

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 41

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

\$1

NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Genealogist Michael Dwyer explores the Fields/Fellio/Fillioe family of Brandon and Pittsford.

PG. 2



LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The Brandon Library's gaming clubs focus on Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, and D & D. If you and/or your kids are looking to play, you found the right place.

PG. 3



Reporter advice columnist

NEW FEATURE!

"Ask Joyce": The Reporter's new advice column. Send Joyce your questions about family, romance, friendships.

PG. 8

GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais visits the Stevens Farm with Jane Costello.

PG. 14



ORIGIN STORY

Learn the beginnings of Brandon's fabled Leaf People!

PG. 22



Pumpkin season is here!

LEFT: ETHAN NELSON of Brandon deposited one of his trademark humongous pumpkins in front of the Brandon Town Hall. This one weighs about 200 lbs. Right: The Winslow Farm in Pittsford has hundreds of pumpkins just waiting to be carved and/or turned into pie.

Photos by Ethan Nelson and Steven Jupiter



HONOREE FLEMING AND her husband, Ron Powers.

Honoree Fleming is more than her murder

BY STEVEN JUPITER

By now, everyone has heard the shocking news of Honoree Fleming's murder in Castleton last Thursday. A walk on a widely used trail ended in horror when a still-unidentified man ended Ms. Fleming's life with a single bullet. Vermont State Police (VSP) have little information to work with, other than the man had red hair,

is about 5'10", was wearing a dark grey t-shirt, and was carrying a black backpack. VSP press releases indicate that the police are looking for evidence and witnesses, but no breakthrough has been announced so far.

The story has made national news and drawn attention to Castleton for all the wrong (See Honoree Fleming, Page 10)

Brandon SB talks postage, EV chargers, and police assists

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard gathered for its regular meeting on Monday evening, preceded by its incarnations as the Board of Local Cannabis Control Commissioners and the Board of Sewer Commissioners.

As the Board of Local Cannabis Control, it approved a Tier 1 manufacturer: Funk's Farming.

As the Board of Sewer Commissioners, it heard from Bruce Summa, who owns a multi-unit house at 41 Conant Square. Mr. Summa had asked the Board to reconsider its policy regarding apartment buildings. Mr. Summa's building contains six apartments, three of which are permitted more than one occupant and three of which are permitted only one occupant each. The current water/sewer billing structure charges a flat fee plus actual consumption per residential unit. Since Mr. Summa's building contains six units, he is currently being

charged that flat fee for each unit. He asked the Board to consider treating his three single-occupancy units as a single unit for purposes of water/sewer billing, so that ultimately he would be paying the flat fee for four units instead of six.

The Board did not taken any action on Mr. Summa's request but did suggest that it would re-evaluate and revisit the policy, which had been put in place in 2006.

The Board then reconvened as the Selectboard and Town Manager Seth Hopkins presented his report. The full text of the report is available in the Selectboard packet for 10/9/23 on the town's website. Highlights included:

The town's grant for the Conant Square Park & Ride has been closed out. All the town's obligations have been met.

Mr. Hopkins will meet with representatives of GovPilot, an online platform that the city of Rutland uses to streamline its (See Brandon SB, Page 19)

Names lost in Vermont, Part 9: Fields, Fillioe, and Felion

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

What started out as an inquiry into solving one man's changed surname unexpectedly linked three distantly related families, with variant spellings of their last name, to their common ancestral couple in Québec. Isaac Fields of West Rutland died on June 22, 1905, age 62. His gravestone in Evergreen Cemetery in Rutland has the dates of his birth and death as well

as those of his wife, Sauffronia [sic] Fredette. Knowing Isaac was born in Canada, I first assumed that his Americanized surname Fields may have been a translation of Deschamps or Beauchamp, the last syllable being the French word for field (champs). No results came from that hypothesis. Then I became more aware of another anomaly in Isaac's life. At the time of their deaths, Isaac and his wife belonged to the Baptist Church in West Rutland. Most, but not all, first-generation French-Canadians remained Catholic or later returned to the Catholic

Church following a "rehabilitation" of a non-Catholic marriage. Moreover, I could not find a civil-marriage record for this couple anywhere in Rutland County or in Québec.

This temporary roadblock led to a wider exploration of other Québec-born families named Fields in West Rutland. It doesn't come any better than carved in granite: the Filion-Fields gravestone in Sacred Heart Cemetery, West Rutland [see photo]. On the reverse side, Hanora [sic, misspelling of Honoré, often translated to Henry] Felion, his wife, and children. The double names certainly reflect a foot in two worlds, one of assimilation to an American identity. Fields doesn't have much to do with Filion, only some similar letters. On the other hand, the marriage license from West Rutland of Henry's son Joseph Fields indicated a push back to identity as a Québec-born Catholic. The priest who officiated Joseph's marriage added the Filion after Fields and wrote above it Filion [see illustration].

Now aware of how Felion became Fields, I searched for Isaac's marriage in the published church records of Immaculate Heart of Mary

STATE OF VERMONT
 Town or City of West Rutland
 Clerk's Office May 11 1908
MARRIAGE LICENSE
 Declaration of Intention of Marriage.
 name of groom (expectant) Joseph Fields Filion
 of residence West Rutland Color White
 Occupation Electrician Number of marriage first Divorced? 0
 of birth West Rutland Age in years 20
 father's name Henry Fields Filion Birthplace Canada
 mother's name (Maiden) Mary Davis Birthplace Canada
 name of bride (expectant) Anna Rogers
 maiden name, if widowed or divorced 0
 of residence West Rutland Color Wh Age in years 26
 Number of marriage first Divorced? 0
 of birth W. Rutland Birthplace Canada
 father's name Chas Rogers Birthplace Canada
 mother's name (Maiden) E. Seubere Birthplace Canada
 I, the expectant groom or bride named in the foregoing declaration, hereby certify that the information is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Joseph Fields
 (Expectant, Groom or Bride)



MATILDA FELLIO (LEFT) and John Fellio (right).

Photos courtesy Brian Fillioe

JOSEPH FIELDS MARRIAGE license from 1908.

Photo provided

Church, then known as Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Rutland. Sure enough, I found Isias Filion's marriage to Eloise [aka Sophronie] Fredette on 28 April 1870—unrecorded at the town level. Their only child, (See Names lost, Page 15)

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Pokémon, Magic, and Dragons draw kids to the Brandon Library

BY STEVEN JUPITER

Would you like to be a wizard? The pointed hat, the flowing robes, the gnarled staff, the spells...it's all just so enticing to a kid with an eager imagination. Or maybe your thing is crazy Japanese critters with names like Ghetsis, Acerola, or Xerosic, in which case game of Pokémon may be more your speed. But whether you prefer to assume a role or simply control an army of characters, you and/or your kids can find your groove with Eric Drzewianowski at the Brandon Free Public Library.

Mr. Drzewianowski, a professional bookbinder, leather worker, and self-professed "nerd" who works part time at the library, has organized and led gaming clubs there that focus on Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, and Dungeons & Dragons. The clubs are free, require no prior experience, and are open to ages 5 and up.

Pokémon is a "trading card" games, in which players collect and deploy specially made cards that depict characters who

are pitted against each other in battles for dominance. There are thousands of characters, each of which has specific powers and abilities that allow it to vanquish other characters or withstand certain types of attacks. The cards

are richly illustrated and highly collectible as art, especially the rarer, flashier cards (though there are 3,000 Pokémon characters, about 100 of the most popular ones form the bulk of most players' collections). No cards are

lost during the game; kids can trade cards with one another if they wish to swap out characters in their decks, but the rules of the game do not require surrender of cards to other players.

"It's a simple game to learn,"

said Drzewianowski. "Little kids can pick it up. It's a good game for families to play at home on game night."

The Pokémon Club has been a big success at the library, draw- (See *Games at the Library*, Page 21)

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I love working as an attorney in Brandon. My work is challenging and rewarding. I get to meet folks from all walks of life with diverse backgrounds and experiences. I often work with clients who relocate to Brandon from nearby or far away, and I enjoy listening to their stories of how they chose Brandon as their new home. It is a reminder of what a wonderful town Brandon is to live, work and play.

James Leary, Esq.

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest-Editorial

Can we disagree like adults?

BY MARIA GIGLIELLO

“They [Vermont Fish and Wildlife] need to be dispatched (tortured, beaten) the same way [as a trapped animal].”

“You’re no better than the Ku Klux Klan.”

“Bunch of in-breds out there just shooting animals for fun. Great job Vermont Fish and Wildlife!!!”

“Why any girl finds this fun [hunting] is beyond me...she must not have maternal instincts.”

These are just some of the social media comments that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Information team sees on a regular basis. As the department’s social media leads, Joshua Morse and I get a front row seat to the good, the bad and the ugly emotions that the department’s work brings to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. I write this piece as a reminder that despite the public’s varying feelings on the work we do at Vermont Fish and Wildlife, there is always a place for kindness.

Probably due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we’ve seen a shift in the long-term trends of our social media audiences. More people are at home and online, therefore making them more observant and engaged with wildlife management decisions in the state. People are also interacting more with each other online and that separation from person to person by a screen has increased boldness in people—boldness in their comments to us and each other.

When people who feel strongly about wildlife conservation hit “send” on a comment that calls department staff or other commenters rude names, threatens us, undermines our

work, personally attacks us, etc., there are always actual people on the other end of that comment reading it.

These hateful comments are very concerning and do not accomplish anything positive.

One of the department’s outreach goals is to use our social media platforms as educational tools. Teachers, students and other educational groups use our social media channels to learn about Vermont’s wildlife. We see the value in making the natural world accessible to all. However, we often receive comments that are wildly inappropriate for young eyes. Comments such as, “Hey look the hunting idiot is back to showcase he provides nothing to Vermont wildlife but the brute force rifle he backs next to his tiny pecker.” We work hard to make our social media channels welcoming to all and we want to keep our channels welcoming to all.

Apart from the mental and emotional distress that daily hostile comments bring to department staff, this behavior raises concerns regarding our physical safety as these comments can translate to the real world. In July, Oregon Public Broadcasting published an article on how Oregon’s natural resource staff face violent threats, including attack dogs and gunfire, in the field. In 2019, violent threats caused Washington’s Department of Fish and Wildlife to cancel informational wolf management meetings. And in 2019, the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that public land employees were faced with threats that ranged from

(See *Disagree like adults*, Page 6)



Sing a song of sunshine

THIS WARBLER IS a Northern Parula. Currently in migration to their wintering grounds in Central America and the Caribbean islands.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Pittsford’s 7th annual Chili Cook-off and Cornhole on October 14th

Sara’s Stories will be hosting the 7th annual Pittsford Chili Cook-off and Cornhole Tournament on October 14th at the Pittsford Recreation Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Registration begins at 10:45 for both cornhole and the cook-off. The registration fee is \$10 per person.

Cash prizes for the cook-off are \$250 for 1st Place, \$150 for 2nd Place, \$75 for 3rd Place, and \$25 for Hottest. The winning cornhole team will receive \$100. You can register the day of for both events. Just bring a crock pot full of chili!

It’s \$5 for two voting tickets for the cook-off. After you’ve sampled all the contestants’

chilis, vote for best overall and for hottest.

Liambru Ale Co. of Proctor will be setting up their beer garden again.

