

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 33

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

\$1

UNCOVERING THE TRUTH

New details in Leicester murder case.

PG. 4



OPERA FOR ALL VERMONT

BARN OPERA unveils Opera Vermont, a new project to bring opera to all of Vermont.

PG. 7



GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais discusses harvesting and canning as the growing season begins to wind down.

PG. 14

HISTORY GOES MODERN

The first electric snowmobile was used in the American Birkebeiner Ski Race in Vermont.

PG. 19



CAR ACCIDENT

Major accident causes injuries to three and destroys two cars on Route 7 in Leicester.

PG. 2



ADAM YOUNG IS flanked by his staff at the fundraiser for Vermont flood victims, held in Mystic, Connecticut. Photos provided

Leicester's Adam Young hosts Flood Relief Fundraiser

BY GEORGE FJELD

LEICESTER—You may leave Vermont, but Vermont never leaves you. As many of you may or may not know, “Best Baker in America” Adam Young grew up on a small dairy farm in Leicester. Young won the second season of the show in 2018. He has also appeared on the

Spring Baking Championship, Chopped Sweets, and Worst Cooks in America. Adam, his wife Ebbie and their hospitality family were all heartbroken to see the catastrophic damage that has occurred from the intense rain and flooding this summer in Vermont. To help assist with VT

(See Adam Young, Page 8)

Brandon native sets world record at timbersports competition

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Though lots of Vermonters chop their own firewood, very few of them are so skilled in the ways of the axe that they can chop through a standing block of wood in 30 seconds, whittling down the wood like a beaver on steroids. Yet Brandon native Samantha Graves (née Patch) did just that at the 2023 Stihl (“steel”) Timbersports competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 28, setting a world record in that event and coming in fourth overall.

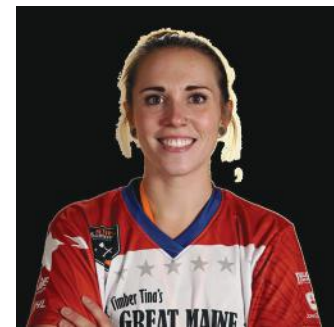
Graves, 27, grew up in Brandon and graduated from Otter Valley in 2013. According to her mother, Terrie Patch, Graves was

always athletic, playing sports such as lacrosse and field hockey at OV. But it wasn’t until she arrived at Paul Smith’s College, in the Adirondack region of upstate New York, that she showed any interest in “timbersports,” which is essentially competitive lumberjacking.

“I hadn’t heard much about [timbersports] prior to that,” said Graves. “My room mate

convinced me to try out for the school team in the second semester of my freshman year. It was a ton of fun. I loved the teams I was on. As a professional, it’s an

(See Samantha Graves, Page 21)



SAMANTHA GRAVES

Hilltop Tavern reinvigorates Pittsford Pub & Grill

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Erynn and Andy Doaner know the hospitality business. Though he now works for G Stone Commercial in Middlebury, Andy grew up around restaurants—his first jobs were in commercial kitchens and his father was the General Manager of Denny’s in Rutland. And Erynn has been running the ever-popular Mae’s Place in Brandon for years, serving breakfast and lunch to loyal customers who flock to the restaurant for eggs and pancakes every weekend.

But now they’ve taken on a new enterprise: they’ve purchased the Pittsford Bar & Grill from Andy’s parents, Ellraina and Tim Blow, and reopened it as the Hilltop Tavern.

The Hilltop is in a central location in Pittsford village, nestled among the Post Office, the library, and Kamuda’s Market, right off Route 7. And the Doaners are hoping it will become the sort of place that people come in for beers, food, and conversation on their way home after work.

“We had a ‘soft opening’ on Thursday [August 10],” said Andy. “It was lots of locals and old regulars. Our pool league came in. The two teams played each other.” The official opening was on Saturday the 12th.

“We want to provide a place where everyone is welcome and you can talk to someone you might not typically talk to,” he continued.

(See Hilltop Tavern, Page 9)



ERYNN AND ANDY Doaner stand beneath the banner announcing the opening of Hilltop Tavern, formerly Pittsford Pub & Grill, on Arch Street in Pittsford village. The Doaners are hoping the tavern will be a place where people will forge new friendships. Photo by Steven Jupiter

Serious accident snarls Route 7 in Leicester

BY STEVEN JUPITER

LEICESTER—A little after 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 13, Victoria Racine was traveling north on Route 7 and failed to notice Toby Gay's Chevy Silverado waiting to make a left turn ahead of her in the same northbound lane. Her Jeep Compass collided into the rear of the Silverado, sending the truck across the yellow line into southbound traffic, where it struck a camper that was hitched to Chaz Pike's Dodge Ram.

Ms. Racine and her passenger, Cale Quenneville, Jr., both sustained major, non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center. Racine, 21, is a resident of Middlebury and Quenneville, 30, is a resident of Brandon. Racine's Jeep was totaled.

Mr. Gay, 49, received minor injuries and was not transported to the hospital. He is a resident of Shoreham. His Silverado was totaled.

Chaz Pike, 22, and his passenger Nathan Mattison, 25, were not injured. Both are residents of Sandgate, Vermont. The camper they were pulling

sustained major damage and its contents were strewn about the roadway.

Vermont State Police were assisted at the scene by the Brandon Fire Department, the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, and Middlebury Regional Ambulance.

It is not known at this time whether any criminal charges or civil complaints have been filed.



THREE PEOPLE WERE injured, two of them seriously, in a collision on Route 7 in Leicester that was caused by a driver's inattention to the road ahead of her. Two cars and a camper were totaled in the accident.

Photos by David Roberts

Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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Brandon Selectboard discusses constable and contaminants

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Monday evening. Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore was not present. Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith was present via Zoom.

When the minutes from the previous meeting were presented for approval, Board member Tim Guiles suggested that the Board alter the approach it has generally taken to the process of compiling the minutes, in which Recording Secretary Charlene Bryant provides an almost verbatim record of what was said.

Instead, Mr. Guiles suggested that the minutes should reflect the business that was settled more than the conversations surrounding it, highlighting the motions made and the outcomes of the subsequent votes. These changes, Guiles felt, would make it easier for readers to understand what actions were ultimately taken by the Board.

After a brief discussion in which the Board was generally amenable to the proposed change, it was decided that moving forward, the minutes would highlight motions and outcomes, with minimal reference to the surrounding discussion. It was noted that anyone who wished to hear the full discussion about any item during a particular meeting could access the Zoom recording of that meeting.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins then presented highlights from his report, the full text of which is available on the town website in the Selectboard packet for August 14.

Mr. Hopkins noted that Arnold District Road will be closed for construction on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week. He also noted that Newton Road remains closed except to residents.

The town has made progress reducing both the dollar amount and number of property-tax delinquencies, Mr. Hopkins said. In May, there were 139 properties that owed a total of \$532,729 and, after the town issued a warning letter, there are now 72 properties that owe a total of \$427,801. The town has not seen a similar decrease in delinquencies for water and sewer bills, since an additional bill had gone out between the town's warning letter in May and the present. In May, there were 108 properties with delinquent water & sewer bills totaling

\$345,372. In August, there are 142 properties with delinquent water & sewer bills totaling \$434,844.

Mr. Hopkins also noted that because of the necessary warnings and deed research, the next tax sale of delinquent properties would likely take place in December or January.

The town is preparing to demolish 3 houses that were recently purchased as part of the FEMA flood-mitigation plan. An on-site visit to Newton Road was arranged for contractors interested in bidding on the demolition. Nine contractors showed up, which Mr. Hopkins took as a sign that the town will have several good bids to choose from.

Mr. Hopkins also asked the Board to appoint 2 members to oversee the process to replace Highway Foreman Shawn Erickson, who is scheduled to leave his position at the end of January 2024. The position will be posted internally at first, allowing current employees an opportunity to apply before the position is advertised to the public. The Board appointed Chair Tracy Wyman and member Brian Coolidge to manage the search.

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union has announced that it is looking into purchasing electric school buses and will use Brandon to test out the program.

Recreation Department Director Bill Moore was not present at the meeting—he was attending a conference in Randolph—and his report was not discussed in his absence. The full text of it is available on the town website in the Selectboard packet for 8/14.

In the public comment segment of the meeting, Mr. Wyman asked that the Board draw up a plan for the use of the remaining ARPA funds before the beginning of budget season in November.

Attendee Ralph Ethier asked whether the wastewater plant project was on budget, given the summer shutdown while the contractor waited for delayed equipment. Mr. Hopkins stated that there have not been any additional, unexpected expenses thus far and it looks like everything is on schedule, which generally means on budget.

The Board turned its attention to the Union Street sidewalk project. The Board needed to decide the ultimate scope of the project, whether the sidewalk will go down both sides of Union or only one, and whether the water

and sewer lines will be replaced during the project as well. It was decided that the project should include both sides of the street and the replacement of water and sewer lines. Ultimately, it will be cheaper to do it all now than to do it piecemeal over time.

"It's kind of crazy not to do the whole thing," said Mr. Wyman.

The total cost is now estimated to be \$1.569 million. Some of the cost of the project will be covered by the Water District, some by existing grants, and some by grants that will be obtained.

"There are different pots of money we can go after," said Mr. Guiles.

Mr. Guiles also brought up the report the town received from KAS Environmental Science & Engineering regarding contaminants from the town landfill potentially seeping into the town's drinking water supplies.

Though the report found elevated levels of certain substances, such as lead, manganese, and arsenic, KAS did not recommend any remediation at this point, since the landfill is situated at a remove from the source of anyone's drinking water. KAS recommended two more rounds of testing over time to determine whether levels were sustained and thus requiring mitigation. The report also noted that the levels of contamination at the landfill have declined from their peak. The full report is available on the town website in the Selectboard packet for 8/14.

The Board approved a warrant in the amount of \$975 and a warrant in the amount of \$663,801.82. Mr. Wyman abstained from the vote on the larger warrant.

The meeting wrapped up with a lengthy discussion about the position of town constable. Every town in Vermont is required either to put the position on the ballot or to authorize its Selectboard to fill

the position through an appointment. Brandon's voters chose appointment in 2014, but the position has remained vacant (towns are not required to have a constable). The Board had received two applications for the position and initiated a discussion as to whether the position was needed.

A constable would answer to the Selectboard, not to the Police Department, and would serve in various capacities: helping the Animal Control Officer, aiding the Health Officer, assisting with tax collection, serving papers (divorce, restraining orders, etc.), among other duties. The parameters of the position would be set by the Selectboard. Under Vermont law, a constable who is also a law enforcement officer has all of the powers of a law enforcement officer within town where they serve as constable. So, essentially, the constable could help enforce the

town's civil ordinances and policies.

But the Selectboard had not determined before the meeting what the specific parameters of the position would be and had scheduled an executive session to discuss the parameters of the position and to choose between the two candidates if the Board decided to move forward with the appointment.

The two applicants for the position were Oscar Gardner and Joseph Mannino. Mr. Mannino is currently an officer with the Brandon Police Department and spoke at the meeting on his own behalf. Both applications are available in the Selectboard packet for 8/14.

After some questions from the room regarding the scope of the position, including whether the constable would be uniformed and/or armed, whether the position would enjoy the same qualified immunity as police officers, and whether it was appropriate to set the parameters of the position in executive session, the Board declined to move forward with an appointment. Board members Tim Guiles and Cecil Reniche-Smith had openly questioned the necessity of the position.

The Board did not need to enter executive session and the meeting was adjourned.

"It's kind of crazy not to do the whole thing,"

—Tracy Wyman
Chair of the Selectboard

The report also noted that the levels of contamination at the landfill have declined from their peak.

