits such as health insurance.

Something in this economic system isn't working for most Vermont families.

Child care is also shaping up to be one of the most significant policy issues state lawmakers tackle this legislative session. Gov. Phil Scott already has released a \$50 million proposal to increase to state subsidies. Legislators are expected to release a child care funding bill in the coming days.

## REAL ESTATE

### Views in All Directions

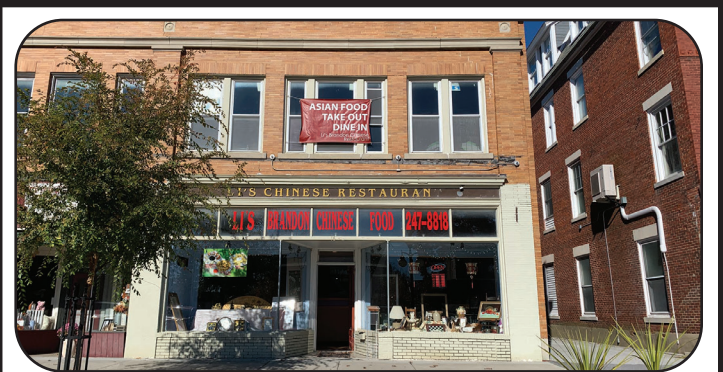


**BRANDON: Mt. Pleasant Building Lots**  
 Plan for tomorrow by securing your future home site now. 15 lots ready for your new 'energy efficient' home. 3/4 to 1 A± with all utilities & enjoying gorgeous mountain & pastoral views. Located in the quaint village of Brandon with art galleries, shops, shopping & professional services. Convenient to Middlebury & Rutland & 45 min. +/- to Killington, Pico & Middlebury Snow Bowl. Ski, hike, bike & enjoy nearby lakes. Owner/Broker/Developer. Prices starting at \$49,000. Top view to West. Bottom view to East.



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

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE



### GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Coupled with a residential unit in the center of downtown Brandon! The ground floor is currently an operating restaurant - Li's Chinese - with an impressive kitchen. The sale includes all restaurant equipment. Upstairs is a 3,540 SF living space. Beautiful hardwood floors, ornate ceiling and trim, and the glass storefront overlooks the Central Park & gazebo. Updated infrastructure: plumbing, windows, furnace & heating system, hot water, A/C and wiring. Brandon is bustling with galleries, shops, pubs, restaurants, and a grand list of events! **\$595,000**



802-236-9112 | [Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com](mailto:Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com)  
 RoweRealEstate.com



A FIREFIGHTER REMOVES the beloved 30-year-old weathervane from atop the hardware center.

Photo by Mark Flynn/VtDigger

# Castleton rallies behind Gilmore Home Center after devastating fire

BY TAYLOR SLONAKER/  
VtDigger

A staple of the Castleton community, the Gilmore Home Center building supplies and hardware store burned down Jan. 15. The

hardware store, located along Route 4A, was a go-to for contractors and residents alike.

Town Manager Michael Jones, who's also a volunteer firefighter, was second to report on the scene.

He said the call came in as a car fire around 11 a.m., but when he got there he saw smoke coming from the eaves of the building.

The fire was hot, and a dozen fire departments from the surrounding area turned out to help fight the blaze. Heath Goyette, Castleton's fire chief, said it took a little over seven hours to extinguish the fire.

Residents mobilized to deliver beverages and food to the firefighters all day. The American Legion,

across the street from the hardware store, set up a warming station.

Suppressing the fire wasn't the only goal of the day, however. Employees of the hardware center approached Goyette to ask for help in reaching the prized weathervane that perched on top of the store. West Rutland's ladder truck was able to reach it and one of its firefighters brought it down.

The copper and brass weathervane, made by John Finley, sat

atop the store for about 30 years. "So it was just pretty darn cool that a.), it survived with all that heat right behind it, and then b.), that they were willing to go up and save a piece of history for us," said Mark Flynn, Gilmore's business manager.

In the aftermath of the fire, Flynn said the outpouring of support from the community has been amazing.

Gagnon Lumber



**Native Vermont Lumber**

Bark Mulch – Delivery Available

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

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

We do Trees!

Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing

Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood

*Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals*



Thad Poremski  
(802)  
**345-2815**



SCOTT LARSON, OWNER of the Gilmore Home Center, holds the building's weathervane, which was salvaged after the fire.

Photo by Mark Flynn

# Business & Service Directory

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

## Accounting

**Laurie L. Bertrand**  
Certified Public Accountant

*Bookkeeping & Payroll Services  
Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation*  
**Experience You Can Count On**  
4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only  
465-8362 • fax 465-8438



## Accounting

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

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

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

## Archery Supplies



**Tom Mohan's Archery**  
Used Bows Available.

All Archery Supplies, arrows, releases and broadheads.

**New Bows are in!**

6 N. Railroad Ave.,  
Brandon, VT  
802-247-3463

## Auto Body Shop

**Certified Collision Experts**



All Makes and Models  
Working with all  
Insurance companies

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



## Auto Repair

**Hometown Service from  
Your Hometown Dealers!**



Factory-Trained Technicians  
Servicing all makes and models



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

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

## Excavating

1963 — Celebrating Over 50 Years — 2022

**Markowski**  
Excavating, Inc.

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

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

## Massage

*Charlotte Bishop*  
MASSAGE THERAPY

Destress your body and rejuvenate  
with the gift of touch.  
Therapeutic ♦ Soft Tissue  
Swedish/Eslan ♦ Cupping  
Certified and registered.

(802) 247-8106 **28+ years of experience.**



## Residential Care Homes

**Wintergreen**

Residential Care Home  
Level III • ERC Care • State Licensed

Keep Your Loved Ones Close to Home

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

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

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

## Restoration

**Disaster Recovery, Inc.**

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



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

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

## Storage Containers

**STORAGE CONTAINERS**  
Rentals & Sales

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



483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



Ad design included in  
price.

Call The Reporter today at  
802-247-8080 or email ads@  
brandonreporter.com



## 2012 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED

Well maintained, black leather seats and interior are in excellent shape. New brakes, new studded snow tires, 4WD, sunroof, heated seats, etc.  
 \$13,900 with just over 150,000 miles. Single owner.  
 Available to see in Middlebury  
 Call Angelo at 802-349-7069.

**ADVERTISE WITH US**  
 GEORGE@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

## Classifieds

### FOR RENT

3-BEDROOM; - East Middlebury. No Pets, No Smoking. 1200 plus utilities. First & last security deposit. 802-377-1522

### HELP WANTED

SINGLE SENIOR, 68, - looks younger, seeks female with room to rent. Have income. Enjoy karaoke. Rutland area. albertgilberti33 gmail.com

### FOR SALE

TEN FOOT BLUE KAYAK - \$150. 15 Gallon Crock. \$150. 802-247-6481.

Like all things vintage?  
**Mimi's Photos** are on page 16!

**K. A Bagley inc.**

**Full-Time Positions Available including snowplowing, light shop work, equipment operation, & landscaping**

Immediate positions available working Monday - Friday and some Saturdays. Schedule is weather dependent.

Paid Holidays, partial uniforms, and competitive pay.

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

# CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

BRANDON REPORTER  
 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753  
 802-247-8080  
 email: ads@brandonreporter.com

## RATES

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
  - minimum 2 insertions
- Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free!

Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Help Wanted Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, & For Rent).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Submit Your Classified Ads On Our Website! [brandonreporter.com](http://brandonreporter.com)

## DEADLINES

Friday noon for Wednesday paper

### CATEGORIES

- |   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices        | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals      | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services       | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**         | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted            | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals  |                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         |                                       |

\*\* No charge for these ads

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD HERE

The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun the ad in which the error occurred at no charge. No refunds will be made. Advertisers will please notify us of any errors noted.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_



Number of patient-days for Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 of each year:

2017-2018 2018-2019 2019-2020 2020-2021 2021-2022

**Psychiatric Inpatients (adults only)**



**Mental Health Patients in EDs (all ages)**

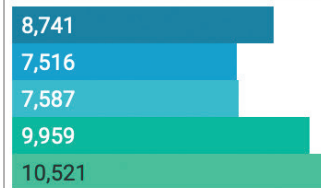


Chart: Erin Petenko • Source: Act 200-Sec.7 Reports to the Vermont Legislature; Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems; Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

# New numbers highlight Covid-19's impact on inpatient mental health care and emergency departments

BY KRISTEN FOUNTAIN/  
VtDigger

New numbers reported this week suggest that inpatient psychiatric care capacity in Vermont slowly started to rebound last year, but still remains significant below pre-pandemic levels.