There will be a lot of great raffle prizes, all of which were donated. Local restaurants are also donating desserts for a bake sale. Keith’s and Momma T’s are donating mac & cheese. Kamuda’s is donating cornbread and toppings.

There will be free kids’ activities as well.

Sara’s Stories will be showing off its new bookmobile, which was purchased for them by Gardner’s Trading Post and which Pittsford Automotive Center will

be fixing and upgrading.

Sara’s Stories is a book program founded by Jenelle Daly, Kayla Desabrais, and Meghan Fox in Pittsford in 2016. It is named for Jenelle and Kayla’s mother, Sara. There are currently around 250 kids from ages 0 to 5 in the program. Each child in the program receives a free book in the mail every month from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The program is open to all kids 5 or under from Pittsford, Proctor, Florence, Chittenden, West Rutland, Shrewsbury, and Clarendon. Sara’s Stories also hands out free books at local events to kids of all ages.

The REPORTER

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

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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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THE BRANDON REPORTER

Letters to the Editor

The details of the Brandon High renovations are not what's being presented

Like many of the people quoted in your September 27 article, “Nonprofit forms to rehab old Brandon High,” I once fantasized about the 1916 building's potential, climbing through the sun-filled, high-ceilinged rooms to the spectacular view out its third-floor windows. And I would like to think that most of the people quoted in your article have a similar regard for the building and wish to preserve it.

The article quotes some lofty aspirations by Mr. Briscoe, the owner, and his recent business partner, Jeff Dardozzi, a Pittsford resident whose LLC owns 6 West Seminary. When I compare their public statements to the language of their Application for Land Use coming before the Development Review Board on October 11, I read very different intentions for the old High School.

To understand the scope of their proposed change, it's important to know that their appeal applies to the entire land parcel owned by Mr. Briscoe. This parcel includes not only the land along the Neshobe River bank around the old High School, but also the land across the street, the greenspace that is the entire western half of what we think of as Seminary Hill Park, up to the playground itself. Mr. Briscoe's land is currently loaned to the Town for use as the Dog Park, bounded by West and East Seminary Streets. This is the land where the historic Brandon Seminary was sited—and what is decided for the High School land will also apply to this greenspace.

Mr. Briscoe's application is for the “substantial change in nature or intensity of the current use of any parcel of land” included in his parcel, and asks permission for “construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, enlargement of any building or other structure...,” and among the proposed new uses is “...F-1 Medium Hazard-Production.” While Mr. Dardozzi is quoted in your article stating their aspiration is “affordable housing for middle-income people,” the project drawings actually show a few individual rooms with a common kitchen--- the model for a boarding house or commune, not middle-income housing.

Unlike every single person interviewed by The Reporter, moreover, I actually live on Seminary Hill. I look across to the High School windows every day and have watched it decay a little more each year for almost two decades, primarily under the ownership of Mr. Briscoe, a Texas native and Texas resident, whose annual summertime visits, except for this summer, last from a few days to a few weeks. Mr. Briscoe has a genuine love for the building but for the entire length of his ownership has been unable to secure the means to undertake even the bare essentials of maintenance, let alone restoration, of the building he loves.

His partner Mr. Dardozzi states that the group of volunteers he has gathered together “will roll up their sleeves” to restore the old High School.

But this historic building cannot be preserved with sweat equity. It needs at least five dozen commercial-sized, double-pane windows to replace the shattered historic ones. It needs a new roofing system, a complete HVAC system, plumbing and wiring. It will require an elevator to obtain a certificate of occupancy. It will need to meet the requirements of an insurance company and be insured to cover a broad range of new manufacturing and public gathering hazards. It needs a lot of money.

And it will need parking spaces.

This is a need that money will not solve. The land surrounding the high school has a shared driveway on its western boundary, and the riverbank on its eastern end. The application's proposed-use drawing shows five parking spaces on its eastern edge, which would pull out into the already narrow junction of River and East Seminary Streets, just a few feet before they spill to the three-way junction with West Seminary, and blinded by the park's hill to the downhill traffic proceeding down West Seminary to Route 7. One glance at the street map tells you that this narrow passage is in frequent use by families wheeling their children to the Seminary Street playground or walking their dogs to the dog park. The dog park, of course, would probably not be around for long, as this too is part of the parcel owned by Mr. Briscoe and would almost certainly be necessary to provide the number of parking spaces required

for his proposed new use.

Moreover, Mr. Briscoe's application shows the expansion of public parking not only along north side of West Seminary Street, but adds at least 4 new spaces on the southern side of West Seminary. Anyone who has watched the volume of U-turning traffic on West Seminary, or watched the mobility-impaired neighbors of Neshobe House, who lack any ADA crosswalk or curb cuts, wheeling their chairs down the middle of the road in order to be seen by cars swooping downhill and blinded by the curve at #4 West Seminary, will understand that the proposed dual-side parking takes the road from its present hazardous conditions into a recipe for disaster.

The application before the DRB on October 11, if granted, will be forever. Whatever Mr. Briscoe's intentions may be, the right to alter the historic building, to construct new commer-

cial buildings in its place or on the greenspace across the street, the right to manufacture, and to choose who shall live there and under what terms will belong to him, and to the next owner, and to the next.

The Brandon High School building and its significant land holding has been looking for a savior for decades. It has never been properly marketed. Its prospective buyers have never been vetted for their ability to pay for or finance its stabilization or restoration. This historic building deserved better treatment and, in its present condition, can't last much longer in the hands of underfunded enthusiasts. I hope this West Seminary Street landmark will not fulfill the old saying about a road paved with good intentions.

Janie Young
Brandon

Letters to the editor

Letters Policy: The Reporter will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed.

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge.

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m.
Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753.
Or email to news@brandonreporter.com

Brandon's annual fall gathering, Harvest Fest, was a fun and windy afternoon at Estabrook Park

Sponsored by the Nifty Thrifty Thrift Shop and Whirlie's World, Harvest Fest featured our ever popular leaf people—made by Scarecrow Artisan Arturo Mendiola—bounce houses courtesy of Whirlie's World, and the bounciest of all, Em-

maJeanne Hoops. Adding to the festivities were pony rides, hay rides by Rick Nicklaw, delicious food and baked goods and great vendors.

Many thanks to Patty, Sophie and Bill Moore, Dallas and Jeff Ladd, Laurie Bertrand, Kathy

Singh, Bernie Carr, Arturo and everyone who stepped up to make this another successful Brandon event! Our community works together and it shows!

Thanks all,
Colleen Wright

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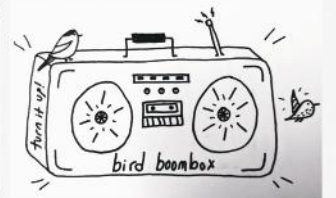
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Disagree like adults

(Continued from Page 4)
phone harassment to attempted murder.

This is a reality that many Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department biologists are aware of and fear. While luckily no physical harm has come to our staff, it is an anxiety that lingers in the back of our minds, especially when we consistently experience aggressive and sinister language directed against the department on social media. We need to be able to do our jobs without fearing for our safety.

If you want to help make our social media a more welcoming place for everyone and push back against the disturbing behavior that has become more common on these platforms, this fall is a good time to think about how to be a better member of Vermont's online conser-

vation community. As our commissioner has stated in the past, conserving wildlife requires respecting each other's different values and opinions.

We have noticed an increase in online hostility when hunting and trapping seasons start. It is that time of year again and we ask that visitors of our social media channels approach each other with tolerance despite their varying viewpoints. Whether you are with an advocacy group, a hunter, a trapper, an angler or just an admirer of wildlife we all want to see the ecological systems of our state thrive. I am certain that we will not achieve this common goal by being cruel to one another.

Maria Gigliello is the Communications Coordinator for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Obituaries

Lucinda Ann "Cindy" Bell, 77, Proctor

PROCTER—Lucinda Ann "Cindy" Bell, age 77, passed peacefully on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at her home in Proctor.

Cindy was born in Wolfboro, NH on February 17, 1946. She was the daughter of Fred and Mary Lucille (Winslow) White, Jr. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire Business School. She moved to Ocala, Florida in 1983 to be close to family. She was employed for many years, as the office manager for Central Florida Swimming Pool Company in Ocala. She cared for her ailing mother for several years until her passing in 2007, when she moved to Brandon to be close to her brother.

Cindy loved boating while residing in Florida. She enjoyed decorating for all the holidays.



LUCINDA ANN BELL


She loved to knit and sew and working in her flower gardens. She attended the Union Church of Proctor.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Bell of Proctor, whom she married in Ocala on July 28, 1984. She is also

survived by one brother, Rev. Richard White of Bakersfield, and a sister, Mary Ann Knapp and her husband Jim of Newport, NH. Several nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents.

The memorial service "In Celebration of Her Life" will take place on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. Rev. Jenei Rossigg, pastor of the Union Church in Proctor will officiate. A private graveside committal service and burial will follow the ceremony, in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made to; Rutland Area Visiting Nurse & Hospice, 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland, VT 05701.



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Rained out but everyone still smiling!

THE BRANDON FREE Public Library had to cancel its planned golf fundraiser on Saturday because of the weather, but the dinner and auction at Neshobe Golf Club on Saturday night were a huge success, bringing in approximately \$37,000 to help fund the library's ongoing renovation. Big-ticket items included a weeklong cruise in the Bahamas for \$18,000, a weekend at Chris and Rob Naylor's house on Lake Dunmore for \$5,000, and a wheelbarrow full of top-shelf liquor for \$1,200. Larry Rowe donated his half of the \$720 50/50 back to the library as well. Above: (l to r) Sarah Pattis, David Roberts, Chris Naylor, and Travis Romano auction off a beautiful quilt donated by Susan Johnson for \$600.

Photo by Steven Jupiter



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On behalf of the Brandon Library Community Volunteers, we wish to thank everyone who contributed to a very successful benefit auction and dinner...despite the fact that the rains canceled the actual golfing! We are so very thankful for your support of this event, and of the Brandon Free Public Library.

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Sudbury Hot Tub
Book Club

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Book Club

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*This event raised over \$35,000
for library renovations!*



Reading The Green
GOLF SCRAMBLE
2023



Reporter advice columnist

Treats, not tricks for Halloween please

Dear Joyce,

My wife and I have a three-year-old daughter and we were planning to make this Halloween the first one where we take her trick-or-treating. But there aren't a lot of houses where we live, so we were thinking we'd take her someplace with sidewalks and more houses, like Brandon or Middlebury. We were talking about it with my wife's parents, who live near Boston, and they said we should bring our daughter there because there's tons of kids and great trick-or-treating and they'd be happy to take her around and even make her costume. My wife immediately said yes without even discussing it with me. Halloween is on a Tuesday this year and I can't take off from work to go to Massachusetts. My wife would be taking our daughter without me. When I said something about not wanting to miss our daughter's first Halloween, my wife's parents said they'd take videos and it wouldn't be a big deal. But it feels like a big deal to me to be missing out on it. I was looking forward to the whole thing, even making a costume for her. She's too young to really remember much, so dressing her up and taking her around is more for us than for her. I feel like I'm being cut out of something important to me, but my wife and her parents are acting like I'm being selfish for wanting to keep our daughter here. Am I being a jerk?

Trick-or-Treat Dad

Dear Trick-or-Treat Dad:

You are not a jerk, and you are definitely not being selfish! In fact, I think your expressed desire to be a part of your daughter's first memory and fun at Halloween is quite the opposite.

