

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

A community supported newspaper

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\$1



RAISE YOUR VOICE

Pittsford Congregational Church held a “hymn sing,” featuring beloved hymns, original music, and classic compositions. Alastair Stout of Grace Congregational Church in Rutland performed on organ and piano.

PG. 3

BE THE CHANGE

Jim Emerson of the Brandon Energy Committee describes his philosophy toward climate change and what we can do to combat it.

PG. 4

FUTURE FORWARD

The Brandon Democratic Committee met at Red Clover to discuss their plans for the coming year and welcome new members.

PG. 15



PG. 10

AVOID THE BITES

This wet summer offered perfect conditions for mosquitos and mosquito-borne diseases made a comeback in Vermont.

PG. 2

DOWNWARD DOG

Jeff Sacks discusses his ambivalent fondness for yoga.

PG. 7



A year after her kidney transplant, Brandon's Mei Mei Brown is doing great

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The search was intense. Thirty-eight people, many from the Brandon area, offered to be donors, though none was deemed a suitable match. And the need kept worsening. By the time a suitable donor organ was found—after nearly four years on the transplant waiting list—Mei Mei’s kidneys were operating at only 5% capacity. She’d been fortunate to avoid dialysis to that point, but it was unclear how much longer her kidneys would hold out.

A year and change later, she’s leading an active
(See Mei Mei Brown, Page 2)

Time to make the donuts Dunkin' Donuts opens in Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—After years of anticipation, the Dunkin’ Donuts in downtown Brandon finally opened on Monday, September 18. Local fans of Dunks donuts and coffee no longer need to travel to Midd or Rutland to get their fix. And judging from the constant stream of people in and out of the store on Monday, plenty of folks have been waiting impatiently for this day.

“It’s been very steady today,” said District Manag-
(See Dunkin' Donuts, Page 9)



They Grow 'Em Big at the Senior Center!

KATHY MATHIS SUBMITTED this terrific photo of Ed Walker standing next to a massive sunflower that was put in the garden of the Senior Center in Forestdale in May, between the many raindrops that we’ve had.

Photo by Marianne Buswell



Mosquitos carrying West Nile and EEE virus found in Vt.

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- Mosquitos carrying West Nile virus (WN) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been found in Vermont from Alburg to Vergennes. Late summer is the peak time for these diseases, which can but rarely result in severe neurological symptoms and death. EEE and WN had not been found in sampled mosquitos in the last 3 years. Compounding this discovery is the fact that we have had such a wet summer that there has been none of the usual dropoff in mosquito numbers. Prevention of mosquito bites and further ef-

forts to control adult mosquitos are more important. This was the hot topic at the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control Board meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at the Brandon Senior Center. According to expert mosquito technician Will Mathis, there are many more places for mosquitos to breed in these conditions, such as wet lawns, discarded tires, and any standing water. Spraying of the adulticide permethrin has continued since early summer but has been frequently interrupted by rain and mechanical problems with the District's aging equipment. Spot

checks of frequent mosquito breeding grounds have shown large amounts of eggs. The District's efforts will continue until the end of mosquito season.

In other business, the dedication of a memorial to Art Doty, the father of the local insect control district, is planned for September 30th from 9-11 a.m. in Crescent Park in the north end of Brandon. Speakers who knew Art, tributes, and the opportunity for audience members to tell stories of Art will be part of the celebration. Information about the OCWICD will be available. Coffee and doughnuts are planned.

Enjoy Dead Creek Wildlife Day on Oct. 7

ADDISON, Vt. -- If you enjoy wildlife be sure to make plans to attend the 21st annual Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, Vermont on Saturday, October 7.

Activities at Dead Creek Wildlife Day are especially for people who enjoy hunting, fishing, bird-watching, or learning about Vermont's diverse wildlife and ecosystems. The event will be held at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on Route 17, west of Route 22A.

Early risers can begin the day with a bird banding demonstration at 7:00 a.m. Two large tents at Dead Creek WMA headquarters will open at 9:30 a.m. featuring wildlife-related exhibits and activities such as decoy carving,

building bluebird boxes and nature crafts.

The Dead Creek Visitor Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring displays about conservation and wildlife management in Vermont. Enjoy a walk along the interpretive trail and observe pollinators feeding on native wildflowers.

Live critters will include a selection of snakes, turtles, raptors, and more that visitors can see up close and learn about their ecology. New this year will be wild game cooking over a campfire, a deer processing demonstration, trained leashed tracking dogs, as well as talks on transportation and wildlife ecology, and snakes and lizards of Vermont.

Retriever dogs will be work-

ing in the area ponds, pointing dogs will be nearby, and all the favorite nature walks will be happening. All events are free, and a free shuttle bus will provide regular access to nearby field events throughout the day.

"We want to welcome visitors to the 21st year of the popular Dead Creek Wildlife Day," said Amy Alfieri, manager of the Dead Creek WMA. "We try to bring in new activities and presentations every year and I am excited for what is on the schedule this year. I only ever see smiles on people's faces as they learn about fish and wildlife in a beautiful setting. Visitors love to see the live animals and working dogs, and the kids love to build their own blue-

(See Dead Creek, Page 8)

Mei Mei

(Continued from Page 1)

life that many folks would find taxing. She's the President of the Board of the Rutland County Humane Society, a role that requires not only managerial skills but also a willingness to roll up your sleeves and help care for the animals.

"I've got nine cats in my office right now," laughed Mei Mei (pronounced "Mimi") in a recent phone conversation.

Mei Mei had been suffering for years from polycystic kidney disease (PKD), a genetic disorder that causes fluid-filled sacs to grow on the kidneys, resulting in a loss of function over time. The cysts can start to affect other organs as well and the diseased kidneys can shut down completely.

"I was just tired. I had none of the other classic symptoms," said Mei Mei. "But when I was 59, I was seeing a new doctor and they wanted to have some routine bloodwork done. A week before I was supposed to leave for Arizona, I found out I was having serious kidney issues. I went to Arizona and saw doctors at the Mayo Clinic there. They initially thought I'd have about 10 years before my kidneys really started to shut down, but I crashed after 4."

In August of 2018, while on vacation, the cysts on Mei Mei's kidneys burst. She ended up in the ER. Her kidneys were failing. She came home and did what she could to avoid dialysis.

"Dialysis is so damaging to the body," she said. "I probably wouldn't have had such a successful transplant if I'd been through it."

But the transplant was indeed a huge success. It was a 3-hour operation, during which the donor kidney was hooked up, so to speak, among Mei Mei's other organs, including her two failing kidneys. She now has 3 kidneys, only one of which performs its intended function.

Mei Mei had her one-year checkup in August and got an unequivocal A+ from her doctor:

"My doctor is not jovial, but he came in smiling from ear to ear. 'Your labs are fabulous!' I almost fell out of my chair."

Initially, Mei Mei was on a regimen of 3 different anti-rejection drugs and is now on only 1. A year ago, she was taking 14 pills twice a day; now she's down to 4 pills twice a day. Her doctor is based at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in New Hampshire, one of the few transplant centers to customize anti-rejection regimens for their patients. Most others insist that transplant recipients follow a much more burdensome protocol

even when not medically necessary.

"There wasn't even really any pain," she added. "I never took any painkillers stronger than Tylenol. It was one of the things that surprised me the most."

But the transplant wasn't 100% smooth sailing. It took some time for the donor kidney to "wake up," she said. It wasn't clear at first whether the issue was with the new organ or with Mei Mei's own body. But the donor kidney had come from a 26-year-old man who had passed away and Mei Mei's doctors were able to track down the recipient of his other kidney. It turned out that this other patient was having a similar experience.

But when the kidney did finally rouse from its slumber, it began performing extremely well. And yet Mei Mei was mostly housebound for the first 7 months after the operation, since her immune system was weak, and any infection could wipe her out. Added to the usual concerns was the continued prevalence of COVID at the time.

"A big outing was just riding in the car to the grocery store with [my husband] Bruce," she laughed.

But throughout the process, even during the early days of the donor search, Mei Mei looked at the situation philosophically.

"Whatever's meant to happen is going to happen," she said.

But one day during the search period, as she drove home from a vacation, she thought it wise to alert the transplant center at Dartmouth that she was back home, since transplants must be done within 48 hours of an organ becoming available.

"It was a Monday night. I texted Dartmouth to tell them I was back home. Tuesday morning, I got a call. 'We have your kidney, Mei Mei.' If we'd stayed in Maine even an extra day, I wouldn't have gotten this kidney."

But luck has been on her side so far. The transplant has thrived and her kidney function is excellent."

"I no longer have the disease that I had. I'm basically cured. I'm one of the very lucky ones."

And that sense of luckiness extends to the many friends who offered up their own organs.

"So many people from Brandon got screened that the nurse said, 'I want to meet this Mei Mei!' I have wonderful friends."

But the lesson Mei Mei wants others to learn from her experience is a bit more pragmatic:

"Sign your drivers license. Be a donor. It made a world of difference to me."

Pianist and composer Alastair Stout performs at Pittsford Congregational Church's hymn sing

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—On Sunday, September 17, Pittsford Congregational Church (PCC) hosted a hymn sing and concert featuring Alastair Stout, a multitalented organist, pianist, and composer who is currently music director at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. The program was ably led by Pastor Michael Dwyer of PCC and comprised Mr. Stout's original compositions, contemporary pieces by British composer Peter Maxwell Davies, and classical pieces by Bach and Charpentier. And, of course, favorite hymns chosen by Pastor Dwyer and members of the

audience. There was a freewill donation at the door to benefit the Foley Cancer Center.

Mr. Stout began the program with Johann Sebastian Bach's Arioso, a slow, baroque virtuosic exercise. The mathematical exactness of Bach offers a musician no cover. All hesitations and mistakes are revealed. It requires precision and confidence and Mr. Stout delivered both. The organ, a cherished antique, filled the space beautifully.

The first set of hymns started with perhaps the best-known hymn of all, Amazing Grace. The majority of the audience stood to sing this classic. The combination of the

lyrics, the organ, and the voices in that simple New England church was quite poignant.

The other two hymns in the first set were "In the Garden" and "Blessed Assurance," both chosen by members of the audience from the hymnals that were available in the pews.

Mr. Stout then moved from organ to piano for his next set of compositions: "Farewell to Stromness" and "Yesnaby Ground" by Peter Maxwell Davies and an original composition by Mr. Stout titled "Lillian," written in honor of a 90-year-old friend Mr. Stout knew in Pittsburgh.

The pieces by Maxwell Davies had a clear Celtic influence, in both spirit and melody, with "Yesnaby" leaning a bit into modernism. They absolutely evoked the British Isles. Mr. Stout's charming tribute to his friend Lillian was written in waltz time and recalled a by-

gone era, particularly when the melody reached into the higher octaves and brought to mind a ballerina in a music box.

For the second set of hymns, Mr. Stout remained on piano. These hymns were chosen by the audience and included "In Christ There Is No East or West," "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine," and the classic "How Great Thou Art."

Mr. Stout returned to the organ for "Prière à Notre-Dame" by the 19th-century French

composer Léon Boëllmann. Mr. Stout prefaced this piece by drawing the audience's attention to the composer's use of unusual stops on the organ. It's a meditative piece that seemed to envelop the audience in its slow, rapturous sound.

The third set of hymns, again chosen by the audience, included "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," "My Life Flows on in Endless Song," "My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff," and "Be Now

(See Hymn sing, Page 8)

The mathematical exactness of Bach offers a musician no cover. All hesitations and mistakes are revealed. It requires precision and confidence and Mr. Stout delivered both.



