

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

A community supported newspaper

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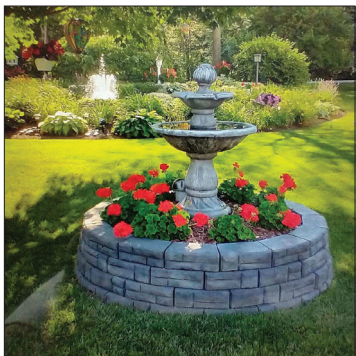
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BRANDON LUMBER

Brandon Lumber opens new Paint Center focusing on the vast array of Benjamin Moore colors. Read about the services that are now available

PG. 8



GARDENERS CORNER

Lyn Desmarais visits Jane Aines's kaleidoscopic gardens in Forestdale.

PG. 11

BRANDON SELECTBOARD

Brandon Selectboard discusses Town Manager applicants, new trucks, and salt sheds.

PG. 2



ANTIQUE COLLECTIONS

Janet Mondlak of Across the Street in Brandon discusses the wide variety of things people collect.

PG. 14



THE NICKLAW HOME in Leicester was destroyed by fire on March 21. The community has rallied around the family with fundraisers and other support. Photo by Colleen Wright

Leicester family loses home in fire, community steps up

BY STEVEN JUPITER

LEICESTER—It's a house we drive by every day, right on Route 7 just over the Leicester line from Brandon. And last Tuesday night, it went up in flames. The Nicklaw family was left homeless and now the community is rallying to help.

Already, a GoFundMe campaign on Facebook has raised

over \$5,000 (toward a total goal of \$20,000). There are donation boxes around town, and a "meal train" has been organized to help provide food for the Nicklaws.

Anyone who would like to donate or volunteer to help can seek out Colleen Wright on Facebook or email her directly at queentween.cw@gmail.com for more information.

Pittsford Auto Center gives laughs for free

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Gordon and Meghan Fox have been running Pittsford Automotive Center (PAC) on Route 7 for going on seven years now. In that time, they've developed a reputation for reliable used cars and auto repair. But most folks know them as the "funny sign people in Pittsford."

It's impossible not to chuckle at their car-related quips as you drive by. Some are legitimately witty; some definitely veer into "dad joke" territory. But they all put a smile on drivers' faces.

"We started putting signs out a few years ago and it caught on," said Meghan in the office at the center. A former teacher at Barstow in Chittenden, she's been the main salesperson at PAC since March of 2022. "We come (See Pittsford Auto Center, Page 2)



THE PITTSFORD AUTO Center has developed a local following for the funny signs it puts out in front of its shop on Route 7 in Pittsford village. They often give folks a chuckle as they drive through town. Photo by Dale Christie

Planning for Brandon July 4th Parade underway

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Brandon's Independence Day festivities are a beloved local tradition. Last year's incarnation was a huge success, with hundreds of people crowding downtown for the parade, enjoying the evening street dance, and cheering on the fireworks. It was a welcome bit of normalcy after several years of COVID and construction had turned Brandon upside down. WCAX even

featured the Brandon parade on its newscast.

But it takes a lot of planning. The Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee (BIDCC) begins to map out the following year's events while



THE MINI-TRAIN WAS a big hit at last year's July 4 festivities. The organizing committee is working hard to replicate last year's success but is facing some challenges because of skyrocketing costs.

the smoke from the current year's fireworks is practically still visible in the air.

In addition to the parade, BIDCC organizes the family events behind the Brandon Inn, the Duck Race, the DJ at the free street dance in front of the Inn, the fireworks display, the food vendors, the music at the beer garden, the silent auction, even the porta potties. It's an entire day of activities that keeps the town entertained from sunrise to sunset.

"Last year went very well," said Susan Stone, BIDCC Treasurer. "We had a great turnout. Our fundraising went very smoothly, and we were able to cover our expenses. This year, though, our costs have jumped significantly and even with a \$7,000 town appropriation and generous corporate

donations, we're going to have a tougher time raising the money."

"The cost of the fireworks display has gone from \$7,000 to \$12,500 in one year," said Bobbie Torstenson, another member of BIDCC's executive committee. "We've tried using less expensive fireworks but they don't have the height we need to make them visible downtown." The fireworks display used to be held out at Estabrook Park but is now done from private property behind Hannaford and Walgreen's in downtown Brandon.

"The move from Estabrook made it possible for people to have a continuous day downtown but it also cut into our revenue from parking," said Stone. In previous years, parking for the fireworks brought in several thousand dollars.

(See Brandon 4th, Page 3)





MEGHAN AND GORDON Fox of Pittsford Auto Center pose with one of their witty signs. While they come up with some of the jokes, they also get idea from friends and neighbors.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Pittsford Auto Center

(Continued from Page 1)

up with some of them...people also drop off notes and make suggestions," she added.

"I was at a dental appointment the other day," said Gordon, "and the dentist started telling me how much they liked our signs."

A recent sign, for example, said "Before the invention of the wheel, everything was a drag."

The day before a recent April Fool's, the sign read "Free Cars Tomorrow!" PAC got 60-70 calls inquiring about the free cars and a dozen people stopping in to get

theirs. One man burst in the door and announced, "I'm here for my free car!" When he realized he'd been made an April Fool, he said, "I'm an idiot!" and left.

Their sense of humor, however, hasn't pleased everyone. When the weather turns warm, the Foxes often put out a sign that says, "Summer's here...we have topless models." Last summer, that sign prompted an angry anonymous message on their office voicemail. Their response? A sign that read, "Calm down, Karen, it was about Jeeps."

During the pandemic, the sign advertised "free toilet paper" with every car purchase and during the recent price spike for eggs, they offered a dozen with every car. They actually held up their end of the bargain on those "jokes," too.

Gordon and Meghan live in Pittsford with their children Charlie (10), Josephine (8), and Fiona (3). You can follow them on TikTok: @fiveonfourwheels. It's a pleasure to have neighbors with a sense of humor. Keep us smiling, guys!

Brandon Selectboard discusses applicants, trucks, salt, & sidewalk

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—At its regular meeting on Monday evening, the Brandon Selectboard discussed two expenses that had not been part of the budget workshops in the fall.

The first was for a new salt shed. The current shed is not large enough to accommodate the amount of salt that the Highway Department deems sufficient to last an entire winter. The department ran out of salt this winter, because of supply-chain issues, and a larger shed would allow the town to purchase and store more salt at the beginning of the season.

An attendee asked the Board why this expense hadn't been discussed during the budget workshops in the fall, calling the shed a "budget breaker." The estimated cost of the hoop-type shed is \$35K - \$40K, though no actual bids have been received yet.

Interim Town Manager Bill Moore said he deferred to the experience and judgment of Shawn Erickson, who has argued for the necessity of a new shed. The attendee responded that department heads should make their needs known in the fall, during the budget workshops, in order to facilitate "long-range planning."

The Board then discussed whether it made sense to delay construction of the shed until the town was ready to build a new town garage, since it may be cheaper to erect the two structures simultaneously rather than as separate projects.

Moore reiterated that he is expecting another quote on the project and no action was taken.

The other expense that had slipped through the budgetary cracks was for a dump truck that the town ordered in January 2022 and is now ready for delivery. Somehow the expense had not been taken into account during the budget workshops and money needs to be allocated for the purchase now.

The town debated several approaches. Board member Tracy Wyman proposed buying the truck outright (at a cost of \$255,138.00) using 50% ARPA funds and 50% Option Tax funds. The town has approximately \$574K in Option Tax funds and several hundred thousand in un-earmarked ARPA funds. Board member Tim Guiles suggested using the \$100K that had been set

aside to pay off other equipment leases to pay down the lease on the truck. Board member Brian Coolidge recommended buying the truck using only Option Tax funds.

The proposal that was ultimately adopted by the Board was offered by member Cecil Reniche-Smith: pay off the other equipment leases with the \$100K as planned and put the remainder of that money toward the new truck, the balance to be paid with Option Tax funds. Since the cost of the equipment leases is approximately \$67K, the remaining \$33K could be applied to the new truck, necessitating an expenditure of \$255,105 from the Option Tax funds. Town Treasurer Sue Gage noted that this expenditure would be recouped in tax revenues in less than a year. The motion to adopt this approach was passed unanimously.

This approach will not affect the budget, since the \$100K had already been budgeted and the Option Tax fund is discretionary.

Board Chair Seth Hopkins expressed "dismay" that the expense had somehow slipped through the cracks and recommended in the future that all purchase orders be immediately entered as line items in the following year's budget.

In other business, the Board unanimously approved a permit to allow the Gran Fondo cycling event to use town roads for 8 hours on June 24. The event uses Route 73 from the Brandon Gap to Forestdale and then Route 53 from Forestdale to Salisbury. Neither the Fire Department nor the Police Department consider it a hazard. No roads will be closed for the event and signs will be posted warning motorists to look out for cyclists.

The Board appointed Bill Moore as Municipal Project Manager for the Union Street sidewalk project, a position that David Atherton had been slated to take before his resignation. Moore will not receive additional compensation for this work. He will do the work either in his capacity as Town Manager (interim or permanent) or as Economic Development Officer, in the event that he isn't hired as permanent Town Manager.

The Board appointed Daniel Snow of Brandon as Alternate Representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.

(See Brandon Sb, Page 3)

Brandon Sb

(Continued from Page 2)

It was announced that both the Town Health Officer and the Town Rental Housing Code Enforcement Officer had tendered their resignations. Both positions are part-time and come with stipends.

Town Clerk Sue Gage reminded the town to license all pet dogs by April 3 to avoid penalties. The Town Office will be open on Friday to accommodate dog owners who need to license their pets.

In his report, Interim Town Manager Bill Moore noted:

On March 21, Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Tim Kingston had responded to a call for an overflowing manhole in Green Park. Dundon's was brought in to vacuum out 4,500 gallons of grease and other non-flushable materials. Moore warned businesses and residences alike to avoid flushing grease and non-flushable wipes down the toilet.

Before its meeting on April 10, the Selectboard will visit the Wastewater Treatment Plant to inspect the progress being made on the upgrades there.

Brandon received a Municipal Planning Grant to partner with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission on an interactive map of the region's historic, cultural, and recreational assets, in order to facilitate tourism.

A replacement will be needed for Steve Cijka, Brandon's Chief Wastewater Operator, who plans to retire in 2024. Vermont Rural Water can help advertise and train for the demanding position.

The Rec Department has extended registration for spring baseball & softball until April 1. Late registrations will incur a \$30 fee.

A Square Dance will be held on April 1.

Brandon Idol's 80s night will take place on April 8 at 6:30.

On April 15, World of Hurt Wrestling will rumble at Town Hall.

The Board's final bit of public business for the night was to approve a warrant for \$204,220.02 for the town's bills. A breakdown of the bills is available on the town website in the Selectboard packet for 3/27/23.

In executive session, the Board discussed the following:

12 applications have been received for the Town Manager position. 1 application was withdrawn, so there are currently 11 active applications. Seth Hopkins has recused himself, since he is one of the applicants, and the remaining 4 Board members all have copies of all the applications.

On Wednesday, March 29, the Board will meet in a duly warned executive session at 7 p.m. to winnow the applicants down from 11 to the 4 who will be interviewed. The Board will also compose a slate of questions to ask of each candidate.

The Inclusivity Committee, led by Sue Gage, will also compose a slate of questions to ask each applicant.

The 4 interviews will be held on Monday, April 3 and Wednesday, April 5 in duly warned executive session.

Brandon 4th

(Continued from Page 1)

BIDCC will reprise its most successful money-making activities, such as the silent auction and the Duck Race, and will implement new initiatives, such as a 50/50 raffle, but it will need to rely on donations even more this year than last, despite the generosity of local businesses.

"We have to pay for trash collection, porta potties, and even for some of the contingents in the parade," said Stone, referring to several professional marching bands that perform in the parade every year.

Last year's festivities cost roughly \$16,000 altogether. This year, that total will be closer to \$20,000.

"We're also hoping to have more food vendors to accommodate the crowds," said Torstenson, noting that vendors pay a

fee. "One of the big complaints last year was the long lines for everything, since so many people showed up. Any food vendors who'd like to participate should contact Jean Lamarre at jlarre183@gmail.com to reserve a spot. And anyone who'd like to volunteer to help with any of the activities should contact me at b_torstenson@comcast.net."

"If anyone would like to make a direct donation, they can send a check to BIDCC at 2999 Wheeler Road, Brandon, VT 05733," said Stone.

Brandon's July 4th celebrations are a time for the entire community to come together to celebrate the birth of the nation we cherish. If anyone has time or funds to donate, please consider reaching out to BIDCC at the emails provided above.