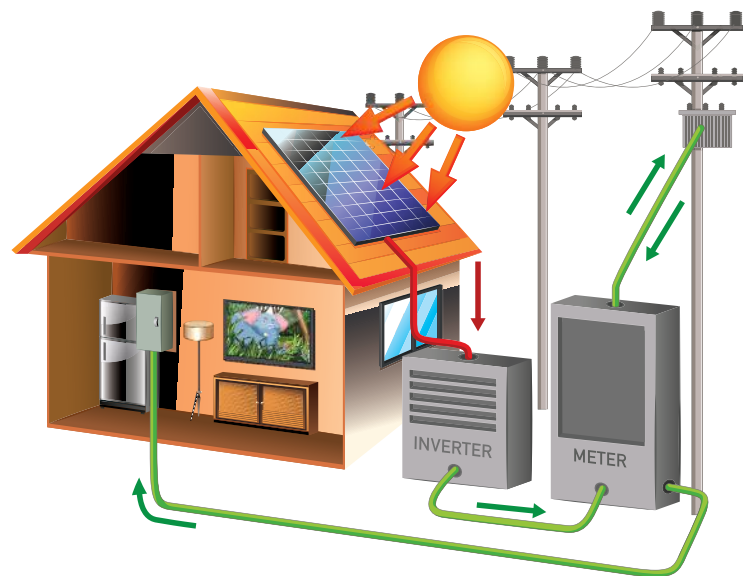
You obviously believe this day to be a milestone and for you a "big deal" that you want to be a part of. This is something your wife and her folks will respect when, as a couple, you and your wife revisit the discussion and present a united front as to where Halloween will be celebrated. Has anyone considered how your daughter might feel if you were not present? If the two of you are as close as I suspect you are, she would not be happy about it. Has it been suggested that the grandparents come down from Boston? If it has been and they cannot make the trip...you are the dad and should take priority.

Children at your daughter's age are usually no longer afraid of masks and such and are very capable of joining in the fun without fear or hesitancy. Children at 3 and 4 are also capable of remembering special events. I believe what will contribute to her remembering will be how she feels as you all share the fun of working on the costume together, dressing her up, and taking her trick-or-treating. It really is, after all, about her.

It might be a good idea to speak with the parents of your daughter's friends who face the same dilemma - where to trick-or-treat. Suggest getting a group together and going to the town that works best for everyone. That way the children will share the experience with friends and familiar faces.

However it works out regarding the grandparents, it's always a good idea to make sure your phone or camera is fully charged for that video of a fun time and good memories for everyone.

*Enjoy,
Joyce*



Green Mountain Power sees home batteries as the future

BY STEVEN JUPITER

MONTPELIER—Green Mountain Power (GMP), Vermont's main utility company, submitted a proposal to state regulators on Monday to buy large storage batteries, bury some power lines, and reinforce overhead cables. The plan makes clear that GMP sees a troubled future for home delivery of electricity, with rising costs of production, heightened risks of weather catastrophes, and increased residential demand because of growing reliance on electric cars and heat pumps.

According to the proposal, GMP would purchase and install batteries in customers' homes in order to store electricity that could be used when demand surges, as during a heat wave, or when power is unavailable from GMP itself, as during a power outage. By GMP's calculations, it would be less expensive to provide storage batteries, which would be owned by the utility but installed directly in customers' homes, than to continue to repair and enlarge its infrastructure and delivery network.

Since 2015, GMP has maintained a program through which customers can lease Tesla storage batteries for their homes. The current proposal will allow customers to continue leasing batteries if they choose but aims to install batteries in all customers' homes by 2030. GMP estimates that it will need to invest \$1.5 billion over the next seven years in order to implement the program. GMP also suggested that the cost would be passed through to consumers, though it is not clear at this time the extent to which customers' rate will be increased.

The program would begin in areas where GMP sees its infrastructure as particularly susceptible to weather events. The company would also begin burying power lines and strengthening overhead cables to prevent outages due to falling trees.

The extreme cost of new infrastructure is making utility companies rethink their approach, which has historically relied exclusively on cables and power lines to deliver electricity to customers. Now that this model is becoming cost-prohibitive, alternative approaches are necessary to avoid rate increases that could put basic services beyond the reach of many.

New England is already one of the most expensive energy markets in the U.S., exceeded only by Hawaii and California. Vermont's rates are the lowest among the New England states but are still significantly above the national average. Increasingly violent weather, as Vermont saw this past summer, will only worsen the situation for consumers, as utilities pay to rebuild damaged networks after storms. GMP said that it has spent approximately \$55 million on storm recovery so far in 2023, more than five times more than in any year between 2015 and 2022. These costs are ultimately borne by consumers.

In an interview with the New York Times, Mari McClure, President and CEO of GMP, said, "If you are leading a utility anywhere in the country you have to get on a path to stop the madness, relative to rates."

That path, at least for GMP, will involve storing electricity when it's available for times when it is not.

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 25





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Honoree Fleming

(Continued from Page 1)
 reasons. A college town with a charming, historic main street, Castleton is not a place one would expect an act of such violence. It's still unknown what precipitated the attack—was it random? did he know her?—but it has shaken the town and surrounding area to its core. Things like that don't happen here, we thought. But clearly it does happen here, and it happened to someone named Honoree Fleming.

Ms. Fleming was 77 when she was murdered, an ignoble ending to what had been a rather dignified life. She was an accomplished scientist and teacher, a beloved wife and mother, a dear friend to many. And now all of these things will be overshadowed by a senseless act on a walking trail on a Thursday afternoon in October. All ac-

counts of her life will forevermore include the word "murder."

Castleton University (now Vermont State University at Castleton) has been the college of choice for scores and scores of students from Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor and all the surrounding towns for decades, if not centuries at this point. So many people in our community knew Ms. Fleming, either as a teacher, an administrator, or simply as a friend.

I did not have the pleasure of knowing her but given the public statements of admiration and affection from all who did, I'm sure it would have been a pleasure indeed.

Harry McEnery, a Brandon resident and former colleague of Fleming's at Castleton, recalled that "she had the most fantastic laugh. I loved when

she came to plays I directed because if she thought something was funny, it was obvious. I got to see her over and over again defend the integrity of the institution. I really appreciated that about her."

Monica McEnery, also a former colleague at Castleton, remembered Fleming as "a vivacious, intellectual, and community-minded friend. She will be missed."

"Honoree was so brilliant,"

Colleen Wright of Sudbury said to me in a text. "She was such

"As a friend, Honoree was awesome. She was funny, a great cook, very social and kind. And she was tough. She kept going through the worst things that could happen to a person but never got jaded or bitter. She loved her family, she loved her studies. She loved her home."

— Colleen Wright

an incredible researcher. She was published so many times in scientific journals, did such groundbreaking work on uterine cancer cells, remarkable in a male-dominated field. But she was also a great mentor for educators. She was at Trinity, Middlebury, and Castleton during her career, develop-

ing programs and inspiring students."

"As a friend, Honoree was awesome. She was funny, a great cook, very social and kind. And she was tough. She kept going through the worst things that could happen to a person but never got jaded or bitter. She loved her family, she loved her studies. She loved her home."

"And the thing is, if the person who shot her had, instead, asked for assistance or a meal, she would've been the first to help."

It is fundamentally unfair whenever a life is ended through someone else's derangement. We may never know why she was targeted that day. But we can right some of this horrific wrong by remembering her not by her fate but by her life.

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Brandon Energy Committee

A New Mini-Library for Brandon and vicinity brought to you by The Brandon Energy Committee



Are you interested in hearing some different perspectives on the energy crisis? Or in getting some ideas on small and big changes you can make in your everyday life to help our country become a leader in this endeavor? Or even something to entertain you?

Then, your next trip to the Brandon Town Hall should include a stop at the small library of books waiting for you.

There are books by Rachel Carson (latest edition), Bill McKibben, Greta Thunberg, Elizabeth Kolbert, and many others. There are storybooks for kids and books for young

adults. There are books about climate resilience, building your own net-zero home, installing solar panels, cutting back on garbage and plastics, and even the role of trees throughout history.

The library focuses on new books published in the last few years, with a few new editions of older books, such as "A Forest Journey," which was originally published in 1986, and a

revised edition of Bill McKibben's "Earth." The books were purchased from The Bookstore with a grant, which members of the energy committee secured.

The mini Energy Library is open whenever the downstairs door to the Town Hall is open.

A bookshelf is set up with these books just outside the door to the Brandon Free Public Library. It's the honor system. Just pick a numbered card on which you

will write your name and phone number and drop that into a sealed box. Then use the clipboard to enter your number and the title of the book or books which you are borrowing. Because it is a small library, we ask that you keep the book for no longer than two weeks.

I am sure you will find fascinating reading among the choices available to you. Right now, I'm engrossed in "A Year with No Garbage." I'm hoping not to see Harriet as often as I do now—at least not at the transfer station.

Kathy Clark
 Brandon Energy
 Committee volunteer



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Latitude 2WD,
127k \$6995



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\$5995



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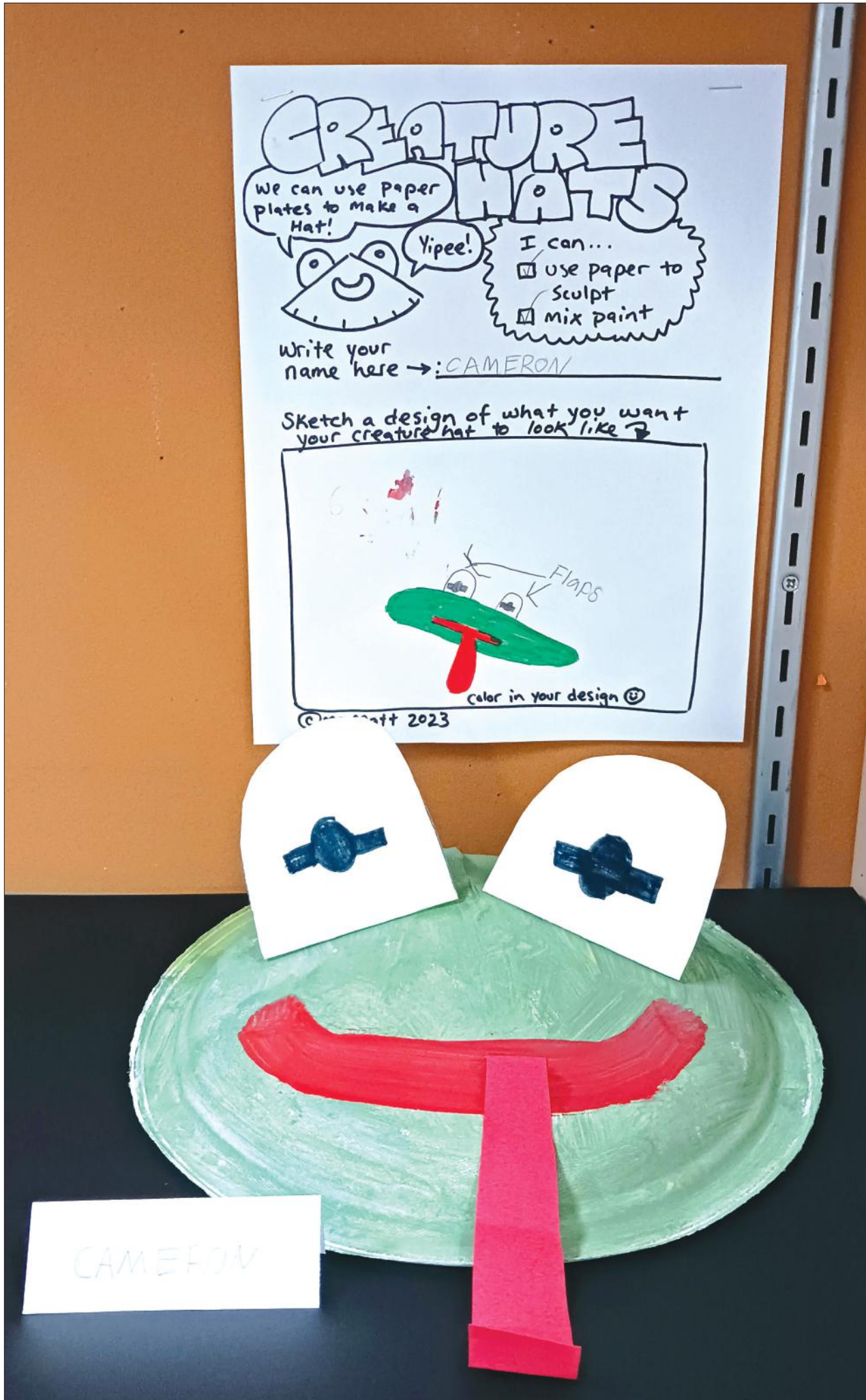


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OUR CREATIVE

KIDS



CREATURE HATS

We can use paper plates to make a Hat!