PIANIST, ORGANIST, AND composer Alastair Stout performed at the Pittsford Congregational Church on Sunday, September 17. He performed classical, contemporary, and original works, in addition to the accompaniment he provided for several cherished hymns sung by the audience.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Spotlight On Business BRANDON SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, PLLC



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Heather Nelson

My work as a speech-language pathologist is extremely fulfilling. Communication is a vital ingredient to happiness and autonomy, and it is a privilege to support children and families with development of communication skills. My work is diverse and never boring - the kids I work with make sure of that! I love making connections with families in our local community and surrounding areas of Vermont.

Heather is licensed for Speech-Language Pathology with an educational endorsement and Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest-Editorial

Breathing with the Climate Crisis,
and the opportunity in it

BY JIM EMERSON

My brother has always been a climate skeptic as far as human influence on the climate goes. However, it never stopped him from considering the opportunity that lives in assuming we do have a negative influence. That is, by assuming we do have a significant influence, we can create some good and potentially lots of savings in the process.

In Bend, Oregon about 10 plus years ago, he was among the very first to build net-zero homes. I say “homes” in the plural, because he found they saved enough that he developed about a half dozen for sale and did very well as a developer in his retirement. In fact, during this period he found that the cost to build net-zero came in line with traditional construction.

And on top of that, he pays nothing for heat, lights, cooling, fuel for his cars, and more. Virtually no utility or energy bills in his retirement years. And his house is comparable to or above the market value of similar homes.

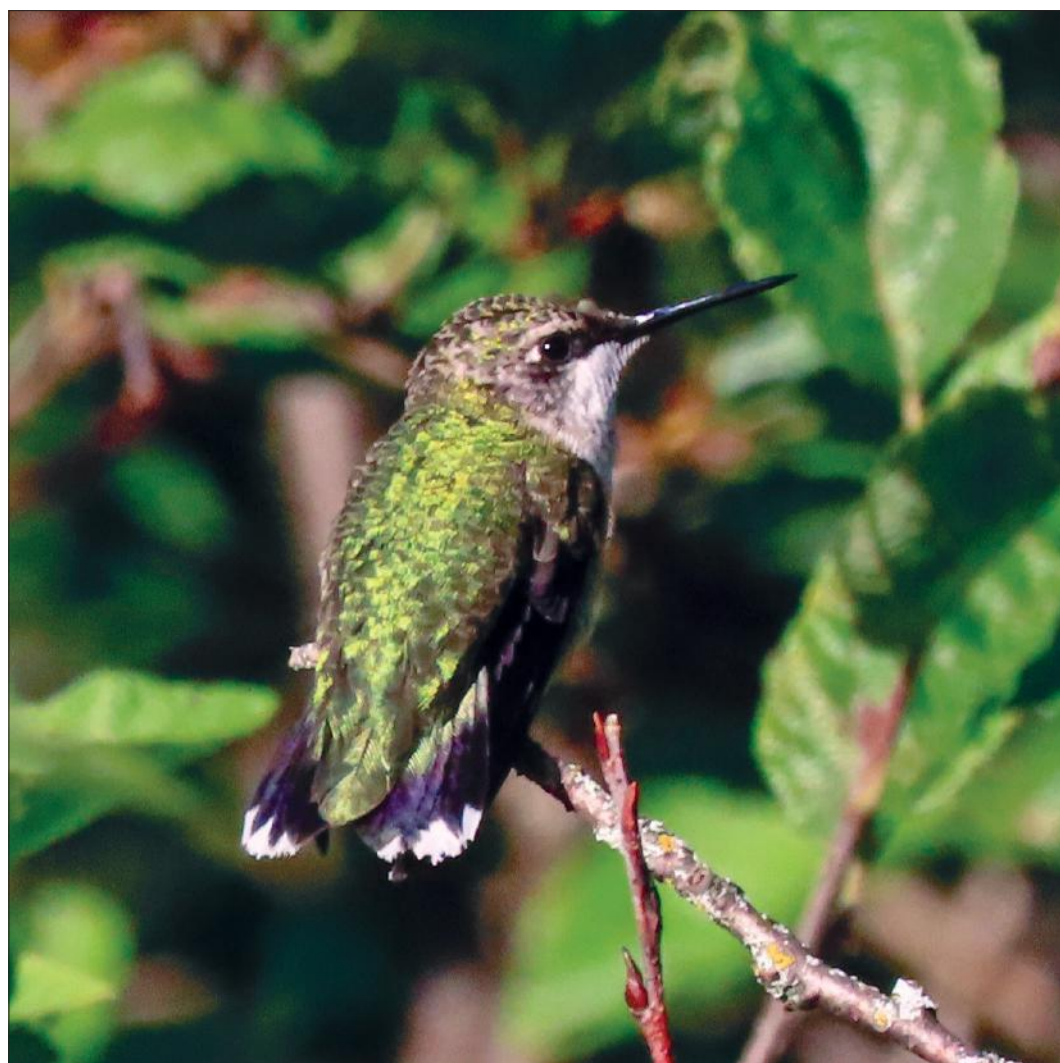
The beauty is that new technologies that rely on renewable energy sources are often more affordable and cheaper to install and operate than traditional fossil-fuel-based technologies. What is required is a change of perspective to considering the lifetime cost of both acquisition and operating costs, as well as longevity of the options.

For example, when we bought our Chevy Bolt in 2017, we estimate we spent at most an extra 10%, or about \$3,000, plus about \$7,500 towards the

increased solar generation on our roof needed to power the car. But we have saved over \$11,000 in fuel, oil changes, and maintenance costs over the past six years. During this time, we have taken our car to the garage for tire rotations 10 times and once for a brake job. For the next six-plus years (or quite likely 10 years with the durability of electric motors), we drive for free from my perspective!

From another perspective, the climate crisis is a relationship crisis between ourselves and our mother earth. I say “mother earth” as most all ancient native traditions instinctively understood the earth to be a living being. This perspective got lost as man developed a more analytical and mechanistic head set toward the earth. In the 70s, we saw the rebirth of Gaia, a recognition of mother earth as a living entity, the source of all life on the planet. There are some who now who speak of her rain forests as her lungs, surface soils as her skin that bears the foundation for all of life, the waters as her life blood. Her rivers, seas, fields, mountains, glaciers, minerals, and all serve as her organs: serve to bring her health, just as animals and humans can experience their organs.

In this vein, we all have an instinct to not harm other beings, particularly our animal friends and fellow humans. That is our higher nature. We all tend to wish to assist any being that is hurting, to not ignore its ailing, to bring healing if we can. Some see the earth as suf-
(See *Climate opportunity*, Page 11)

**Jewel toned beauty**

THIS RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD was seen on Short Swamp Road in Brandon. These summer residents will soon be beginning their long migration route south for the winter.

Community Forums

Walter Cabell Shooting Range
opens for sighting-in rifles, October 7

WOODBURY, Vt. — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says its Walter Cabell Shooting Range in Woodbury will be open for hunters to sight in their rifles on Saturday, October 7.

“Vermont has some of the safest and most conservation-minded hunters anywhere,” said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. “The Wal-

ter Cabell Shooting Range provides a publicly accessible place where hunters can safely sight in their rifles and practice their shooting skills.”

Shooters will be required to follow all range rules. A range safety officer will be on site to assist users and ensure rules are adhered to. Bring your own rifle and ammunition. Safety glasses and hearing protection are re-

quired. The range will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Walter Cabell Shooting Range was developed by Fish and Wildlife at the Buck Lake Green Mountain Conservation Camp. Every year approximately 500 students attend summer camp here and use the facility to obtain their hunter education certificates. The range provides
(See *Shooting range*, Page 6)

Pittsford Sheep Festival, October 8

The Pittsford Sheep Festival has been offering free family entertainment for 30 years. This year it will be held on Sunday, October 8, from 11 am to 4 pm, at the Pittsford Recreation Area off Furnace Road in Pittsford.

Local craft vendors, felters, and spinners will have booths featuring their skills and products. Sheep-shearing demonstra-

tions will be held at 11:15, 1:45 and 3:15. Sheepdog handling demonstrations will be held at 1:00 and 2:30. The Leaping of the Lambs, an exclusive RAS activity, will be held at 12:00, 2:15 and 3:45. There will be food for sale featuring tasty local lamb.

In The Leaping of the Lambs, the sheep compete against each other by running through an ob-

stacle course to reach a treat at the finish line. Come and cheer on your favorite sheep.

You will have the chance to visit with local shepherds and learn about raising sheep in Vermont. This event is sponsored by the Rutland Area Shepherds. For more information check our website, <http://www.vermont-shepherds.com>

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

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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Point CounterPoint celebrates its 60th anniversary

LEICESTER and SALISBURY—Point CounterPoint (<https://pointcp.com/>), one of the leading chamber music camp programs in the United States and located on the shores of Lake Dunmore, celebrates its 60th anniversary this month with a gift to area residents.

Jenny Beck, Executive Director and owner of Point CounterPoint (PCP), announced that PCP will host an Alumni Chamber Music Concert followed by a post-concert reception on Friday evening, September 29th, beginning at 7:30 p.m., at the Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple Street.

There is no cost to attend, and the public is very cordially invited to come and hear the performance of talented alumni from Point CounterPoint. PCP has been performing at the Church for more than 40 years. The camp has had more than 10,000 chamber musicians from all over the world who have been part of PCP since it opened its doors in 1963.

Point CounterPoint provides young musicians with the opportunities to grow, learn, and collaborate, providing young musicians with an immersive musical experience, and emphasizing chamber music and ensemble playing.

“We are happy and grateful to celebrate our 60th Anniversary, commemorating six decades of nurturing young musical talents, and the generations of campers and families that have attended, taught and worked at the camp,” said Ms. Beck. “We will be celebrating throughout the weekend with alumni, their friends and

family, but we also want to do something special for the region that has been our home for so long. We hope people will come to the event, hear music, share some food, and help us to celebrate this milestone.”

About Point CounterPoint Point CounterPoint traces its history to 1963, when it was founded by the late Dr. Edwin Finckel, a New Jersey pianist, composer, and teacher. Dr. Finckel’s goal was to create summer musical opportunities for his students. Among these first camper/musicians was his son, David Finckel, now well-known as the former cellist in the Emerson String Quartet, the cellist in the duo of David Finckel and Wu Han, and the Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center.

The next owners and directors were Emory Fanning, professor of music at Middlebury College, and Diana Fanning, a noted concert pianist, who directed the camp for ten years. Over those years, Point CounterPoint gained international recognition and attracted students from foreign countries including France, Italy, Germany, Turkey, West Africa, Japan, Israel, Switzerland, and Canada.

In 1989, ownership of Point CounterPoint transferred to professional violinist/violist Dr. Paul Roby and pianist Margaret Johnson Roby, along with amateur musicians and family members Nick and Sue Jones.

In 2008, a new era began when Jenny and Steve Beck purchased Point CounterPoint. Under Jenny Beck’s direction and (See Point CounterPoint, Page 6)

Letter to the Editor

Why board minutes are so important

To the Editor:

I fully support the opinion of editor Steven Jupiter in the September 13 issue of The Reporter. I was the recording secretary for Town of Brandon Selectboard, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board, which became the Development Review Board, for many years, in addition to Neshobe, Lothrop, OVUHS, RNESU and Rutland City school boards. I have taken a lot of board minutes in a time span that stretched 2.5 decades.

I commend Charlene Bryant and the minutes she takes for all the boards she works with. I took similar minutes – opting to put in “more” rather than “less.” Yes, it was my “take” on a discussion that made it into the minutes. I summarized, optimized, and edited at my discretion. I decided when to clean up name-calling and foul language or condense the words of someone who repeated or dragged on unnecessarily. That’s what a good note-taker does.

The essence of the minutes should reveal the flavor of the discussion, the background, and how a board arrived at a decision. Is that “more than the legal necessity?” By far it

is. And in fact, it is way more work for the recording secretary. In most cases, the recorder gets paid by the meeting. That means whether the meeting lasts half an hour or four hours, it’s the same pay. It can take upwards of a few hours for the recorder to edit and finesse sentence structure, punctuation, and grammar after the meeting is over. If the recorder just shows legal business (who is present and action taken), that would certainly be financially advantageous.