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New details emerge in Leicester murder probe after suspect arrested in Maine

BY ALAN J. KEAYS

A Brooklyn, New York, man arrested in Maine on a federal firearms offense is wanted on a murder charge in Vermont, stemming from a fatal shooting in June in Leicester.

Zaquikon T. Roy, 35, was arrested Thursday in Lewiston, Maine, on a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm, an offense that allegedly occurred in Vermont, according to court filings.

Roy made an initial appearance Friday in U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine, on the charge and federal Magistrate Judge Karen Frink Wolf ordered him held until he is transferred to Vermont for further proceedings, court records stated.

The gun charge stems from an incident in April 2021 when police recovered a firearm while executing a search warrant for a vehicle in Fair Haven, according to court records, and it was traced back to Roy.

Court filings at that time state that Roy had prior felony convictions, making it illegal for him to possess a firearm.

According to court filings in that federal case against Roy, on June 4 the FBI and Vermont State Police began investigating the shooting of two brothers — Scott Lanpher, 35, who died of gunshot wounds to his upper body, and Larry Lanpher Jr., 31, who was seriously injured.

As a result of that investigation, court records stated, a warrant was issued in Addison County Superior criminal court in Middlebury for Roy's arrest on state charges, including murder and attempted murder.

Police have released few details related to the Leicester fatal shooting but a filing in federal court provides additional information about what authorities believe took place.

Court records stated that investigators found Scott Lanpher dead

on the driveway from an apparent gunshot wound, and fired bullet casings on the ground near his body.

Investigators say they also learned that Larry Lanpher lived in one of the campers on the property and had also been shot. He was taken by ambulance to Porter Medical Center in Middlebury and later the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, where he was treated for his injuries.

As authorities investigated the case, court filings stated, they learned that Scott and Larry Lanpher, "among others," met with Roy in the parking lot of the Hannaford Supermarket in Middlebury on June 4. During that meeting, according to the filings, the group bought cocaine from Roy, and after receiving the cocaine and later weighing it, determined that it was less than what they had paid for.

A member of the group contacted Roy, who agreed to meet them later that evening to provide more cocaine to make up for the shortage, court documents stated, and when Scott and Larry Lanpher arrived at the property where they lived along Route 7 in Leicester, Roy was already there.

"Although witness statements varied, the common theme among the witnesses was that a disagreement began between Scott and Larry Lanpher Jr., and Roy, about controlled substances," court documents stated. "Witnesses reported Roy was the person responsible for shooting Scott Lanpher [fatally] and Larry Lanpher Jr. [non-fatally]."

Two days after the shootings, according to court filings, investigators interviewed Larry Lanpher at the University of Vermont Medical Center. He reported that Roy had come to his camper in Leicester and his brother, Scott Lanpher, went outside to buy cocaine from Roy, the court documents stated.



A rare beauty

THIS ONE OF two Red-necked phalaropes seen in a Salisbury mudflat. Migrating from the high Arctic to southern climes

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Mendon Fish & Game Club will host annual 3-D Bow Shoot

Pittsford, Vermont: The Mendon Fish & Game Club will be holding their annual 3-D Bow shoot on Saturday, August 26 (7am-3pm), and Sunday, August 27 (7am-1pm) at the Mendon Fish & Game Club's location at 3547 Chittenden Road, Pittsford, Vermont. This event is a must for all archery enthusiasts and

will boast a great course layout and numerous targets. Cost is \$15.00 for Day One, and \$10.00 for Day Two. Children 12 and under \$10.00. There will be a concession stand and door prize giveaways.

Directions to the shoot: at the corner of Routes 4 & 7, take Route 4 east, 4 miles and turn

left at Sugar & Spice Restaurant onto Meadow Lake Drive. Go 1 mile to Chittenden Road. Turn right and Mendon Fish & Game Club is on the left.

For more information call Paul at 802.773.4118.

Vermont's Resident Canada Goose Season set for Sept. 1-25

Vermont's resident Canada goose hunting season will be held September 1 through September 25 to help control Vermont's resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

The season will be open statewide with a daily bag limit of five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of Vermont.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant birds will be held October 14-November 27 with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese

in the Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Vermont Zone.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the second Canada goose season will be October 5-November 3, and November 22-December 21 with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese.

For a second year, a late Canada goose season will be held targeting resident birds. Within the Lake Champlain and Interior zones, the season will be held from December 1 to January 6, with a five-bird daily bag limit. The season will run December 22 to January 6 in the Connecticut River zone and applies only to the lands of the zone, not Connecticut River waters.

A hunting license is required, and a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry current federal and Vermont duck stamps. Federal stamps are sold at post offices, federal refuges and on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website <https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php>. Vermont is not one of the states where you can buy an electronic federal duck stamp, but you can purchase one from any state that sells them.

Vermont duck stamps can be added to your hunting license on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and through license agents.

(See Canada Goose, Page 5)

The REPORTER

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

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Calling Brandon Democrats – join us on September 17 at 3pm!

Please consider becoming involved in the Brandon Town Democratic Committee. We welcome all levels of participation! In Vermont, town committees are the foundation of the Vermont Democratic Party organization. These committees do the organizing that allows the party to connect with voters across the state and build social infrastructure in our towns and counties. This enables people with similar values to work together to build a better, stronger Vermont. On September 17, the Brandon Democratic Party will have its reorganizational meeting to select a chair and other officers. This

meeting is an opportunity for people to become official members of the Brandon Democratic Party. Through this committee you will have input on decision-making and become informed of events within the Democratic Party at the local, county, and state level. In recent years, Brandon has been largely voting Democratic - over the last six sessions, Brandon has been represented by Democrats in the VT House of Representatives. However, our local town committee has not experienced an increase in the number of people who are actively involved. We would like to change that and welcome

more folks to get involved. Participation could be purely social or as an officer on the Committee - this is up to you. We are planning an informal get-together at the Red Clover Ale Co. for September 17 at 3pm. This will be an opportunity for newcomers, long-time residents, and all of us in between to get acquainted and to learn about what's going on in the local Democratic Party. Let's continue to strive for a Vermont that works for all of us. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Clark at 802-247-3935 or Stephanie Jerome at 802-683-8209.

August 24th is the correct date for the HOPE Food Truck

The HOPE Food Truck is returning to Shoreham to bring free food to low-income people in our area! On Thursday, August 24 between 2 and 3 PM, the HOPE Food Truck will be in the parking lot of the Shoreham Congregational Church to offer free non-perishable items as well as available fresh produce

on a first-come first-served basis. Supplies from all major food groups will be available. If you have a neighbor who is unable to come during this time, you may pick up food for them. HOPE is trying to help people get enough food during these trying times. Please bring your own bags.

Canada Goose

(Continued from Page 4)

The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.). This can be done on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website or by calling toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will

receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which you then need to record on your hunting license.

A printable copy of migratory bird hunting regulations can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website under "Hunt" - "Waterfowl." A printed version is available from license agents and post offices.

Vermont bear hunting starts in September

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says bear hunting season starts in September and reminds hunters about the bear hunting regulations.

Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early season, which requires a special bear tag, starts September 1, and continues through November 10 with one exception. Nonresident hunters using dogs cannot start bear hunting until September 15. The late bear season begins November 11 and continues through November 19. A

hunter may only take one bear during the year.

In addition to a hunting license, a bear hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a prior or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

The hunter must field dress the bear before taking it to a reporting station. It is also legal to skin the bear and cut it up in order to carry it out of the woods. Although the bear must be reported within 48 hours,

Fish and Wildlife urges doing so quickly to cool the meat. The hunter must also collect and submit a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population.

Upon the request of a game warden, a person harvesting a bear is required to return to the kill site with a game warden.

"Bears will be feeding along power lines and in forest open-

(See Bear hunting Page 9)



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Obituaries

Roger Charles Currier, 82, Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE—Roger Charles Currier, age 82, passed peacefully with family by his side on Friday, August 11, 2023, at his home in Weybridge.

Roger was born in Orwell on September 3, 1940. He was the son of Charles and Grace (Perkins) Currier. He grew up in Whiting, where he received his early education. Roger spent his earlier years on the family farm in Whiting. He later began working as a welder, for Polymer Plastics/Specialty Filaments in East Middlebury. He retired in 2006, following 35 years of service. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, tending his property, especially his garden. He loved going to the Tractor Pulls at Addison County Field Days.

He is survived by his Partner in Life of 50 years, Charlene



ROGER CHARLES CURRIER

Hier of Weybridge; 2 daughters (Heather Betourney and her husband Jason of Bridport and Missy Perry of Naples, FL), a son (Daniel Currier and his wife Rhonda of Leicester), 1 brother (David Currier and his wife Carol of Leicester), and 2

sisters (Beverly Rosenquist and her husband Guy of Conway, SC and Glenda Felion and her husband Ron of Leicester). 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents, a son (Scott Currier), and his brother Wayne Currier.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 11 AM, at Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to Addison County Benefit Pull, P.O. Box 126, Vergennes, VT 05491.

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

Henry Gary Beauregard, 79, Brandon

BRANDON—Henry Gary Beauregard, age 79, passed away Sunday, August 13, 2023, at his home in Brandon.

Henry was born in Rutland on December 21, 1943. He was the son of Theodore “Red” and Arretta “Ret” (Gregory) Beauregard. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1962. He began his working career as an Automotive Body Man, with Ryan Chevrolet in Brandon. He later spent many years working as a body man for Alderman’s Chevrolet in Rutland. He afterwards worked at New England Woodcraft, un-



HENRY BEAUREGARD

til being forced to retire due to health reasons in 1997. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and loved his boat. He loved the ocean and eating seafood and

spent many summer vacations at Hampton Beach. Henry was very proud and meticulous when caring for his cars and property.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Senecal) Beauregard of Brandon, whom he married in Middlebury on September 22, 1962; one daughter, Cheryl Nicklaw and her husband John and their son, Colin Nicklaw, all of Leicester. He was preceded in death by his son Timothy and his sister Shirley Smith.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot, at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Brandon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Addison County Humane Society, 234 Boardman St. Middlebury, VT 05753.

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

BRANDON REPORTER

Notes from the Pulpit

Learning from our forebears: all are welcome

BY GEORGE VALLEY

There is an old adage from Spanish philosopher George Santayana, and later Winston Churchill, that says, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.” I totally agree with this adage. Over the past few years we have seen that this closed-minded lack of a grounded vision has hurt many people and shaken our democracy.

I would like to change this philosophy into a more positive one: those who do not learn history cannot find positive models for living and repeat them.

Recently, I was called to be the Pastor at the United Church of West Rutland, formerly known as West Parish. It is the oldest Congregational church in Rutland County, founded in 1773. What makes this little community so special is that in 1788, just fifteen years after it was founded, they called Lemuel Haynes to be their pastor. What is so important about that? Well, he was the first Black person ordained in the United States, at Torrington, Connecticut, in 1785. Previously he served in Ethan Allen’s Green Mountain Boys during the American Revolution.

Vermont is known as a state of firsts. One of those firsts occurred in West Parish, whose people saw the deep faith and leadership abilities of Reverend Haynes and called him to be their pastor, a position he held for 30 years.

In 1804, just a few years after its founding, prestigious Middlebury College, at its second commencement, awarded Haynes a Master of Arts De-

gree in recognition of his leadership and scholarship. His was the fourth degree given by the school and the first to an African-American.

In 1818, when Haynes was released from his pastoral and ministerial relation with the West Parish, they recommended him with the following words. “We do cheerfully recommend the Reverend Lemuel Haynes, as a tried and faithful minister of Jesus Christ, to all or any of the Churches, where God in his providence, shall call him to preach the word, and administer the seal of the covenant of grace.” He next served in Manchester, Vermont for three years and then moved to Granville, New York, for another eleven years of ministry.