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I can...

- use paper to sculpt
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Write your name here →: CAMERON

Sketch a design of what you want your creature hat to look like →

color in your design ☺

© Matt 2023

STUDENT: Cameron Bradbury

GRADE: 3

SCHOOL: Lothrop

HOMETOWN: Pittsford

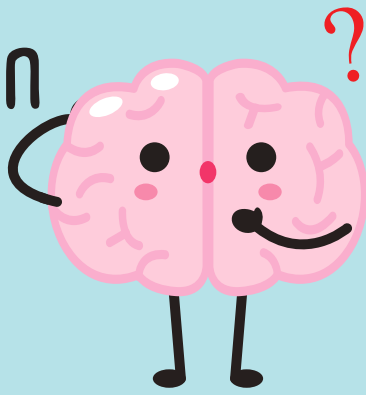
MEDIUM: Paper and paint

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin

STATEMENT FROM MR. AUCOINI

Cameron is a diligent and creative artist.

Brandon Brain Buster



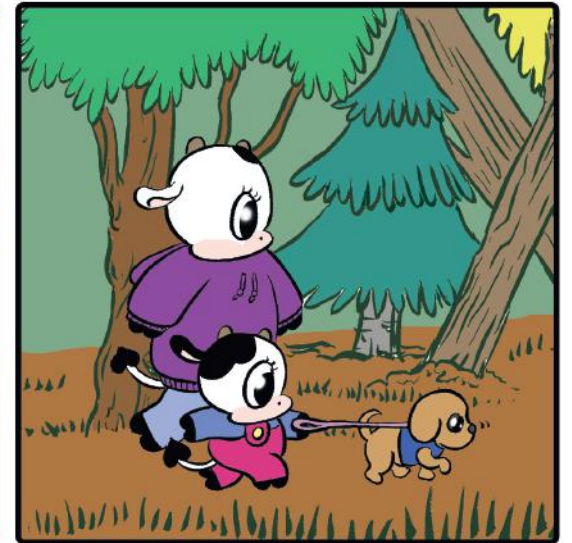
Morris can plaster a certain wall in 3 hours. It would also take Yolanda 3 hours to plaster that same wall. If Morris and Yolanda begin to plaster the wall together at the same time, working at their respective rates, and Morris leaves after 18 minutes, how long would it take

Yolanda to complete the rest of the wall by herself?

- A) 90 minutes
- B) 108 minutes
- C) 126 minutes
- D) 144 minutes
- E) 162 minutes

Answer on pg.21

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A PUP APTLY named Sunshine stands beneath a beautiful double rainbow in Brandon.

Photo by Judit Schneider

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GARDENING CORNER

The Stevens Farmstead

BY LYN DESMARAIS

I needed an extra-large wreath one year and found Jane. I reconnected with her recently at the Brandon Farmers Market where I snagged her last Vermonter Apple Pie. Absolutely delicious. I'm always curious about our farmers and producers who feed us here in Vermont, and how they feed us.

Jane Costello is a 9th-generation Vermonter on her mom's side. No family member currently lives on their family farm.



"My mother's family settled in Pittsford during the Revolutionary War and ended up in Cornwall," she said. "Our family farm was built in 1803 there. Her family lived there continuously until 1986."

Jane has always lived in the Champlain Valley. She has a farm in Sudbury which she has named The Stevens Farmstead.

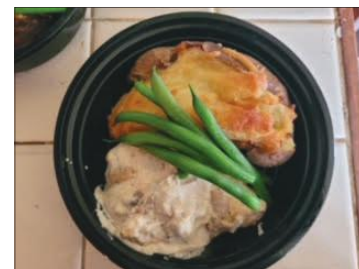
"My mom was Dawn Stevens and she passed in 2012. She taught me 90% of everything I know about cooking and gardening. I named my farm after her, to honor my family. I was renting from Champlain Orchards for years while looking for places in Cornwall. I'd been seriously looking for a house for about a year. I kept looking and seeing this one, and saying oh, Sudbury it's kind of far. Finally, I came and looked at it and I loved it. It was in much better shape, less money, and less taxes. I love it here. I bought it in January. When spring came, I learned that some of my land

was not super useful. It's very ledgy, so it can't be tilled. But it could be good pasture. I was married my first year here and we raised some meat goats. I might go back to that, no, not my marriage, but possibly the meat goats."

"I grew up in a little house on two acres on Route 116 in Middlebury. I went to school in Middlebury. I did a live-in internship after high school at Taproot Morgan Horse Farm in Hinesburg. I worked with horses for 20-odd years. I've been working in restaurants my whole life too, because you can't live on horse-job wages. I was pretty much always working multiple jobs: teaching, working at a horse farm, working at a local restaurant. When I first moved to Shoreham, I was cooking at the Middlebury Co-Op, and I was bartending at Cattails in Brandon. Around 2010, I started the kitchen and created the first menu for Otter Creek Brewing Company and worked there for a year and a half. The summer before my mom passed, I left there and went to work at Champlain Orchards. I worked there on and off for eight years. I managed the pie bakery, and I helped them with events. For a while I sold their hard cider, so I traveled all over Vermont and New York. That was fun. I left Champlain Orchards in 2020 because my own business had become successful enough for me to do it full-time. I finally didn't have time for two jobs.

I had started my catering business, very part-time, in 2014, selling my food at the Vergennes Farmers Market. My catering business slowly grew from that. Any vegetables or flowers that I grow supplement my catering business. I make meals for the Giving Fridge in Middlebury. The Giving Fridge was part of the 'Everyone Eats'

Program established by FEMA in Vermont during Covid-19. The idea behind 'Everyone Eats' is to provide locally made meals, using a percentage of local produce for local families in need. I always in-



clude at least 50% local food in my meals. The 'Everybody Eats' federal program officially ended in March but has been continued by Bethanie Farrell and the Giving Fridge through fundraising.

I make meals for the Vermont Farmers Food Center in Rutland. It's the 'Everyone Eats.' I make meals for the Rutland Online Farmers Market, and I provide vegetables for the Farmacy Program. Last week, I delivered 125 pounds of tomatoes to them, which I try to do every other week. I also grow peppers. My tomatoes and peppers were saved from the bad weather this year in my wonderful 100-foot greenhouse.

In addition to these programs, I do a 10-week meal share where anyone can order dinner for two once a week and I deliver it to your house on a Tuesday. Finally, from May through October, I provide baked goods to or cater food for various farmers markets, festivals, and events like the Bristol Harvest Festival and The Foot of The Mountain Snow Travelers annual dinner.

My passions are cooking, horses, working on my 1875 (See Stevens Farmstead, Page 23)



Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?
are on page 24!



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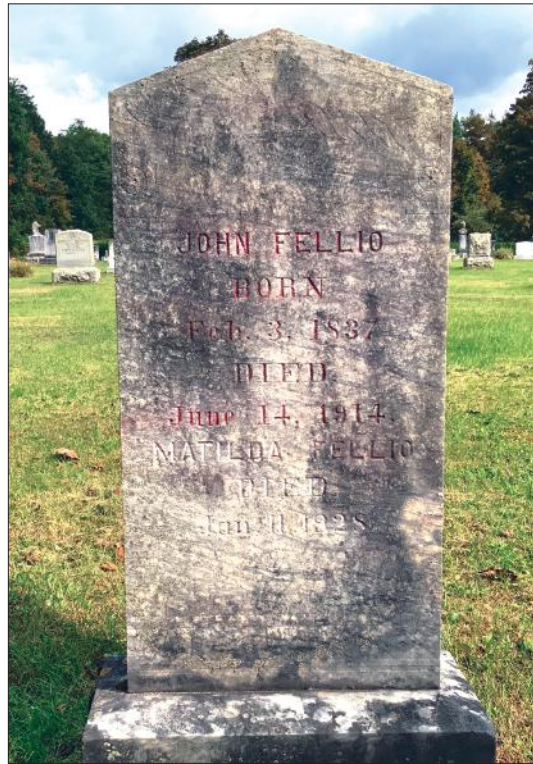
Check availabilities at CobbleKnollOrchard.com, Facebook or Instagram.

Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

Louis Wilfred Filion, was also baptized at Immaculate Heart, underscoring the unsolved mystery of why they later left the Catholic Church.

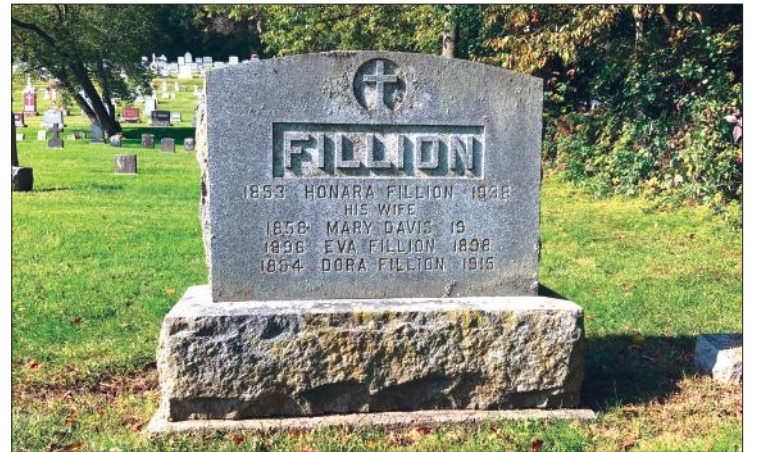
As I connected these two Fields families to their common Filion ancestors in Québec, I wondered about the origins of the Filioe families of Brandon and Pittsford. With the cooperation of my dear friend Shelley (Filioe) Martel and the research of her brother Brian Filioe, we documented several generations back to this couple buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon: John and Matilda Felio.