However, if the spirit of the discussion is not on record, there is so much that is lost. With the detail, future interested parties can go back and really know how decisions were made. And it helps voters to understand our elected officials come time for re-election.

Audio and video recording is a new technology available for officials to consider. But the technology is changing rapidly and who knows if the current format will be available in a few years, let alone 20-30 years. And even now, not everyone has the technology to listen or watch. There are paper files available in town that date back a couple of centuries. Will someone 100 years from

now be able to access an audio recording made today?

Kudos to the Brandon Select Board for reversing their initial decision about allowing the record to show what our town representatives are thinking and saying. For those who can’t make it to a meeting or frankly don’t want to sit through it, at least there is an accurate summary of the discussions. And when the accuracy is challenged, it is corrected at the next meeting – that is the right and responsibility of each and every board member. A board member who has taken on the role of serving the townspeople should be prepared to take time to read the minutes and make corrections if needed at the next meeting. That’s why there is a dedicated item on every agenda for minutes approval.

When I was working, I was routinely called after a meeting by a board member who would say, “Make sure you put in the minutes what I said about blah, blah, blah.” Most board members want to ensure that people know what they said. They stand by it. They represent it. They don’t hide from it.

Janet Mondlak
Brandon

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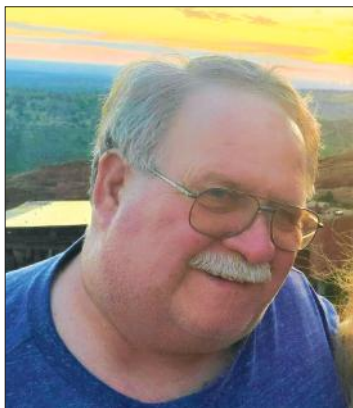
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Obituaries

James Holly Sherwin, Jr., 64, Brandon

James Holly Sherwin, Jr., age 64 passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023. He was born in Rutland, VT August 10, 1959, the son of James "Poppy" Sherwin, Sr., and Patricia (Bushey) Sherwin. Jim was a lifelong resident of Brandon and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1977. He had worked at the Vermont Marble Co., Blue Seal Feeds, New England Woodcraft and General Electric. In 1993, he started his own woodworking business, BrenJay Wood products, which he operated until 2022. Besides his love of woodworking, he enjoyed hunting, the Red Sox, football, including the OV Otters and New England Patriots. Above all, he valued his family, loving nothing more than gathering together, especially his children, and sharing a meal and an evening of laughter.

Jim is well known for his unique qualities and interests. He never lost a poker game to Bigfoot, had an impeccable Donald Duck impression, and had a



JAMES HOLLY SHERWIN

deep love for reading. He shared a passion for motorcycles with his father and siblings, joining them on many rides across Vermont and New England. Jim is survived by his wife Kathy (Fillioe), whom he married on May 14, 1994 in Leicester, 3 sons and their partners, Rick Poro (Kathryn) of W. Rutland, VT, Brendan Sherwin (Ashley) of Holliston, MA, Adam Sherwin (Lyndsey) of Quakertown, PA, 1 daughter, Jamee Sherwood (Christopher) of Denver, CO, 1 brother, Brian Sherwin (Michelle) of Leicester,

2 sisters, Ida Harrington (Jim) of Leicester, and Phyllis Smith (Ken) of Pittsford. He is also survived by 3 grandchildren, Coleman, Calvin, and Natalie, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins, especially Bruce Sherwin, his closest cousin and friend. Jim was predeceased by his father, mother, sister Deanna Rosenfelder, and brother Charles Sherwin.

The Memorial Service in celebration of his life will be held at the Leicester Church of the Nazarene in Leicester on Sept. 22nd at 11 am. In honor of Jim, casual attire, including OV Football, Patriots or Red Sox are encouraged whenever possible.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to OVAA (Otter Valley Athletic Association) or St. Joseph's Dwelling Place, 141 Wright Road, Ludlow, VT 05149.

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



PICTURED LEFT TO right: Bill McHugh (of NYC), Monica McEnery (Captain/Driver, of Brandon), Lillian McHugh (of NYC), and Devon Fuller, Jim Leary, Harry McEnery, Karl Fjeld, Wendy Fjeld, and Nancy Leary (all of Brandon).

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation Team fundraiser was a rousing success

Several members of the Brandon area joined friends on Saturday, September 16 to hike 16.2 miles of the Long Trail. The walk was an effort to raise awareness and funds for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation Team Vermont surpassed their

goal by raising \$6,000+. We can do hard things - and that includes finding a cure in our lifetime. To give to the cause, please visit <https://give.themmr.org/fundraiser/4885257>. For the backstory, visit: bit.ly/thewalk2023.

Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing.

For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com. Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

Shooting range

(Continued from Page 4)

a safe, accessible and environmentally friendly shooting opportunity for campers.

This range is located at 1051 Buck Lake Road in Woodbury,

Vermont, and it includes several lanes and benches with an overhead shelter, side berms, a backstop and a small parking area. Target backstops are at 15, 25 and 50 yards.

For more information, contact Dylan Smith by emailing Dylan.Smith@vermont.gov or by phone at 802-622-4331.

Point CounterPoint

(Continued from Page 5)

leadership, many new programs appear on their summer calendar. One of them is a one-week camp (called Prelude) which attracts young chamber musicians (ages 8-13) who are looking for a shorter sleep-away camp experience. Early in the fall, there is a 5-day Adult Chamber Music Workshop, providing amateurs the opportunity to play music with new friends in a camp-like environment. In June 2011, Ms. Beck launched New Music On The Point (NMOP). NMOP's focus is emerging, young musi-

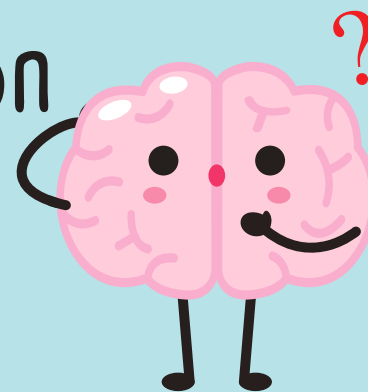
cians ages 18 and older who are interested in new chamber music. At this innovative program, young composers, instrumentalists, and vocalists workshop and perform the newest of new chamber music.

Point CounterPoint is known for its supportive and collaborative atmosphere. Young musicians learn and grow in a vibrant community of peers who share a passion for music. At PCP, students have the opportunity to receive intensive training and guidance from world-renown professional musicians balanced

with a traditional camp experience. Various programs include chamber music ensembles, music theory, private lessons and more. Students participate in daily rehearsals, masterclasses, and performances, allowing them to enhance their musical skills and develop a deeper understanding of ensemble playing.

To learn more about programs offered, please call (267) 886-5359 or email pointcp@gmail.com. Point CounterPoint is located at 1361 Hooker Road, Leicester, VT.

Brandon Brain Buster



A bag contains exactly 2 red marbles and exactly 2 blue marbles, with no other contents. If 2 marbles are chosen from the bag at random, without replacement, what is the probability that at least one of the chosen marbles is red?

- A) 1/6
- B) 1/3
- C) 1/2
- D) 5/6
- E) 7/8

Answer on pg. 20

Yard Sale?

Advertise it in the Reporter!

Call 247-8080 for details.



Vermont's Open Studio Weekend arrives on Sept. 30th

September 30 (Saturday) and October 1 (Sunday) from 10 am to 5 pm

Visit local artists in their studios! No reservations or registration needed. Just come by!

Free map booklets will be available at the Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center Street. The booklets have directions to all the open studios in Vermont, almost 100 for the weekend.

The local participants in Brandon are: The Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center Street, with 35 artists

The Vermont Gallery of Folk Art, 24 Park Street, with 3 artists:

Medana Gabbard

Robin Kent

Warren Kimble

Caleb Kenna Photography, 40 Old Farm Road

Jill Listzwan, Dancing Ear Design, 519 Lovers Lane

Joan Curtis, 10 Union Street



Yoga: If I can do it, so can you!

BY JEFF SACKS

I've gotten back into yoga. For those of you who have seen my body lumbering about town on a walkabout or on my way to Red Clover Ale Co., this is almost every bit as absurd as you think it is.

It's thanks to my wife's desire to keep me alive forever and her nervous energy for squeezing as much activity into each day as humanly possible that I have reconnected to my breathing, am getting more limber, and am enjoying yet another activity with her as well as our friendly cat Zeus when we can't bear to hear any more of his howling meows at the closed door. He loves to be the center of activity, and I swear is he's getting the hang of yoga, too. He's great at the flop-on-your-side-so-you-can-get-pet pose.

As you might have guessed, no amount of yoga is going to ever get me to be able to sit in lotus position or half lords of the fishes pose or do a proper pigeon pose. These are just geometries that don't work for someone

with tree stumps for legs.

Yes, back in my day that's how leg surgeries went. Twist your knee, and whammo...you woke up in the hospital with barky skin and immobile replacement limbs. Yet, come to think of it, I've never had my legs replaced. Weird.

Seriously, though, almost every other pose, aside from the torture chambers mentioned above, offers me the promise of being able to bend myself into a pretzel the shape of which mimics the skinny woman made from rubber in the app we use. I swear she's A.I. generated.

Which brings me to something else I won't ever be able to do in yoga: Move out of and into poses without a whole lot of grunting and groaning. It must be quite alarming for my dear wife to hear such noises emanating from someone she cares for while he moves from table pose into lizard pose. But then again, these are the same sounds I make when getting into and out of a car, so maybe she's used to it by now.

I just don't understand why stretching the smithereens out of my extremities hurts the way it does. It's like pins and needles until I moan and creak into the next position.

The way I see it, the goal of my yoga training isn't for me to become another one of the local yogis, but just to start small and keep working to go deeper into the poses. That's not too much of an ask for me, and it's something just about anyone can do if I can do it.

I've even developed an affinity for a particular pose. It's called shavasana and it's done at the conclusion of every session. Shavasana is translated from Sanskrit as "corpse pose" because one lies face-up on the ground, arms and legs comfortably spread, eyes closed. Accordingly, it's probably a pose I don't want to go too deep into. You know?

Look for local classes. There's even a yoga studio right here in town on Grove St.

Namaste!

NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

New England Woodcraft is always looking for new talent willing to learn new skills and bring the organization forward for generations to come!

Interested in building and growing your career?

Call (802-247-8211),
email (tray@newoodcraft.com)
or stop by to see what opportunities we have for you!

NESHOBEE Golf Course

LONG IRON RESTAURANT

Open daily
Monday-Sunday

The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor seating options, with stunning views of the golf course and surrounding mountains. The indoor seating area features large windows that allow guests to take in the beautiful scenery while they dine.

Instagram Photo Contest

One lucky winner will win a free round at Neshobe Golf Club

Join the Neshobe Instagram Contest! All you need to do is follow us on Instagram and send us one of your favorite Neshobe photos.

BECOME A MEMBER

Family, individual and corporate memberships are available. Membership also includes monthly tournaments during the season, Ladies' and Mens' nights, and Nine & Dine events among others.

Neshobe is proud to have Rocky Ridge Golf Club in Hinesburg, VT as a part of the Milne Golf family so you will see exciting golf opportunities for members to enjoy the Rocky Ridge golf experience.

The golf course is OPEN!
Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Log on to neshobe.com or call 802-247-3611 to make a tee time.

<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

Hymn sing

(Continued from Page 3) My Vision.” A final hymn, chosen by Pastor Dwyer, was “Here I Am, Lord.” The program ended with Mr. Stout’s performance of “Te Deum” by 17th-century French

composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier. It’s a regal, Baroque piece, written as a march, and it was a fitting conclusion to a program that incorporated pieces both grand and humble.