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) 453-3911**
and visit **www.mchvt.org**
for vaccination days and times.

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

Boosters are **FREE**

NO INSURANCE REQUIRED.



Like all things vintage?

Mim's Photos

are on page 16!

SPRING PEEPERS SALE!



2003 VW BEETLE
Auto, Sunroof, Only 77k miles!
\$5,995



2012 MINI COOPER COUNTRYMAN
ALL4, AWD, Auto, Sporty! 94k miles
\$11,995



2012 NISSAN FRONTIER
SL, Crew, 4X4 V6, Auto, 119k miles
\$17,995



2012 SUBARU FORESTER
Premium, AWD, Auto, Loaded, 127k miles
\$10,595



2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
XLE, AWD, Leather, Navigation, Loaded, 69k miles
\$32,995

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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

Thanks to the Brandon Selectboard for being normal

The headline of this piece may seem a little snarky but I assure you I mean it sincerely. As I observed Monday night's Selectboard meeting, my overwhelming sense was of good fortune to live someplace where our town officials were capable of rational discussion and problem solving. Too often we see reports of town meetings in other parts of the country that devolve into unhinged shouting matches or where people let political divides make practical solutions impossible.

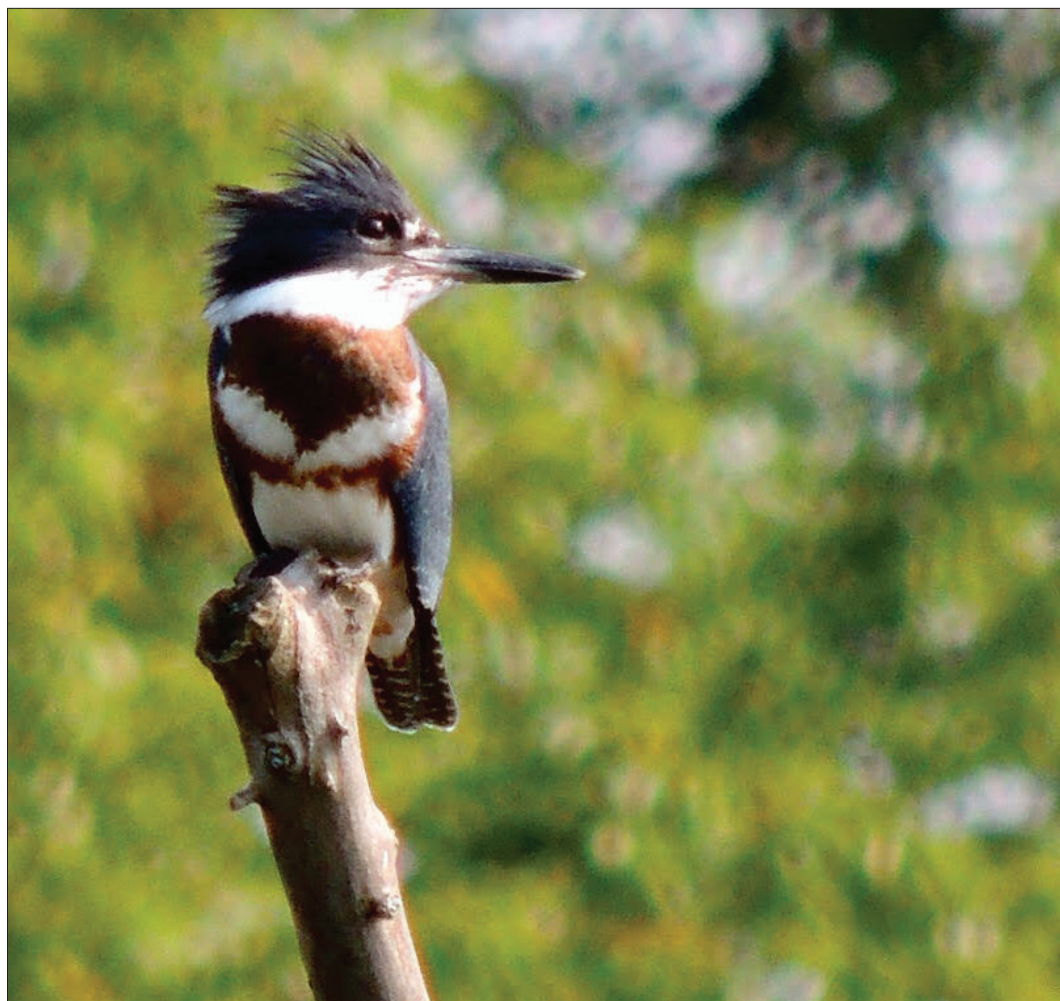
What sparked this train of thought was the calm, thoughtful way in which the Board addressed a budget snafu that could've easily turned into an ugly scene of finger-pointing and blame. In a nutshell, the town put in an order for a new truck in January of 2022 and somehow forgot to include the expense in the budget that was workshopped last fall and approved by voters earlier this month. It was a pretty big mistake—the truck will cost roughly \$250,000—but solutions were offered, debated, and adopted without anger or recrimination. Perhaps there were theatrics behind the scenes, but that's precisely where they need to happen if they happen at all.

Members listened to each other respectfully, accepted parts of proposed solutions and rejected others, and crafted a

solution that appeared to fix the problem without creating new ones. Now, a major reason that the Board was able to fix the problem without public drama is that it had made prior fiscal decisions that gave the town some breathing room in pinches like the one it found itself in on Monday night. It wasn't lost on attendees in the room that we're in an enviable position to be able to allocate \$250,000 without having to cut programs or borrow money. See this issue's article on Monday's meeting for more details of the solution.

While I praise the response, I also need to point out that the Board recognized the seriousness of the mistake. But a new protocol was proposed and adopted to prevent similar errors in the future. Mistakes are bound to happen, no matter how attentive we try to be, and what ultimately matters is how we respond. When people respond like adults who actually want to solve a problem, the chances of solving the problem improve exponentially. The Board did what they were elected to do: manage town affairs in a responsible, mature way. In an era of governmental dysfunction in so many places, it was reassuring to see Brandon's government work.

Steven Jupiter



Primping and preening

ONE OF THE most difficult birds to photograph is this belted kingfisher. As soon as they see movement they take flight. Unlike most female birds the kingfisher is fancier than the males which lack this rusty banding.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

What is the Relay for Life fundraiser?

Relay for Life is an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society whose purpose is to eradicate a most lethal disease—CANCER. Relay began in 1985 with Dr. Gordon “Gordy” Klatt walking or running for 24 hours in Tacoma, Washington at the University of Puget Sound. He walked/ran more than 83 miles over those 24 hours, raising \$27,000.00 to help save lives from cancer. During his grueling event, he thought about ways to get others to participate. The following year, there were 19 teams circling the track at the Stadium Bowl in Tacoma, WA. They raised \$33,000.00 from donations and pledges. Relay for Life was off and running.

Today there are more than 3,000 events in 30 countries, including the UK. Cancer Research UK is our longest-standing partner organization. Now, there are 1300 events a year in the US, with a Relay in every state. In 2021, Relay for Life events raised \$60 million. The total funds raised since 1985 is

\$6.8 billion.

Relay for Life events usually occur yearly and are held in a variety of places: around the tracks of schools, parks, community centers. Some last 24 hours including through the night which is often the hardest time for someone battling cancer. Relay for Life of Rutland County is our closest event, held in June at the Rutland Fairgrounds. It begins at noon with an opening ceremony often featuring a cancer Survivor relating their story. This is followed by a lap around the track by all Survivors who are present, wearing purple shirts and a gold medallion signifying another year. The next lap includes their Caregivers and then everyone joins in walking/running until the next morning. It's not about how long or how far you go, but each team has a member on the track at all times, thus the meaning of relay. Teams are often made up of friends and family of someone with cancer or who has died of cancer. Sometimes it is a

business or a club that supports this effort. Anyone can form a team in support or in memory. Usually they have raffles or sales of things such as baskets to earn money for the American Cancer Society. There are fun things to do and themed laps to keep everyone going. When it gets dark the track is lined with luminaria created in Memory of or in Support of someone with cancer. They are lit and there is a ceremony reading the names of all those being honored, after which there is a Silent Lap around the track. Everyone witnessing this emotional moment is affected by this experience.

Anyone can participate, by forming a team, making donations, or just attending. It is an open public event and we would love to see you at this year's event. Stay tuned for more information and the history of our Brandon's hometown team.

Helen Stanley

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REPORTER
A community supported newspaper

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

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Letter to the Community

It was a pleasure to serve Brandon

I would like to thank the Selectboard for giving me the opportunity to Serve. It was a great experience for me. I would especially like to thank Seth Hopkins who made me feel welcome and I don't be-

lieve he ever got sick of me asking him questions.

Thank you to everyone who voted, and I will be back next March.

Ralph Ethier
Brandon

News from Leicester Town Offices

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds dog owners that all dogs in town are required to be registered by April 1. A dog census will be conducted this spring and registration of dogs avoids the potential of fines and fees. A spayed/neutered dog costs \$11.00 to register. Unspayed or unneutered dogs cost \$15.00. Valid rabies certificate is required. Failing to comply with registration requirements can lead to fines of up to \$500.00 per violation or lead to unregistered dogs being removed or destroyed.

The Selectboard is seeking two individuals to represent the town on the Maple Broadband Communications District, one as the delegate and the other as an alternate. Maple Broadband meets about once a month and meetings are conducted via Zoom. For more information, contact Selectboard Chair Diane Benware at 247-3786.

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat, April 15, at 1:00 pm, at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. Refreshments will be served, all are welcome. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory.

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 6. Bags will be available at the Town Shed during the first week of May. A free lunch for volunteers will be held from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Four Corners that day. Volunteers can pick up a raffle ticket at the town shed when filled bags are dropped off. Raffle prizes will be drawn at the conclusion of the free lunch. Committee members hope that 100% of the roads can be cleared/cleaned, as last year. For more information or to volunteer, contact Diane Benware at 247-3786.



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Busy week in Montpelier

It's been a crazy busy in Montpelier this past week. It is the time we call "cross-over," where all the policy bills need to be voted out of the House of Representatives. We spent long days and evenings debating bills, such as Paid Family Leave Insurance, biodiversity resistance, suicide prevention, sports wagering, universal school meals, and radiology assistants. These bills will now move to the Senate, where Senators provide their input and opinion.

This session, my House Commerce and Economic Development Committee developed a bill titled "An act relating to enhancing workforce and economic development opportunities." This bill's purpose is to strengthen Vermont's workforce shortage, especially in critical sectors, including education, health care, mental health, social services, corrections, and climate. The bill provides about \$40 million in appropriations for forgivable loan programs, scholarships, child-care programs, small-business technical assistance, and regional workforce development. This is our effort to keep people working in state and to attract new workers in critical workforce areas.

This bill has a strong focus on helping educators with the Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive program administered through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, and the Emerging Pathways Grant program will provide support and mentorship for prospective educators seeking licensure. This is a "grow your own" program to help people already employed in the school system to become classroom teachers. There is also a new mentorship program

to assist new teachers.

Learning does not always stop at the end of high school. In order to earn more income, there is often a need for adults to gain more skills and certifications. The bill appropriates funds for Vermont's Serve, Learn, and Earn program which supports workforce development goals through meaningful, paid service and learning opportunities for young adults. The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Vermont Audubon, Vermont Works for Women, and Resource VT administer Serve, Learn, and Earn and offer trainings throughout the state. In addition, we have provided money to expand Adult Literacy programs statewide.

We have continued to expand programs, scholarships, and forgivable loans within the Vermont State College system, including a Restorative Justice BS program and a summer 3-D printing certificate program for high-school students and recent graduates. We are providing \$1 million for emergency medical services training needed throughout Vermont. We are also providing forgivable loan and scholarships for mental-health professionals, critical occupations (including early childhood occupations, clinical mental health counseling, dental hygiene and nursing), and trades scholarships. For students who have graduated from a college or university, we have started a unique program for them to start their careers with Vermont employers, and receive forgivable loans for up to two years.

We have continued to invest in the economic engine of our state, to assist small businesses, and ease bureaucracy of local

commercial development. The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund will be starting a coaching program to help energy businesses pivot to the clean-energy industry. We are investing in clean-up of existing brownfields, so the sites can be redeveloped. In order for Vermont to receive from \$250 million to \$500 million in funds for the federal CHPS Act, we have allocated \$5 million in training funds. To continue a successful pandemic-era program to assist small businesses technical assistance and operations, we have allocated funds to Regional Development Corporations.