It took some light cleaning to make the stone legible. [See John Felio stone]. Names and dates on a gravestone, however, may not be accurate or complete. Matilda's death

date does not state she lived to be 100! From church and census records, John Felio/Filioe, was born in Québec around 1829 [not 1837], son of Jean Baptiste Filion and his wife Julie Audet. They moved to "Kissville" [Keeseville] New York in the early 1830s, a time of very poor record keeping for immigrants, exacerbated by frequent moves. One of the truly laughable attempts at indexing their name came out as "Feelyou!" By 1900, Matilda and John Felio/Filioe, together with three generations of their family had moved to Brandon. [See photos from Brian Filioe].

While ruminating about other families with similar spellings, I connected the ancestors of former student Josh Felion to the same set of ancestral grandparents, John and Matilda Felio buried in Brandon. Thus, three families, Fields, Filioe, and Felion are all distant cousins to one another. One should never assume that a difference in spelling precludes a family relationship.



HEADSTONES WITH SEVERAL variations of the Fields/Filioe family name. Photos by Michael Dwyer

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HAUNTED HOUSE

OCTOBER 20-21 & 27-28

Tickets sold from 6-9 pm
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\$10 for Adults—over 12 years old
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(Too scary for children under 6)

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For more information contact Tom Hooker (802) 236-0048 or (802) 483-2281

Calendar of events

October

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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

Friends Zone

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

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzf@hotmai.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

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!

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12–1

p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together, Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

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

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

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

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the

Rec Hall on Fridays from 2–4 p.m.

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Goings around

Friday 13th

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 ex-

Sweater Weather Soiree: A



Come Alive Outside and the Real Rutland are delighted to co-host the first ever Sweater Weather Soiree on October 14th from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This free fall extravaganza is at the Center Street Market Place in Rutland, Vermont, and promises to be a day of fall festivities and community spirit, including a truck full of puppies, live music and sweaters of all stripes and sizes.

What can folks expect at the Sweater Weather Soiree? Here's a peek at some of the festivities:

Homegrown Delights: Folks can purchase yummy treats from Marble Valley Catering and Inspired Cookies and warm up with a cup of Chaga Chai. They can also explore local products and goods at various vendor stalls, including Fairy Hair, Rutland is Rad, and Phoenix Books.

Smooth Tunes: Musician Elizabeth Reedy will play at the soiree, setting the mood for the event, while emcee Nanci Gordon will bring the energy and keep the fun rolling.

Free Activities: Enjoy creative activities and games by Come Alive Outside and Rutland organization Alive Outside for a stroll through downtown at 4:30, or sing some "scary-oke" our Halloween karaoke, instead.

Sweater Swap and

ready for a sweater trade or bid on fun sweaters. Bring a sweater simply pick a new one swap is free to all. The Auction has items for bid. Auction-goers new favorite autumn

Butternut Golden

Golden Retrievers will wag their way into the soiree. Visit them for pets, pics, or both!

Outdoor Movie Sc

sun sets, gather with family for an outdoor Scary Stories to Tell 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM based on a book series adults and is rated freaky creatures and scares. All children



changes. Need more information? From 8:00–9:15 pm, \$25.00. See our FAQ page at queencityghostwalk.com.

Friday 13th Saturday 14th

Friends of the Rutland Free Library October Book Sales

10 Court St., Rutland, VT 802-773-1860
Friday, (10 - 4) and Saturday, (10 -2)

Public Always Welcome

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages.

Always a broad selection of rare and antique books.

All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.

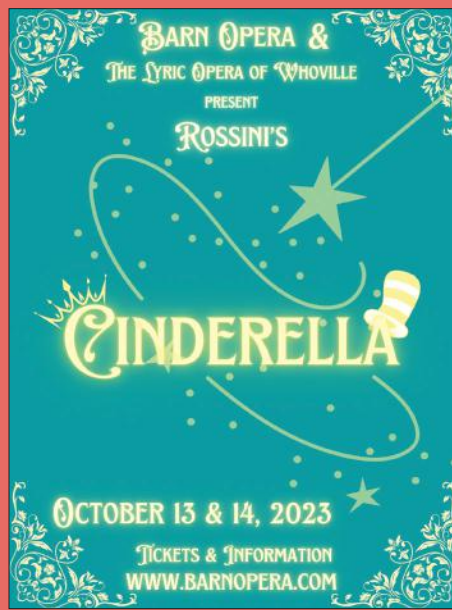
Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects.

www.rutlandfree.org

son d town

The new Vermont folk-grass group Marsh Lights features the singing and songwriting of Colby Crehan (Bluegrass Gospel Project and PossumHaw) with her PossumHaw bandmates

The new Vermont folk-grass group Marsh Lights will be appearing at the Old Fire House in Tinmouth, VT on Friday, October 13, and the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, October 14. The group features the singing and songwriting of Colby Crehan, former vocalist of the Bluegrass Gospel Project and PossumHaw. She reunites with her former PossumHaw bandmates after 6 years to present new, original acoustic folk-grass music with a



Family friendly Opera October 13th & 14th

BARN Opera and The Lyric Opera of Whoville present Rossini's "La Cenerentola" ("Cinderella"), a kid-centric, family-friendly production designed to engage children even if they can't understand the original Italian, which will be presented as "Who language" (from Dr. Seuss).

At the BARN Opera House, 1386 Pearl Street in Brandon. Tickets and additional information at barnopera.com.

hyper-literate edge and beautiful execution.

The group had their regional debut at the Whallonsburg Grange in Essex, NY, where Manager Mary-Nell Bockman said, "the combination of talent, passion, and songwriting in the band is breathtaking."

Vergennes Opera House president Gerianne Smart added, "There is something about Colby's voice, her delivery, the harmonies and her emotional commitment to the songs that resonates deeply with audiences. Several years ago, the Bluegrass Gospel Project chose the Vergennes Opera House as the venue for their final concert, and we haven't forgotten that special night. We are all looking forward to welcoming Colby back to our historic stage."

Colby and her bandmates have received accolades, including Vermont Vocalist of the Year and Vermont Song of the Year (Tammie Awards, Barre-Montpelier Times-Argus). The group's strong rapport built over years of performing together makes for a band that can go light and heavy, solemn and joyful, fast and slow.

"We are so excited to be back on the stage in Vergennes and Tinmouth," says Colby Crehan. "After years of performing at the VOH with the Bluegrass Gospel Project and at the Old Firehouse with PossumHaw, it really feels like coming home for us."

Marsh Lights' new songs explore bravery, darkness, spirituality, and grace with lyrics that often employ metaphoric places and female heroes and perspectives. And Marsh Lights pulls from the old songbook of PossumHaw, particularly the songs found on their last recording, the live 2017 album Limberpine.

"While I don't write autobiographical songs," says Colby, "I can always relate to the characters and stories in the songs in a deeply personal way. I hope our listeners will feel the same connection."

In addition to Colby's lyrical pieces, the band also plays instrumentals written by banjoist Ryan Crehan and mandolinist Stephen Waud. "The instrumentals are high-energy, expressive and a lot of fun. They provide a great

contrast and really set the stage on fire" says Colby.

Marsh Lights is Colby Crehan on lead vocals, rhythm guitar and keyboard, Ryan Crehan on vocals, banjo and harmonica, Charley Eiseman on vocals and lead guitar, Steve Waud on vocals and mandolin, and Mitch Barron on vocals and upright bass.

Sunday 15th

Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival 2023

See more than 75 classic cars and trucks alongside vendors, great food, live music, raffle drawings, and more!

Join us in Middlebury, Vermont on Sunday, October 15th for our Car Show & Fall Festival, hosted by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and the Better Middlebury Partnership! See more than 75 classic cars and trucks alongside vendors, great food, live music, raffle drawings, and more! With kids' activities as well, this event is fun for the whole family and free for spectators!

Sun at 10:00 am– 3:00 pm
Triangle Park, Main Street Middlebury



"Bootified Brandon" Halloween Decoration Contest!

Brandon is loaded with creative people as well as folks who just like to have fun! So it makes sense that Brandon Rec would collaborate with friends Barbara Scribner from the Inn on Park Street (check out their amazing decorations already!) and Trish Lafayette to create a townwide Halloween decorating contest!

Registration is on the Brandonvt.myrec.com website. For \$10, you'll be able to register your house and have a chance to be the Halloweenest house in town! **The DEAD-line for registration is October 20.** Voting is \$1 per vote, and will be taken at various businesses, where you can also get maps of participating, Boo-tiful houses during the week of October 20-26. The winners will be announced at Spooksville, the famous Trunk or Treat at Estabrook Park on Friday, October 27, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Categories will be: Homes, Businesses, and Apartment Complexes. And the prizes are pretty cool! So get your Zombie friends to vote for you, with plenty of pictures on social media and beyond! Let's have fun!

Fall Fantasy in Vermont!

by fun interac-
games provided
side and other
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n urban legends
town Rutland
e tunes during
alloween-themed

Auction: Get
swap and auc-
patrons can
ky and cozy fall
weather to swap or
one. The sweater
The Sweater
rom local stores,
retailers up for
might find their
n fashion piece!
t: A truck full of

be accompanied by an adult. Bring
a chair or blanket to sit on the grass
and enjoy the
film.

The Sweater
Weather Soiree
is a FREE event,
and no RSVP
is needed. We
invite the com-
munity to come
together, cel-
ebrate the joys
of fall, and make
unforgettable memories.

Join Come Alive Outside and
Real Rutland on October 14th at
the Center Street Market Place in
Rutland, VT, from 3:00 PM to 8:00
PM for the Sweater Weather Soiree.
For more information, visit www.comealiveoutside.com



[comealiveoutside.com](http://www.comealiveoutside.com) or
follow us on
social media
@comealiveoutside.

The Sweater
Weather

Soiree is proudly sponsored by
Vermont Country Store, SVCOA,
Marble Valley Catering, Rutland
Regional Medical Center (RRMC),
Mountain Cider, Rutland Free
Library, and Rutland County Solid
Waste. Their support has allowed
Come Alive Outside to create a
quintessential fall celebration in the
Green Mountain State.

reening: As the
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PG-13 for gore,
d supernatural
under 16 must



OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Adult Fiction

The Wren, The Wren by Anne Enright

Nell McDaragh never knew her grandfather, the celebrated Irish poet Phil McDaragh, but his love poems seem to speak directly to her. At twenty-two, Nell leaves her mother's orderly home to find her own voice as a writer, ghost-blogging for an influencer, and to live a poetical life. As she chases obsessive love, damage, and transcendence, in Dublin and beyond, her grandfather's poetry seems to guide her home. Nell's mother, Carmel, knows the magic of her father's poetry too well, and she struggles to reconcile "the poet" with the father whose desertion scars her life, along with that of her dutiful sister and mother. "The Wren, The Wren" brings to life three generations of McDaragh women who must contend with the inheritances of a man who is lauded in public and carelessly selfish at home.

The Caretaker by Ron Rash

In the 1950s, Blackburn Gant, a victim of childhood polio, seems condemned to spend his life as the sole caretaker of a hilltop cemetery in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. It suits his withdrawn personality, and the inexplicable occurrences that happen from

DID YOU KNOW?