PASTOR MICHAEL DWYER led the audience through almost a dozen hymns, including beloved favorites such as “Amazing Grace” and “How Great Thou Art.” The hymns were chosen by Pastor Dwyer and by members of the audience.



ALASTAIR STOUT IS Music Director at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. Pittsford Congregational Church does not have its own Music Director and welcomes these opportunities to bring music into the church.

Dead Creek

(Continued from Page 2) bird box to take home. It’s a great event for everyone.”

The festival is hosted by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Vermont

Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Delta Waterfowl,

and Otter Creek Audubon Society.

For more information and a schedule of events visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and check under Watch Wildlife.

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THE CREW AT the new Dunkin' Donuts in downtown Brandon. From L to R: Ryan Walker, Nancy Lafrancois, Laura Merone-Walsh, Chloe Otto, Allissa Snow, Zoey Brusco, and Richard Vitigliano. Ms. Merone-Walsh owns the franchise and Mr. Vitigliano is the district manager. Ms. Merone-Walsh says "the town has been great to work with."
Photo by Steven Jupiter

Dunkin' Donuts

(Continued from Page 1)
er Richard Vitigliano. "Especially when school got out. Apparently, Dunkin' Donuts was the subject of conversation at Otter Valley all day today."

It's a full-service, free-wifi, "next generation" location, with both eat-in dining and a drive-thru window. There's even a particular table set up to accommodate myriad devices: there are plugs for laptops and wireless charging pads for phones. Just rest your phone on a pad and it automatically begins charging, much to the surprised delight of several young employees who tested it out.

"We're heading into pumpkin spice season," replied Vitigliano when asked what was new at the store. "We've got a frozen coffee with pumpkin munchkins blended in. It's called 'Ice Spice.'" For those who come alive in autumn—the foliage, the crisp temps, the plaid flannel—the advent of Spice Season at Dunks is nirvana. But don't dawdle: the spice runs out around Halloween.

Franchise owner Laura Merone-Walsh was on hand to make sure the first day went off without a hitch. It's Merone-Walsh's 14th Dunkin' Donuts location, so she knows what it takes to keep one running in peak form.

"This was 9 years in the plan-

ning," said Merone-Walsh, who also owned the Mobil gas station that had occupied the spot. "It kept getting pushed back because of all the construction here. We started the project when Dave Atherton was Town Manager and now with Seth Hopkins and Bill Moore. The town's been great to work with."

In addition to the Dunkin' Donuts, the property contains a gas station and a car wash, both owned by Merone-Walsh but run as separate businesses. There's also a town-owned bank of charging stations for electric cars: you can have a coffee and jelly-filled while you charge your car.

The location right on Route 7 as it passes through downtown Brandon has only heightened the anticipation, as everyone was able to watch the construction while speculating when the restaurant would finally open.

"People think it's going to be instant," said Merone-Walsh. "But it's a process. We have to train the staff; we have to make sure everything is set up and ready to go."

The donuts are baked every morning at their facility in Rutland and driven up to Brandon in time for opening at 5:30 am (6 am on Sundays). Bagels, muffins, and croissants are all baked on premises in Brandon.

And one of the biggest innovations of this "next gen" restaurant is the app that allows you to place an order from your phone so it's waiting for you when you arrive at the store. You can pick it up at the drive-thru window or, if you'd rather not wait in line, at the designated pick-up shelves at the counter. It's prepaid through the app, so there's no in-store transaction to pick up your food. Just grab your bag and go.

Later on in October there will be a bigger "grand opening" celebration that will involve all three of the businesses, said Merone-Walsh.

Whether you're on your way to work, on your way home, on your lunch break, or just looking for a bite to eat in town, Dunkin' Donuts is open for business.

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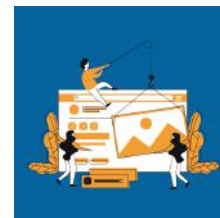
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OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Emma Davine
GRADE: 4
SCHOOL: Lothrop Elementary
TITLE: Page from a Sketchbook
MEDIUM: Pencil on paper
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



STATEMENT FROM MR. AUCOIN:
Emma is in fourth grade and loves doodling. She created this piece with a pencil while listening to her teacher read aloud. She used a pencil on notebook paper. I really admire Emma's attention to small details in this piece.

MAPLE COW by Matt Aucoin



Climate opportunity

(Continued from Page 4)

fering from a fever, just as we do when our organs are compromised.

We even have inclinations to fix broken machinery, even if we see the earth as simply a machine to serve us.

For decades we have been injuring the earth with tons and tons of thousands of different manmade, untested chemicals. We have assumed we can live in a 'more, more, more' culture indefinitely. The earth now needs to be treated with a sensitivity to her vulnerabilities and attention to what will heal her fever.

The point is that relating to the earth as a mass of random atoms that clustered together to generate life and serve as humankind's resource to spoil is perhaps the heart of the problem. As humankind 'advanced' from a more instinctual (and some might say "alive relationship") with nature and the earth, this experiment of a mechanistic approach took greater and greater hold in the past several hundred years. As humankind "evolved" from perhaps its childlike stage millennia ago, through its teenage years of the past centuries, we have broken into our heady youthful twenties: an untested age of spreading our wings, relying on our rational mind to the exclusion of the instinctual heritage of our ancestors. We have lost sight of respecting Mother Earth.

I recently heard about a study that found about 3% of Americans surveyed were so stressed and overwhelmed by "climate change" that they were dysfunctional and could not act to

take meaningful steps to address the problem. Another 8% were distressed, but in a way that motivated them to take actions in their personal lives. The rest were somewhere between "aware of the concern, but not distressed enough to act" and "denying climate change is something we have significantly influenced." The reporter announcing this study was advocating we empower more of our friends to take the "recognize the distress and take action" posture.

In pondering this, I conclude that what we really need is to turn to another whole perspective. That is, finding the joy of entering into a partnership with mother earth. A partnership based on recognizing our ways have hurt her. And turning toward attending to her needs for healing, becoming attentive to her wounds, being willing to change our point of view from anthropocentricity to a humbler view. Much like little children, whom we are to aspire to emulate, it is time to embody a reverence for our Mother Earth and take delight in her life-giving capacities. It is time to grow out of our heady twenty-something stage into one that balances youthful delight and awe with our pragmatic capacity to heal.

Many may see this suggestion as malarky, which I understand. It is a very different perspective than most of us encounter. However, as my brother would say, why not try this point of view on for a few years and see what opportunity lies within it?



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Calendar of events

September

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.

Goings on around town

Proctor Fall Festival celebration is on Sept. 30

Join us on September 30, 2023 from 11:00 am–3:00 pm at Main Street Park

12:00 Baking contest judging
recipe required/ must include cheddar cheese

12:30 Tom Joyce Magic show
"Christmastime Anytime"

2:00 Hula Hoop Show

Music • Pony rides • Photo booth •
Library pies • Fireman's BBQ • Pumpkin
decorating • Goats • Bounce house • Over
20 vendors

**Fireworks at dusk at the ball fields on
Elm Street**



For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzm@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

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!



Rutland County Audubon 2023

Join Slate Valley Trails and the Rutland County Audubon Society for weekly slow-paced (3 to 4 miles, 3 to 4 hour) bird & wildflower walks in the Poultney area, on the trails of the SVT system, Tuesdays at 7:30 am. All levels of birding experience are welcome. Bring water and a snack (and insect repellent if you use it), binoculars, cameras, or field guides, if you have them. The walks are at a slow pace with lots of opportunities for observing & photographing. Fall migration is in progress, so we may see many birds heading north and stopping over to rest, drink or eat.

Contact Joel Tilley for more information: jptilley50@gmail.com (preferred method), or 802-598-2583, evenings 7 to 8 pm. There is no need to register or reserve a spot.

The tentative schedule is below (check the RCAS (<https://www.rutlandcountyaudubon.org/events>) or SVT (<https://slatevalleytrails.org/calendar>) websites for any changes).

Tuesday, September 19 Fairgrounds

East Meet at the Fairgrounds Trail parking area (131 Town Farm Road, Poultney, 2.5 miles east of the East Poultney Green on VT Rte 140) at 7:30 am. The hike will be about 3 miles on Easy to Moderate terrain.

Tuesday, September 26

Delaney Woods (Meet at the Delaney area (enter E. Delaney off North Street in from the Lakeside for the official parking right.) 3.4 miles, 3 hours Moderate terrain (2 gain).

Tuesday, October Endless Brook

Meet at the Endless (Endless Brook Rd,

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



BRANDON 2023

September 23

Wyatt Waterman, a blend of keyboard

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

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

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

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

Play with whoever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!



Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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

Friday 22nd

Tales of the Brandon Inn

Join us from 7 pm - 10 pm Stories about the Brandon Inn with Ann-Marie Mitroff, daughter of former innkeepers Al & Trudy Mitroff. Come share your stories and memories of the Inn. Sid Beccar Varela, the current innkeeper, will be present as well. Food and drink will be available. Please RSVP to Mitroff. annmarie@gmail or (914) 815-5872.



Audubon Scholarship Spaghetti Supper

Celebrate Fall and help us raise money for the Rutland County Audubon Scholarship Fund! Spaghetti (and meatball, if desired,) dinner will be held

at the Comfort Zone of the Rutland United Methodist Church at 60 Strongs Avenue in Rutland on September 22 at 5 pm until sold out. Salad, rolls, drinks, and dessert included. \$12 for adults; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout available. More info at: birding@rutland-county-audubon.org

Queen City Ghostwalk Darkness Falls Tour

Our Darkness Falls tour was created by historian and author Thea Lewis (Haunted Burlington, Haunted Inns and Ghostly Getaways of Vermont, and more). This perennial favorite, chosen one of New England's best haunted walks by both Yankee Magazine and AAA, features some of Burlington's most infamous characters and intriguing haunts; theater ghosts, smugglers, 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.

7:00PM - 8:15PM
Courthouse Plaza
199 Main Street, Democracy Sculpture
Burlington

\$22.50

Saturday 23rd

Vermont vs. Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in Film

The Poultney Historical Society will host a lecture titled "Vermont vs. Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in Film" on Saturday, September 23 at noon at the Poultney Public Library.

Vermont has been a featured location in Hollywood movies for nearly a century. It has represented many different ideals during that time, and its portrayal reflects both Vermont's own history as well as American history. Examining those films provides interesting and fun insights into the hold Vermont has had on imagination in the



media age.

Amanda Gustin of the Vermont Historical Society will provide background and share video clips ranging chronologically from 1919's Way Down East to 2005's Thank You for Smoking.

Amanda Gustin has been the Public Programs Coordinator at the Vermont Historical Society since 2012. Prior to that, she was a researcher at the Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston.

Her favorite moments are when she connects with an audience while explaining or demonstrating history. She has studied military, religious, and women's history in the medieval period and nineteenth-century America.

The Poultney Public Library is located at 205 Main Street.

Sunday, 24th

Tony Lu performs at Grace Congregational UCC

RUTLAND - Sunday, September 24 at 2 pm - After Tony's wonderful debut recital at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland last October, they welcome him back to offer more of his transcriptions for piano on their Steinway piano.

Tony Lu is an active faculty member of Sonata and Summer Sonatina International Piano Camp in Bennington, Vermont. He teaches students from age 6 to 80+ both in person and online. His teaching areas include piano instruction, piano duet and ensemble, chamber music, western music history, music analysis, and historical keyboard improvisation.



His research areas include classical keyboard improvisation pedagogy, piano solo and duet transcriptions of symphonic/chamber works, and 20th/21st century neoclassical solo literature.

Tony earned his MM in Piano Performance from Austin Peay State University in 2021. He was the instructor for several undergraduate and graduate level music history, applied piano, and chamber music courses at Austin

Peay. He collaborated with various APSU faculty in chamber performances.