When he died in 1833, at the age of 80, The New England Review wrote, “He possessed an intellect peculiarly original and fruitful, which being sanctified by divine grace, rendered him not only a popular, but very useful preacher.”

Why can’t we learn from the positive things that happened in our own Vermont history and follow the example of our forebears’ work to make our country a better place for all? If the good people of West Rutland could see with the eyes of faith what Lemuel Haynes was, then why can’t we? Jesus welcomed and dined with all people especially those that the leaders of his synagogue would not even recognize. Do we want to follow Jesus and welcome all, or would we rather be like the Pharisees and Sadducees, who instead of loving and helping all, especially those in need, puffed themselves up with self-

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BARN OPERA gives operatic voice to all VT through Opera Vermont

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—For the last five years, BARN OPERA has drawn people from all over Vermont to Brandon. Its trademark red barn on Pearl Street has become a haven for performers and music lovers alike,

a generous serving of sophistication in a rustic setting. But founder, performer, and Artistic Director Josh Collier has set his sights on something bigger: the entire state of Vermont.

And so was born Opera Vermont, a new partnership among

three highly esteemed cultural institutions that represent the geographic length of the state: Highland Center for the Performing Arts in Greensboro in the north, BARN OPERA in Brandon in the center, and Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester in the south. With this triumvirate, professional opera will no longer be a rarity in Vermont. Ultimately, with additional partners, the goal is “to provide an opportunity for every Vermonter to be within 30 minutes of a live operatic performance” at some point during the calendar year, said Collier.

To inaugurate the collaboration, BARN OPERA/Opera Vermont will be presenting a series of concerts at the partnering venues in September, featuring BARN OPERA’s own Josh Collier, Cailin Marcel Manson, and Nicholas Tocci. They will be

joined by Vermont-based soprano Kyra Miller-Himmelbaum and newcomer Kathleen Echols Crumbacher, who participated in BARN OPERA’s vocal training program in Italy, Opera al Mare. The performers will be led from the piano by BARN OPERA’s principal pianist Claire Black.

The first of these concerts

will take place on Thursday, September 14 at the Highland Center. Then on Friday, September 15, the ensemble moves to the Southern Vermont Arts Center. The program will be a mélange of opera and musical theater, with an opportunity to meet the performers after the concert.

(See BARN OPERA, Page 21)



ANDREA CHINEDU NWOKE (left) and Josh Collier (right) in BARN OPERA’s 2021 production of Tosca. It was the first production the company staged at their trademark red barn on Pearl Street.

Notes from the Pulpit

(Continued from Page 6)

importance and only lived by the letter of the law? They never allowed it to transform them into loving and caring people.

The answer Jesus gave, not in words but in deeds, and the willingness to see with eyes of faith that the good people of West Parish practiced is ours for the following, if we dare to

do so.

The United Church of West Rutland celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. We will have special musical programs and presentations later this year.

In the meantime, all are also welcome to join us in worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. at 60 Chapel Street in West Rutland.

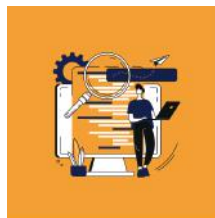
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Town improvement in action, join us!

A team of volunteers including Serge Cotnoir, Jeff Haylon, Wyatt Waterman, and Wade Davis, as well as the stalwart folks pictured left, installed new bike racks with signage at the following locations in town:

- Behind the Brandon Inn (2 racks)
- Behind the new Dunkin Donuts (2 racks)
- Next to the entrance to Town Hall (2 racks)
- In front of the Post Office (1 rack)
- In front of the Brandon Museum (1 rack)

Still to come: priming and painting all the existing bike racks in town to match the bright green of the new racks. Reach out to the Brandon Energy Committee if you'd like to help out!

FROM LEFT TO right: Marielle Blais, Eve Beglarian, Jim Emerson, David Martin.

Photo by Karen Emerson

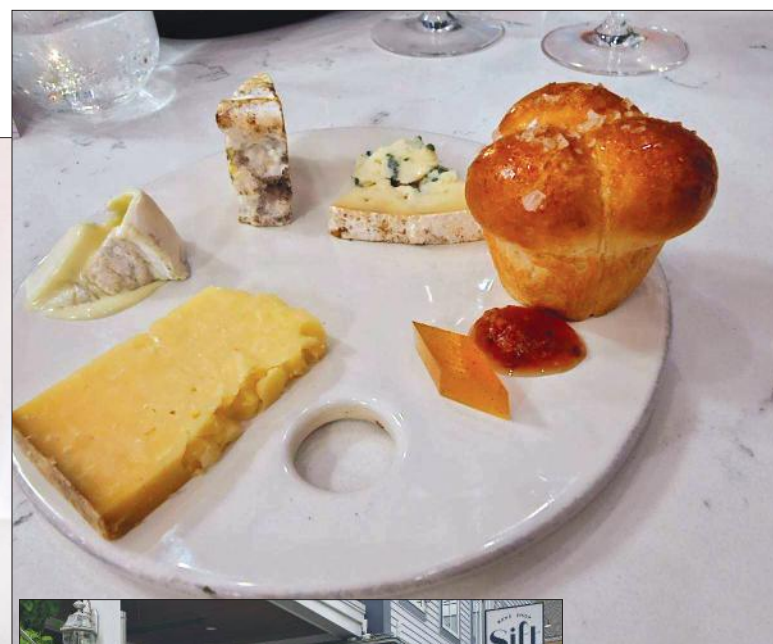
Adam Young

(Continued from Page 1)

relief efforts, they hosted a special charity wine dinner at their rooftop restaurant in Mystic, Connecticut. They highlighted wines from Domaine Bousquet Winery and featured a delicious seven-course meal prepared by Chef Adam Young, Mix Chef Kinsler Josamie, and Guest Chef Adrian Baggio.

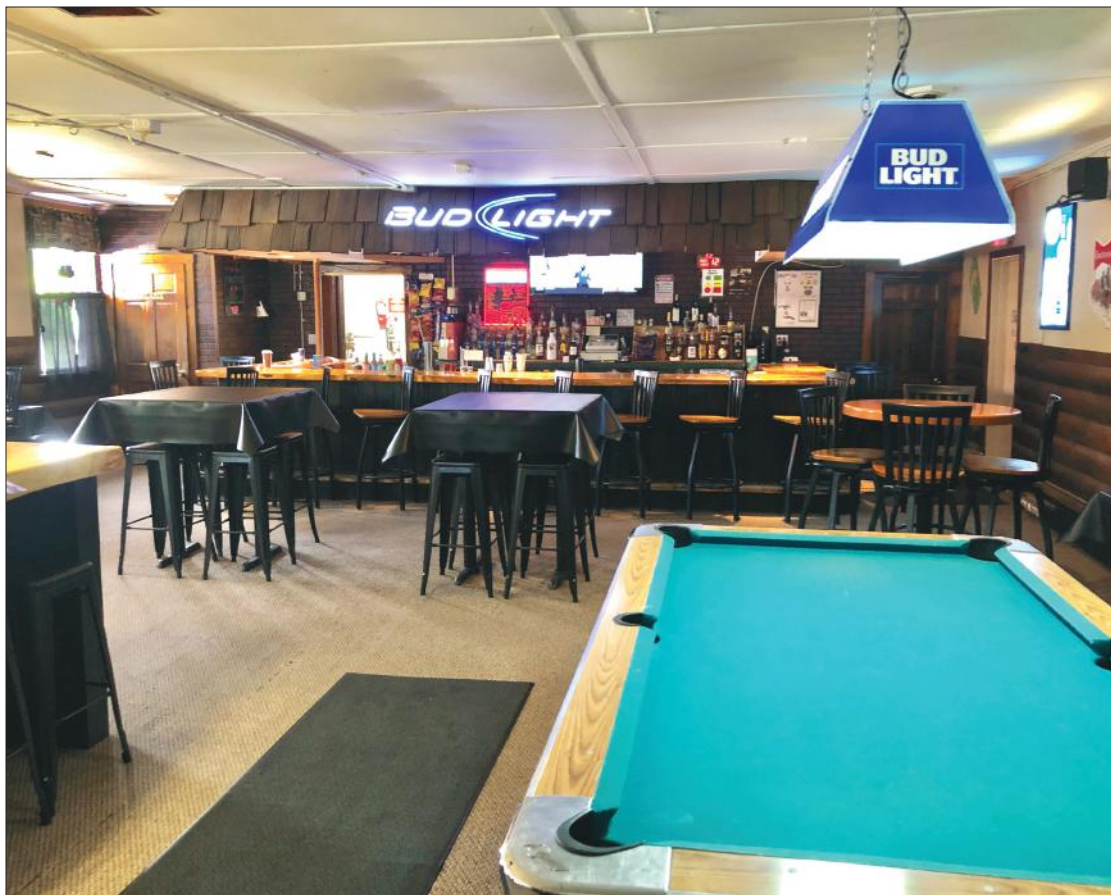
The seven-course meal was attended by none other than Brandon's chef extraordinaire, Louis Pattis, and his wife Sarah, former owners of the Brandon Inn. That was where Adam Young got his start in the culinary arts, washing dishes. As they say, "Everyone has to start somewhere!" Sarah and Louis described the food as "amazing" and "each course was a work of art." "The pairing of the wine and food was exceptional."

The Vermont Response & Recovery Fund of 2023 will receive a check for \$2,500 to aid in the flood relief efforts.



A SELECTION OF food prepared by Adam Young at his fundraiser for Vermont flood victims.

FROM LEFT TO right: Louis Pattis, Ebbie, Stella, Eva, and Adam Young, Sarah Pattis.



THE LAID-BACK ATMOSPHERE of Hilltop Tavern hasn't changed much from the bar's days as the Pittsford Bar & Grill. You can play pool, have draft beer, pizza and other food, and strike up a conversation with someone you haven't met before.

Hilltop Tavern

(Continued from Page 1)

"You can establish new relationships. We don't want to be a typical bar."

"It's like 'Cheers,'" added Erynn. "Everyone knows your name. You belong here."

Though the Doaners have retained much of the Pub & Grill's low-key interior, they've made some changes to the place. For example, they removed one of the two pool tables and put in a small dancefloor. Down the road, they hope to have live bands and karaoke.

They've also updated the offerings in both food and beverage. They now serve draft beers, chilled Jack Daniels shots, coconut shrimp, chicken wings and fingers, mozzarella sticks, and even something they're cheekily calling "bleu ballz," which is chicken cordon bleu in ball form. They've also got seven different varieties of wood-fired pizza made by a company in Vermont.

"We gave out samples of the pizzas on Thursday," said Andy. "We got amazing reviews on them."

"After people tried the sam-

ples, they ordered full pizzas," added Erynn.

The Doaners had been talking with Andy's parents for two years about taking the place on.

"Well before it hit the market," said Erynn.

Erynn will keep Mae's going as she helps get the Hilltop up and running.

"Nothing's changing at Mae's," she said. "We've hired excellent staff here and hopefully this place will become self-sufficient."

The Pittsford community has been extremely welcoming, they said.

"We have had no negative feedback," said Erynn. "The Selectboard has been amazing. The library has been great.

And Kamuda's even brought us over dinner on our opening night."

"Pittsford has been so supportive," said Andy. "So much love from everybody."

"It's a good feeling going into business like this," added Erynn. "We've got really strong community ties in Brandon and we want to extend those ties to the surrounding community."

And hearing the Doaners

talk, it becomes clear that community-building is at the core of what they're trying to do at the Hilltop.