We will be offering basic computer classes again! The first one is **Email and Google Basics**, Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 4pm. Please contact the library to register: 802-247-8230

time to time rattle him less than interaction with the living. But when his best and only friend, Jacob Hampton, is conscripted to serve overseas, Blackburn is charged with caring for Jacob's wife, Naomi, as well. Sixteen-year-old Naomi Clarke is an outsider in Blowing Rock, considered poor and uneducated, who works as a maid in the town's most elegant hotel. When Naomi eloped with Jacob a few months after her arrival, the marriage scandalized the community, most of all his wealthy parents who disinherited him. Shunned by the townsfolk for their differences and equally fearful that Jacob may never come home, Blackburn and Naomi grow closer and closer until a shattering development derails numerous lives.

The Unsettled by Ayana Mathis

From the moment Ava Carson and her ten-year-old son, Toussaint, arrive at Philaelpia's Glenn Avenue family shelter in 1985, Ava is already plotting a

way out. She is repulsed by the shelter's squalid conditions: their cockroach-infested room, the barely edible food, and the shifty night-security guard. When Toussaint's father, Cass, reappears, she is swept off course by his charisma, and the power of his radical vision to bring about a bold new way of living. As Ava becomes more enmeshed with Cass, Toussaint senses the danger simmering all around him—his well-intentioned but erratic mother and the intense, volatile figure of his father. He begins to dream of Dutchess and Bonaparte, his home and birthright, if only he can find his way there.

Shadow Speaker: The Desert Magician's Duology: Book One by Nnedi Okorafor

Niger, West Africa, 2074. When fifteen-year-old Ejii witnesses her father's beheading, her world shatters. In a time of mind-blowing technology and seductive mysticism, Ejii embarks on a journey to track down her father's killer. With a newfound friend by her side, Ejii comes face to face with an earth turned inside out—and with her own mystical ability. And then she discovers that her travels across the sands of the Sahara have a deeper purpose.

Flasher deemed to display 'insufficient evidence' for charges

October 2

• Brandon Police Department (BPD) was called to Mulcahy Drive and Arnold District Road for a report of a man on a Marble Valley Transit bus who was having a mental-health episode, frightening other passengers, and refusing to disembark. Responding officers were able to get the man off the bus, at which point he left the area on foot. Officers were called back to the area later in the day because the same man was acting strangely and yelling at himself. The man refused to interact with the officers and walked off again on foot. No criminal behavior was observed and no further police action was taken.

• Police responded to Lovers Lane for a report of a disabled vehicle. The driver was found to be okay and went on her way.

• Police were dispatched to an alarm activation at Blue Seal on Alta Woods. The alarm company subsequently called to cancel the dispatch because the alarm was determined to be accidental.

October 3

• Officers briefly halted traffic on Grove Street at the request of Xfinity so that a utility wire could be installed.

• Police conducted a directed patrol in Park Village on Mulcahy Drive. No activity observed.

• Vehicle stop for driving on the shoulder on Franklin Street. Driver was issued a ticket for driving an unregistered vehicle and given a warning for failure to maintain travel lane.

• BPD responded to a report of a woman at North Street and Forestdale Road who was walking a small dog and had fallen. Officers determined that she may have been suffering from dementia. She was given a ride home to the care of her husband, who was provided with information about support services.

• A parent came into the lobby of the BPD to report a sexual assault of a minor. The incident was determined to have occurred in Pittsford and the parent was asked to contact the Vermont State Police for further investigation.

• BPD responded to a residence on Forestdale Road for a report of an untimely death. It was later determined that the cause of death of the individual was due to natural causes.

• BPD was contacted by the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction to request a welfare check on a patient who had ignored medical advice and left the hospital prematurely after surgery. The individual was located at his residence on Franklin Street and found to be ok.

Brandon Police Report

• Vehicle stop on Park Street Extension for stop sign violation. Warning issued.

• Officers responded to Hanaford Supermarket for a report of a man stripping his clothes off in the parking lot. Officers found evidence that the man had been smoking crack cocaine and was possibly still under the influence. Brandon Area Rescue Squad was called to the scene to evaluate the individual. Investigation is still ongoing and criminal charges may be brought.

October 4

• An officer on patrol observed a car in the parking lot of the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street after the business had closed for the night. The officer spoke with the man in the car and determined that no criminal activity was underway.

• Officers attempted to locate a vehicle entering Brandon that had been the subject of a Be-On-Look-out for erratic driving. The vehicle was not located.

• A parent contacted BPD to report that her son was being bullied at Neshobe School. The situation is being handled as a disciplinary matter within the school, as no crime had been committed.

• Police initiated a traffic stop on Grove Street in the parking lot of the former Cattails Restaurant for possible drug-dealing activity. The driver fled the scene when confronted and led the officer on a brief pursuit before the officer abandoned the chase. The driver was identified as Dustin Malinowski. Criminal charges will be brought at a later date and several traffic tickets will be issued to Mr. Malinowski. Investigation ongoing.

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

• Traffic stop on Arnold District Road. Warning issued.

October 5

• An officer received a report of suspicious activity at the intersection of Conant Square and West Seminary Street regarding an individual who was allegedly exposing his genitalia to the public in front of an open window at a residence. The incident was investigated and there was insufficient evidence to suggest a crime had been committed.

• BPD received a complaint regarding suspicious activity on High Pond Road in which a mailbox was
(See Police report, Page 19)

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL FOR 2023

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Brandon Free Public Library's operating budget. We rely on our community to fund a large portion of our annual operating budget and your gift helps bridge the gap between the town appropriations that we receive and the total cost of operating the library.

2023 has been a very busy year so far:

- The summer reading program offered 29 events with overall attendance of 425 children.
- Adult-focused programming offered 94 events with attendance of over 800 adults.
- Librarians offered 17 Teen events with attendance of 154 teens.
- We serve ~6000 patrons in Brandon, Leicester, Sudbury, Goshen, and Forestdale.

Your gift is important! Over half of our annual operating budget comes from direct donations, grants, and Friends of the Library fundraising events. As in years past, we invite you to make a one-time or sustaining gift. Your financial support of the Library ensures that this cornerstone of our community continues its work, so please give what you can. Stop into the library or visit our website at <https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/annual-appeal/> and donate directly.

With Gratitude and Appreciation,

David Roberts, President of the BFPL Board of Trustees
vermont.roberts@gmail.com / 617-512-3894



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
damaged. Investigation ongoing.

- A house on Steinberg Road was burgled. The incident is currently under investigation.
- A citizen on Morning Dove Lane submitted information to BPD about ongoing criminal activity.
- A lost wallet found on Forestdale Road was returned to its owner after being turned into BPD.
- BPD responded to a serious single-car accident on the Gap Road in Goshen. One of the vehicle's occupants was transported to the hospital with serious injuries.

October 6

- A complaint was referred to Vermont OSHA regarding a report that was made to BPD concerning an employee-safety issue at a business in Brandon.
- Two-car motor vehicle crash on Center Street in Brandon, near the River Pub. No reported injuries and both cars remained drivable. The cause was determined to be lack of care when one car attempted to leave a parking spot.
- BPD assisted Brandon Fire Department with traffic control on Champlain Street at the scene of a couch fire.
- BPD investigated an alleged violation of a protective order on Mulcahy Drive. No violation was found.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for a potential safety violation. No enforcement action taken.

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

October 7

- Property watch at Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road.
- Property watch at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.
- BPD received a report of a theft of tires and a rack on Lake Dunmore Road. The theft was determined to have occurred in Leicester and the reporting party was referred to the Vermont State Police.
- Directed traffic enforcement conducted on Forestdale Road because of residents' complaints about speeding. No violations noted.
- BPD responded to a report of an unconscious woman in a car on Town Farm Road. Officers determined that she had just fallen asleep while waiting for assistance with her disabled vehicle.
- BPD investigated threats made to a juvenile riding on the VAST trail by a resident of Forestdale. Investigation ongoing.
- BPD received a complaint about dirt bikes being ridden up and down Church Street. Officers were unable to locate the bikes.
- Officer assisted Brandon Rescue with a lift assist on North Street.

October 8

- Traffic enforcement on Franklin Street at High Street.
- BPD received a complaint

about ATVs on Deer Run Road. Investigation ongoing.

- Directed patrol on Grove Street at Pine Hill Cemetery.
- Police assisted Brandon Rescue with a lift assist on Dyer Street.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment and failure to display license plates. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Park Street for following too closely. Warning issued.
- Police observed what appeared to be an abandoned vehicle at the Masonic Lodge on Park Street Extension. Investigation revealed that the owner had permission to be there.
- Police received a report of a vehicle driving erratically on Route 7 near Otter Valley Union High School. Officers were able to locate the car and pull it over on Carver Street. The driver was found to be extremely tired. No criminal activity observed.
- BPD located two individuals trespassing by vehicle at the McKernon Group building on Jones Drive. Police cleared the building and found no further criminal activity.
- Vehicle stop on Lovers Lane at Grove Street for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- BPD assisted Brandon Rescue with a lifeline activation on Mulcahy Drive. It was determined that the activation was accidental.
- BPD assisted Brandon Fire Department to gain access to a residence on River Street.

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

permitting process. Mr. Hopkins and Board Member Tim Guiles completed additional FEMA emergency management training.

The town attempted to obtain decibel-measurement equipment to help resolve a noise dispute between neighbors but was not able. Mr. Hopkins felt that the town had done as much as it could do to resolve the matter.

Delinquent property taxes were \$393,561 and are now \$402,505. Delinquent water/sewer fees were \$289,046 and are now \$252,357.

Board Member Brian Coolidge asked Mr. Hopkins about repair costs of the plate-glass windows at the Town Office, which had been the subject of previous discussion. Mr. Hopkins said that he had received one quote in the range of \$20K and that one other company had visited the site but had not yet submitted a bid.

Mr. Coolidge also inquired about the parking lot in front of the Brandon Inn, which also had been the subject of previous discussion. Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore stated that the Inn had posted signage instructing guests to park behind the Inn and unless the Board wanted to change the status of that public parking lot, it could not compel people to park elsewhere in order to free up spaces for the other businesses along that stretch. Board Chair Tracy Wyman noted that the Inn's rear parking was full on a recent visit and that the Inn itself seemed to be enjoying high occupancy recently.

Mr. Coolidge then inquired whether the Brandon Police Department (BPD) was compensated when it assisted with matters outside of Brandon's jurisdiction, an apparent reference to a recent car accident on Route 73 in Goshen, to which BPD had responded. Mr. Hopkins replied that BPD is not currently compensated for these assists and that it responds to outside requests as a matter of public safety. Mr. Coolidge expressed some concern that

Brandon taxpayers were being asked to pay for services delivered to other towns and that Brandon should charge for the use of its police force.

Mr. Hopkins suggested that he could initiate discussions with Goshen, Sudbury, and Leicester, if the Board wanted to begin the process of formalizing contractual relationships with those towns for use of Brandon's police force. It was noted that an analogous relationship already exists between the Town of Goshen and Brandon Fire Department (which is

not under the control of the Brandon Select Board).

Mr. Guiles noted that the Board should not take any action on the idea until it had been warned as an agenda item at a future meeting. It was agreed to leave the matter there and ask Police Chief Kachajian to attend the next meeting to discuss

After a lengthy and sometimes contentious discussion, during which it was suggested that perhaps Brandon should re-think even offering [electric] charging stations at all, Mr. Coolidge's motion to increase the current rates failed in a 2-3 vote.

the idea.