Tony is a 2018 Bennington College graduate where he earned his BA degrees in Mathematics, History, and Music. Tony has worked closely and performed with many Bennington College music faculty both on and off campus. Such venues include Park-McCullough Historic House, Bennington Center for the Arts, Third Street Music School in New York City, and Lincoln Center and Sage City Symphony. Tony also worked as a piano tutor, music history and analysis lecturer, and accompanist helping students in the Bennington music department.

The concert will be in the Grace Church sanctuary at 2 pm on Sept. 24. A freewill offering

2023 fall bird walks, Tuesdays



Wells) Peay Woods parking Peay Cross Road Wells, across Park, and looking area on the hours, Easy to 250 ft elevation 3 as Brook trailhead on left, 0.9 miles in from VT Rte 30). 3 miles, 3 hours, Easy to Moderate terrain (250 ft elevation gain). **Tuesday, October 10** Castleton University Trails Meet at the D&H trail crossing on South St, Castleton. Visitor parking is behind the Stafford Academic Center in the Stafford lot (#39 on the campus map <https://castleton.s3.amazonaws.com/files/resources/map-accessible-parking-3.pdf>). Easy terrain, 2.6 miles.

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

2023 LIVE AT KENNEDY PARK



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

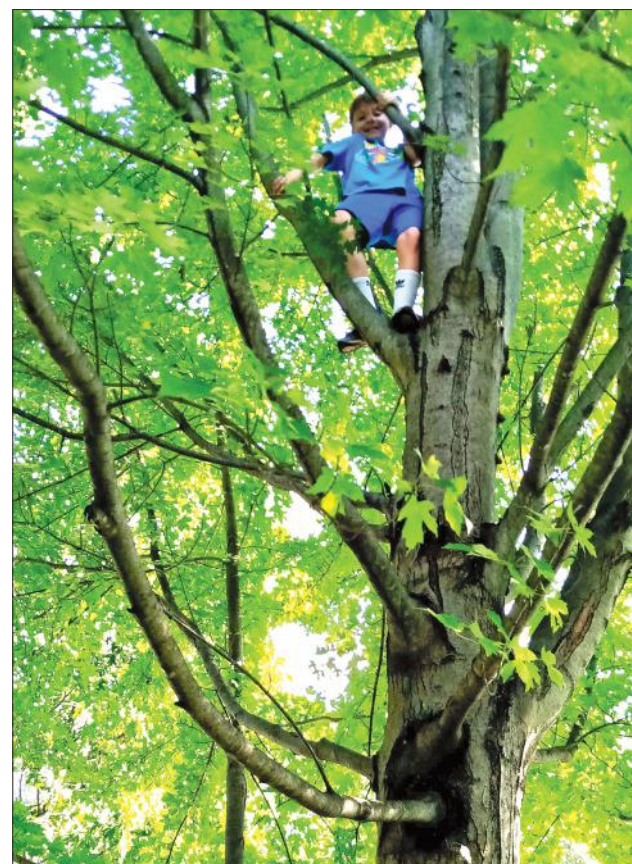
'Cocktails for a Cause' delights the palate



'Cocktails for a Cause' fundraiser for the Brandon Free Public Library

CONTINUING THE FERVENT efforts to raise money for its ongoing renovation, the Brandon Free Public Library sponsored a cocktail fundraiser at Café Provence on Sunday, September 17. The event cleared a total of \$2,800 for the library's renovation fund. A menu of 7 cocktails was offered to guests, each cocktail having been sponsored for \$200 by supporters of the library. The guests voted for their favorite: a maple-bourbon sour concocted by Rob and Chris Naylor. The cocktails were served by local "celebrities": Stephanie Jerome, Pat Wood, Colleen Wright, Courtney Satz, and The Reporter's own Dr. George Fjeld. The bar was tended by Center Street's Ray Hilder and Library President David Roberts. The drawing for the electric bicycle was held at the event as well. The winning ticket belonged to Morgan Pirtle. Congrats to Morgan! And thanks to Chef Robert and Line Barral of Café Provence for the terrific food and generous loan of their space.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



Above Grandma's Watchful Eye

REED A. (TOP) and Tad A. (bottom) climb a massive maple in front of their grandmother's house in Brandon. Grandma was nervous but the boys survived!

Photos provided by Grandma

Brandon Democratic Committee meets at Red Clover

BY DEVON FULLER

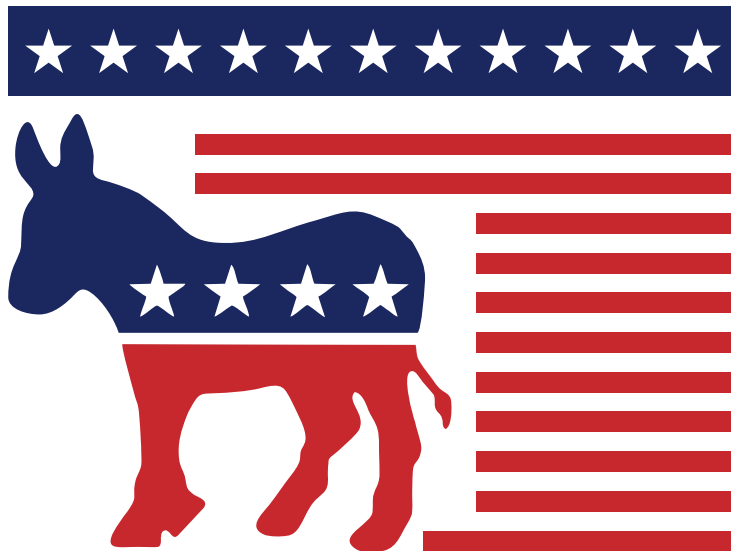
BRANDON—An informal meeting of the Brandon Democratic Committee was held Sunday, September 17 at the Red Clover Ale Company in Brandon. The get-together was headed up by Bob Clark, Brandon's Democratic Party Chair and Stephanie Jerome, the State Representative for Brandon. The group of twenty or so like-minded voters came to hear what they could do to strengthen the Democratic Party in Brandon and Vermont. These voters were a mix of newcomers to Vermont and folks that had lived in Brandon so long they forgotten where they had moved from, as one participant put it. The mix was a fairly even split of men and women with a good representation of different voting ages.

Representative Jerome gave a breakdown of the various committees and appointments she participates in as a State Representative. Most notable is the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, where she is Vice Chair. She discussed several bills they are working on or passed in last year's session to help Vermont succeed economically. One such bill was H68, which removes some state and local regulations around creating more housing in downtowns that have the infrastructure necessary to build housing, such as

sewer and water. Another bill Representative Jerome is working on addresses the education of middle- and high-school students by offering the ability for technical schools to create programing at the high-school level. She believes this is necessary to provide students another career path option and that it is vital to reach them with this option before they graduate.

As the chair of Brandon's Democratic Committee, Mr. Clark was thrilled with the turnout. He remarked that it was great to see so many people coming out to learn more about what they could do to further the cause of the Democratic Party. Of the many comments

from Mr. Clark, one of the most notable was how pleased he was at last year's Independence Day Parade when two gentlemen that were marching with the Republican candidates told him how much they appreciated the job Representative Jerome is doing. Mr. Clark also announced the official meeting of the Brandon Democrats would be Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 P.M at the Brandon Museum, where Brandon's Democratic Committee officers will be elected and the work of the committee will be discussed. He encouraged anyone interested in moving the Democratic agenda forward to attend.



Summer is good to the last drop

A BEAUTIFUL MONARCH butterfly in Ripton collects the last bits of summer nectar before making the long journey to its winter grounds. Photo by Steven Jupiter

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Pittsford: Convenient village location with easy access to the Pittsford Recreation Areas, and Route 7 to either Rutland or Brandon. Efficient home with many upgrades, conveniently located in desirable neighborhood. 1344 sq.ft. of living space: 3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, open living room, kitchen/dining area, with solid surface counters, soft close cabinets and a large free standing quartz countertop island. 2 car detached garage, large deck off the side of the house with Trex decking and a separate storage shed. Open and wooded 0.63 Acre level lot. Pat Lee Dr. is a privately maintained dead end street. **\$289,000.**



DUNMORE CONDO - Views of Moosalamoo & Dunmore. Summer living.: swim, paddle board, fish, kayak, boat, bike, hike. 444 sq.ft.: open liv/din area, remodeled kit. & shower Bath Parlor stove. 2 BRs & screened porch. Seasonal assoc. includes a great sandy beach, lake side patio and playground area. **Come Look - \$212,000**



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IN-TOWN BUSINESS

Great business opportunity coupled with a residential unit in the center of downtown Brandon! The ground floor is currently an operating restaurant - Li's Chinese - with an impressive kitchen. The sale includes all restaurant equipment. Upstairs is a 3,540 SF living space. Beautiful hardwood floors, ornate ceiling and trim, and the glass storefront overlooks the Central Park & gazebo. Updated infrastructure: plumbing, windows, furnace & heating system, hot water, A/C and new wiring. Brandon is bustling with galleries, shops, pubs, restaurants, and a grand list of events! **\$545,000**



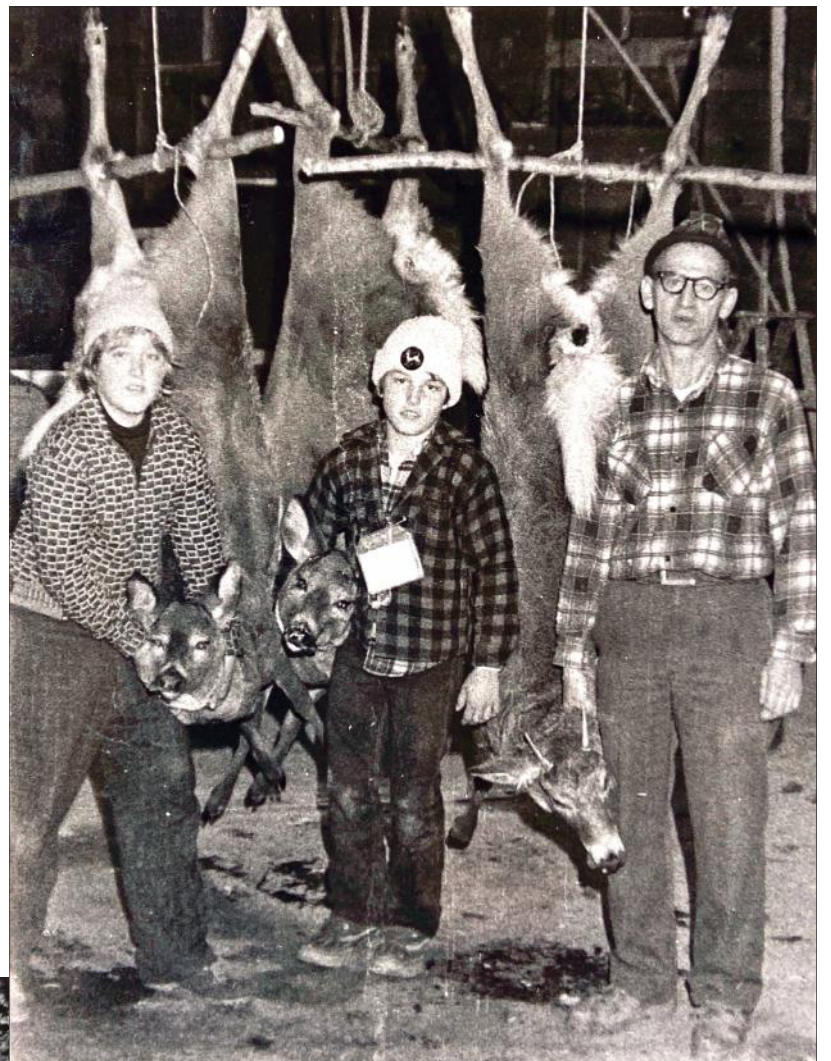
802-236-9112 | Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com