"We want people to come in with an open mind," said Andy. "There's too much division. Come in and talk to one person you don't know. It's cool to see new relationships start right in front of you. You see veterans talking to younger generations and you hear 'Aha!' moments where someone makes a good point."

"At Mae's you often see people talking who wouldn't ordinarily know each other," said Erynn. "To facilitate those relationships is what we want to do here as well."

"We want it to be a fun environment, but not necessarily the kind of place that people stagger out of," laughed Andy.

The Hilltop Tavern is open from 3 to midnight on Friday and Saturday and from 3 to 10 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Last call for food and drink is at 11:30.

It's a place for more than a beer and good food. It's a place for conversation and making new friends.

"We're building bridges and mending gaps," said Erynn, with Andy smiling in absolute agreement.

Bear hunting

(Continued from Page 5)

ings and old fields where berries and apples can be found as well as in forested beech and oak stands," said Vermont's Director of Wildlife Mark Scott. "They also are likely to be feeding on standing corn."

Scott says Vermont's regulated legal bear hunting seasons help manage the state's population and that bears are now abundant statewide except in Grand Isle County.

Scott says with bears being so abundant, this is a great opportunity for hunters who have never hunted bear to do so this year. He says properly prepared bear meat is highly nutritious. The key to successfully secur-

ing good meat is to skin the bear as soon as possible and process it immediately if you do not have access to a large cooler.

Scott recommends that hunters refrain from shooting a bear with cubs as well as bears observed in groups as they are usually made up of sows with cubs. "Black bear cubs are dependent on their mother through the following spring. It is important to maintain these family groups," he added.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife urges hunters to download and read the 2023 Black Bear Hunting Guide from its website.

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ARTISTS: Ruby Hunsinger

AGE: 2 1/2 years old

SCHOOL: Home school

MEDIUM: Acrylic paint sticks

TITLE: Ruby and Dada. I love you so much

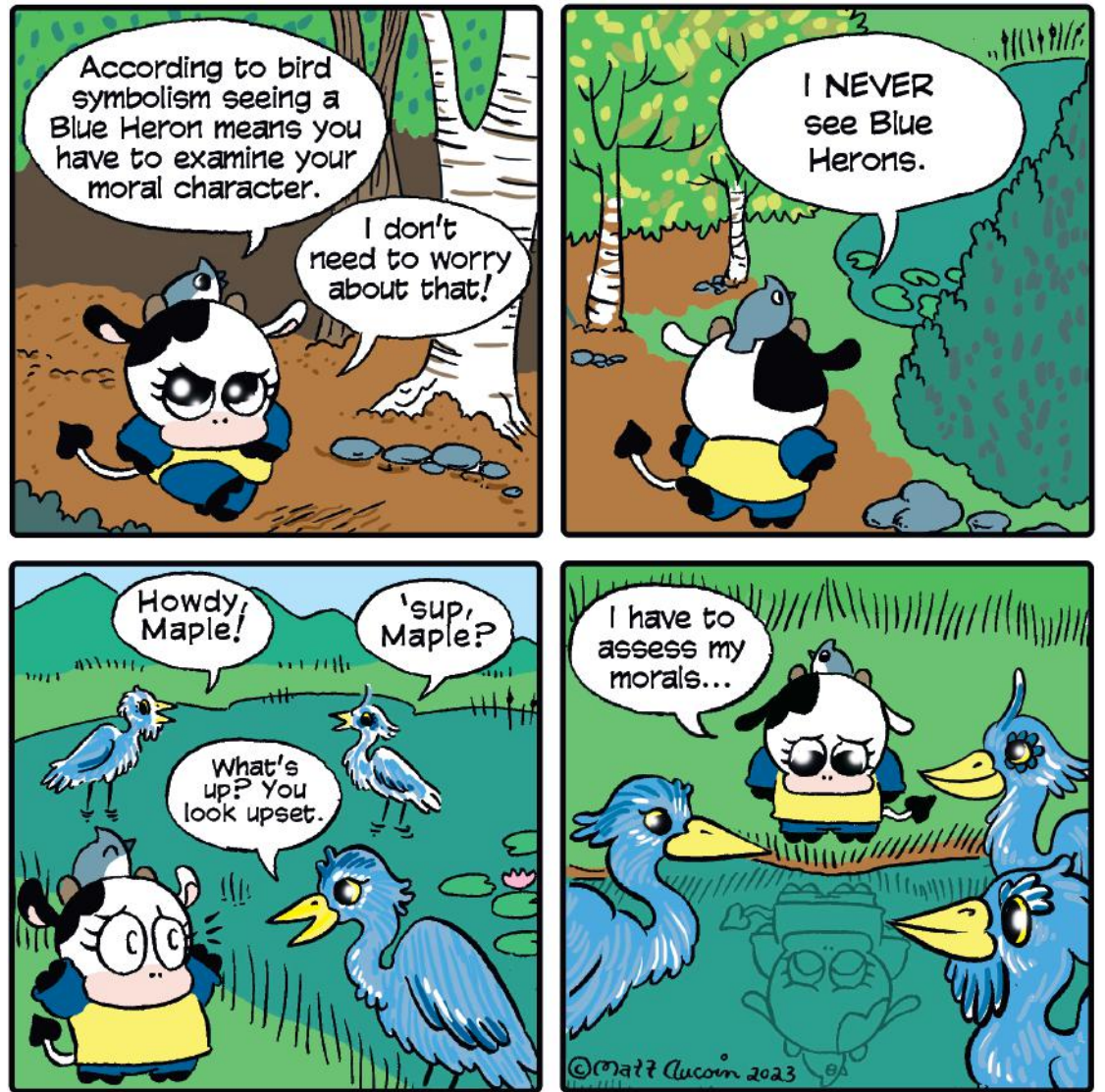


Addison County Field Days

Clouds of dust in burning sun.
 Spurts of rain; dashing to overhangs to stay dry.
 Grassy green field where you lose your car.
 Mud!
 Exhibits: Home, garden and farm. Blue ribbons. Paquette, 4-H, machinery.
 Booths selling. Rides galore.
 Roaring trucks, screaming tractors, crashing fenders.
 Tossing cabres. Throwing skilllets.
 Tasteless t-shirts, baseball caps, tattoos, entrance bracelets, sunglasses.
 Boots, clogs, flip-flops, sneakers.
 Old friends seen once a year.
 Grandparents with kids; dads with kids;
 Moms with kids; young families everywhere.
 Gangs of teenagers walking 'round and 'round, glued to their phones.
 Bulging bellies, some pregnant, many not!
 Volunteers galore!
 Port-a-toilets. Memorial benches. Golf carts.
 Tents, RVs, transport vans. Straw and chips.
 Putting horses through elegant paces.
 Barnyard animals. Racing pigs. Mini-horses.
 Pristine, placid cows being shown. Baa-ing sheep and goats.
 Amazing-looking poultry!
 The Lions selling 4,000 burgers. Opening supper.
 Maple creemees, bread, donuts.
 Cotton candy, fried dough, BBQ, pancakes, sno-cones, fresh lemonade.
 Farmers, lawyers, business, moms and dads; unemployed, retired, day off.
 An amazing array of humanity where the towns and the hills and the tourists meet up.
 Rides, food, people, exhibits, togetherness...
 A Vermont country summer.

By Carolyn Van Vleck

MAPLE the COW by Matt Aucoin



Engagement

Chad Ringey and Kimberly Elmore of Brandon, VT are overjoyed to announce their engagement to be married.

As their fairytale love story continues, they are excited and grateful for the love and well wishes of their family and friends. May God bless this union as their adventure unfolds.

Mr. Ringey is the son of Bill and Dotty Ringey. Ms. Elmore is the daughter of George and Marge Elmore and Dan and Ruth Roy.

Calendar of events

August

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Come to Brandon Town Hall for Youth classes at 5 p.m., and adult classes at 6 p.m. Beginners and spectators welcome. Visit www.aikidovermont.org for more information, including fees.

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.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hazfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

Drop in from 5:30–7:00 p.m., and bring your projects to work on.

Wednesdays

Drop-In Tech Help at the Brandon Free Public Library

Drop in from 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. with your tech issues—not sure how to set up email on your phone or how to rent an audiobook? We can help.

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, visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

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 Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of

a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, 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

Meditation Group at the Brandon Free Public Library

From 12:30–1:30 p.m. join neighbors for quiet meditation led by Kerrie Quinn.

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join Ariana at 11:00 a.m. for a story and a craft. Age 7 and under recommended. Stay for a cup of coffee!

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

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.



Goings on around town



Queen City Ghostwalk Darkness Falls Tour Sunday August 20

Our Darkness Falls tour was created by historian and author The (Haunted Burlington, Haunted Inns and Ghostly Getaways of Vermont more). This perennial favorite, chosen as one of New England's best walks by both Yankee Magazine and AAA, features some of Burlington's most infamous characters and intriguing haunts; theater ghosts, serial killers, and more. Generally suitable for individuals ten and up. Some sensitive subject matter. Parental discretion advised. All ticket sales are final, no refunds, no exchanges. Need more information? See our FAQ page at queencityghostwalk.com.



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BRANDON, SU

Aug 19th Brandon Aug 20th Slide Out

More to come! Follow

info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

Friday 18th

The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Afrobeat ensemble Armo

Join us at 6:00 pm at the Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Square, in Brattleboro, VT.

Armo's intimate and energetic sound focuses on classic and contemporary Afrobeat. Founded by longtime Anti-balas bandmates vocalist/keyboardist Amayo, trumpeter/percussionist Jordan McLean, percussionist/vocalist Marcus Farrar, guitarist/keyboardist Nikhil P. Yerawadekar, drummer Kevin Raczka, and bassist Justin Kimmel, Armo creates spontaneous arrangements of the music of Fela Anikulapo Kuti, The Daktaris, Ebo Taylor, William Onyeabor, The Art Ensemble of Chicago, and original rhythm-based music.

This 5-8 piece band features a revolving cast from the Daptone Records family and NY Afrobeat Scene. Members of the band now include Dave "Smoota" Smith on trombone/keyboards, bassists/guitarists Binky Griptite and Timothy James, saxophonist/keyboardist Tony Jarvis, and drummer Dylan Fusillo.

Collectively the members of Armo have performed thousands of concerts around the world working with such luminaries as David Byrne, Angelique Kidjo, Public Enemy, TV on The Radio, Sharon Jones & The Dapkins, Ornette Coleman, and in the band for the Tony Award winning musical FELA!

Their first release, a self-titled EP, was released on System Dialing Records in 2018 and is available on 10" 45 rpm record, as downloads, and streaming on all major platforms. Their 2020 single New Beginning is available on Bandcamp.

With the goal of expanding the New York Afrobeat Scene, the band holds a monthly jam session at the legendary Bitter End in NYC's West Village. Most recently they served as the house band for the City Winery/Carnegie Hall afterparty tribute to Paul McCartney, and have restarted their years-long residency at Brooklyn's famed Bar Lunatico.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. More than 20 performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts,

dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold on-site, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to

enjoy our concerts.

BAG Meet the Artist Night

Vermont artist Mike Mayone creates meticulous oil and acrylic paintings that capture the charm of Vermont and New England in true realism.

Vermont artist Mike Mayone creates meticulous oil and acrylic paintings that capture the charm of Vermont and New England in true realism. Often considered photorealistic, his masterpieces are known to stir emotions and kindle humanity's need to "slow down the pace."

Please join us between 7pm-8:30pm, light refreshments will be served.