Recreation Department Director Bill Moore then gave a brief summary of some of the Rec Department's recent activities. He had been on vacation and did not include a written report with the Selectboard packet. He mentioned that the weekend's Harvest Fest had been a success and that 66 Leaf People had been bought and created. He also mentioned that he was awaiting a quote for the resurfacing of the tennis court at Estabrook Park.

During the Public Comment segment of the meeting, Mr. Coolidge stated that he had been "disgusted" by what he saw as the wastefulness of a mailing that the Brandon Energy Committee had sent out to advertise an event to local businesses. Mr. Coolidge felt that the cost of the postage was not justified and that there were better ways to communicate with the public. He was joined in his concern by Brandon resident Sharon Stearns, who noted that she had received multiple mailings at her three businesses, even though those businesses were all at the same address.

Ms. Stearns also stated that she did not feel that it was appropriate for the Energy Com-

(See Brandon SB, Page 31)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, this week you may invite a friend over who shares all of his or her good energy with you. It's just the boost you need right now to have a positive few days.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

You may have an urgent need to get physically active, Taurus. That can propel you to get a gym membership or to organize a walking club with some local friends.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, some shake-ups at work may leave you wondering how secure things will be for you moving forward. Start asking a few pointed questions.

CANCER June 22-July 22

You are in the process of widening your field of opportunities, Cancer. This may translate into taking a trip overseas or even across the country for a little bit.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Your typically amicable personality could be nowhere in sight this week, Leo. Perhaps you are feeling disrespected and bullied and want to advocate for yourself.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

There are moments when everyone gets strong feelings of where they should be heading in life, Virgo. Sometime this week you could receive an epiphany moment.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Take a few moments this week to go over spending, as you may determine that you have to reel in your budget a little more than you had expected, Libra.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, this week you could be inspired by someone who comes across as a natural leader. Learn from this individual about how you can become more assertive.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, even though you have been instrumental in your involvement with a particular situation, there is not much more you can do this week. Let it rest for now.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, put all of your cards on the table this week, especially with those close to you. They deserve to see the bigger picture if they are involved with you.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

The week ahead may be trying for you, Aquarius. You may have to prove yourself to loved ones by offering a speech or other actions. It could be emotionally draining.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, you can look forward to your busy week ahead because the time is going to fly by. Do not schedule anything extra, as you will not be able to fit it in for the time being.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 13 Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, qawwal and ghazal singer (d)
- Oct. 14 Usher, singer (45)
- Oct. 15 Fela Kuti, musician and singer (d)
- Oct. 16 Nico, singer (d)
- Oct. 17 Eminem, rapper (51)
- Oct. 18 Wynton Marsalis, musician (62)
- Oct. 19 Peter Tosh, Reggae artist (d)

'SHARING CREATIVE TALENTS' BRINGS ART AND POETRY TO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BRANDON



"SHARING CREATIVE TALENTS" at the United Methodist Church of Brandon brought together artists from the Methodist and Congregational Churches in Brandon. In addition to the artwork, poetry by Mary Oliver, Ruth Stone, and Marge Piercy was shared. Pictured here are (clockwise from top left) Wyatt Waterman, Sue Wetmore, Vicki Disorda, and Joanne Cathcart. Ms. Disorda holds a photo of the Methodist Church whose origins are shrouded in mystery. If anyone recognizes the artist, please contact The Reporter or the Methodist Church.

Games at the Library

(Continued from Page 3)
ing anywhere from 16 to 25 kids on any given Tuesday (the club meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.). Any child who wants to learn is welcome to join and will be given a starter deck to begin play (they can keep the deck after they've attended a few club meetings). Drzewianowski estimates he's distributed over 25 decks since the club formed. And the club's growth also prompted him to seek outside funding to keep up with demand.

"We got some grant money, and I was even able to buy some of the rarer cards that the kids wanted," said Drzewianowski. The gaming clubs received \$2,500 from the Walter Cerf Foundation (specifically for Pokémon), about \$2,000 from the Livak Foundation, \$500 from Nifty Thrifty, and \$100 from the Brandon Area Toy Project.

Much of the grant money was used to fund the Pokémon camp that the library ran this past summer. The camp was a big success, enrolling 14 kids who met from 12 to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The camp culminated in a tournament with prizes. The library will offer another Pokémon camp during February school vacation and again next summer.

"Working with kids all day long, I learned a huge appreciation for teachers," laughed Drzewianowski.

Magic: The Gathering (MTG) is another popular trading-card game kids can learn at the library.

A bit more complex than Pokémon, it's more suitable for kids 11 and older. In MTG, players are "Planeswalkers" who travel between dimensions (planes) and do battle with one another, by casting spells, wielding artifacts, and summoning creatures, all of which depend on the specific cards that a player holds in their deck. MTG cards are more expensive than Pokémon cards, so the library MTG club plays a version called "Commander" in which cards can be printed at home rather than purchased. The MTG club meets at the library on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and usually has 8 or 9 members.

And then, of course, there's the classic role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons, known widely as D & D. The structure of D & D is very different from the trading-card games in that the players take on roles themselves and immerse themselves in an ongoing story ("campaign"). The roles will be familiar to anyone who enjoys Lord of the Rings and other fantasy literature/movies: wizards, elves, clerics, etc. The narrative is controlled by someone who acts as Dungeon Master (DM) and who essentially creates the world in which the campaign takes place. The length and complexity of play make D & D appropriate for older kids and adults.

"D & D is great for teens because you get to try on different personas," said Drzewianowski. "You can play as the character you always saw yourself as in



KIDS PLAYING POKÉMON at the Brandon Free Public Library's summer camp. The game requires players to collect cards in order to pit characters against each other in battle.

your head."

Campaigns can last days, weeks, months or even years. Drzewianowski once played a campaign that lasted three years.

The D & D club meets every other week.

Drzewianowski is aided in these gaming clubs by Cary Palmer, who recently moved to the area from Florida and had been a judge for Pokémon and MTG tournaments down there.

Brandon Brain Buster Answered

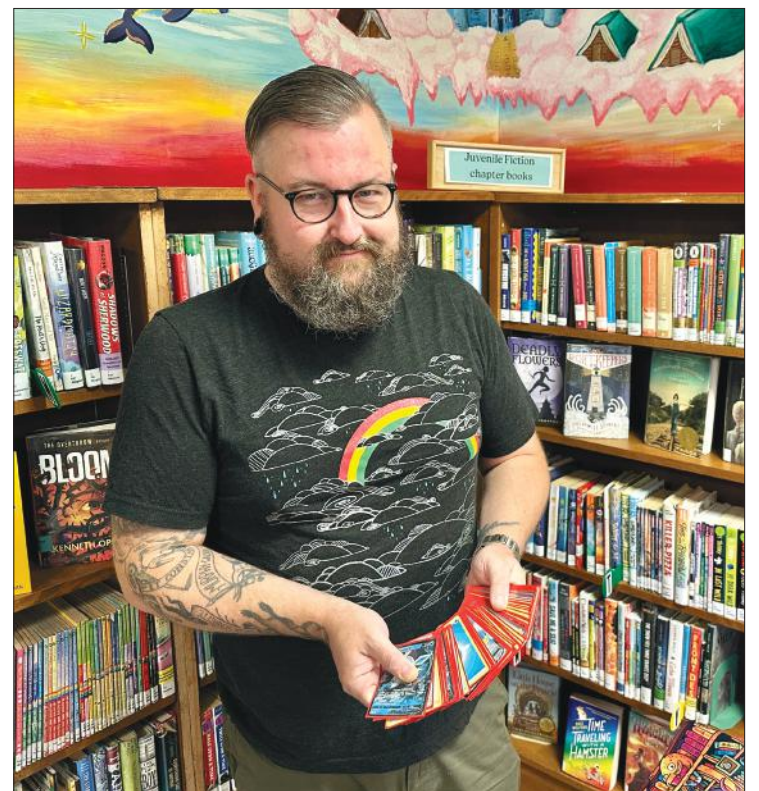
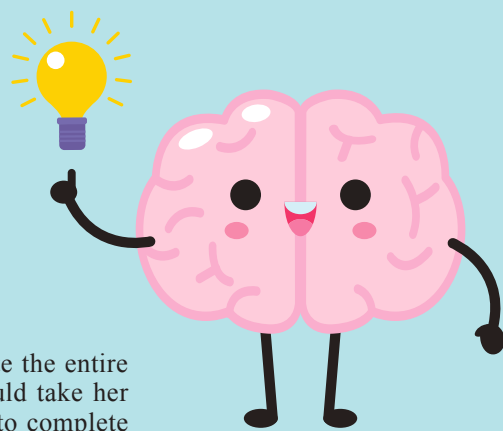
Answer: (D)

If Morris can complete the wall in 180 minutes (3 hours), then in 18 minutes he can complete 1/10 of the wall (since 18 is 1/10 of 180). The same would apply to Yolanda. So, together they would complete $1/10 + 1/10 = 2/10 = 1/5$ of the wall in 18 minutes. Therefore, Yolanda would have to complete the remaining $4/5$ of the wall by herself. If it takes her 3

hours to complete the entire wall, then it would take her $4/5$ of that time to complete $4/5$ of the project. If 3 hours is 180 minutes, then $4/5$ of 3 hours would be $4/5 \times 180 = 144$ minutes.

Alternatively, since Morris and Yolanda work at the same speed, their working together is equivalent to just one of them getting twice as much done in the same amount of time. In other words, in the 18 minutes that

they worked together, they got as much done as just one of them would have done in 36 minutes. So, if Yolanda had worked alone for 36 minutes—and could finish the whole wall in 180 minutes—then it would take her an additional $180 - 36 = 144$ minutes to finish the project.



ERIC DRZEWIANSKI SHOWS off some the Pokémon cards he's collected for use by kids in the Pokémon club. "It's an easy game for kids to pick up," he said. Photo by Steven Jupiter

"Cary has definitely taught me things I didn't even know," said Drzewianowski. In fact, mutual assistance is key to the clubs. More experienced players help out newcomers.

"It's to everyone's advantage to help boost the quality of play, so the older kids want to teach the younger ones how to improve."

There are also gaming stores in Middlebury and Rutland for

anyone interested in exploring this world with their kids, or even for themselves.

"The big thing is social interaction," said Drzewianowski. "It teaches kids how to interact with other kids. It teaches sportsmanship. We always end with 'good game,' no matter how it went. We really just want to build a good community."



LEAF PEOPLE INVADE BRANDON!

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Once again, Brandon has been overrun by Leaf People, those scarecrow-like creatures that emerge from their hiding places every autumn and scare the daylight out of passing motorists who slam on their brakes when they catch sight of one seemingly about to wander right into the road.

But whence came they?

The story goes back to Wood's Market in the 1970s, when Bob and Sally Wood created and posed the figures in vignettes around the farm, as a way to draw attention to their farmstand.

"We had around 30 of them," said Sally Wood recently. "We had a farmer and his wife. We had a witch in a tree. We had kids playing ring-around-the-rosy."

"People would stop to buy apples and take their pictures with them," added Bob and Sally's daughter, Pat. Pat recalls donating her black high-school graduation dress and boots to the witch in the tree.

Warren Kimble then had the idea of turning the scarecrows into a Brandon trademark by planting them all over town. The idea took off and by the 90s, it was an annual tradition overseen by the Brandon Chamber of Commerce (BCC).