Mim's Photos

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

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



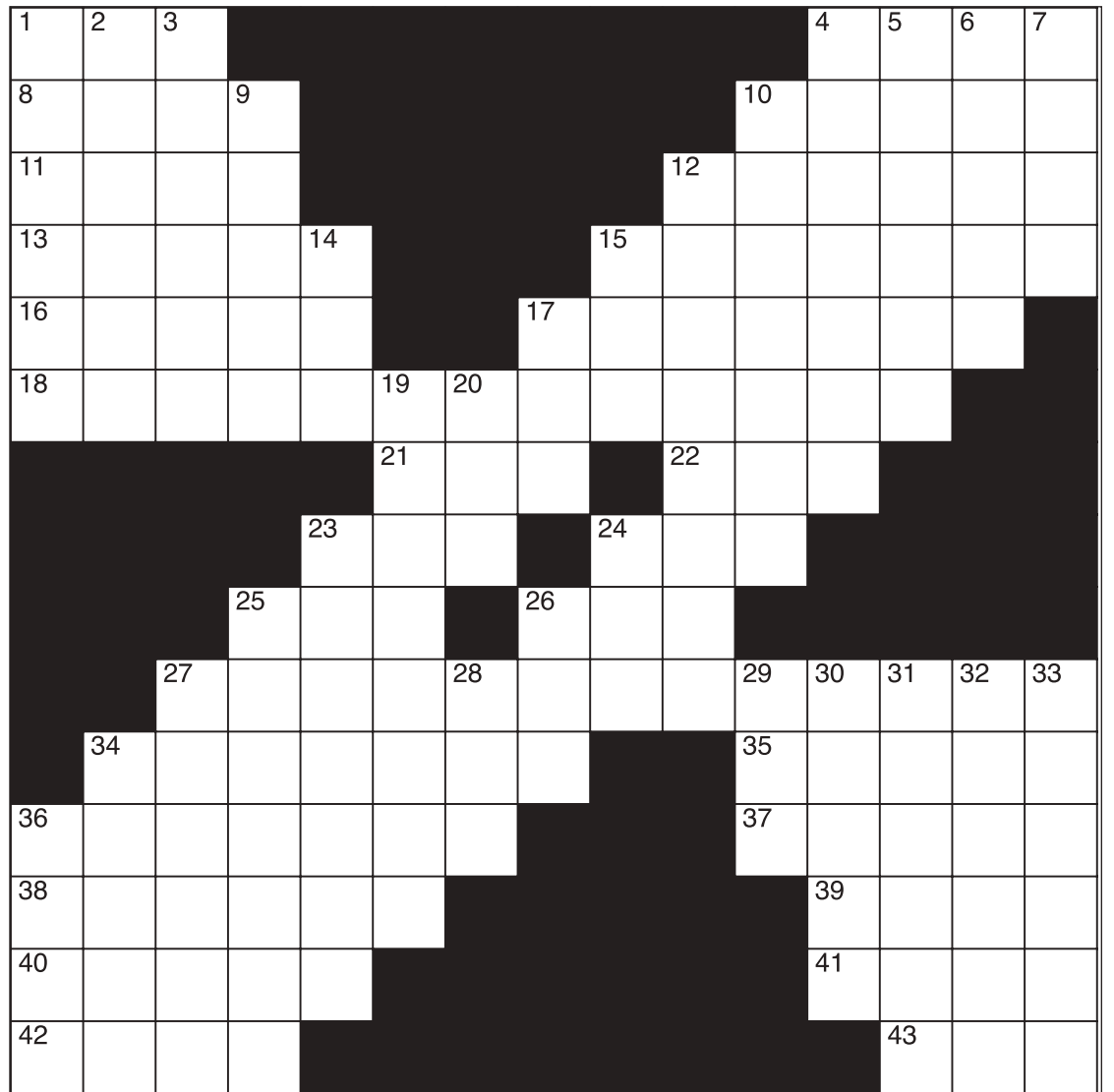
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Outsourcing (abbr.)
4. Post
8. German city on edge of Black Forest
10. "___, but goodie"
11. Spiced stew
12. Passionately
13. Monetary units
15. Group of living organisms
16. Organic compound derived from ammonia
17. High honors
18. 5-year-olds' classes
21. Swiss river
22. Old woman
23. Cash machine
24. A way to soak
25. Hair product
26. Deride
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Cause to become insane
35. Bluish greens
36. Supported with money
37. Type of equation
38. Court officials
39. Indian god
40. Rids
41. Leak slowly through
42. Units of ionizing radiation
43. Midway between south and southeast

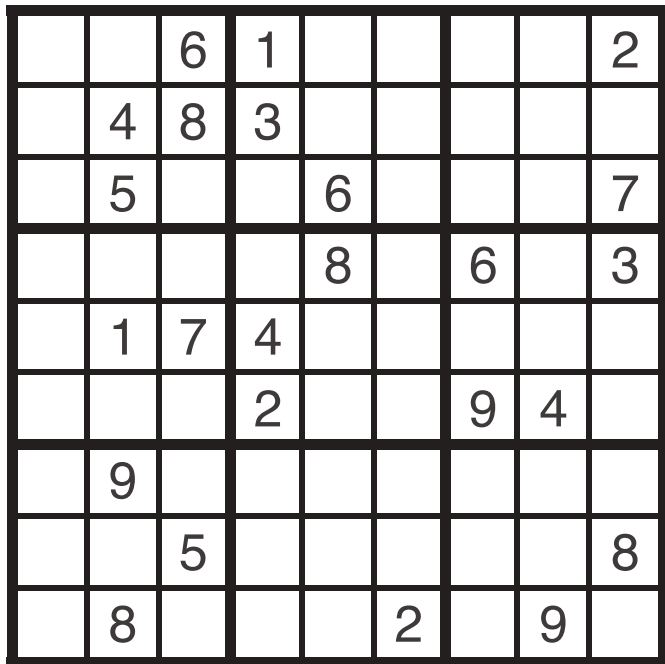
CLUES DOWN

1. Native of Slovakia
2. Deli meat
3. Fibrous substance in fungi
4. Cutting
5. Vedder and Van Halen
6. Horror comic novelist
7. Rulers of Tunis
9. Shaped like a circle
10. Make a pig of oneself
12. Aphorism
14. Witness
15. Single Lens Reflex
17. Freshwater North American fish
19. Nautical ropes
20. Leg (slang)
23. Pokes holes in
24. Moved quickly on foot
25. Fix-it shops
26. Type of bread
27. Repaired
28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.)
29. Type of drug (abbr.)
30. German city along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini necessities
33. Get away from
34. Village in Mali
36. Djibouti franc



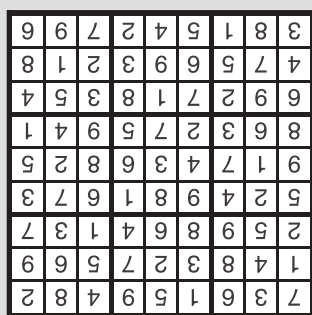
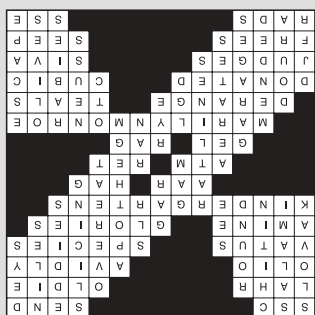
Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month

Are you thinking about adding a dog to your family? The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to remind you that October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month and we have many wonderful dogs waiting to find their forever homes. As we honor this month, we encourage everyone to open their minds and hearts to a shelter dog in need. By adopting a shelter dog, you will bring excitement, change of pace, and unconditional love into your home. To find out what dogs are currently available for adoption please call RCHS at 802.483.6700 or visit our website at www.rchsvt.org.

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



MEET DOUG - 3-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. MIXED BREED. BLACK.

Doug is a sweet, playful and cuddly young dog that is good while riding in the car and gets along well with other dogs. He played tug of war and chase with 2 large dogs in his foster home. He is housebroken and crate trained for when his foster parent wasn't home. He loves rope toys, chew toys, people and other dogs. He loves to cuddle on the couch and sleep on a dog bed at night. He will make an excellent dog for a family and/or individual willing to spend time with him. He may not be happy being alone all day. He can be a little possessive of his toys with other dogs. Handsome Doug arrived on August 6 from a busy shelter in TX. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM - 4 PM.

MEET BELLA - 13 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. CALICO.

Bella is a very sweet girl who just wants love and attention! She has so much love to give! Bella came to us on July 14 from a busy shelter in NJ. Bella has adjusted fabulously here and she has quickly become a staff favorite due to how sweet she is. Bella does have some allergies and, due to that, she has polyps in her ears. This is a chronic condition therefore; she will need to be on a hypoallergenic food or a Novelty Protein food. With that being said, she is an extremely sweet and social girl who loves attention. She is ready for her next adventure. If she sounds like your kind of cat please stop by and visit with her.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



The following large print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker

Forever in Honeymoon Harbor by JoAnn Ross, donated in memory of Marie Butterfield

Quinn has always found success—head altar boy, valedictorian of Honeymoon High, big-city lawyer—but walked away from his lucrative career and returned to Honeymoon Harbor to reopen the old family pub. It's not nearly as tough as meeting the woman who was meant to be his forever. But loving a married woman is a line Quinn won't cross. Despite Amanda Barrow's attempts to be friendly yet reserved, she knows Quinn has noticed a shadow hanging over her. And walls that don't invite intimacy. And the unexplained bruises. As much as she tries not to fall so quickly, Quinn's steady nature and loving concern have Amanda burying memories of her disastrous marriage and feeling hopeful for the future. But she'll have to let go of the chaos and pain of the past—and accept a staggering family secret—before she and Quinn can get their happily-ever-after.

Payback in Death by JD Robb, donated in memory of Hilda Crosby

Lt. Eve Dallas is just home from

DID YOU KNOW?

Dungeons and Dragons starts 9/29 at 3:30pm. For ages 11 to 16. Email eric@brandonpubliclibrary.org or call 802-247-8230.

a long overdue vacation when she responds to a call of an untended death. The victim is Martin Greenleaf, retired Internal Affairs Captain. At first glance, the scene appears to be suicide, but the more closely Eve examines the body, the more suspicious she becomes. An unlocked open window, a loving wife and family, a too-perfect suicide note—Eve's gut says it's a homicide. After all, Greenleaf put a lot of dirty cops away during his forty-seven years in Internal Affairs. It could very well be payback—and she will not rest until the case is closed.

New in fiction

Holly by Stephen King

When Penny Dahl calls the Finders Keepers detective agency hoping for help locating her missing daughter, Holly is reluctant to accept the case. Her partner, Pete, has Covid. Her mother has just died. And Holly is meant to be on leave. But something in Penny Dahl's desperate voice makes it impossible for Holly to turn her down. Mere blocks from where Bonnie Dahl disappeared live Professors Rodney and Emily Harris. They are the picture of

bourgeois respectability: married octogenarians, devoted to each other, and semi-retired lifelong academics. But they are harboring an unholy secret in the basement of their well-kept, book-lined home, one that may be related to Bonnie's disappearance. Holly must summon all her formidable talents to outthink and outmaneuver the shockingly twisted professors.

Not Forever But for Now by Chuck Palahniuk

Otto and Cecil are two brothers growing up privileged in the Welsh countryside. They enjoy watching nature shows, playing with their pet pony, impersonating their Grandfather...and killing the help. Murder is the family business after all. However, it's not so easy to continue the family legacy with the constant stream of threats and distractions. First there is the matter of the cavalcade of escaped convicts that keep showing up at their door, and the debauchorous new tutor who has a penchant for speaking in Greek and dismembering sex dolls. Then there's Mummy's burgeoning opioid addiction. And who knows where Daddy is. He just vanished one day after he and Mummy took a walk in the so-called "Ghost Forest." With Grandfather putting pressure on Otto to step up, it becomes clear that this will all end in only two ways: a nuclear apocalypse or just another day among the creeping thistle and tree peonies.