Saturday 19th

Last Mile – Motorcycle Ride

A Vermont summertime tradition continues Aug. 12, 18 and 19 with the 18th annual Last Mile Ride, Run and Walk at Gifford Medical Center.

The three-day event includes a fundraising motorcycle ride, bicycle ride, 5K run, and 1- and 2-mile walks, all to support end-of-life care for patients and their families.

Registration for the motorcycle ride begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Gifford. The entrance fee is \$50 per driver, \$75 per driver and passenger, and includes breakfast and a barbecue lunch. The ride, which starts at 10 a.m., takes participants on an 80-mile journey through central Vermont. For more information about Last Mile, including the full schedule, routes and registration, visit giffordhealthcare.org/lastmile or call 802-728-2380.

Castleton Colonial Day House Tour

Castleton Vermont's 83rd Annual Colonial Day House Tour from 10 am to 3 pm features an outstanding collection of private homes, public buildings, historic sites, and

The Bread and Puppet Theater celebrates their 60th anniversary with The Mother Dirt Circus!

Audiences will delight as Bread and Puppet draws on its distinctive iconography to call attention to the urgent issues of the day. Young and old will thrill to see stilt dancers and paper maché beasts of all sizes accompanied by the riotous Bread and Puppet Circus Brass Band. A colorful spectacle of protest and celebration performed under the Vermont summer sky.

Sourdough rye with aioli will be offered after the performance and The Bread and Puppet Press and Cheap Art Emporium will be open for your perusal.

September

Wednesday 13th

FREE Square Dance Nights with Cast Off 8's

Mark your calendars for the fall startup of contemporary square dancing in Rutland County. Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club starts its fall season of classes on Sept 13. NOT your grade school square dancing, contemporary square dance is danced to a variety of music including pop, country music, Broadway, rock, Motown, and hip-hop. Casual dress, no special clothes. A great no-stress way to get back out and socialize among friendly people. Singles as well as couples. Children 8 and up. First two classes are free, Wednesdays, September 13 and 20. Ice cream social on 9/27. Lothrop School, Pittsford, VT. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more info see Castoff8s.com or Facebook Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club. Contact Lauren at lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com

Sunday 17th

Calling Brandon Democrats - join us at 3pm!

Please consider becoming involved in the Brandon Town Democratic Committee. We welcome all levels of participation! In Vermont, town committees are the foundation of the Vermont Democratic Party organization. These committees do the organizing that allows the party to connect with voters across the state and build social infrastructure in our towns and counties. This enables people with similar values to work together to build a better, stronger Vermont. On September 17, the Brandon Democratic Party will have its reorganizational meeting to select a chair and other officers. This meeting is an opportunity for people to become official members of the Brandon Democratic Party. Through this committee you will have input on decision-making and become informed of events within the Democratic Party at the local, county, and state level. In recent years, Brandon has been largely voting Democratic - over the last six sessions, Brandon has been represented by Democrats in the VT House of Representatives. However, our local town committee has not experienced an increase in the number of people who are actively involved. We would like to change that and welcome more folks to get involved. Participation could be purely social or as an officer on the Committee - this is up to you. We are planning an informal get-together at the Red Clover Ale Co. for September 17 at 3pm. This will be an opportunity for newcomers, long-time residents, and all of us in between to get acquainted and to learn about what's going on in the local Democratic Party. Let's continue to strive for a Vermont that works for all of us. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Clark at 802-247-3935 or Stephanie Jerome at 802-683-8209.

BRANDON 2023 LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK

August 26
Tom Van Sant
September 9
Doug Ross w/ Wade Davis
rock covers & originals

September 23
Silas McPrior acoustic rock

All shows will be 11a.m.-1p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays in Kennedy Park (upper falls, near the crosswalk).



exhibits.

Step back in time as hostesses in Colonial attire greet guests in homes along Castleton's historic Main Street during the 83rd Annual Colonial Day House Tour. Self guided tour features an outstanding collection of private homes, public buildings, historic sites, and exhibits. Displays include a period fashion and accessory collection, quilts, antique tools, carriages and more. Tickets \$20. 10am to 3pm www.castletonhistorichousetour.org 802-468-5691.

Thursday 24th

Bandwagon Summer Series: Bread & Puppet

The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents beloved Vermont institution Bread & Puppet, bringing their touring production to Putney on Thursday, August 24 at 6:00 pm.

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Preserve your garden with harvesting and canning

BY LYN DESMARAIS

BRANDON—Food preservation has been indispensable for human survival since the dawn of our time on earth. Between spoilage, unnecessary additives or stretchers, and the total absence of most forms of rudimentary hygiene, it's probably best that humans didn't have electricity or incandescent bulbs until the 20th Century because historically most of us would not have enjoyed seeing what we were eating.

In Bill Bryson's book "At Home," he elaborates, but I'll let you read it for yourself. Whenever I try to read it aloud, I get a fair bit of 'gross' and 'STOP!'

For centuries and centuries, most food was preserved by salting, pickling, smoking, or drying, or eaten fresh and seasonally.

"The first breakthrough in food preservation came in the late 1770s. Nicholas-Francois Appert sealed food in glass jars and then slowly heated them. If his seals worked the food was edible. However, his seals

turned out to be unreliable and therefore were not widely used. The next 80 years saw invention after invention in food preservation: literally in metal cans as we have today, preserved with ice, basically the beginnings of refrigeration and freezing, and, in 1858, John Mason invented the jars that still bear his name. John Mason sold his invention for a pittance, he believed

One of my earliest memories of my grandmother was her standing at her sink on hot, sticky summer days surrounded by boiling water, glass jars, caps, and vegetables.

that his other inventions would make him rich. They didn't. He died forgotten and in poverty in 1902. Preserving food in metal cans, invented in England between 1810 and 1820, worked well

.... if you could open the cans. The can opener wasn't invented until decades later. Ice truly did cause a sensation opening up the global economy in food, when ice was commercialized and entered widespread use in the 1840s and 50s. Ice would also, in less than 50 years, cause huge worldwide agricultural recessions and economic shocks." (Bill Bryson, At Home.)

One of my earliest memories of my grandmother was her standing at her sink on hot, sticky summer days surrounded by boiling water, glass jars, caps, and vegetables. We children sat at her table and did whatever we were told. I mainly remember topping and tailing green beans. We were constantly warned of being burned and saw enough steam scalds to know we had to be very careful. Gram had no large freezer. Her gardens produced enormous amounts of peas, beans, corn, zucchini, and tomatoes. Canning was an absolute necessity for large families, and we all ate well through our long New England winters. We also knew what we grew and we grew what we liked.

When I visited the cellar of Rita Palmer and Gracie Aines in Brandon, I stepped back in time into my grandmother's world. Rita and Gracie have been growing vegetables and canning since they were children. They grow vegetables because they love growing them, eating them, and working outside every day.

Rita grew up in northern Vermont where her mom had a garden, and her family canned and froze their produce and ate it all year. Gracie grew up on a dairy farm in Rutland County, where

they milked Holsteins, raised pigs and chickens, and planted a big garden for their family of nine. Gracie's and Rita's lives are full of people. Their life's

work has been loving, caring, and looking after everything and everyone that comes into their world. They look after (See Harvesting and canning, Page 15)



Harvesting and canning

(Continued from Page 14)
children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and sundry others. They both had long careers at the Brandon Training School. Their lives are ones of constant hard work, caring and thoughtfulness. Photos of loved ones and beloved pets adorn the walls of their house. Everything they own including their gardens, pond and machinery are as neat, cleaned and cared for beautifully.

Their vegetable garden is tucked up right alongside the road, laid out in rich fertile soil and thriving in their care. Every three years, they add new compost and top soil to the garden and every year they use some fertilizer. Other than that, it's planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. They eat everything fresh in season and can the remainder. When I learned they canned I wanted to write about it. How many of us remember this summer work? I asked them to walk me through their process. Rita starts

"Well, we use the old-fashioned method rather than a modern pressure cooker. We sterilize our jars, metal rims, and sealing lids first. You can do this in your dishwasher now. Next, we prepare the vegetables, peel and slice, top and tail,

or leave skins on, depending on the vegetables. Then we put a teaspoon of salt in the jar, add the vegetables and close them up. We place our filled jars into a huge pot that will accommodate about 7 to 10 jars. We fill the pot with water over the top of the lids. First, we bring that water to a boil, then lower the temperature to simmer and cook. Each vegetable needs different cooking times; for some it's super short, for others 20 minutes, for others three hours." Gracie adds.

"When the jars are done, you'll hear the sealing sounds; it's a slight popping sound. We love hearing that sound. We then lift the jars out, cover them with a towel, let them cool down slowly, and start another batch adding cold water to the boiling water."

"What a lot of work," I say when they tell me they put up hundreds and hundreds of quarts

each summer. "We love doing it," they counter. They love the whole process and find it relaxing. They no longer grow every single thing that they preserve.



They buy some fresh vegetables from local farmers. They put up 100 quarts of green beans alone. In addition, they preserve equal amounts of beets, carrots, potatoes, beans, pickles, apple pie filling, tomatoes, blueberry pie filling, applesauce, relishes, onions, and even strawberry rhu-

barb pie filling.

In addition to canning, they freeze berries, Swiss chard and other greens, peppers, and squash. Last summer they grew Hubbard, butternut, summer zucchini, spaghetti, and butternut squash. They also grew tomatoes and onions. Even without a calculator, I adduce they preserve more than they can eat.

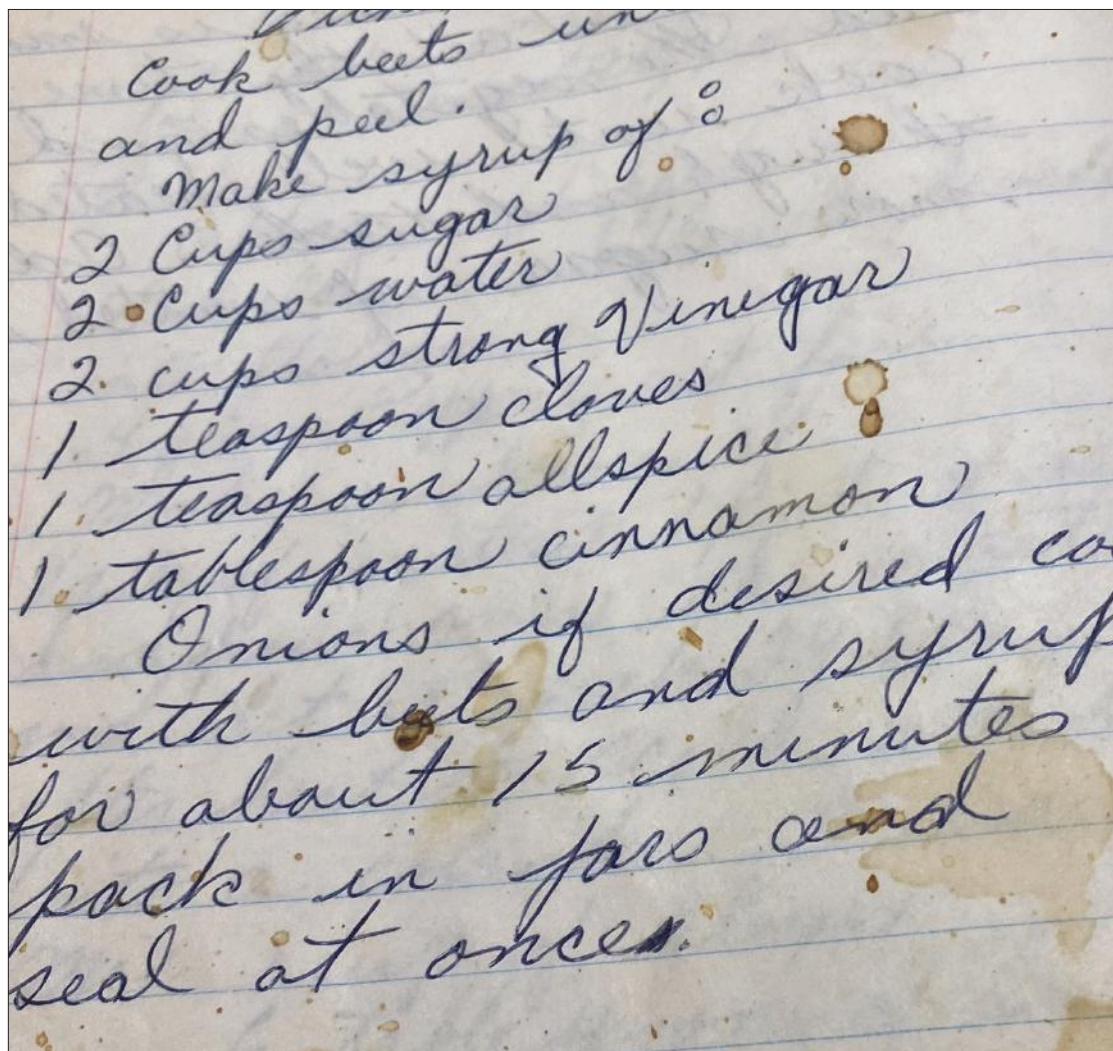
"Oh, we send family members home with milk crates full, and never go to family gatherings without bringing a lot with us."