In order to draw attention to the importance of Vermont's Tourism Sector (locally and statewide), I helped to coordinate this year's Tourism Day on 3/22/23. The day started with a two-hour hearing with presentations by restaurants, trail organizations, downtown organizations, and lodging establishments to the House and Senate economic development committees and was attended by over 100 businesses and non-profits. It was followed by a resolution on the House floor honoring the industry, and a lively afternoon reception with Vermont craft beverages and local food. Over 150 industry leaders came to the Statehouse to celebrate successful survival of the pandemic and an upturn in our tourism economy.

As always, please reach out to me if I can be of assistance.

Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Jerome
(Rutland-9)
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us
802-683-8209

SPREAD THE WORD!

Have an event to add to our calendar?

EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

Vermont Lions District 45

Speak Out Contest 2023

Topic: "How can the environment be saved for our future?"

Participants: High School (or home school) Students: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors

*** Saturday, April 29th, 2023 11:00 a.m. ***

Location: Equinox Hotel, Manchester Vt

Entry deadline is Saturday, April 8th

*** maximum 8 club representative participants ***

Speech is 5 to 7 minutes long.

Judging Criteria: Address theme (20%)
Development of Theme (50%)
and Expression and Delivery (30%).

3 judges will be allowed to ask a question of each participant.

Cash Prizes: 1st \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$250 Plus additional prizes

To register or for more information, please contact Lion Ken Emery
At 578-7483 (cell) or at kpemery1960@gmail.com

Obituaries

Gary Luther Warner, 67, Brandon

Gary Luther Warner, age 67, passed away March 21, 2023, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Gary was born in Middlebury on September 5, 1955. He was the son of Neddy and Ruth (Hutchins) Warner. He grew up in Brandon where he received his education. Gary was a former employee at Vaillancourt Tree Service as well as Trees Inc. He was forced to retire due to a disability. He loved his motorcycle and enjoyed working on old cars.



GARY LUTHER WARNER

He is survived by 2 sisters: Patricia Warner of Rutland and Mary Warner of Naples, FL. Several nieces, nephews & cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and 3 brothers: Neal Warner, Darwin Warner, and Stanton Warner.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery in Middlebury.

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

Donald Peter Tupper, 76, Orwell

Donald Peter Tupper, age 76, passed away Monday, March 27, 2023, at his home in Orwell.

Don was born in Middlebury on October 8, 1946. He was the son of Wilson and Helen (Farnham) Tupper. He received his early education in Orwell Schools and graduated from Fair Haven Union High School, class of 1964. He grew up on the family farm in Orwell, where he continued farming in his earlier years. He later formed his own construction company and had built many custom homes in the area. Don made many gallons of maple syrup over the years. He had done many volunteer improvements at the Orwell Congregation Church over the years. He was an avid deer hunter and enjoyed playing golf with friends at Neshobe Golf Club in Brandon, and Skene Valley Coun-



DONALD PETER TUPPER

try Club in Whitehall. Don was predeceased by his loving wife of 37 years, Stella Marie Tupper.

He is survived by his son, Donny Tupper of Fair Haven; his daughter, Jennifer Tupper of Charlotte, NC; his long-time companion, Margaret Ryan, of Orwell; his brother, Wilson David Tupper and his wife Connie

of Orwell; grandchildren Seth Tupper and Hope Tupper; and great granddaughter, Karmyn Carrol. Various nieces and nephews also survive him.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 10 AM, at the Orwell Congregational Church. Dr. David Anderson, Pastor, will officiate.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place, at a later date, in the family lot, at Mountain View Cemetery in Orwell.

Friends may call at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon on Friday, March 31, 2023 from 6-8 PM.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to; The First Congregational Church of Orwell, Orwell, VT 05760.

New child tax credit offers financial support to families with young children

BY OLIVIA Q. PINTAIR/VT DIGGER

As the end of the 2023 tax season approaches, state officials are calling attention to a new tax credit that offers financial support to families with children under the age of 6.

In May 2022, Gov. Phil Scott signed the child tax credit, H.510, into law. Since then, the \$40 million package — \$32 million of which funds the tax credit directly — has been set aside to offer tax cuts to qualifying parents and guardians with young children.

Vermonters who have young children and make less than \$125,000 of annual income — including those who make no income at all — are eligible to receive \$1,000

per child in a refundable tax credit for the 2022 filing year. Filers who make up to \$175,000 are eligible for partial credit.

When H.510 was finalized last year, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Janet Ancel, D-Calais, told VT Digger she believed the new child tax credit would be the “most significant (state-level) tax relief package we’ve been able to offer Vermonters.” Ancel did not run for reelection last year.

More than 34,000 children are expected to benefit from the tax credit this year, according to the state’s Legislative Joint Fiscal Office.

However, even as Vermont Tax Department officials promote the new credit, it faces a threat in the Legislature. The state Senate is already considering doing away with the credit to help pay for an expansion of child care subsidies. A proposal to cut the benefit, advanced by the Senate Finance Committee last Wednesday, still needs approval by the full chamber, after which it would likely face an uphill battle in the House.

Regardless of the outcome of that legislative debate, the credit remains available to families this filing season.

The U.S. Census Bureau in 2021 found that Vermont fami-

lies with children under the age of 17 are more likely to experience poverty than families without children or with adult children. Advocates of the child tax credit say they hope the state assistance will provide needed relief to families facing economic hardship.

During the pandemic, increased federal child tax credits were shown to support significant declines in poverty nationwide. In 2021, the federal government’s extension of a \$3,000 per child tax credit (\$3,600 for children 5 or younger) supported a decline in poverty in Vermont from 9% to 7%, according to census data that tracked poverty rates from 2019 to 2021.

Stephanie Yu, executive director of the Public Assets Institute, a Montpelier-based public policy think tank, said that while the extension of the federal child tax credit in 2021 reduced child poverty dramatically, it was a temporary solution.

“We’d love to see (the current child tax credit) be bigger. We’d love to see it go to all kids. Although, there’s no question that \$1,000 makes a big difference.”

— Stephanie Yu, executive director of the Public Assets Institute

“We’d love to see (the current child tax credit) be bigger,” Yu said. “We’d love to see it go to all kids. Although, there’s no question that \$1,000 makes a big difference.”

“There were certainly plenty of families experiencing economic insecurity before the pandemic, plenty of families struggling to meet their basic needs,” Yu said, “Even though there was some temporary support during the pandemic, those other needs haven’t gone away either. We really need ongoing (support).”

A brief issued by the Public Assets Institute calls refundable tax credits “an important tool for reducing child poverty and advancing racial, social, and economic justice.”

While the tax credit is currently available to anyone making under \$125,000 per year — including those who make no income at all — many families with low earnings are not required to file tax returns and risk missing out on the credit.

State Tax Commissioner (See *Child tax credit*, Page 19)

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. Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

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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.

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Not so long ago, the time of day depended on where you were

BY MARK BUSHNELL/VT DIGGER

“What time is it?” wasn’t always as straightforward a question as it might seem. That’s because up until the late 19th century, there was no universally accepted time. Every town had its own time, known as local time. Nearby towns could run on times that differed by minutes.

Those types of temporal discrepancies could even occur within a single community; the time on people’s clocks and pocket watches represented a mere approximation. And for centuries, it hardly mattered.

But things started to change in the mid-1800s. Life was speeding up, and business and science were demanding greater synchronization.

The Burlington Free Press joined the call for uniformity. “Have

we not about reached the point where the adoption of a standard time would be a desirable thing?” the newspaper asked readers in September 1883. To illustrate the need, the paper cataloged the array of competing times in the downtown alone. “We now have railroad time, Unitarian church clock time, College street church time, the time set by the fire alarm signal at ‘about’ 9:15 every morning, and a separate time for each and every mill along the lake shore.”

The main driver for standardization was the railroads. It’s hard to grasp just how much this new mode of transportation changed the world. Before the railroad, the greatest leap forward for speeding humans over land had come 6,000 years earlier with the domestication of the horse. The advent of trains, which could travel more than a mile a minute by the mid-

1800s, shattered people’s sense of both time and distance.

Here’s why that mattered for how people kept track of time. The easiest way to set a clock is to do so at the midpoint between sunrise and sunset, when the sun is at its highest point in the sky. People have been able to mark noon, also known as “solar noon” and “local noon,” at least since the invention of the sundial more than 3,000 years ago.

You couldn’t set a clock down to the minute with this sort of technology, but in a slower-paced world it was good enough.

The thing about local noon, though, is that, well, it’s local. Move 15 miles east and noon will arrive 1 minute earlier; 15 miles west and it will arrive 1 minute later.

Again, if you aren’t moving very quickly, that doesn’t really matter.

But trains run fast. They also run on tight schedules. And sometimes trains share the same bits of track, but in opposite directions, so they need to get their timing right. Minutes matter.

A head-on train crash in Rhode



THIS HEAD-ON TRAIN collision in 1853 was attributed to crew members misreading a train timetable. The accident, which killed 14 people, was used as an argument for simplifying the timekeeping systems of railroads.

Island in 1853, which killed 14 people, was attributed to crew-members misreading the railroad timetable.

You can hardly blame them for being confused. Railroad companies were publishing schedules based on what was known as “railroad time.” They typically chose the time used by a major city, based on its local noon. Observatories telegraphed time signals at noon to any business or municipality that subscribed to the service.

In the Northeast, Yale’s observatory signaled what was known as New York Time and Harvard signaled Boston Time, which was used by much of New England and was 12 minutes ahead of its New York counterpart. The Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., also provided time signals to much of the country. Many, though not

(See Time, Page 15)



Whooooo's there?

IAN HOLMQUIST OF Pittsford sent us this photo of a stunning barred owl on his rear deck on Goat Farm Road. How lucky to see something so beautiful up close.

Photo by Ian Holmquist

NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

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Welcome Before & After Work or School!

Brandon Lumber opens a new paint center

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—As we stumble out of another winter, toward the warmth and light of spring, many homeowners will take stock of their abodes and decide whether this will be the year to repaint. And many others will take the opportunity to keep the windows open to repaint their interior walls after another long winter spent inside.

With terrific timing, Brandon Lumber (Ace Hardware) has just opened its new Paint Center at its store on Route 7 on the northern edge of Brandon Village. The Paint Center occupies the structure that used to house the laundromat. Now, the space is filled with everything you need to give your home a crisp new look, whether inside or out. It's the only spot between Middlebury and Rutland where you can find the materials to refresh your home's paint.

Store Manager Megan Volk and Sales Associate Dan Boyce were on hand for a "Contractors Appreciation Day" to acquaint local tradespeople with the new center. The place was buzzing. A representative from Benjamin Moore was also on site to answer any questions about their product line—Brandon Lumber is an authorized Benjamin Moore dealer and carries only Moore paints.

"The new center has been going great," said Volk. "We've always owned this building and when the laundromat left, we knew we wanted to expand into the space. We can mix and match pretty much any color you bring in, down to a chip that's only 2 millimeters wide. We've even matched the color of someone's wallet!"

For all the antique houses in and around Brandon, Brandon Lumber carries Ben-

jamin Moore's line of historic colors as well. "We can arrange a color consultation," Boyce added, for anyone who may feel a little daunted planning out a color scheme.

Boyce also noted that it's possible to paint vinyl, so even if you have artificial siding you don't have to replace it to change the color. One gallon of paint generally covers 350 to 400 square feet.

"The key is the preparation," Boyce said. "Clean and dry. Make sure the substrate is sound. Replace any rotted wood or broken siding."

Devon Fuller, a Brandon-based painter, echoed that sentiment: "Take the time to do a good prep job. Scrape well, sand, caulk cracks, and fill holes before priming. Always wear a mask when scraping and sanding."

Colors for exteriors are trending toward lighter, pastel hues recently, said both Volk and Boyce. "People often save the bolder colors for inside, for accent walls and the like," said Boyce. The great thing about paint, at least inside, is that it's fairly easy to change if you grow tired of it.

And Brandon Lumber will create an account for your house so you don't need to remember the names of the specific paints you used: it's all saved on their computers, even down to the room the color was used for.

So, if you're looking to shake things up a little bit this spring, whether it's a full-house paint job or just a new look for a bedroom, stop by Brandon Lumber's new Paint Center to see their vast array of colors and pick up all the equipment you'll need.



SALES ASSOCIATE DAN Boyce and Store Manager Megan Volk show off Brandon Lumber's new Paint Center. If you're thinking of refreshing the look of your home this spring, stop by and chat with them. They have a wide range of Benjamin Moore colors and can match pretty much anything you bring in.