Apparently weddings are a good opportunity for B&E

September 11

• Brandon Police Department (BPD) responded to a burglary alarm at Neshobe Elementary School. The responding officer determined that the alarm was false.

• BPD responded to North Birch Hill Road for a report of a woman sitting in a car by the pull off who appeared to be unwell. She had been there over an hour. Officers were unable to locate her upon arrival.

• BPD received a complaint regarding two students bullying a third at Otter Valley Union High School. The matter was determined to be disciplinary and was referred to the school administration.

• BPD were contacted by the manager of the Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road for a report of a vehicle they had recorded on their security camera that had struck the McConnell Road street sign. The video was reviewed but the car and driver were not able to be identified.

• Vehicle stop on Union Street for failure to maintain travel lane and defective equipment. A warning was issued for the failure and a ticket was issued for the equipment violation.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for a license-plate violation. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Country Club Road at Park Street Extension for failure to stop at a stop sign. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

September 12

• Officers responded to a residence on Paint Works Road for a complaint of someone walking around inside the complainant's home. Officers were unable to locate anyone else inside the home and no signs of a break-in were detected.

• Vehicle stop on Champlain Street at Hollow Road for lack of registration. It was later determined that the car was registered in New York. Warning issued.

• BPD responded to a report of breaking and entering at a residence on North Birch Hill Road. Investigation ongoing.

• Officers took a report of a hit-and-run accident on Forestdale Road by Neshobe School. Minor damage was sustained to complainant's car.

• BPD received a complaint of threats being made between juveniles on the bus home from school. School staff were contacted and a formal complaint was made at the request of the

Brandon Police Report

father of the victim.

• BPD received a call regarding a man dressed in camouflage and carrying a rifle on Route 7 near Otter Valley Union High School. Officers located the man and determined that he had gotten lost while hunting and was attempting to walk home to Pittsford. Officers provided a courtesy ride to the man's residence.

• BPD responded to a report of a mental-health issue at Walgreens on Union Street for a runaway juvenile with cut marks on their wrists. Police confiscated the piece of glass that the juvenile was using to cut themselves. Brandon Rescue then transported the juvenile to Rutland Hospital.

• BPD responded to McConnell Road for a mental-health issue. The individual was transported to Rutland Hospital for treatment.

• Vehicle stop on Carver Street for defective equipment. The driver was fined for driving with a suspended license and the vehicle was towed.

September 13

• Vehicle stop on Nickerson Road for defective taillight. Warning issued.

• BPD received a call from a concerned citizen to report a trailer that had been backed up into Pine Hill Cemetery. Responding officers determined that the trailer belonged to the groundskeeper.

• An officer assisted Rutland Town Police Department in issuing a citation to a Brandon resident on Maple Street. The citation was served-in-hand by BPD.

• BPD responded to a report of a vandalized vehicle at an apartment building on Mulcahy Drive.

• BPD responded to a landlord-tenant dispute on Wheeler Road. The officer advised the tenant that the landlord's putting up a trespass notice was not a criminal issue and therefore not a police matter.

• Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display plates. Warning issued.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

September 14

• An officer was dispatched to a motor vehicle from which (See Police report, Page 19)

BENEFIT FOR THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

Reading The Green
GOLF SCRAMBLE

October 7th
Neshobe Golf Course

Enjoy a great day on the golf course with fun opportunities for prizes, 50/50 tickets, mulligans, raffle and auction—all to benefit the library.

Don't miss this event!

10 am registration - 11 am shotgun
To sponsor a hole or donate a raffle item, please email Chris Naylor: nchrisvt@gmail.com



\$500 per team of 4, \$125 per individual. Includes greens fees, cart, and dinner. Sign up today online or at the library!
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.

Open at the Town Hall: Tues. & Wed. 10am-7pm, Thurs. & Fri. 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

a passenger had complained that she wanted to drive but the driver would not let her. The passenger hung up on dispatch during information gathering. When dispatch called back, the passenger advised that assistance was no longer needed because she had been allowed to drive.

- BPD responded to a dog bite on Pearl Street. None of the dogs at that owner's residence were registered with the town and the information was passed to the Town Health Officer and the Town Animal Control Officer. The wound suffered by the victim was minor.

- Officers assisted Brandon Rescue on McConnell Road in transporting an elderly female with late-stage dementia to the hospital. The woman was transported without incident.

- BPD received a "Be On The Lookout" regarding a vehicle whose driver had passed out behind the wheel in Middlebury and was subsequently operating erratically all over the roadway. BPD located the vehicle in Brandon and conducted a stop. It was determined that the driver was having medical issues and was not intoxicated. EMS examined the driver on the scene and a family member was called to pick them up after the driver refused further medical treatment.

- BPD responded to a burglary alarm at Neshobe Golf Club on

Town Farm Road. The alarm was found to be false and the premises were secure.

September 15

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for misuse of license plates. The driver was screened for DUI but found not to be intoxicated. Warning issued.

- BPD received a call regarding a juvenile who was "shooting" other juveniles with what appeared to be an airsoft gun near the Neshobe School. However, it is still undetermined whether the gun was an airsoft gun or simply a toy. No other complaints were received regarding this incident.

- BPD responded to Walgreens on Union Street for a report of a juvenile threatening to cut her throat with a piece of glass. Officers were able to confiscate the glass. The juvenile's parents were contacted and Brandon Rescue transported the juvenile to Rutland Hospital for evaluation and treatment.

- BPD responded to a residence on Forestdale Road for a report of a 7 year old who was threatening to harm other family members. The family was advised to speak with the juvenile's mental-health counselor. The Department of Children and Families was notified of the incident.

- BPD received a call about a man who was standing in the roadway on Route 7 near Greg's Tires trying to wave down traffic and who was almost struck by a car. The man appeared to be intoxicated and urinated on himself when removed from the roadway by the caller. While en route to this call, BPD received another call regarding an intoxicated man lying next to a car at Walgreens on Union Street. It was determined that this was the same man from Route 7 and that he had been the subject of a Be On The Lookout for throwing beer cans out of his car window. Gerald Seney, Jr. of Brandon was charged with DUI-1st Offense. Seney was issued a citation to appear in Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division on December 18, 2023 at 11:00 am for arraignment.

- BPD received a complaint about an incessantly barking dog on Carver Street. The owner was contacted and stopped the dog from further barking.

September 16

- Property watch at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.

- Property watch at Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street.

- BPD conducted a welfare check on a resident of Conant Square who had not been in touch with family members or nurses. The individual was lo-

cated and advised that she hadn't heard anyone knocking on the door. She was determined to be safe and sound.

- Speed enforcement on Park Street in response to multiple complaints of speeding in the area. A vehicle was ticketed for speeding and also given warnings for several other violations.

- BPD received a Be On The Lookout for a vehicle driving erratically on Route 7 from Pittsford to Brandon. BPD was unable to locate the vehicle.

- Officers removed traffic hazard on Franklin Street.

- Officers assisted a driver who was having difficulty starting their car on Park Street. Officers were able to get the car started.

- Officers responded to a wedding venue on Wyman Road for a report of an uninvited male who was opening car doors in the parking lot of the venue and was believed to be stealing items. Officers determined that the vehicle that the man drove to the venue had been stolen in Rutland. Geoffrey McDonald, 31, of Rutland was charged with Possession of Stolen Property and Operating without Owner Consent. McDonald was scheduled to appear in Rutland Superior Court on 9/18/23 at 12:30 pm for arraignment.

September 17

- BPD received a call to report a suspicious male who was dropped off at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street and ultimately took off running down Route 7. Officers were not able to locate the man.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for a red-light violation. Warning issued.

- An employee of the Neshobe Elementary School called BPD to report a man and woman riding an All-Terrain Vehicle on school grounds without permission. The employee approached the pair and they drove off. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

- BPD received a call to report that a man who had previously received a trespass warning on Wyman Road may have violated a Notice against Trespass.

- A landlord called BPD to advise of a dispute with a tenant. The issue was found to be civil and appropriately handled in civil court.


- Vehicle stop on Conant Square. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Two warnings and a ticket were issued.

- BPD were dispatched to a residence on Basin Road for a physical domestic disturbance. As a result of the investigation, Brendan LaRock, 48, of Brandon was arrested by BPD for Domestic Assault. LaRock was cited to appear at the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on 9/18/23 for arraignment.

- Officers responded to Van Cortland Road for a complaint of a man walking to various residence and asking for help finding his girlfriend. Officers determined that the man was experiencing mental-health issues and arrangements were made to give him a courtesy ride out of the area.

- Officers responded to Corona Street for a verbal domestic disturbance regarding a cell phone between a man and a woman. No crime was found to have been committed.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES March 21-April 20
There is nothing wrong with a bit of self-indulgence, Aries. But you do not want to go overboard with your treats and other must-haves. Moderation is key in everything.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
You have a no-nonsense bearing that immediately has people drawing close to you and trusting you, Taurus. Put that out in full force as you try to win favor on the job this week.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
Gemini, don't let your quest for excitement pull you in too many different directions right now. You need to stick to one plan for a certain amount of time and see things through.

CANCER June 22-July 22
Everyone wants a piece of you right now, Cancer. It is equally flattering and

exhausting. You'll have to be choosy regarding where and with whom to dedicate your time.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Listen to the messages swirling around in your head right now, Leo. Your intuition has been on target so there is no reason to doubt yourself now. Keep moving forward.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, is a particular relationship getting too intense for you? It might be the time to ease up a bit and take a step back. Distance could provide the clarity you need.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Libra, you do not need to struggle if you simply call in a few favors. Reach out to your network of people and figure out how you can make things work.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Scorpio, do not chase people down, simply wait for them to come to you with your natural magnetism. You don't want to exert energy this week unnecessarily.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Sagittarius, rather than showing people all of your cards, hold some information close to the vest and maintain a bit of mystery. Others likely will be intrigued.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Capricorn, you may find that things are very profitable for you this week. If you are an entrepreneur, business will be solid. If you perhaps sell on the side, money will flow.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Aquarius, for quite some time you have been focusing on everyone but yourself. You have to change your ways if you can get the rest and healing that you need right now.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
There is no doubt that you've earned a few commendations, Pisces. But this week you need to accept congratulations without being boastful. Exhibit both humility and pride.

♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 21 Stephen King, author (76)
Sept. 22 Tatiana Maslany, actor (38)
Sept. 23 John Coltrane, Jazz musician (d)
Sept. 24 Jim Henson, Muppets creator (d)
Sept. 25 Bell Hooks, writer (d)
Sept. 26 Serena Williams, Tennis player (42)
Sept. 27 Will Sampson, Muscogee Nation painter, actor, rodeo performer (d)

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Restaurant guide



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De la Provence à Vous

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**Mim's
Photos**

Like all
things vintage?
are on page 16!

Sports

Otter Valley finishes strong at the 2023 OV Cross-Country Invitational

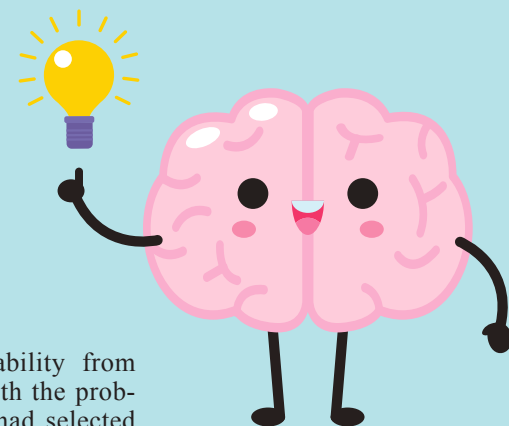
At the 2023 OV Cross-Country Invitational on September 12, several OV students finished in the top 10 in their events.