"Do you have a favorite plant to grow or eat?" I ask. Without hesitation they each say "green beans" at the same time. But

they hasten to add they love vegetables, love growing them, eating them, and sharing them with family and friends.

Their advice for others:

Vegetable gardening is simple. Grow your vegetables mainly from seeds into good soil and give them water. Do it with love and enjoy every minute of it. Go out every day to check on your plants, pull weeds, and water. Both Rita and Gracie say that they come from families of people who talked to their plants...long before Prince, now King, Charles made headlines by talking to his. Does it work? They just laugh and say, "Try it, can it hurt?"



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IN-TOWN LOCATION 6,000+ SQ. FT.

Impressive 2-story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, and a yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state-of-the-art heating system with radiant heat and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3-bay garage and a spacious back yard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building. Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at

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Fern Lake Building Lot (Left): 123.54 feet frontage at North end of Fern Lake. 1.02 Acre wooded lake lot. Mountain views to South. Soil work indicates standard in-ground system is possible. Level lake road access from Route 53. Close to Brandon/Middlebury for shopping, theater, groceries & dining. \$175,000.



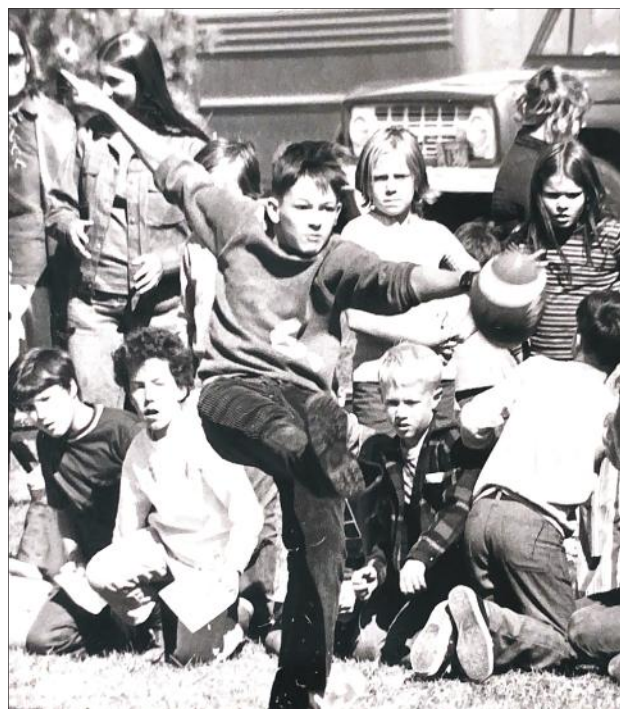
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Mim's Photos

Can you identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives? Let us know!



Recognized



Emily Nelson emailed in recognizing people in the group photo of students. She believes it was roughly 1991. The basketball coach is Larry Bressette. Top row from left to right is Kelly Lessard, Jessica Mallory, Julie Chapin, Caitlyn Carr, Erin Holman and Stacy Scott. Bottom left to right is Becky Kenyon (?), Robin King, unknown, and Terra Reed



Deb Miner also emailed in recognizing some people printed in the Bobcats photo printed in the Aug 9th issue. Most of the kids in the photo of the Leicester Bobcats are familiar to her: Back row - Bobby Bushey Ihinger (sadly deceased), RC Dayton, Ethel Shackett Disorda, Mike Johnson, Betty Stone Cram, Steve Flint. 2nd row: Brandy Baldwin, Pikey Many, John Hughes with the ball, unknown, Derric Miner, Matt Mulcahy. 3rd row kneeling: Jonathan Stewart, Andy McGill, PJ French, Peter Dayton, Mahlon McCoy. Bottom row sitting: Jason Many, Parker McCoy, Roy Lockwood holding the ball, unknown.



Linda & Bob Schmitt emailed in recognizing some people in the OVHS Honor Society induction photo printed in the July 19th issue. Michael Dwyer thought he recognized Robin Schmidt, now Shrum, as the face third from right. After a close examination and thought process, she came to the conclusion that is not her face.

Robin was able to recognize quite a few of the faces as upperclassmen, however. She was inducted later on. Those she recognized are: Back row left to right, Matt Peck Ketchum, Tracy Rojecki, Gretchen Hazen, Kerry Chartier. Front row left to right: Michael Flory, Kristen Kaldy, Becky Boltz, Not Robin, Penny Griffin, Robin did earn her Doctorate last Spring from Shenandoah University and currently works for the school system in Virginia.

E-mail ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Civil rights organization
5. Calendar month (abbr.)
8. Monetary unit of Burma
11. Twyla ___, US dancer
13. Everything included
14. "Antman" actor Rudd
15. Italian city
16. Nowhere to be found
17. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
18. Turkish officer
20. Perform on stage
21. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
22. Canadian coastal provinces
25. Furnishes anew
30. Edible mollusk
31. No seats available
32. Garden figurine
33. Two-legged support
38. Rest here please (abbr.)
41. In a silly way
43. One from the Golden State
45. Photographers
48. Native religion in parts of China
49. Dickens character
50. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Undivided
57. Daniel ___, French composer
59. Nocturnal S. American rodent
60. Rusty
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Patti Hearst's captors
63. Popular global holiday (abbr.)
64. Tall, slender plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Defunct US energy company
2. Fellow
3. It's issued from volcanoes
4. Type of acid
5. Winged nut
6. Arouses
7. Things are served on it
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Currency and a Chinese dynasty
10. ___ mater, one's school
12. Exclamation that denotes disgust
14. Hairstyle
19. Supreme ancient Egyptian god
23. They ___
24. Connecting line on a map
25. Mock
26. One point north of due east
27. Chinese philosophical principle
28. Type of tree
29. Persuade to do something
34. A place for travelers to rest
35. National Gallery of Art designer
36. Panamanian province
37. Field force unit (abbr.)
39. Whalers' tool
40. Simply
41. Nigerian City
42. Not one
44. Obstruct
45. Political plot
46. Manila hemp plant
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Fishes by letting the bob fly
51. Swiss river
52. Plant that makes gum
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
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62						63					64		

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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.

			7			9	2	4
			9	3				
				8	6			
	1	5				8		
							7	
	9		5	6				1
3		8						9
2	7							8
			4					3

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

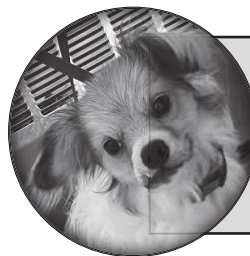
D	E	E	R		A	N	V	L	S								
I	B	B	V	R	D	L	O	V	O	P							
H	E	B	U	V		E	N	O		S	V	A	S	V	A	S	
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V	V	P	E	S													

7	3	1	8	2	4	9	6	5
8	5	4	3	6	9	1	7	2
6	9	2	5	7	1	8	4	3
1	4	3	7	9	5	2	6	8
2	7	5	6	1	8	9	3	4
6	9	8	2	4	3	5	1	7
3	7	1	9	8	2	4	5	6
5	8	9	4	3	6	7	1	2
4	6	1	9	5	7	3	8	6

Help Support RCHS by Becoming a Monthly Donor!

Do you want to make a difference for the homeless animals every month? You can now sign up for our monthly giving program, and let the animals in our care know you're there for them all year long! It's super easy to sign up once, and then all you have to do is kick back and relax, knowing that you're helping those animals that need food, medical care, and love. Monthly giving is an easy, efficient and tax-deductible way to make a difference for the animals all year long. You can make a big impact with a small monthly donation, while helping so many animals each year. By becoming a monthly donor, you can give the animals in our care hope, as we work towards a more humane community. Visit rchsvt.org and click on the blue "Give Monthly" button to sign up today or call us at 802.483.6700 with any questions.

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



MEET STELLA - 2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. MIXED BREED.

Say hello to Stella! She is a sweet girl who loves to be with her humans. Her foster mom says she also likes to play with other dogs but is just as happy playing with her toys. She loves snuggling and treats. She is full of love and energy and would be happy to have siblings or be an only dog. She has no history with cats. She has been doing well with house training if taken out on regular intervals. She is a true love bug! She arrived from a busy shelter in TX on August 7.

MEET BOO - 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR.

Boo was surrendered to us on June 29th because her previous owner could no longer care for her. Boo is living in our Community Cat Room and is living her best life. She is usually found lounging on the platform by the window. She is a beautiful girl who loves her attention and will probably be a couch potato in her new home. However, she is a tad overweight so, in her new home her food will need to be measured and monitored, or at least she will need room to run around. If Boo sounds like your type of cat, come visit her Tuesday through Saturday 11 am-4 pm.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM 11AM-4PM. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



The following Large Print book was donated by Brenda Whittaker:

Elle and Calder can't help but wonder if the tragedy that brought them together is too painful and too complicated to sustain.

Out of Nowhere by Sandra Brown, donated in memory of Mary Blackmer

At a Texas county fair, children's book author Elle Portman is enjoying a rare night out with her favorite cowboy: her two-year-old son, Charlie. But just as they're about to head home, an unthinkable event happens, causing widespread panic to erupt all around them. Also caught in the melee was corporate consultant Calder Hudson. Arrogant, self-centered, and high off his latest career win, he's frustrated and confused when he wakes up in the hospital after undergoing emergency surgery. The doctor tells him he was fortunate. Others weren't so lucky, which instills in Calder a furious determination to get justice, a goal shared by Elle. Their chance encounter at the police station leads to a surprising connection to one another, but as the attraction grows,

New DVDs

The Last of Us, Season One (TV-MA)

Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsay star in this adaptation of the hit video game. Set 20 years after a fungus infects and kills 60% of the world's population, a series of events leads hardened Joel (Pascal) to escort 14-year-old Ellie (Ramsay) to a medical facility across the country after learning she may be the world's last hope for survival.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (Rated PG-13)

When Rocket is critically injured in an attack, the Guardians discover his genetically engineered code has a kill switch and they can't save him without getting the passkey to stop it. They plot to break into the corporation that created him, only to discover the corporation is hunting Rocket

for their own sinister plans.