Photo by Steven Jupiter



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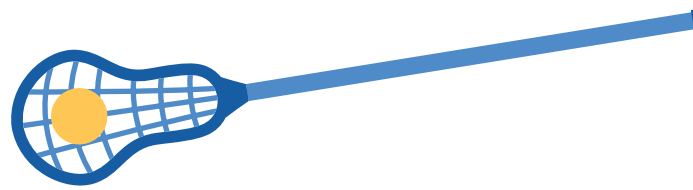
A girl and her gecko

LOVISA BLUEJAY FORD shopping for a gecko for her 8th birthday.
Photo by Monique Monette

Otter Valley Union High School spring 2023 sports schedules

Varsity Baseball (17)

4/1	U-32, LR, Lamoille (Scrimmage)	TBA
4/8	@ Bellows Falls	11:00
4/11	@ Mt Abraham	4:30
4/12	Bellows Falls	4:30
4/22	Fair Haven	11:00
4/25	@ Fair Haven	4:30
4/27	MAU	4:30
4/29	Springfield	10:00
5/2	@ Windsor	4:30
5/4	Hartford	4:30
5/9	Rutland	5:00
5/11	Green Mountain	4:30
5/13	@ Burr & Burton	11:00
5/15	Stratton	4:30
5/18	Windsor (SR)	4:30
5/20	@ Brattleboro	11:00
5/25	@ Hartford	7:00



Varsity Boys Lacrosse (12)

3/25	@ Rutland	10:30
	(Scrimmage RUT/MAU)	
4/6	Montpelier	4:30
4/11	Mt Abraham	4:30
4/14	@ Randolph	4:30
4/18	@ Rutland	4:30
4/22	@ Hartford	11:00
4/24	BFA-Fairfax	4:30
4/29	Brattleboro	11:00
5/2	@ GMVS	4:00
5/5	Randolph (SR)	4:00
5/10	@ Mt Abraham	4:00
5/13	@ BFA-Fairfax	11:00
5/23	@ Stratton	4:30

Varsity Softball (16)

4/7	@ Poultney (Scrimmage)	4:30
4/10	@ Vergennes (Scrimmage)	4:30
4/13	@ Burr & Burton	4:30
4/18	@ Springfield	4:30
4/20	@ Mt Abraham	4:30
4/25	@ Fair Haven	4:30
4/27	@ WRV	4:30
4/29	Springfield	10:00
5/2	@ Windsor	4:30
5/4	@ Hartford	6:00
5/6	West Rutland	10:00
5/9	Rutland	4:30
5/11	Green Mountain	4:30
5/15	Windsor	4:30
5/20	@ Brattleboro	11:00
5/23	MAU	4:30
5/25	Hartford	4:30
5/27	Fair Haven (SR)	11:00

Unified Basketball (7)

4/4	Mill River	3:00
4/6	@ Middlebury	4:00
4/10	@ Burr & Burton	3:00
4/13	Brattleboro	3:00
4/24	Springfield	3:00
4/26	@ MAU	3:00
5/2	Rutland (SR)	3:00



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Sat 11-4

Sun 10-2 Brunch

Wednesday

Wing night; Deep fried clam

Thursday

Hangover burger with cheddar cheese with lettuce, tomato, bacon and a fried egg served with fries; Caprese sub with fresh mozzarella, basil, tomato on garlic, olive oil, and Parmesan toasted sub roll served with fries

Friday Night dinner

Apps: Shrimp cocktail; Spinach artichoke dip; Whipped cheese and crackers

Entrees: Veal Parmesan; Seafood stuffed haddock; Surf n turf: New York strip steak and shrimp scampi; Spaghetti and meatballs

Sunday Brunch

Featuring Raspberry French toast; Meatlovers or veggie omelette

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\$34/hour except Wed-Fri 10-4 is \$25/hr

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OUR
CREATIVE
KIDS

ARTIST: Michelle Hendee

GRADE: 8th

SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School

MEDIUM: Cut paper

TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz



STATEMENT FROM DASHA KALISZ

Notan is a Japanese paper-cutting technique that plays with the concept of mirror images, negative and positive space. Michelle uses this technique to show her love for sports. Michelle cut out a soccer ball, softball, and a basketball to represent the sports she plays.



GARDENING CORNER

JANE AINES IS a wonderful gardener. Her years of experience are obvious in the careful way she lays out her flower beds and incorporates statuary and water features. Her gardens provide a kaleidoscope of color and texture, the hallmarks of a mature landscape.

Photos by Lyn Desmarais

Beyond the Garden Gate: grow a kaleidoscope of color

BY LYN DESMARAIS

FORESTDALE—Jane Aines has lived in Forestdale her whole life. She has been gardening since the late 70s and at her current home since 1983. Her gardens are spectacular, real showstoppers. I'm not sure these pictures will do them justice. I was nervous about just stopping at a stranger's garden. Jane was so nice and welcoming; I shouldn't have worried. Here's Jane:

"My mother-in-law was actually the person who got me started in gardening. She got me planting annuals. I grew petunias, impatiens, geraniums, marigolds, begonias, and salvia. My sister-in-law was working at First Seasons Greenhouse in Clarendon and asked me why I didn't do a perennial garden. I said because the flowers don't

last all summer. She urged me to try perennials. My husband had a huge vegetable garden at that time. I decided to try and grow some perennials. So, I took a very small patch out of the front of our vegetable garden, and I grew primroses, yarrow, iris, delphinium, and Dahlias. They turned out to be very pretty. I decided to make that garden a little big-



ger the following year. So that winter I bought lots of books on perennials and I spent the winter reading and looking at the pictures of the plants I really liked and when they bloomed. Then I started to go to Pinewood Gardens on Route 7. Tom Sabatini had the best perennials around. I bought all my perennials from him. I bought what I liked. My gardens grew exponentially from there. I have had gardens and shrubs everywhere on my property.

I love a kaleidoscope of color. I do love white, especially putting it next to other colors. White really makes other flower colors pop. I spread feverfew and white Asiatic lilies everywhere. I decide what goes where by height. When I'm planting, I put the smallest in front, tallest behind, and then reverse that if

it's an island garden. My favorite plants are my pink iris and my purples, and my daylilies. My absolute favorite daylily is Beautiful Edgings. Jan Sherman, my boss at the Brandon Training School, got me started on daylilies. I adore daylilies. I dead-head them every morning. I get to be out there seeing the day's blooms and the next day's coming. Do your readers know that each flower on a daylily lasts only a single day? But it doesn't matter because each plant has so many blooms, they just keep blooming.

The best thing about gardening is just being out there and seeing the garden go from bare ground in the winter to the most beautiful garden of color in the summer. It's unbelievable! One of the most challenging things (See *Gardening Corner*, Page 24)

Calendar of events

March

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

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.

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

From 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class) Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased cir-

Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

Fridays

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

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center
By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.
Play with whoever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

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
"The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."
\$5 donation suggested.

Audubon D & H Rail Trail Poultney, Bird Walk – April 7

Park in downtown Poultney and meet where the rail trail crosses Main St near the Poultney Pub. 8:00 a.m.
This will be an easy 3-mile bird walk open to all. Hoping to see lingering winter birds and early spring arrivals.
Contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more info.



ulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, 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

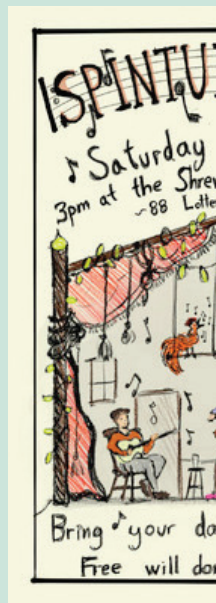
Thursdays

Ukulele Group
Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12-1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together, Must pre-register, There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

Attendees will be led through specific sheet music by musician Steven Wilson. All levels are welcome.

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

Spintuition in Shrewsbury April



Folk-based power returns to Shrewsbury concert.
April 1st, 3 p.m. meeting house.
Spintuition, a potpourri of traditional music of Vermont & beyond & winner of the Vermont Tradition award, playing 2 hours of original songs and tunes. Violin and accordion and more. Spintuition will have your seat or on the floor with your dancing shoes. A contra dance performance.
Sliding scale donation. 88 Lottery Rd., S

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

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

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

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

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

Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

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



Friday March 31st

St. Ambrose Annual Lenten Fish Fry
Join us for "ALL YOU CAN EAT" FISH FRY
Meal includes Fried or Baked Haddock,

French Fries, Coleslaw, Fresh Baked Dinner Roll, Beverage & Dessert.
Serving Times & Dates: 5 p.m. to 7p.m. on Fridays
March 3rd, March 17th, March 31st \$\$: Adults - \$15.00, Children 9 & under - \$7.00, Immediate Family of 5 - \$40.00.

For more info, call St. Ambrose Church in Bristol VT at 453-2488

Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All-Stars return for a night of stand-up comedy at Next Stage Arts!

Featured performers from 7:30–9:30 p.m. will include several contest-winning and touring comedians most often seen in the Burlington area.

Gordon Clark is the producer and host of the Next Stage comedy shows, and the Director of Vermont Comedy All Stars, a non-profit dedicated to promoting the comic arts in Vermont. He also produces and hosts two monthly shows, the "Second Wednesday" Comedy Jam at the iconic Nectar's Lounge in Burlington, and the Third Thursday Stand Up Specials at Bent Nails Bistro in Montpelier.

**on concert
wsbury,
11st**



er trio Spintuition
iry for an afternoon

at the Shrewsbury

ower trio rooted in
f New England and
of the 2019 Young
contest, will be
original and adapted
With blazing fiddle
intricate harmonies,
ve you dancing in
dance floor. Bring
! will follow the per-

ation at the door.
shrewsbury

April

Saturday 1st

Bunny and Basket Fun! at the Brandon American Legion

Fun for kids with games and bingo, music and special guests! Amazing baskets include adventure tickets to many spots in New England and Beyond! Incredible trips to Africa for Safari! Local baskets too- so much fun!

Join us from 12–3 p.m. \$2 entry for kids, \$10 for adults over 16, includes 1 sheet of tickets. Additional sheets are only \$5! HIGH END RAFFLE AS WELL!!!!

Childrens characters, crafts, games and more. Get out and enjoy spring-time!!!

Silver Bells is an umbrella program of the Brandon Area Toy Project, focusing on bringing joy to people in assisted living and more. Your support of this basket raffle helps us to fund these projects!

Community Square Dance at the Brandon Town Hall

Join us from 6:30–8:30 p.m. for an evening of square dancing for all! Sponsored by Brandon Recreation and the Cast Off 8's Square Dance

Club, this easy social dance will get everyone up and moving to popular music. Come as you are, no special clothes. Bring the whole family, Just \$5 a person. Peter Tobin will teach easy calls and dances. Mix of line dances between sets. Refreshments will be available. Fun for solo dancers, couples, families!

Robinson & Rohe at The Ripton Coffee House in Lincoln

Robinson & Rohe deliver a powerful live show replete with effortless harmony singing, soulful grooves, playful humor, and razor-sharp lyrics. Robinson & Rohe have taken their music all over the US, Europe, UK, and Ireland, lighting up venerable folk venues

and festivals. Both accomplished artists in their own right, Liam is music director/vocal arranger of the Tony Award-sweeping musical Hometown on Broadway, and is an original member of the Becca Stevens Band.

Jean's songwriting has won honors from the Kerrville Folk Festival (2022 New Folk winner), the Brooklyn Arts Council (2022 grant recipient), and The Independent Music Awards, among many. She is perhaps best known for her oft-covered video single, "National Anthem: Arise! Arise!" a stirring alternative to the Star Spangled Banner, featuring brass arrangements by Liam.