Meanwhile, the total number of days that patients seeking mental health care spent in emergency departments statewide reached new heights. That number, over 10,500 days, now appears to be more than triple what a similar analysis found as a baseline in 2015.

That result is not surprising to Ben Smith, medical director of the emergency department at Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin. His department's internal numbers show at least a doubling of inpatient days waiting for crisis mental health care over the last five years. The impacts on patients of all kinds seeking care and on his staff are profound, he said.

The increase has reduced his department's capacity to respond to emergencies of all kinds because both beds and staff are occupied, Smith said. Also, "it's

terrible for these patients," he said. "You couldn't tailor-make an environment that is less therapeutic for someone in a mental health crisis."

"It's not because our staff isn't there doing heroic work to try to keep these folks stabilized and comfortable," he added.

The stress of the situation, and the frustration, is causing people to leave to work elsewhere and leading to greater difficulty recruiting new staff to the emergency department, which is required to provide treatment to all comers. "We are the only place

that can't say no, and so our staff have to do this even though they know they are not able to deliver the right amount of care," Smith said.

Representatives of both the state hospital association, which produced the new statewide data, and the Vermont Department of Mental Health, which made it public in an annual report to the Legislature, cautioned that while psychiatric care capacity and emergency department stays are related to each other, they interact in complex ways.

"Inpatient bed capacity is, I would say, a major driver of why people are boarding in emergency departments," said Emma Harrigan, director of policy anal-

ysis with the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, which represents the state's 14 hospitals, plus the Brattleboro Retreat and the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction. "But we also recognize that there are other challenges that could be contributing to that."

According to the new report, the number of people discharged by inpatient psychiatric facilities in the state increased over the previous year by about 10%. But a VTDigger review of the same reporting back to 2019 shows that the number of discharges remains more than one-third lower than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Still Not Vaccinated? Need a Booster?

COVID-19 vaccine clinics available throughout Addison County through March 31st.

Please call  
**Mountain Community Health**  
(formerly Mountain Health Center)  
for more information at  
**(802) 453-5028.**

MCH will be offering Pfizer Bivalent Boosters for all ages 5+.

Boosters are **FREE**  
**NO INSURANCE REQUIRED.**

**\*\* Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations available this Saturday, February 4, 9AM - 12 noon at Mountain Community Health, 61 Pine St. Bristol.**



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF THE TOWN OF PROCTOR'S PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE

On January 23, 2023, the Selectboard of the Town of Proctor, Vermont, adopted amendments to the existing Public Nuisance Ordinance pursuant of 24 V.S.A. §2121 and §2291(13), (14), and (15). This notice is published pursuant of 24 V.S.A. §1972 to inform the public of these amendments and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove these amendments.

#### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

To prohibit the keeping of livestock including swine, hogs, cattle, horses, fowl, and other animals on property in any manner that constitutes a public health hazard or in a manner that does not comply with the conditions for keeping certain animals as stated in Section III of the amended ordinance.

#### CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A §1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove ordinance amendments adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the amendments signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the amendments. Unless a petition for requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1973, the amended Public Nuisance Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

#### PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Michael Ramsey, Town Manager at 45 Main Street, Proctor, Vermont 05765, or by calling 802-459-3333 Ext. 13 during regular office hours.

# BRANDON TOWN HALL EVENTS

**VERMONT'S HOTTEST  
DANCE BAND**

**the  
grift**

**SATURDAY**

**February 4 • 7PM**

**Brandon Town Hall**

**Tickets  
\$10**

**Brandon Idol Snow Boots**

**SATURDAY**

**Feb. 18 • 7PM**

**ONLY \$5**  
for a great night

of music at the  
**Brandon Town Hall!**

*The Talent is ENDLESS!*