Paint starring Owen Wilson. (Rated PG-13)

Carl Nargle (Wilson), Vermont's #1 public television painter, is convinced he has it all: a signature perm, custom van, and fans hanging on his every stroke - until a younger, better artist steals everything (and everyone) Carl loves.

Maggie Moore(s) (Rated R)

Police Chief Sanders (Jon Hamm) investigates the bizarre murders of two women with the same name and unravels a web of small-town lies. He meets and quickly falls for Rita (Tina Fey), a nosy neighbor who is eager to help solve the mystery.

Fool's Paradise (Rated R)

Bearing a striking resemblance to a movie star who won't leave his trailer, a man just out of a mental hospital is persuaded to take the actor's place.

Low speed car chase ends with everyone safe at home

August 7

- Police responded to the Brandon Inn for a 911 hang-up call. No emergency was found at the location.
- Officers conducted speed enforcement on Park Street.

August 8

- Officers conducted a property watch at Union Street Grocery.
- Officers conducted a property watch at Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street.
- A walk-in report was made at the Brandon Police Department (BPD) regarding a missing 20-year-old male from Carver Street. While the incident was being reported, the male was discovered safe and sound at his grandparents' residence in a neighboring town.
- Officers responded to a report of a three-year-old child alone on the side of a roadway near the Smoke Rise Campground on Grove Street (Route 7). The child was located in the area with their parent and an older sibling. The child was determined not to be in any danger.
- An officer responded to the Brandon Inn for a 911 hang-up coming from the interior elevator. It was later determined that the emergency button in the elevator had been accidentally activated.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Operator was issued a ticket for speeding and a warning for an expired registration.

August 9

- A male was reported to be in the roadway on Grove Street, screaming at cars and disrupting traffic. The man was located by officers, and it was discovered that he was impaired by alcohol and attempting to hitchhike. The man's blood-alcohol level was determined to be 0.207%. He was ultimately transported to Grace House in Rutland to detox. No criminal charges were filed.
- Officers assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad with a man on High Pond Road having difficulty breathing. The individual was subsequently transported to Porter Hospital for treatment.

August 10

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Ticket issued.
- Late-night foot patrol conducted on Center Street.
- An officer on foot patrol in downtown Brandon discovered an open door at Red Clover Ale Company on Center Street. The owners were notified and the building was checked. The premises appeared intact and were secured.
- An officer responded to the area of Pearl Street on the bridge for a

Brandon Police Report

report of some kind of camp site that had been set up next to the railroad tracks. Two individuals were located who advised that they had just stopped there to rest and were on their way through the area while bicycling. Both individuals were advised about setting up encampments next to active train tracks and subsequently left the area without incident.

• BPD received complaints about the sound of gunfire in the area of Carver Street and Franklin Street. The responding officer was able to trace the sounds down to Syndicate Road and found some freshly spent shell casings on the ground. It was determined that someone had been target shooting down in that area but left prior to the arrival of the police.

• BPD received a walk-in complaint regarding vandalism at the McKernon Group's storage facility on Jones Drive. The matter is under investigation.

• BPD investigated a report that someone from Brandon had been harassing/stalking someone in California via Facebook. The suspect was contacted and advised to cease any contact with the complainant in California, otherwise criminal charges could be sought.

• Officers conducted a traffic stop on Center Street for disobeying traffic control signals. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the operator was impaired and the officers placed the operator, Shawn Domina, 49, of Rochester, VT under arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. The operator was processed and later released on a citation to appear for arraignment in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on August 28, 2023 at 8:30 am for the crime of DUI.

• Officers responded to a report of a damaged vehicle that was left on the side of the roadway on Grove Street. The vehicle was towed and the operator was contacted. The operator advised that the damage had occurred days earlier and that the operator had not left the scene of an accident.

• Officers responded to a residence on Steinberg Road for a house party involving underage consumption of alcohol. Multiple juveniles were issued Diversion paperwork. Case still under investigation.

August 11

(See Police report, Page 19)

You are invited...

cocktails
 FOR A CAUSE

Sunday, September 17 from 5-8pm

Join us at Café Provence for an evening of specialty cocktails, 'celebrity' servers, and merriment...all for a wonderful cause! Your ticket gets you one complimentary drink and light hors d'oeuvres. An additional cash bar will be available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ages 21 and up.



TICKETS:
\$25 Couple, \$15 Single
 Scan the code or go online to purchase:

brandonpubliclibrary.org/library-events/



The event is brought to you by the Brandon Library Community Volunteers and all proceeds will benefit The Great Library Renovation.

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

- Police responded to Frasier Road for a report of individuals possibly walking around the complainant's property. The responding officer checked the area but did not locate anyone.

- Police conducted a traffic stop for failure to maintain lanes of travel on Franklin Street. The operator was screened at roadside and was later determined not to be impaired. A warning was issued.

- Officers conducted a welfare check at a residence on Pearl Street on a mother and young child. The missing individuals were not at the residence but the investigating officer learned that the subjects were residing in Pennsylvania and were in hiding due to an allegedly abusive relationship. Mother and child were determined to be safe. Information about the incident was forwarded to law enforcement in Pennsylvania.

- BPD performed a VIN check at a residence on Marshall Phillips Road.

- BPD conducted a welfare check on a child residing on Steinberg Road that was allegedly in an unfit environment.

- Officers responded to Champlain Farms on Grove Street for a report of an armed robbery. The suspect was reported to be wearing a dark blue sweatshirt, grey khaki shorts, and brown hiking boots. The subject walked into the business with his face hidden by the hood of his sweatshirt. The subject demand-

ed money from the employee on duty and threatened violence with a weapon. The subject obtained cash from the register and left. The incident is under investigation.

August 12

- Officers received a report of an erratic driver in the area of Mulcahy Drive and Arnold District Road. Police patrolled the area of Park Village and did locate a vehicle that matched the description.

- Directed speed enforcement on Park Street because of complaints by residents of speeding on the street.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for speeding. Ticket issued.

- Officers responded to a call about suspicious activity on High Street. The caller stated that there were multiple doors open to a residence but the occupants were out of state. It was later discovered that the residents were in fact at home at the time.

- Officers conducted foot patrol in downtown Brandon. During the patrol, officers spoke with business owners and members of the community.

- Officers received a walk-in complaint at the BPD about a female receiving threatening messages from an ex-boyfriend. The woman was given information about applying for a relief-from-abuse order.

- Officers conducted a vehicle stop on Nickerson Road on a vehicle that did not have working

license-plate lights. Ticket issued.

- BPD responded to the area of Center Street near the intersection of West Seminary Street for a report of a vehicle that was blocking the roadway. The owner of the vehicle was located in a nearby business and asked to move his vehicle. The car was removed without further incident.

- BPD was called to a residence on Park Street for a report of a man with late-stage Alzheimer's Disease who had taken a motor vehicle and was now missing. The responding officer located the man on Route 7 in Brandon a short time later. The man refused to pull over, causing the officer to follow him all the way into Salisbury, where he was finally able to get him to stop. With the assistance of a Good Samaritan, the officer was able to block the vehicle from leaving. The man was determined to be safe and sound and was returned to his caregiver.

- Death investigation on Grove Street with assistance from Vermont State Police.

- Officers responded to the area of Franklin Street for a report of a vehicle that was unable to maintain its travel lane. The vehicle had reportedly pulled into the Brandon Motor Lodge but was unable to be located.

- Directed patrol on Conant Square.

- Directed traffic enforcement conducted in Conant Square area.



SKIING BIRCHLEGS CROSSING the Mountain with the Royal Child, painted by Knud Bergslien. The painting is located at The Ski Museum. Holmenkollen, Oslo, Norway.

First electric snowmobile to aid the American Birkebeiner Ski Race

BY GEORGE FJELD

RUTLAND—An electric snowmobile will be leading America's longest cross-country ski race, the American Birkebeiner ('The Birkie'). It will be used to film the leaders in the ladies race. At 700 pounds and 12 feet long, the snowmobile is capable of 50-60 mph. "Preserving our snow" was the focus of delivering an electric snowmobile to the Birchleggings Club at Central Vermont Motorcycles in Rutland last week. Paul Thompson, President of the Birchleggings Club, an elite group of skiers who've completed at least 20 'Birkies', organized the fund-raising and purchase of the machine in support of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's Birkie Green initiative.

"Like many snow sports industries, the 'Birkie' is not immune to the effects of warmer winters and in 2017 had to cancel the event due to lack of snow – the second time in less than 20 years," said Thompson. "Acknowledging its own carbon footprint, ABSF is moving towards being a good environmental steward and in support of their efforts, our Birchleggings Club organized a fundraiser selling shopping bags made from recycled racer's bibs. In addition to removing those used bibs from the waste stream, we raised enough money to purchase and donate the Taiga Nomad snowmobile in commemoration of ABSF's 50th anniversary."

The American Birkebeiner cross-country ski race is the largest ski race in North Amer-

ica. Celebrating its 50th year, the "Birkie" is a human-powered race that draws participants from all over the world. Modeled after the famed Birkebeiner race in Norway, it is one of the more difficult ski marathons in the world.

All the Birken races are founded upon the legendary escape that the Birkebeiners, Skjervald Skrukka and Torstein Skjevla, managed around New Year 1205/1206, rescuing the little prince Haakon Haakonsen from the Baglers. During this civil war, the rival faction against the Birkebeiners, the Baglers, was looking for the young heir to the Norwegian throne.

After the death of the Norwegian king Haakon Sverreson, the two rival factions, the Baglers and the Birkebeiners fought to gain control of the country. To keep Haakon Sverreson's son - Haakon Haakonsen, from being killed by the Baglers, and thereby securing the throne, a small group of Birkebeiners brought Prince Haakon and his mother, Inga, north. Just after New Year's Eve 1206, the two best skiers, Torstein Skjevla and Skjervald Skrukka, carrying the 18 month old child, chose the route across the mountains separating Gudbrandsdalen and Østerdalen. It was a strenuous journey, but the young prince was brought to safety in Trondheim.

The prince grew to become the king who united Norway after 1000 years of civil war, and led the country into its golden age during the Middle Ages.

(See Birkebeiner Race, Page 20)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21-April 20

It is time to recharge your batteries this week, Aries. It may be challenging to slow down, but that is just what you need to do or you are going to run out of steam on your next project.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Early on this week you may start out in a bit of a funk, Taurus. That all will change with some words from a friend that will help your mood bounce in the other direction.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, the side of your brain responsible for pragmatism has been working overtime. You are ready to solve any problems and find answers to most questions.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cooperation from others has been hard to come by lately, Cancer. That could lead to some conflicts along the way. Collectively you will have to find some middle ground.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

You could be focused on things in the past this week, Leo. This could start you on a trek to track down mementos in a home or to visit an antiques shop to make some purchases.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, there is still a lot to learn, but you have the time right now to pay attention to everyone around you to glean what you can. Never stop gathering information.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Even if others make suggestions, use your own judgement regarding how to spend time this week, Libra. You may want to eschew all responsibilities for something fun.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Seek new places for any sort of inspiration, Scorpio. You never know what you may uncover unless you visit new places instead of your old haunts. Start exploring this week.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Some outside energy has muted your normally boisterous personality, Sagittarius. You may want to skip out on social scenes and spend some time at home in the coming days.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Strong opinions rule the day, so convincing others could be especially difficult in the days ahead. Wait some time and then try again, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, there will be some measure of public speaking or performance in your near future, and it is likely giving you a bit nervous. No one will judge you, so try to lighten up.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, you could encounter more oddballs than normal in your daily routines. From customers making scenes to quirky coworkers, you might need to be patient and open-minded.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 17 V. S. Naipaul, author, Nobel-Laureate (d)
- Aug. 18 Roberto Clemente, baseball player (d)
- Aug. 20 Jonathan Ke Quan, actor (52)
- Aug. 21 Joe Strummer, guitarist (d)
- Aug. 22 Kristen Wiig, actor, comedian (50)
- Aug. 23 Jeremy Lin, basketball player (35)

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Birkebeiner Race

(Continued from Page 19)

The name Birkebeinere was given by the Baglers, and originally intended to be offensive - referring to their leggings of birch bark, indicating that they were poor and incapable. They proved the Baglers wrong, and today the name carries a sense of pride, strength, and endurance for Norwegians- something thousands of people, participating in the historical race every year, keep striving for.