From 7:30–10:00 p.m. at Burnham Hall
52 East River Road, Lincoln
\$15.00

Tuesday 4th

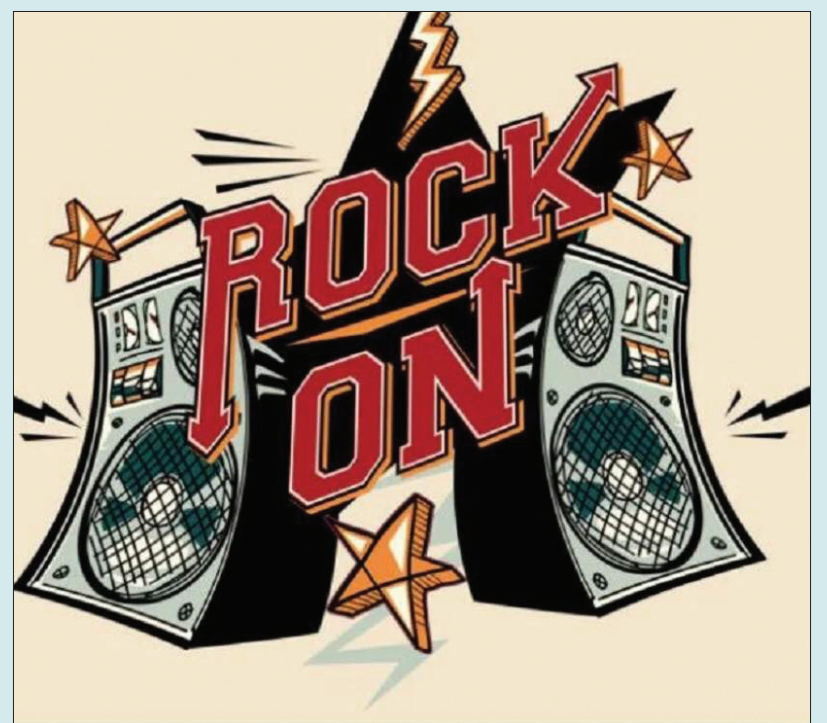
An Evening with Martha Molnar at Phoenix Books Rutland
Please join us from 6:30–8 p.m. for an evening with Vermont author Martha Molnar for a discussion of her new book *Playing God in the Meadow*.

After decades of fantasizing and saving, of working multiple jobs and embracing frugality in the midst of Manhattan, Martha Leeb Molnar and her husband had found their parcel of land. Determined to turn an overgrown and unproductive Vermont apple orchard into a thriving and beautiful landscape, they decided to restore this patch of land to a pristine meadow and build a safe haven for their family and nearby wildlife.

Once they cleared the gnarled and dying trees away, Molnar was forced to wage war on the invasive species that had sprung up around the property. Propelled by the heated debates surrounding non-native species and her own complicated family history and migration, she was driven to re-research the Vermont landscape, turning experts in botany and environmental science, and locals who have long tended the land in search of answers. At turns funny, thoughtful, and conversational, *Playing God in the Meadow* follows this big city transplant as



to scientific literature,



Loud and Proud! Sundays through April 30th (except April 16th)

Jeff Ladd, *Extraordinary Dad*, presents *Loud and Proud!* It's an opportunity for kids 7th grade up to 19 years to play music together. Whether bass, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, drums, bongos, come and play with other teens you know or don't know! Bring your band, bring yourself and play!

Hosted at the Brandon Town Hall, participants will enter and exit through the side door. There will be a drum kit on site. Bring your instruments or contact Jeff on FB. Upon arrival musicians must stay upstairs, because there are other events happening downstairs. It's going to be great!

she learns to make peace with rural life and an evolving landscape that she cannot entirely control.

This event is free and open to all, but advance registration is appreciated. Please register below.

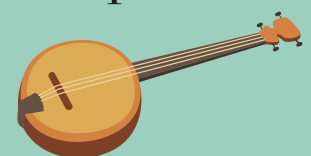
Copies of *Playing God in the Meadow* will be available for sale at the event. Can't make it to the event but still want to purchase a signed, personalized copy? Please call 802-855-8078. Signed copies will be available after the event on April 4th. If you ordered a book for store pick up, we will contact you as soon as it's ready. If you ordered a book with shipping, please allow an additional 7-10 days for delivery.

Goings on around town

Country Jamboree at the Brandon American Legion. A great time to raise money for a great girl, Sarah Mills! April 2nd

Featuring the Brandon Idol Singers, plus a huge Basket Raffle, Food, and amazing drinks! Even a Special Guest Star!!!

Come and spend the afternoon with us from 12–6:00 p.m.



What do you collect? I have some ideas

BY JANET MONDLAK

BRANDON—Americans love to collect. We love collections. We love collectibles. And I love to talk to my customers about their collections — it is always fascinating to hear the stories. The how or why people started their collections or, in some cases, their obsessions. Sometimes they are things passed down through the generations. Other times, it started with one item that caught someone's eye and that's all it took. The majority of collectors are into fairly easy-to-find items such as glass, pocket watches, pottery, cameras, tools, jewelry, knives,

stamps, or coins just to name a few. And then there are very specific, very unusual collections. So, if you are thinking of starting a new collection, here are some ideas.

I'll start with uranium glass because I happen to find it very cool myself. Uranium glass is glass that was actually made with, you guessed it, uranium. It dates back to a German chemist fooling around in the 1780s. Some pieces were made with traces of uranium and some 20th-century pieces were made with up to 25% of the stuff. What's cool about it? It glows! If you happen to see a fluorescent green piece

of glass, and you don't carry your own. We have one at our shop, Across the Street in downtown Brandon. Sorry, but we don't have a Geiger counter.

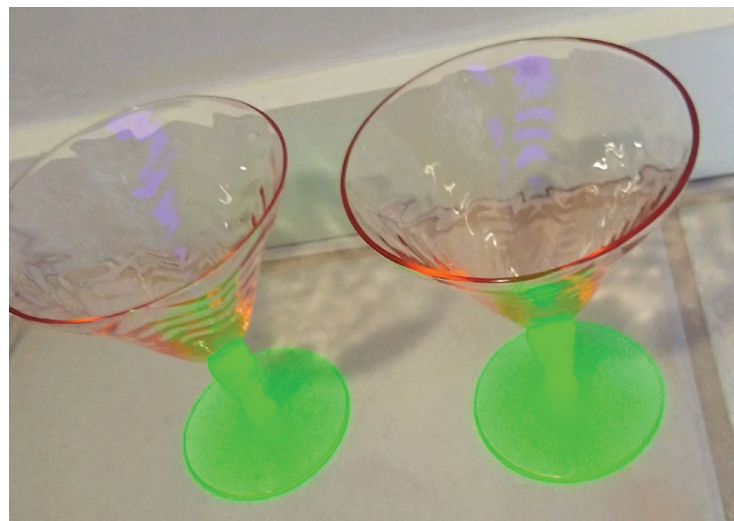
While dolls are a common collectible, the depth and breadth of the category make it quite intriguing. Doll collectors are very particular in what they are looking for. Dolls can range in size from miniatures to quite large, and they can go back in time to hundreds of years ago. They can be made of fabric, bisque, plastic, wax, wood, or even stuffed with sawdust. They can have hair, glass eyes, movable parts, crier mechanisms tucked into their bellies, or made to look just like a real person. When we meet doll collectors, they know exactly what they are looking for. You want one dressed or naked? Beautiful or creepy? Old or new? Are they marked? One-of-a-kind, handmade, or mass-produced? There are so many variations. The one thing I can tell you, the dolls missing some hair plugs or with an abscessed eye socket are usually the ones that bring the most money. Go figure. Creepy doll lovers unite.

Are you a pickle person? Pickle forks are quite the collectible. Pickle forks come in gold finish, sterling silver or silverplate, wood, or stainless steel. Handles can be long or short; they could be made of bone or covered in enamel. Every flatware pattern has a pickle fork with a unique shape or floral design. And don't forget monogrammed! So, if you are a pickle lover and haven't got your own unique pickle fork, what are you waiting for?

If you are looking to get into a



VINTAGE HOWE SCALE.



VINTAGE URANIUM GLASS glows under blacklight because it's made with actual uranium. Photo by Janet Mondlak

new collection, you can find items that relate to a special place that you love. Maybe a wonderful vacation spot, or the city where you met your significant other. How about your alma mater or the place where you grew up? What can you find that creates a memory? Souvenir china was a very popular collectible at the turn of the 20th century. In most towns and cities, famous landmark buildings would have commissioned ceramic and porcelain pieces, mostly made in Germany or Austria, with a rendering of the place. In Brandon, the most popular souvenir china pieces were made with images of the Brandon Inn, the Civil War Monument, and the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace. Sometimes sterling-silver spoons would be made with the design of a landmark etched in the bowl or decorating the handle. Or you could search for industrial or utilitarian pieces that were made in your special

town. In Brandon, that could mean scales made by the Howe Company (1860s, before the company moved to Rutland) or embossed medicinal bottles from Brandon hometown pharmacies. Postcards were produced in just about every city, town, and hamlet.

I love to see young people interested in older things and in creating collections of their own. Think about starting a project with a young'un. It doesn't even have to cost you anything. You can collect a certain leaf or flower. Learn how to dry them, press them, and then display or use them in something like a craft project or give as a special gift. Use your imagination and start looking.

There is no collection that is too weird or crazy. I have read about collections as far-fetched, and frankly, disgusting, as barf bags, fingernail clippings, and fossilized feces. 'Nuff said.

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Black Bear
Tree, Land & Forest

Thad Poremski
(802)
345-2815

St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church
Sunday 10 a.m.
19 Conant Square, Brandon

Brandon Congregational Church
Sunday 10 a.m.
1 Carver Street, Brandon

Brandon United Methodist Church
Sunday 11:15 a.m.
1 Franklin Street, Brandon

Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary's) Catholic Church
Saturday 4 p.m., & Sunday 11 a.m.
38 Carver Street, Brandon

Brandon Baptist Church
Sunday 11 a.m.
13 Champlain Street, Brandon

One Church Brandon
Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
97 Frog Hollow Road, Brandon, VT

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
Sunday 9 a.m.
2918 US 7, Pittsford

Living Water Assembly of God
Sunday 11 a.m. via Facebook Live
76 North Street, Brandon

Forest Dale Christian Fellowship
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
1895 Forest Dale Rd, Brandon

Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church
Sunday 9 a.m.
3325 US Route 7, Pittsford

Pittsford Congregational Church
Sunday 10:15 a.m.
121 Village Green, Pittsford

Church of Wildwood
Sunday 11 a.m.
347 Holden Road, Chittenden

Union Church of Proctor
Sunday 10 a.m.
5 Church Street, Proctor

St. Dominic Catholic Church
Sunday 9 a.m. Feb, Apr, Aug
45 South Street, Proctor

CHURCH Directory

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday 9 a.m.
5 Gibbs Street, Proctor

St. Bridget/St. Dominic/St. Stanislaus Kostka
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Masses rotate monthly between the West Rutland/Proctor Parishes. 2023 February - St. Dominic; March - St. Stanislaus-Kostka; - April - St. Dominic; May - St. Bridget; June - St. Stanislaus; July - St. Bridget; August-St. Dominic

Introducing Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin

The Reporter is pleased to present our new weekly feature: Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin. Matt is the art teacher at Lothrop

Elementary in Pittsford and at Otter Creek Academy in Whiting. He grew up in Vermont and Maple the Cow is inspired by

his time living in these pastoral green mountains.

We hope you find Maple as cute as we do...

Time

(Continued from Page 7)
all, Vermont rail lines ran on Montreal time. One exception was the trains heading east from Island Pond, which ran on Portland, Maine, time.

American railroad companies used 53 different times to set their schedules. Passengers needed to know how the time used by the train they were hoping to catch corresponded with their local time.

Railroad schedules clearly stated which time system they were using and newspapers occasionally printed charts showing the time difference between different cities, so passengers could make their calculations.

The confusion caused countless passengers to miss their trains, and occasionally led to railway workers making deadly miscalculations.

Living in a world where the local time was less a fact and more a matter of opinion caused some bewildering disputes. For years, two sets of bells had tolled the time in Rutland: the ones at the old Congregational Church and those at the county courthouse.

"There was for some time quite a rivalry between the different establishments having charge of the two clocks," the Rutland Herald explained in 1870. "They did not seem to care in reference to whether or not they had the correct time, but only to keep the clocks apart."

The two clocks differed by a full 20 minutes. The Herald reported that railroad workers protested when their bosses wouldn't let them start work by the later clock and leave work by the early one.

The job of keeping public clocks in town correctly set often fell to jewelers, who were familiar with timepieces and motivated to advertise their utility. Jewelers sometimes subscribed to an observatory's time service to ensure their clocks' accuracy.

"Gibson, the jeweler, will furnish you with standard time," the Richford (Vt.) Journal and Gazette reported in October 1883, adding: "(H)e keeps on hand a splendid assortment of standard timekeepers."

During the early 1870s, railroads

began discussing ways to coordinate their clocks. As part of this standardization, they considered a proposal to whittle the 53 time zones under which they currently operated down to just four, which would span the United States.

The arrangement didn't require congressional approval; this was just a standard that needed to be set by a single industry. It was more than a decade before they settled on a final plan for how this would be done.

The new standard was set to go into effect at noon on Nov. 18, 1883, but many Vermont rail lines and communities adopted the standard six weeks early. The Central Vermont railroad implemented the new standardized time for most of its lines on Oct. 7, setting its official time back 12 minutes. The Vermont Phoenix newspaper explained the process: "At 12 o'clock noon on Sunday all telegraph offices on the several lines were open, the new time was given, and all railroad clocks and the watches of employees were set to correspond with it."