Sara Loyzelle finished 2nd

among varsity girls, crossing the finish line in 29 minutes 32 seconds. Luke Calvin also finished 2nd among varsity boys, with a time of 21 minutes 20 seconds.

Jonathan Johnson and Baker LaRock came in 9th and 10th, respectively, with times of 25:09 and 25:10.

Brandon Brain Buster Answered



Answer: (D) 5/6

One way to approach this is to keep in mind that the probability of a particular event will occur plus the probability that the event will NOT occur must always equal 1. For example, if there were 1 red marble and 2 blue marbles, the probability of selecting a red marble would be one out of three or 1/3 and the probability of NOT selecting a red marble would be two out of three or 2/3, and $1/3 + 2/3 = 3/3 = 1$.

In the original problem, the probability of selecting at least one red marble in two draws + the probability of NOT selecting at least one red marble in two draws must equal 1. And in this case, there's only one way to avoid selecting at least one red marble: by selecting NO red marbles, which would mean selecting 2 blue ones. So, if we were to calculate the probability of selecting 2 blue marbles (and therefore no red ones), we could subtract that probability from 1 and be left with the probability that we had selected at least one red marble.

tract that probability from 1 and be left with the probability that we had selected at least one red marble.

The probability of selecting a blue marble on the first draw is two out of four or 2/4 or 1/2. Since we have removed a blue marble, there are now 2 red marbles and 1 blue marble left in the bag. So, the probability of selecting a blue marble on the second draw is one out of three or 1/3. To determine the probability of selecting a blue marble on the first draw AND drawing a blue marble on the second draw, we must multiply the probabilities of the individual events: $1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/6$.


If the probability of selecting 2 blue marbles (and thus no red ones) is 1/6, then the probability of selecting NO blue ones (and thus at least one red marble) must be $1 - 1/6 = 5/6$. The answer is D.

Alternatively, if we call the two red marbles R1 and R2 and the two blue marbles B1 and B2, we can list out

the possible ways to pick two marbles from the bag, if the first marble is not replaced:

- R1 R2
- R2 R1
- R1 B1
- R1 B2
- R2 B1
- R2 B2
- B1 R1
- B1 R2
- B2 R1
- B2 R2
- B1 B2
- B2 B1

So, there are 12 possible ways to select two marbles from the bag. Ten out of those twelve ways have at least one red marble. Therefore, the probability of selecting at least one red marble is ten out of twelve or 10/12 or 5/6. Again, the answer is D.



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Reptiles and amphibians in Vermont are full of fascinating facts

BY CAROLYN VAN VLECK
AND JIM ANDREWS

SALISBURY—Jim Andrews of Salisbury recently gave a presentation at the Salisbury Meeting House/Church on many of the reptiles and amphibians that live in our area and around the state. He shared information and photos on a variety of frogs, snakes, salamanders, and turtles. (You'll need to Google VtHerpAtlas.org for photos of the animals!) Jim is a conservationist and has been since his years at Middlebury Union High School. Since then, he has obtained higher education degrees from UVM and Middlebury College. His interest in reptiles and amphibians grew from his interest in making a contribution to the world of nature within Vermont in a field that hadn't yet been well explored.

FROGS:

You can identify frogs by their call, as well as by what they look like. There are circular flat areas on the sides of frogs' heads which are their ears. It appears that frogs cut down on the call noise that they make when the ears are covered. This was discovered in an experiment by students who covered the frogs' ears with muffs! Frogs eat almost anything that moves and that they can catch. American Bullfrogs have even been known to eat weasels and chipmunks: "If they can fit it in their mouths, they'll eat it!"

Both green and bullfrogs lay a film of eggs, which are then guarded by the males of the species. It takes from one to two winters to develop from tadpole to frog in Vermont in a deep pond, as our winter season is not long enough to develop fully or "transform."

The Gray Treefrog looks bumpy and round like a toad. It is freeze tolerant and its breathing and circulation stop in the cold. Other freeze-tolerant frogs in Vermont include the Wood frog and the Spring Peepers. The Pickerel frog needs cold clear water to successfully reproduce.

The Northern Leopard frog sometimes has very successful breeding years! Several years ago, there were thousands of them moving out of the flooded fields along Otter Creek in Salisbury. This was a result of a series of wet springs. Needless to say, many ended up squashed on the roads!

SALAMANDERS:

Local salamanders include the impressively large and salmon pink Spring Salamander, which prefers cold, clear mountain streams. Other local salamanders

include the Four-toed Salamander, Blue-spotted Salamander and Jefferson Salamander. There is conserved land on Morgan Road in Salisbury that has been set aside specifically for salamanders to winter in. Salamanders can regrow tails, toes, legs, and eyes! You will also see an appeal every year to volunteer to help salamanders cross the road (generally led by Jim Andrews!).

SNAKES:

The rare Eastern Ratsnake can climb up a tree! The Common Gartersnake is one of the most widespread snakes in the state. The Eastern Milksnake can rattle like a rattlesnake in self-defense. Some snakes like the Eastern Milksnake and the Ring-necked Snake lay eggs. Others, like the Common Gartersnake, Red-bellied Snake, and DeKay's Brownsnake give live birth. The tiny Red-bellied Snake is also widespread in Vermont but since it is so small (about 12 inches) and since it usually hides under cover objects, many people have never seen one.

The only surviving Timber Rattlesnakes in the state are located in western Rutland County, where there is a relatively mild climate, rocky ridges, and lots of water. They are venomous. Bites are exceptionally rare, but if you try to handle them, they may bite in self-defense. If you are envenomated, you will feel a burning sensation and the bite area is likely to swell. It is recommended to visit the emergency room at Rutland Regional at that point. That being said, rattlesnakes can give "dry" bites. In other words, without the venom. Some snakes will defend themselves if you are aggressive towards them, but if you leave them alone, they will leave you alone. Many snakes have very attractive and interesting colors and patterns. One interesting fact that came up was, when asked if it was only vipers (poisonous) snakes that had the triangular heads, Jim shared that other snakes have learned to mimic the rattler as a self-defense mechanism! They will flatten their heads, puff up with air, and shake their tails if they feel threatened.

People are needlessly scared of snakes. If you can handle a snake correctly, it won't be aggressive, unlike plenty of other wildlife! If you really want to be able to see the snakes in your area, make a snake motel by stacking wood with space between the pieces or laying a piece of slate on the ground, then propping up another piece

above it, which will heat them. A wooden box with holes works, as well.

Snakes shed roughly once a year. Youngsters and injured snakes shed more often. Most snakes have relatively poor vision and hearing, but they have stereoscopic smelling with their tongues. This means that their "forked" tongues can tell them which direction to go to find food or avoid danger.

With climate change, more snakes from the south will be moving north as the summers become longer and hotter. Loss of snow during winter rains in

productive for amphibians that are sensitive to pH such as Jefferson Salamanders. Remember that snakes will clean your yard of rats, mice, slugs, snails, and other annoying garden-eating animals. The state now has a Fish and Game biologist who specializes in reptiles: Luke Groff. The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas was begun by the Reptile and Amphibian Scientific Advisory Group back in 1994 in an effort to gather data in order to make more informed conservation recommendations to the Vermont Endangered Species Committee

Jim is always interested in receiving photos of any reptile or amphibian that you have taken. Working with another organization called Crowspath, they put together the Vermont Amphibian Field Guide which folds up very nicely to put into a pocket. It can be ordered from Jim or on-line. He continues to seek reports and photos of certain reptiles and amphibians in particular parts of the state, so you can help out that way, as well. You can report them through the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas website at VtHerpAtlas.org.



past winters has been a problem since it removes the insulating layer of snow. The total amount of snow is not the issue, rather the intermittent rains that remove the snow and expose the ground. On the other hand, the warmer summers may allow some reptiles to reproduce more successfully.

TURTLES:

Painted turtles hatch from eggs in the fall, but don't emerge from their nests until the spring after they hatch. Snapping turtles emerge in the fall. They both lay eggs with the sex being determined by the temperature!

We also have had rare sightings of the Spotted Turtle and the Spiny Softshell Turtle.

What is challenging to the reptiles and amphibians in our state? Habitat loss is the biggest threat, with habitat fragmentation and degradation (pollution and pesticides) as additional threats. People needlessly killing snakes is also a threat. Snakes are more interested in getting away from us than anything else. Acid rain is still an issue and higher elevation ponds and lakes are not

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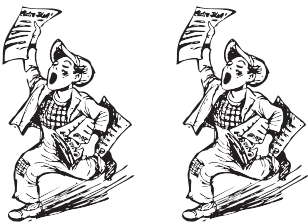
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Please take notice that New England Woodcraft, Inc. whose mailing address is PO Box 165, Forest Dale, Vermont 05745, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as 182 Prescott Lane, Forest Dale, Vermont 05745 in the County of Rutland. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at New England Woodcraft Inc., 481 North Street, Forest Dale, Vermont 05745, and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier.

Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to Anastasia Bartsch at anastasia.bartsch@vermont.gov.

Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive - Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620; attention: Anastasia Bartsch.

PUBLIC NOTICE OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

OVUUSD is seeking to fill the following School Board vacant seats:

- 1 - Brandon Representative
- 1 - Pittsford Representative

The appointed school board members for these seats must be a resident of the respective town and would serve through to the next election in March 2024.

Interested parties should send a letter identifying the seat they wish to be considered for and outlining why they would be a good addition to the Board to Melinda Piper at mpiper@rnesu.org by no later than Thursday, September 28, 2023.

The Board intends to take action at the following OVUU School Board meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the OVUHS Library.

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Saturday sounds of music fill Brandon with joy

BY SUSAN JOHNSON

BRANDON—The day started a little cool but heated up at Kennedy Park as local musicians Doug Ross and Wade Davis kicked out some tunes. A few originals (Doug's songs from his CD "All-Time Smash Hits," available from his wife, Liz) accented awesome covers from Wade's steady bass and Doug's gently weeping guitar. Wade, who self-proclaimed a great start to a new decade as he turned 50 that day, also slapped on the cajón, a percussion box originally from Peru.

"It's great to provide music for people strolling around Brandon," said Doug. "It

shows what a fun town we live in."

Then, Breanna Elaine graced Red Clover and fans with originals and creative covers like "Space Cowboy," which prompted Saturday afternoon audience participation. One original favorite, "Belly of a Whale," is about coming out if difficult times.

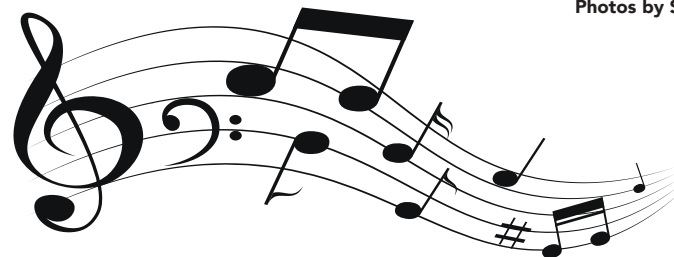
"It's a really well-written song," said Red Clover Co-owner Andy Gates, who invites Breanna back whenever possible.

Breanna was excited to share more new songs before she heads back to the recording studio soon. "It's always a good time at Red Clover," she said. "One of my favorite venues!"



MUSIC FILLED DOWNTOWN Brandon on Saturday, September 16. Above: Wade Davis (left) and Doug Ross (right) performed at Kennedy Park. And it was Wade's 50th birthday to boot! Left: Breanna Elaine brought her unique singer-songwriter talents to Red Clover Ale Company, which she calls one of her favorite venues.

Photos by Susan Johnson



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