In the fall of 1930 author and forester, Haakon Lie published an article launching the idea of a ski race in honor of the 1206 rescue of the 18-month-old prince, Haakon Haakonsson.

Two years later - on January 10th, 1932, 6 men met on the mountain Raufjellet, and formally decided to arrange the very first Birkebeinerrennet. In 1932, 147 men completed the then 59 km long trail - first among them was Trygve Beisvåg, finishing in a respectable 4:51:40. The American Berkie was established in 1974, making this its 50th year. The top racers in the American Birkie today finish in just over 2 hours.

The Taiga Nomad is the first electric snowmobile and running in front of the top women racers, it will be quiet and not spew carbon emissions into their path. Taiga, a Canadian company, has taken a completely novel engineering approach to pave the way for electric technology. Their vision is to completely transform

the power sports sector by introducing groundbreaking electric off-road vehicles, ensuring sustainability without compromising on performance

Jay Stearns, board chair of Vermont's Catamount Trail Association, commented "The public enthusiasm for electric vehicles of all types is just beginning. The amazing vision and engineering that Taiga Motors brings to the power-sports sector is truly inspiring. And the Nomad is an incredible machine." He congratulated the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation for "embracing this new technology and leading the way on their 50th anniversary." The Catamount Trail is the longest cross-country ski trail in the United States, running from Massachusetts to the Canadian border. The trail relies on natural ungroomed snow and is being impacted by climate change. Stearns goes on to say, "On average, winter in the northeast is now 3 weeks shorter than it was a century ago...we see the effects firsthand. Snow melts faster. There's more open water. Some weeks the trail is impassable." To celebrate this year's 40th anniversary of the Trail, the founders, now in their 60s, will once again ski the length to help raise awareness of the impact of climate change.

Suzannah Cernia from the Citizens Climate Lobby thanked CVM owners Eric and Erika Bearor for importing this

novel technology into the US. Along with 1,000 other members, Cernia and her husband, Bob, traveled to Washington DC to lobby for the adoption of legislation to charge a carbon fee to carbon producers and give a dividend to families to support the acquisition of products that reduce carbon emissions.

The Birchleggings Clubs' efforts got a boost from Olympic cross-country skiing gold medalist, World Champion, and Board Member of Protect Our Winters, Jessie Diggins, who trains in Vermont. Diggins offered to lend her support by donating autographed bibs for auction. When asked about her reasons for supporting the ski industry going green, she said, "In preparing for the first cross-country World Cup to be held in the US in over 20 years, the Taiga Nomad

snowmobile can send a message to the ski world that we need to cut our carbon emissions as quickly as possible."

Erika Bearor, who has been riding a Taiga electric snowmobile for 2 years said, "Zero emissions and zero noise, it just brings a smile to your face." Central Vermont Motorcycles has sold 15 of these electric snowmobiles in the last 6 months.

Following a ribbon cutting, participants celebrated with champagne and ice cream.

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Samantha Graves

(Continued from Page 1)
individual sport.”

Graves spent the summer after her junior year in Maine, with her now-husband Brandon, working for “Timber Tina’s Great Maine Lumberjack Show,” owned by Tina Scheer, who has been a contestant on Survivor. In 2017, after college, she joined Scheer’s traveling lumberjack revue “Chicks with Axes.” Graves was also a member of the New York State Lumberjack Association.

Though lumberjacking is mostly seen as a masculine activity, women have been coming into their own in the sport. Though the Stihl Timbersports Championship started in 1985 for men, the Stihl Women’s Championship was begun only in 2017. It quickly established itself as the premier showcase for women in the sport. Despite her years of experience at that point, Graves didn’t make it past the qualifying round in her first attempt to enter the Stihl competition.

“It was a starting point to see what I needed to do,” Graves said. She was able to watch women at the pinnacle of the sport and gauge how much further she had to push herself to get to that level.

And now she’s there.

The Stihl women’s competition encompassed four events: standing block chop, underhand chop, stock saw, and single buck.

The chop events are performed with an axe and require

the athlete to chop through a section of white pine trunk (stripped of bark) with a 25- to 27-centimeter diameter. In standing block, the wood is secured upright to a stand and the athlete chops through the middle of it. In underhand, the wood rests horizontally on the ground and the athlete stands on top (with footholds cut in) and chops in the space between her feet. Stock saw is a chainsaw event and single buck is a toothed-saw event, both of which require the athlete to saw off a cross-section of a horizontal trunk. The athletes are given time before the event to examine the wood and devise their approach given the wood’s pattern of growth rings and knots (“Knots will wreck your equipment,” said Graves.)

Standing block is a newer category in the competition and Graves saw a chance to excel because no one was yet dominating the event.

“I buckled down,” said Graves. “I saw it as a place where I could make up points from other events. I’ve worked really hard the last two years.”

In the video of the event, available on YouTube, Graves wields her axe as if it weighed nothing, landing precise blows to either side of the standing block in an alternating pattern, chipping the wood down to an hourglass until one more whack was all it took to send the upper half flying.

She managed this feat in a world record 30.02 seconds.

“I knew I had a great time. But I didn’t know right away it was a world record,” Graves said. She tried to keep her excitement in check until all the heats were completed and it was clear her time remained the best.

“I was in the same heat as Martha [King], so I knew if I beat her, I must’ve done really well. And she was right there to congratulate me.”

For her mother, Terrie Patch, the world record was “a total surprise.”

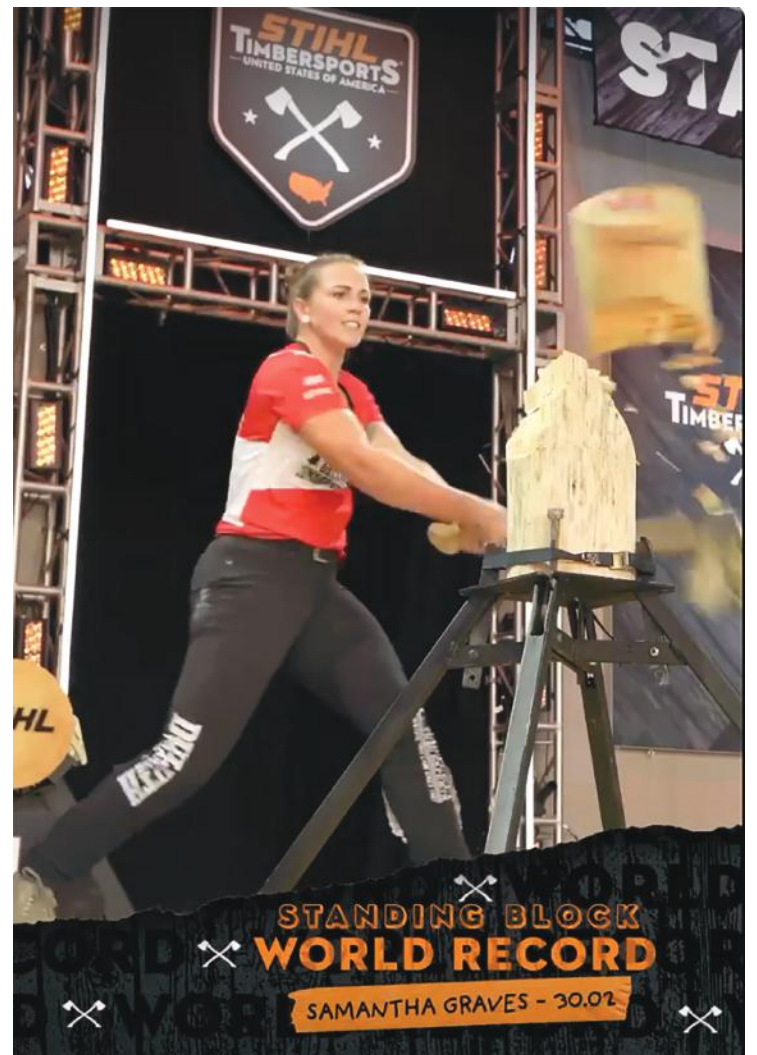
“We all just kind of looked at each other,” said Patch. “The women in that competition were just phenomenal.”

The field was so strong that even with the world-record time in standing chop, Graves ended up placing fourth overall, an excellent showing for a young athlete with many more competitions ahead of her.

In fact, Graves competed last weekend at the Pennsylvania Lumberjack Championships, coming in first again in standing block, second in single buck, and second in underhand. It’s fair to say Graves is having an outstanding year.

And she’s got three more competitions coming up over the same weekend: one in Pennsylvania, one in New York, and one in New Hampshire.

Graves is able to support her training with cash prizes at events and through sponsorships. Her employer, Bartlett Tree Experts in Rochester, NY,



SAMANTHA GRAVES GIVING the final whack as she secures a world-record time of 30.02 seconds in the Standing Block Chop event at the Stihl Timbersports Championships in Milwaukee, WI in July.

is a sponsor, as is Tina Scheer.

“It’s a mental game as well as a physical one,” said Graves. “You have to tame your nerves. You have to keep your compo-

sure.”

Clearly, Samantha Graves has been able to do just that.

BARN OPERA

(Continued from Page 7)

On February 16 and 17, 2024, Opera Vermont will commemorate the centennial of Giacomo Puccini’s death with two performances of Tosca, the opera that christened the barn back in 2021. Tickets will become available immediately after the concerts in September.

In May, the Southern Vermont Arts Center (SVAC) will host Opera Vermont’s production of Rigoletto, which has never before been performed in Vermont. Italian soprano Scilla Cristiano and BARN OPERA’s baritone Nicholas Tocci will star. Tickets will become available at SVAC’s box office after October 1, 2023.

Then in September of 2024, will once again honor Puccini with a black-tie gala at BARN OPERA. Scenes and arias from Puccini’s most famous works will be presented: Madame

Butterfly, La Boheme, Turandot, Tosca. There will even be selections from his lesser-known works as well, such as Edgar, Le Villi, and Manon Lescault.

“This will be a great opportunity to hear this repertoire in the acoustic brilliance of arguably the best acoustic barn in New England,” said Collier.

And to close out the 2024 season, BARN OPERA will present the world premiere of “Truman and Nancy” by William Zeffiro, which imagines a meeting between Truman Capote and Nancy Clutter, who was one of the murder victims Capote wrote about in his classic “In Cold Blood.” The work is based on the graphic novel “Capote in Kansas” by Ande Parks. Both Mr. Zeffiro and Mr. Parks will be in attendance. Mr. Parks has offered to discuss the creation of his novel on the

evening of the second performance. Tickets for this production go on sale on BARN OPERA’s website in March 2024.

“We’re expanding but we’re not leaving Brandon!” said Collier. And BARN OPERA will continue its Christmas tradition, “Amahl & the Night Visitors,” at the Salisbury Congregational Church in December and will hold a New Year’s Eve event in Brandon as well.

For years, BARN OPERA has brought Vermont to the barn, and now it’s bringing the barn to Vermont through Opera Vermont. As the program grows and additional partnerships are formed, there will truly be no corner of the Green Mountain State where opera cannot be heard.

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