The Middlebury Register urged its local community to use this opportunity to synchronize its local time with the railroads. "Would it not be well if the college, the high school and the town clock were run by the standard time?" the paper asked. "There has hitherto been a wide divergence, causing seemingly unnecessary confusion."

Days before the new time standard was to be implemented by all American and Canadian railroads, the St. Albans Daily Messenger editorialized in favor of the move. "There can be no question that this innovation is a step in the right direction, because it does away with much trouble and inconvenience occasioned by differences of time," the paper wrote.

"The railway men have realized that they needed some common standard of time, not only for their own benefit but for the convenience of their passengers, and while some unreasonable opposition has been raised to the new system, it is probable that it will finally be adopted everywhere."

Maple the Cow by Matt Aucoin



Montpelier & Wells River Railroad.

SPECIAL

POULTRY TRAIN

SHIPPERS OF

Butter, Cheese, Eggs and Poultry,

Will be accommodated with SPECIAL TRAIN,

Friday, Nov. 23d, 1883.

Leave Montpelier,	A. M.
East Montpelier,	7:30
Plainfield,	8:15
Marshfield,	8:45
Poultney's,	9:45
Groton,	10:02
So. Ryegate,	10:30
Boltonville,	10:45
Arrive Woodsville,	11:10
	11:35

Train leaves Woodsville at 1:00 P. M., and arrives in Boston early Saturday morning, Nov. 24.

Freight must be at Depot at least ONE HOUR before train is due to leave, and packages must be in GOOD ORDER and PLAINLY and FULLY marked, otherwise will not be taken on special train.

EXP All freight must be billed at gross weight. No allowance will be made for tare of packages.

W. A. STOWELL, F. W. MORSE,
Supt. C. F. A.

Montpelier, Nov. 19, 1883.

A CHART CREATED before the implementation of Standard Time provides details about various cities, including the local time for each when it is noon in New York City. The document, from the collection of the Vermont Historical Society, indicates that Rutland time is four minutes ahead of New York City time.



Rock and Roll

BODENBENDER AND END User put on a dynamite show at Brandon Town Hall last Saturday. In addition to the terrific music, there were dancers and hula hoops. It was a whole vibe...

Photo by George Fjeld



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!



Recognized



Kristen Varian recognized the photo of Karl and Julia Varian. She believes they are eating sugar on snow at the Miner Farm at a Winter Carnival Event.

Kathleen Hirschberger also identified Karl and Julia Varian.

Sue Wetmore recognized Karl and Julia Varian. She believes Julia is now the music teacher at Neshobe School.



John Appelt recognized the people in this family photo. They are Mike and Susan Morykon and their two children. He served as pastor of the Whiting Community Church, Whiting, VT, in the early 1980s.

E-mail
ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify
someone in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080

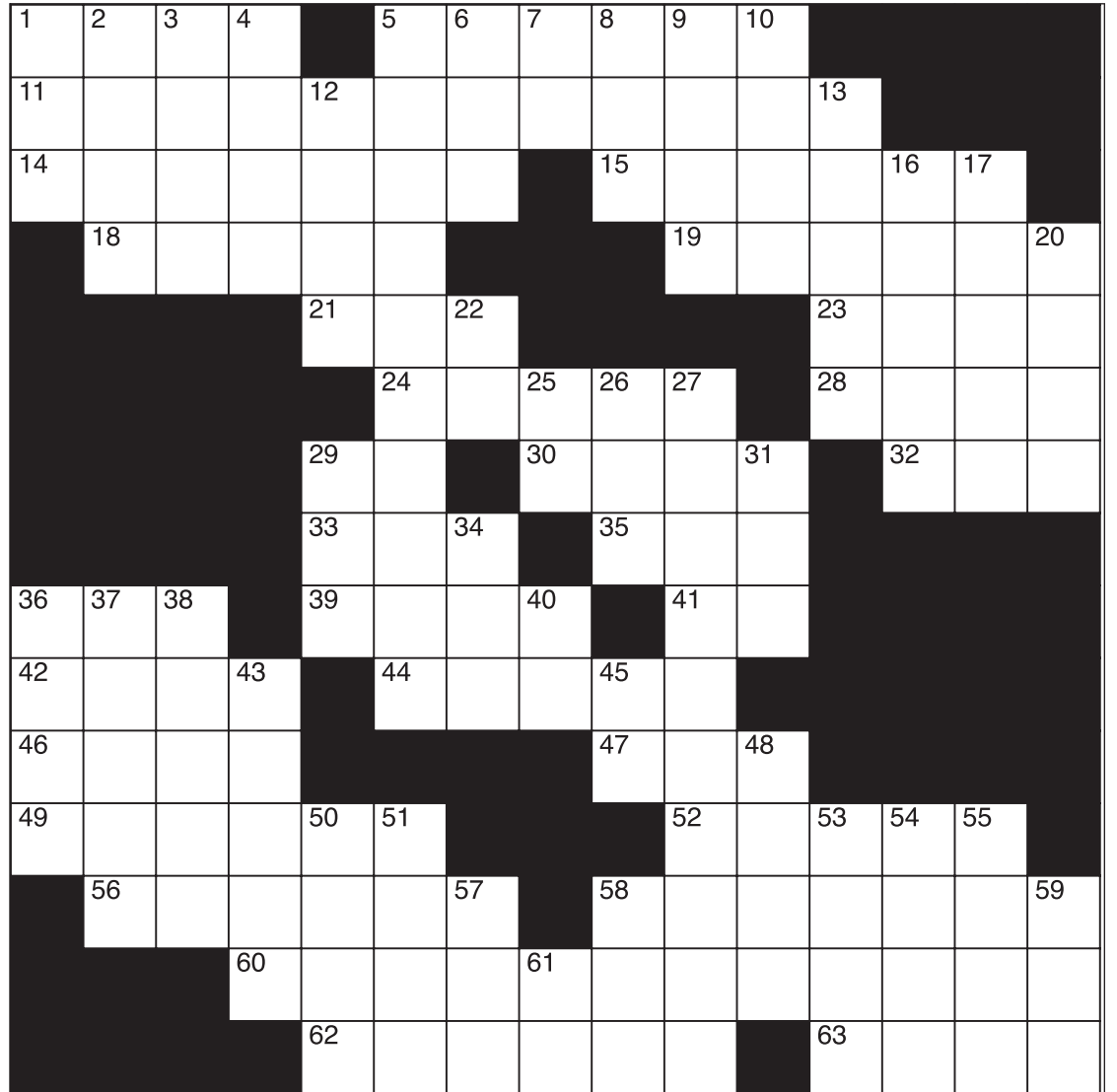
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Millisecond
5. Narcotic drug
11. Accident
14. Formal submissions
15. Popular 70s rock band
18. Discourage from doing
19. More socially elite
21. Arid
23. A way to look
24. Heroes
28. A surfer rides it
29. Potato state
30. Insect repellent
32. Cool!
33. Have already done
35. Collegiate women's fraternity
36. To the ___ degree
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood type
42. Looked over
44. Language of Cameroon and Chad
46. Species of armadillo
47. Touch softly
49. Part of your upper body
52. Large, stocky lizards
56. Lack of social or ethical standards
58. Congressman
60. Unofficial force
62. As a result of this utterance
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

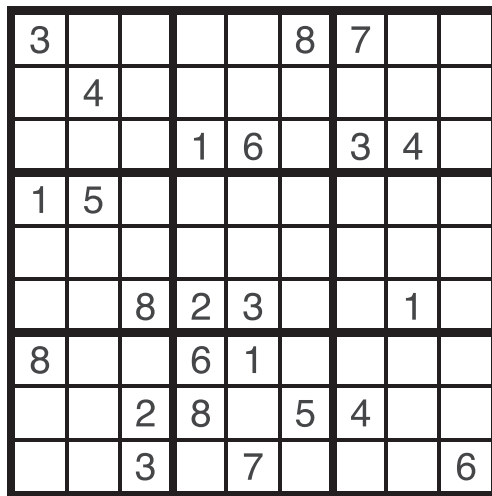
1. Woman (French)
2. Province of Pakistan
3. This (Spanish)
4. Transportation device
5. Greater in importance or priority
6. The human foot
7. Within
8. Consumed
9. Respectful Malaysian term
10. Therefore
12. Ceased to exist
13. Type of macaroni
16. English composer
17. Wooded tract
20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
22. 36 inches
25. Take too much (abbr.)
26. Allow
27. Individually
29. Journalist Tarbell
31. Bar bill
34. Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong
36. Not messy
37. Species that includes reed mace
38. Former MLB catcher Ed
40. Northern U.S. state
43. Wilt
45. Commercial
48. Bolivian river
50. Nursemaid
51. A car needs four
53. Guns (slang)
54. American state
55. Clusters of fern fronds
57. Body part
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
61. Of I



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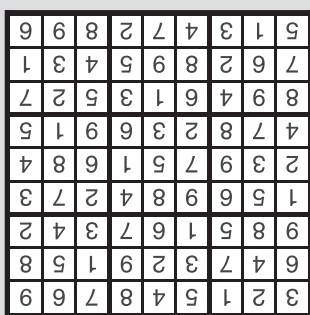
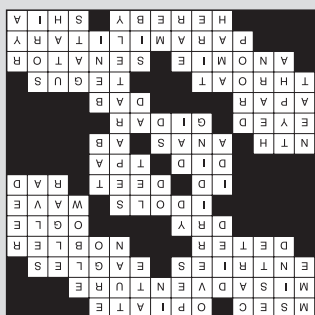
Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Rutland County Humane Society's Working Cat Program

Everyone knows cats are experts at napping but do you know they're also hard workers? They're natural rodent deterrents, and they love their jobs! If you have a farm, stable, warehouse, factory, greenhouse, nursery, winery, distillery, junkyard, storage facility, repair shop, or retail store, and you have a problem with rodents, our Working Cat Program might be the solution. Cats in the Program are spayed/neutered and have at least rabies and distemper vaccinations. These cats are those who aren't socialized enough, or have other limitations, preventing them from being placed for adoption in a home environment. This non-traditional approach allows these cats to receive shelter, access to food and water, and the care they need while offering the service of expert rodent control to their kindhearted adopters. There is no adoption fee for our working cats but a donation is greatly appreciated. To learn more about our Working Cat Program please call the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700, email them at adoptions@rchsvt.org or visit www.rchsvt.org.

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



MEET NAYA - 6-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG. BLACK AND TAN.

Shepherd lovers, meet Naya! She loves everyone she meets and greets you with a happy tail wag. She prefers larger dogs over smaller ones, and little kids are too much for her. She is smart and likes to learn. Please do your research on the breed as they are high-energy dogs that require work and regular exercise.

MEET CREAM - 2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR ORANGE & WHITE.

Cream has really come out of her shell at RCHS. She is still timid at first, but if you are patient, she is very sweet. She will need time to adjust to her new home, with a patient owner. She was surrendered to RCHS because the owner was no longer able to take care of her. She is in our Community Cat Room where she can socialize with her feline friends. She comes out at times, but you will mostly find her curled up and napping in a cat tree. Too spunky right now to be a lap cat but does love to be petted.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Here are some Large Print books donated by Brenda Whittaker that will be available when we open again on April 11!

Don't Open the Door by Allison Brennan, donated in memory of Maxine Sawyer

U.S. Marshal Regan Merritt never bought the FBI's theory that her ten-year-old son's murder was tied to her job. Yet as leads went cold, she'd had to walk away from the marshals, the case, and her now ex-husband, Grant, who blamed her for Chase's death. After Regan receives a chilling voicemail from her former boss, Tommy, claiming new information about Chase's murder, Tommy is murdered before she can return his call. Regan's determined to find the truth, but the more she digs, the more evidence points to Grant as the killer's true target. Regan discovers something much bigger and far more sinister is at play—and she's running out of people she can trust.

Love, Clancy: Diary of a Good Dog by W. Bruce

Cameron, donated in memory of Edna Jones

Best dog Clancy tells the heartwarming story of his life with his best friend JayB, and his worst enemy, a despicable cat named Kelsey.

Unnatural History by Jonathan Kellerman, donated in memory of Charles H. Whittaker

Dr. Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis return to investigate the murder of a controversial photographer, whose latest project of photographing the homeless in their "dream" situations is seen by some to be distasteful and exploitative. Has disgruntlement blossomed into homicidal rage? Or do the roots of violence reach down to the victim's family—a clan, sired by an elusive billionaire, that is bizarre in its own right? Then new murders arise, culminating in one of the deadliest threats Alex and Milo have ever faced.

I Will Find You by Harlan Coben, donated in memory of Madelyn C. Neumann

David Burroughs was once a devoted father to his three-year-old son, Matthew, until one night when David woke suddenly to discover Matthew had been murdered while David

was asleep just down the hall. Five years later, David's been wrongly accused and convicted of the murder. Then his ex-wife's younger sister, Rachel, makes a surprise appearance during visiting hours bearing a strange photograph. It's a vacation shot of a bustling amusement park that a friend shared with her, and in the background, just barely in frame, is a boy bearing an eerie resemblance to David's son. Even though it can't be, David just knows that Matthew is still alive. David plans a harrowing escape to achieve the impossible: save his son, clear his own name, and discover the real story of what happened. Can David evade capture long enough to reveal the shocking truth?

Collateral Damage by J.A. Jance, donated in memory of Meryl Sawyer

Ali Reynolds returns to investigate the connection between a serious and suspicious car accident involving her husband and their company, High Noon. Who was the real target of the "accident?" Was it Reynolds's husband or the company's driver, who has secrets—and enemies—of his own?

Brandon police department kept busy

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — On 3/20 Brandon Police received a report of a suspicious male in dark apparel by the post office in Conant Square. Officers spoke with the male, saw nothing suspicious, and did not observe any obvious signs of alcohol or drug impairment. After observing that no criminal activity had occurred, officers cleared the scene without incident.

Later that day, Officers assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a suicidal female at Mulcahy Dr. The female was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center for further treatment.

On 3/21, Brandon Police responded to a residence on Park Street for a report of a juvenile female that was trying to self-harm by cutting herself with glass. The responding officer contacted the juvenile, who had already cut herself and was bleeding, and took her into protective custody as she was trying to jump out a window at the home. The juvenile was restrained until EMS personnel arrived on-scene to administer medical care. Neither the juvenile nor officer was injured as a result of the incident. The juvenile female was subsequently taken to the Rutland Regional Medical Center by Brandon Area Rescue for medical treatment and to speak with a mental-health screener.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., Police responded to Brandon Area Rescue on Franklin Street for a report of a male that had pulled into the parking lot with chest pain. The officer stood by with the male until EMS personnel arrived on-scene and then later transported the subject to the hospital for further treatment.

At approximately 3 p.m., Brandon Police responded to a one-car motor vehicle crash on Country Club Road in which a vehicle traveling southbound left the traveled portion of the road and struck a grove of trees. The driver was uninjured, but the vehicle was a total loss. The cause of the crash was determined to be driver inattention.

On 3/22, Police responded to a business office/apartment building on Park Street for a report of a tenant that was upset over a parking issue and was causing a disturbance inside of the downstairs business. The tenant was advised by the responding officer to cease and desist with his disorderly behavior and that any further response may result in enforcement action being taken. An agreement was made between the tenant and the business concerning the parking issue and the situation was subsequently resolved.

At 10 a.m., the principal and a student from the Otter Valley Union High School called the police to report that another student had used a racial epithet towards the other during a verbal altercation between the two youths at school. The incident was documented for information purposes and the school was advised at this point that the matter was more of an administrative disciplinary issue rather than a law enforcement one.

At 5 p.m., officers responded to a report of a suspicious male at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street that was trying to solicit information from a female at the location. Contact was made with the male and it was determined that his behavior was more than likely mental-health related. The male left the business without further incident after being advised to not have any further contact with the woman he interacted with earlier.

At 8 p.m., Brandon Police responded to a domestic disturbance between a husband and wife on River Street. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the male had violated his court conditions as a result of the altercation that took place. Patrick Shores, 61, of Brandon, VT., was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division for arraignment of violating his court conditions. As of the time of this press release, the citation date and time were not available.

At 9 a.m. on 3/23, Brandon Police responded to a 911 hang up call at a residence on Basin Road. The responding officer made contact with the homeowner, who advised that there was no emergency and that she was not sure why a 911 call was dialed from her phone. It is believed that the homeowner was having a mechanical issue with her phone and she was advised to contact the phone company to have the issue looked into.

At 11:30 a.m., Brandon Police responded to an apartment in Conant Square for a report of a domestic assault between a male and female at the residence. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the female victim had been assaulted by her boyfriend and that a 2-month-old infant had been mistreated and/or neglected (See Police report, Page 19)

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

It's official! The library has closed but just for two weeks. You'll find Brandon Free Public Library up and running on April 11th in the Town Hall. This has been an effort that has many in the town pitching in. A big thank you to **Barbara Ebbing at The Bookstore** for the many ways she has helped - directing us to **Jesse Murdock**, supplying boxes, sharing the space in the basement and helping us get access. (This is where we are keeping the non-fiction and biographies of our collection.) It wouldn't have been possible without Barbara! Another person this wouldn't have come off without is **Bill Moore**. He is always calm, supportive and solving problems creatively! This week has seen the **OV Baseball team** step up to the plate yet again. Thank you to **Mike Howe (coach), Alec Beaulieu, Nolan Tripp, Jacob Wardell, Jackson Howe, Matt Bryant, Isaiah Wood, Luchian Falco, Noel Pearsons, Jordon Beayon, Andy McEnery, Brayden Chandler, Rowen Steen, Dominyk Waite, Tucker Maranville, and Lucas Polli**. They make those boxes look light! Our drivers included **Joan Rowe, Amanda Berry, Harry McEnery, and Gary Meffe**. Also helping during this move have been **Doreen O'Mara, Diane Synder (great snacks!), Andrew Cliver, Stacey Doucette, Nancy Meffe and Jacquelyn Carrigan**. Pardon any spelling errors or omissions - shoot me a text and I'll make the corrections. -Carol Fjeld



THE LIBRARY RE-OPENS APRIL 11TH

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18) during the incident by the male. The suspect fled the scene, but the investigating officer made contact with him and convinced him to turn himself in at the Brandon Police Department. Timothy Devino, 29, of Brandon, Vermont was taken into custody and flash cited into court for arraignment on March 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division for the offense(s) of Domestic Assault and Cruelty to a Child.

At 8:30 a.m. on 3/24, a motorist reported seeing a small child, wearing shorts with a blanket wrapped around him in the parking lot of the old Cattails Restaurant on Grove Street/Route 7. The responding officer checked the entire area, but could not locate anyone.

At 11:20 p.m., a tenant on Mulcahy Drive called the Brandon Police Department to have an unwanted guest removed from her apartment. The guest vacated the apartment upon the request of the responding officers and she subsequently left without any further issues.

On 3/25 at 12:15 a.m., a caller from Mulcahy Drive reported that a female had been repeatedly calling her on the phone and harassing her. The complainant was advised about her option of applying for a Stalking Order to address the matter

At 2:30 p.m., Brandon Police responded to the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street for a panic alarm activation. The responding officer, upon arrival on scene, was able to determine that a juvenile employee at the Jiffy Mart had intentionally pressed the panic button, as he was curious what the button was for. Once it was discovered that the alarm was false alarm and that no emergency was taking place, the juvenile was spoken with about the proper use of the panic alarm button.

At 10:45 p.m., A residential property check was conducted on Ella Dean Road. The officer conducting the house check found some damage to the barn located on the property and the information was related back to the homeowner.

At 6:45 p.m. on 3/26, a caller reported that there was a vehicle being operated on Route 7/Grove Street with parts of the car dropping off as it traveled down the road. An officer located the vehicle and contacted the operator. The vehicle was found to have a loose front fender which was promptly removed from the vehicle. The operator was issued a warning for defective equipment.

In other activity Brandon Police:

On March 20

- Responded to a report of suspicious person on Conant Square.
- Assisted Brandon Area Res-

cue with a suicidal female at Mulcahy Drive.

- Patrolled Park Village area.
- Received a motor vehicle complaint on Route 7.

On March 21

- Responded to a juvenile in distress on Park Street.
- Documented a minor two-car crash in the parking lot of Brandon Primary Care on Court Drive for insurance purposes.
- Responded to an accidental 911 call from Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a male that had pulled into the parking lot on Franklin Street. with chest pain.
- Responded to a one-car - crash on Country Club Road.
- Received a report of slashed tires on a car parked at a residence on Valley View Drive.
- Took fingerprints for a blasting license.
- Received information regarding drug sales on Wood Lane.
- Enforced speed on Wheeler Road and issue don ticket.
- Assisted the public to secure the Town Hall building.

On March 22

- Responded to a landlord-tenant dispute on Park Street.
- Documented a verbal altercation involving racial epithets at Otter Valley Union High School.
- Brought administrative paperwork to Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford.

Child tax credit

(Continued from Page 6) Craig Bolio is encouraging those who are eligible to file, regardless of income, in order to receive the credit.

“There are folks that may traditionally not have filed or needed to file that should consider it this year,” Bolio said. The credits “are all refundable, so that means that if the credit exceeds your liability, you get that money back,” he said.

According to the Department of Taxes, the average tax paid by income group in 2020 was \$1,000 or less for taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$50,000. The Joint Fiscal Office says this means that for filers with children under 6 who

fall below this income level, the child tax credit is likely to reduce these Vermonters’ tax liability to zero.

Alongside the child tax credit, the Vermont earned income tax credit and the child and dependent care credit increased this year to 38% and 72% of the federal credit respectively. Bolio said families who qualify for the child tax credit might meet the requirements for all three.

The 2023 deadline for filing taxes is April 18.

Vermonters interested in claiming the child tax credit can visit tax.vermont.gov for more information.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, you could use a diversion this week. When a friend seeks your company, this can be the perfect way to direct your mind somewhere else.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, financial paperwork could take up some of your time in the days to come. It's a necessary evil to keep things on track. Seek help from someone else if you get frustrated.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Speaking with someone else on a fascinating subject triggers your curious side, Libra. You may want to take a class or pursue this subject in another way.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Your emotions might get the better of you this week, Scorpio. Try to focus attention onto something that doesn't trigger negative feelings. Distraction could be the key.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Stimulating social occasions are what you need right now, Sagittarius. Such get-togethers will introduce you to new people and new ideas that can inspire.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, this week you have an opportunity to impress others and get them talking, likely changing their opinions of you. Make every effort to win others over.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

It's important to keep in touch with friends even if they have moved away, Aquarius. Phone calls, texts and video chats can bridge the gap created by physical distance.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, tally up your investments because they could be worth more than you think, especially if you are invested in real estate.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 30 **Sonny Boy Williamson I**, singer (d)
- March 31 **Chloe Zhao**, filmmaker (41)
- April 1 **Toshiro Mifune**, actor (d)
- April 2 **Emmylou Harris**, singer songwriter (76)
- April 3 **Jane Goodall**, primatologist (89)
- April 4 **Dorothea Dix**, social reformer (d)
- April 5 **Raphael**, Renaissance painter (d)

ARIES March 21-April 20

A message from a romantic partner or business associate could come this week, Aries. Keep a watchful eye on your email inbox or the regular mail.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, this week you can expect to have an interesting conversation with someone about a topic you're fond of discussing. It could spark a new friendship.

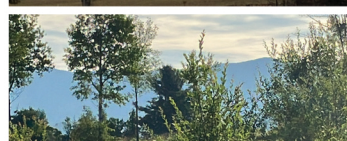
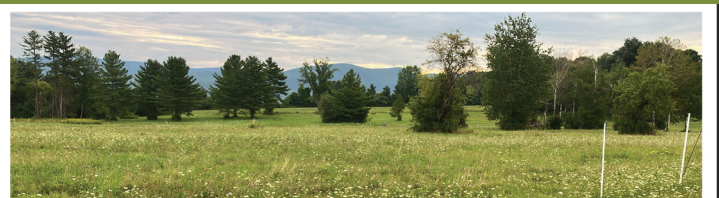
GEMINI May 22-June 21

You likely will have a lot of physical and mental energy this week, Gemini. Figure out a project you can stand behind and put that energy to good use.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Keep an eye on the front door, Cancer. A delivery may be coming your way in the next few days. It's not something you ordered, but could be a gift.

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Time

(Continued from Page 15)

It had already been adopted in railroad towns like St. Albans, with the Messenger reporting that “town time and rail road time here are one and the same.”

The new time standard technically governed only railroads, but community leaders were confident the advantages to businesses and the people at large meant any holdouts would eventually fall into line. “The smaller cities and towns will sooner or later, in the natural order of things, conform to local railroad time,” the Vermont Tribune of Ludlow predicted.

Not everyone was enamored with the new standard time. People who had to set their clocks forward complained that they had been robbed of minutes. And some people felt they had lost something else important: the link to the natural world (the connection between the sun being at its highest point and when their clocks marked noon). They wanted to return to what they called “God’s time.”

And in truth, under the new system, only a slender slice of each time zone experiences noon at true midday. The Maine communities of Bangor and Eastport went so far as to revert to local time, for a time.

But for a change that affected nearly everyone, the move went off without major glitches. Still, some adjustments had to be made. In Vermont, for example, setting the clock back meant the existing school schedule had classes ending at dusk, so Brattleboro and perhaps

other communities moved up their start and dismissal times.

The Free Press informed its readers that they no longer would have to hear the seemingly random ringing of bells to mark the time. “The new standard time was taken at every railroad station in Vermont Sunday,” the newspaper explained. “In this city the clocks on the Unitarian and College street church towers were set by the new time; the clocks in the public schools and the 9:15 signal will follow the standard.”

Some people seemed to revel in the idea of having the official time, which must have felt like a thoroughly modern way of life. The Spirit of the Age of Woodstock described a man visiting town. “He came in from the country Monday, stopped in front of J.R. Murdock’s jewelry store, looked up at the sign of the big watch, pulled out his ‘turnip’ (pocket watch), set it, and walked off as straight as the seam in an ulster (overcoat), satisfied that he had the ‘standard time.’”

Postscript:

It wasn’t until 1918 that Congress officially adopted the railroad’s time system for the nation. Not every country has done likewise. Not until just five years ago, a full century after Congress accepted railroad time, did the Russian railroad system change. Previously it had run the entire system, which crosses a startling 11 time zones, on Moscow time.



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Man dies after falling through Lake Champlain ice on his ATV

A Richmond man who was pulled from Lake Champlain Monday afternoon after he fell through the ice on an ATV several hundred feet from shore has died, according to police.

Donald P. "Jonesy" Jones, 82, died Monday evening at Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans, police said in a press release Monday night.

Authorities responded to a report of a man falling through the ice around 2:15 p.m. near the intersection of Church and Hance roads in Swanton, Vermont State Police said Monday afternoon.

Jones was brought to shore about 30 minutes after the emergency call was made. He was taken to Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans with life-threatening injuries, police said earlier.

Jones' death is not consid-

ered suspicious, according to police, but a state trooper is investigating his death, as is typical in such cases. The Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington is set to perform an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has warned of unsafe ice conditions since early February, when three fishermen died after falling through the

ice in the span of a few days. Among them were two brothers, who died on Feb. 11 after their side-by-side utility task vehicle fell through thin ice.

Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick instructed recreators to "stay off Lake Champlain" in a February press release, warning that warm weather meant unsafe ice conditions.

Restaurant guide

Restaurant



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Police report

(Continued from Page 19)

- Took fingerprints for a coaching position, a childcare license, and childcare employment.
 - Responded to a report of a suspicious person at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.
 - Assisted Vermont Department of Health by slowing traffic as they filmed a public service video related to pedestrian safety on Park Street.
 - Responded to a domestic disturbance on River Street.
- On March 23**
- Responded to a 911 Hangup on Basin Road.
 - Responded to a domestic disturbance on Conant Square.
 - Took fingerprints for teaching license.
 - Enforced speed on Wheeler Road.
- On March 24**
- Reposednded to a report of a wandering child
 - Spoke with a woman at the Brandon Police Department about trespass notices and Relief From Abuse Orders.
 - Enforced speed on McConnell Road and issued a warning.
 - Made traffic stops on McConnell Road and Church Street. Issue warning for speeding and defective equipment.
 - Removed an unwanted guest from a residence on Mulcahy Drive.
- On March 25**
- Received a report from a Mulcahy Drive resident of threats/harassment.
 - Made traffic stops on Grove Street and Franklin Street. Issued a warning for speeding, two tickets for red light violations, and a ticket for failing to use a turn signal.
 - Responded to an alarm at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. the panic alarm button.
 - Made Sex Offender Registry Checks throughout the Town of Brandon.

Property Watch Mount Pleasant Dr Brandon Police Department conducted a requested property watch on a residence on Mount Pleasant Drive.

Property Watch Ella Dean Rd A residential property check was conducted on Ella Dean Road. The officer conducting the house check found some damage to the barn located on the property and the information was related back to the homeowner.

On March 26

Directed speed enforcement was conducted on Grove Street. One traffic stop was conducted. The operator was issued a ticket for speeding and a warning for not having proof of insurance

Traffic Stop Grove Street. Motor-vehicle stop for speeding on Grove Street. Ticket issued to the operator for speeding and a warning was issued for not having proof of insurance in the vehicle at the time of the stop.

Motor vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued to the operator.

A caller reported that there was

a vehicle being operated on Route 7/Grove Street with parts of the car dropping off as it traveled down the road. An officer located the vehicle and made contact with the operator. The vehicle was found to have a loose front fender which was promptly removed from the vehicle. The operator was issued a warning for defective equipment.

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT FEMA

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain. Funding would be provided through VT Emergency Management to the Town of Brandon to demolish a building that has experienced repeated flood damage.

The project is to purchase and demolish a one-story building on Newton Road in Brandon. Equipment would be staged in the driveway and no tree removal would occur. The driveway and slab foundation would also be removed. The site would be filled, graded, and seeded and maintained as open space.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain; Zone AO). Project construction could temporarily adversely affect the floodplain; however, the action would eliminate flood risk to people and property and floodplain functions would be restored at the site in the long-term. Grant conditions will also require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator. A map of the area of available upon request.

Work must take place in the floodplain in order to remove the structures. Alternatives included no action and elevation; however, demolition provides a permanent solution to the continued flood risk.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

Karen Vale, Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Boston, MA
karen.vale@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 699-0650

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15th, 2023, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), *Bacillus sphaericus* (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

Exclusion requests need to be renewed annually. Please send a written request to the OCW mail or email address below.

In accordance with paragraph 6.06 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has obtained a permit to conduct larvicide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:
Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair
or
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwicd@gmail.com
https://ocwicd.com

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
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Town Clerk's office will be open to the public on Friday, March 31st for dog licensing.

PITTSFORD/FLORENCE, VT Municipal Water Users

The 2022 Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2022, as reported in 2023, is now available to all Pittsford and Florence, Vermont municipal water users. Copies of the Report have been mailed out to every user. If you did not receive a report, copies are available at the Town Office located at 426 Plains Road, Pittsford, VT or by phoning (802) 483-6500 x 130. Legal notices have been posted at the Town Office, Pittsford Post Office, Keith's Country Store, and the Maclure Library. The reports can also be viewed on the Town's website www.pittsfordvermont.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after May 1st, 2023, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of PermaSease 4-4 (a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide) and Fyfanon (in the malathion family) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for PermaSease 4-4 or Fyfanon. Spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwicd.com/route-maps>. At least six hours in advance of spraying, specific route information will be posted to <https://ocwicd.com/public-notice>.

The OCW call center phone number is (802) 247-6779; the call center will take requests for treatment during the season.

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, please send a letter listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone numbers, the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at <https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

In accordance with paragraph 6.07 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has applied for a permit to conduct truck-mounted mosquito adulticide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:
Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair
or
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwicd@gmail.com
https://ocwicd.com

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 522-6973
Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

Gardening Corner

(Continued from Page 11)

about my gardens is that my plants spread so quickly. I hate to throw anything away, so I just keep digging up my extras and adding more gardens. Although I only have perennials in the gardens, I do have lots of annuals in the ground, in window boxes and

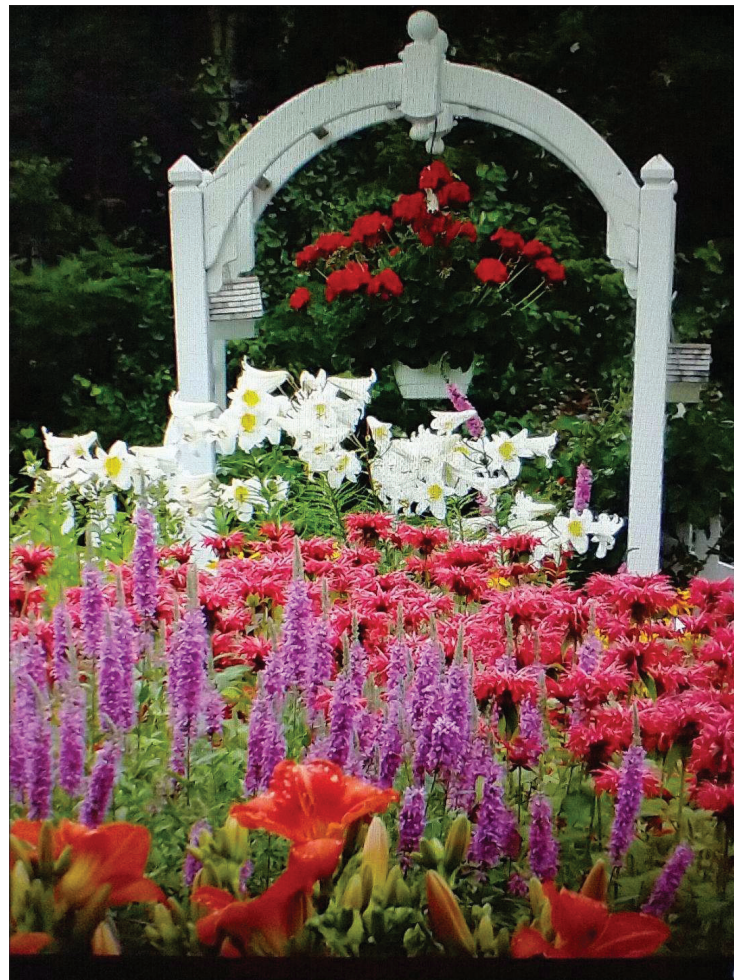
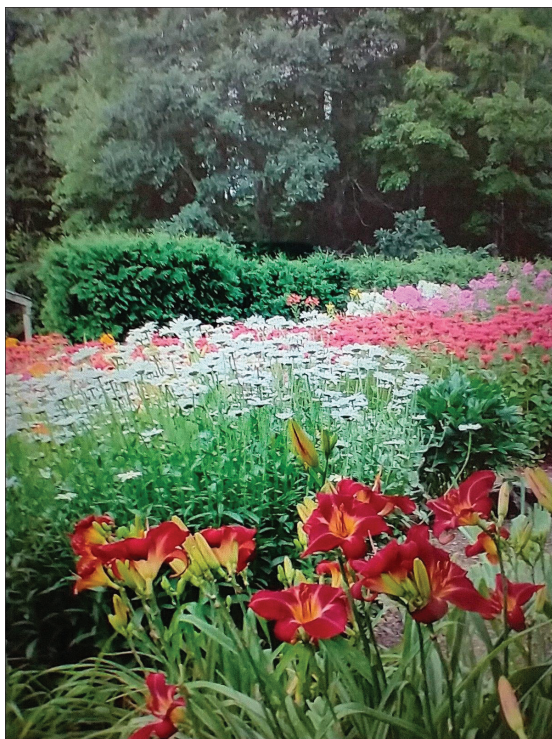
as hanging plants. I have shrubs around the house. I have oriental lilies in my garden but other than that I don't plant a lot of bulbs.

I do everything myself in my garden. I plant and weed, mulch and move plants, anything and everything that has to do with the garden, I'm the one. I'm

very fussy so I like to do things myself. And I also ask myself, 'what's the point of having a garden if you don't do the work yourself?' My husband helps me, of course. He edges the gardens, sets up watering systems, and digs out the sod for new beds. And he helps me mulch and cut back in the fall. We're getting older, so I have fi-

nally decided to cut back on some of the gardens because it's getting to be too much. It's great when you're young but I'm older now, so I'm cutting back. I will always have gardens, because I truly love them and they're very relaxing to work in, just not so many.

When I started gardening, I didn't have a particular garden in mind. I didn't have a clue as to what to do. But I read books and I looked at plenty of photos and I went on garden tours. I visited the Boston Garden Show and the Flower Show in Burlington. That's where I got the idea for a water garden. My husband built the whole pond with a filtration system, and I filled it in with shrubs and flowers. We put in the first small water garden in 1992 and made it bigger in 1996. We bought koi fish and some goldfish. They've multiplied over the years and we've given many away. The fish garden is the one most loved by visitors. I love spending my time in my garden. Nothing else matters when I'm working there. I so enjoy having people stop and admire them. I love giving tours, meeting new people, sharing my garden sto-



ries, and helping people start their own gardens.

Jane's advice for beginners:

- Start small.
- Plant daylilies and irises be-

cause they are so hard to kill.

- Plant rose mallow and phlox, too, as they spread.

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