"We took [the Woods'] idea and ran it through the rest of the town," said BCC Executive Director Bernie Carr. "We put them all through downtown and on the roads coming into town and in the parks. People loved them, except for the people who hated them."

It was Mr. Carr who had the stroke of Halloween genius this year to place a Leaf Person in a white wedding gown in the middle of the ancient town cemetery behind the Congregational Church, where she seems to wander among the stones looking for a long-lost love. A photograph of the figure earned hundreds of likes in a cemetery-enthusiasts group on Facebook, with dozens of people clamoring to know what town she could be found in.

(See Leaf people, Page 28)



SOME OF THE current crop of Leaf People around Brandon. Bernie Carr's stroke of macabre genius gave us Cemetery Bride, who developed a following on Facebook. Below her are a happier family in Kennedy Park. Photos by Steven Jupiter

Annual tire recycle and resale event provides fiscal benefits and transportation support to Vermonters while heating homes Wheels for Warmth shows no signs of tiring in eighteenth year

(BARRE, VT) – The turning leaves are a sign of the changing seasons and that it’s time to schedule the tire changeover. But in a year when Vermonters are facing unprecedented losses, damages, restoration, and recovery, the annual Wheels for Warmth event needs every tire people can spare to continue the work of driving safely and living warmly in Vermont.

The annual tire recycle and resale event collects tires from around the state to be either recycled or sold at two area events on Saturday October 28th. Proceeds from the event go to emergency heating assistance throughout Vermont provided by Capstone Community Action, BROCC Community Action and Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity.

“This effort has had so many benefits since we started it almost 20 years ago,” said Governor Phil Scott. “But with so many Vermonters in need following our historic and catastrophic flooding, alongside rising costs in just about every area, it’s more important than ever for us to find ways to help our neighbors and our communities. Wheels for Warmth is a great way to do both, and I hope to see record turn out this year so we can keep Vermonters warm and keep our state clean.”

In eighteen years, Wheels for Warmth has raised \$670,000 for emergency fuel assistance, sold

25,000 safe donated tires and recycled 50,000 unsafe tires. We have also seen over 1,100 volunteers contributing time from over 120 companies or

organizations, resulting in over 25,000 volunteer hours.

“Wheels for Warmth exemplifies the power of a community coming together to solve a problem. This event supports low-income Vermonters struggling to afford to keep warm in our harsh winters, connects Vermonters to good used tires to keep them on the road safely and securely and properly recycles worn tires to reduce environmental impact,” said Alison Calderara, chief of advancement and programs of Capstone Community Action. “The partnership that makes it happen is priceless and Capstone is excited to continue to be a part of this timeless Vermont tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.”

Tires will be collected Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27 from 2 pm–6 pm at Vermont Granite Museum, Barre; and Casella Waste Systems, Williston; Casella Construction, Mendon, 1 PM - 5 PM Stowe Events Field, Stowe.

The tire sale will take place on Saturday, October 28 from 8 am–12 pm in two locations: Vermont Granite Museum in Barre and Casella Construction in Mendon.

If tires cannot be re-sold those tires are recycled at \$5 fee per tire, \$10 fee per truck tire. To learn more about the event visit wheelsforwarmth.org or find the event on Facebook: facebook.com/wheelsforwarmth and Instagram: @WheelsForWarmth.

Capstone Community Action was founded in 1965 and works to overcome poverty by

serving people in crisis and creating economic opportunity for people and communities. Capstone’s programs include emergency food, heat assistance, housing counseling and homelessness intervention, savings and credit coaching, business counseling, workforce development, home weatherization, transportation access, and child and family development programs in Early Head Start/Head Start. We serve nearly 11,000 people through these programs each year. www.capstonevt.org.

About Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)

As a social services organization with nine distinct yet interconnected programs, CVOEO addresses fundamental issues of economic, social, racial, and environmental justice and works with people to achieve economic independence. Formed in 1965 to carry out the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, CVOEO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on support from various sources, including federal, state, and local governments, foundations, corporations, and individuals. With a dedicated and passionate staff of more than 200 employees, CVOEO offers a holistic and client-centered approach to serving individuals, families, and communities and provides vital support to 20, 200 Vermonters every year.

To learn more about CVOEO, its mission, impact, and programs, visit www.evoo.org.

BROCC Community Action’s mission is to provide hope, opportunity and a path forward out of crisis or poverty so our neighbors and communities thrive. We have a two-pronged approach to helping our neighbors in need – we provide assistance to people in crisis and we provide a sustainable path forward. Treating everyone with respect and dignity, we lead by example and advocate for people of low income and those living in poverty. BROCC Community Action offers an array of programs and services in both Rutland and Bennington Counties such as our Community Food Shelf, Housing program, Home Weatherization, Crisis Fuel, Micro Business Development, Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Rutland County Community Justice Center; just to name

a few. Please check out www.BROCC.org for more details.

Stevens Farmstead

(Continued from Page 14)

farmhouse, and hanging with my dogs.

I host the occasional dinner party with friends or take 4-mile walks with my dogs.

In November, I ‘take a break’ to become a wreath-making machine, binding together 400 wreaths. I sell wholesale

and retail. My stand opens the weekend before Thanksgiving, and of course, I make pies, lots of pies.

To get on her email list for pies, wreaths or food email Jane at:

tThestevensfarmstead@gmail.com

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Mim's Photos

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

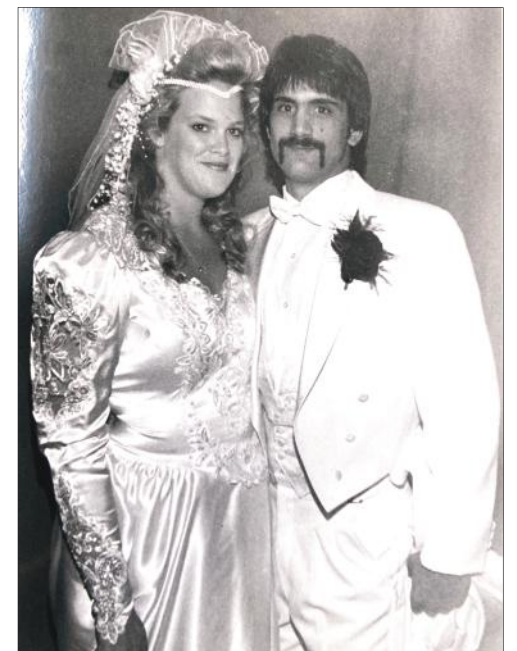


Recognized



Frederick Pocket identified this man as Paul Houle of Leicester.

Dorothy Miner also recognized her son in law, Paul Houle.



Additionally, Dorothy Miner recognized Joe "Jody" Bertrand, Jr. who lived in Brandon.

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

Or call us at 247-8080



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Information
5. Seaport (abbr.)
8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)
11. Riding horses
13. Boxing's GOAT
14. Hurt or discomfort
15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
16. A beaver builds one
17. Horizontal passage into a mine
18. Self-immolation by fire rituals
20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
22. Agreeable
25. In an early way
30. In a way, struck
31. It's there in the morning
32. County in the S. Pacific
33. Central Florida city
38. Numbers cruncher
41. Mexican beers
43. Lawyers say you can indict one
45. Capital of South Australia
47. Wings
49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS
50. Fencing sword
55. Capital of Qatar
56. Portable bed
57. Afflicted
59. Lying down
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Inflamed
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to fish
2. Greek mythological figure
3. Scarlett's home
4. Assist
5. More doleful
6. Premeditated
7. Dish featuring minced food
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Eight
10. Unwelcome picnic guests
12. Human gene
14. Bucket
19. Make full
23. Dirt
24. Person cited as ideal example
25. A part of (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Very long period of time
28. Gas usage measurement
29. North American native people
34. It says "moo"
35. Folk singer Di Franco
36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
37. Residue
39. Grand homes
40. Popinjays
41. Man who behaves dishonorably
42. Figures
44. One who watches over children
45. Expressed pleasure
46. No longer living
47. Hebrew calendar month
48. Part of the ear
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Italian Island
54. Resist authority (slang)
58. Criticize

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13				14	
15						16				17	
	18				19	20				21	
					22	23			24		
25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
32									33	34	35
					38	39	40		41	42	
					43			44			
			45	46							
47	48					49			50	51	52
55						56			57		58
59						60			61		
62						63				64	

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Sudoku

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

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	S	V	S		H	S		D	E	D	
I	B	B	R		N	E		D	E	B	V
E	T	I	V		T	O	O	V	H	O	
R	E	B	S		T	Z	V		A	V	L
					I	V			D	E	V
H	C	I	M		N	V		S	M	V	H
S	V	N	O		O	C		P	F		
V	L	V	C		O				G	N	O
					W			D	E	F	
					L	E		R	E	M	
S	I	W	I		B	N		S	I	V	S
T	I	O	V		M	V			R	V	P
N	I	V	P		I	L	V		S	B	V
V	V				P	T			A	V	D

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

Help Support RCHS by Becoming a Monthly Donor!

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

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MEET ARYA - 5 YEARS OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. GREY TIGER.

Arya is a beautiful girl who has been through a lot in her life. She came to us on July 4 because her previous owner passed away. When she got here, she was very shut down and grieving the death of her owner. She will need someone who will be patient with her. Her personality is starting to bloom. We think she would do best in a quiet house where there is not a ton going on. She did have a brother, so we are assuming she does well with other cats. We do not have a history on how she will do with dogs or kids. If she sounds like your type of cat, please stop by to visit with her. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM.



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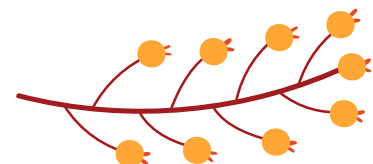
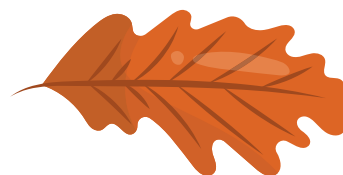
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BRANDON'S HARVEST FEST CELEBRATES FALL



PEOPLE CAME FROM far and wide to ride ponies, hula hoop with EmmaJeanne Hoops, make Leaf People (Arturo Mendiola is pictured with the wooden frames he made for the occasion and Bernie Carr is hidden among some that the Chamber was selling pre-made). 66 Leaf People were created at the event, so keep an eye out for new Leaf Peeps around town!

Photos by Steven Jupiter





Leaf people

(Continued from Page 22)

In 2021, the Brandon Recreation Department took over the project and this past weekend folks were invited to create their own Leaf People at Brandon's Harvest Fest at Estabrook Park. Wood-and-burlap frames (built by Arturo Mendiola) and piles of old clothing were provided. Sixty-six of the figures were made by fairgoers, to be planted in yards all around the

area.

Other towns in Vermont, most notably Shelburne, have copied the idea. But no one does it with as much heart as Brandon.

So, the next time you're in Brandon, keep an eye out for these autumn visitors. You might find one where you least expect.



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THE BOTTOM THREE photos are of some of the original Leaf People on the Wood farm in Brandon, including the witch that wears Pat Wood's graduation gown!

Photos provided



Otters love to play in water

Despite the terrible weather, Otter Valley beat Rice 16 to 8! Go Otters!

Photos by Virginia Carroccia

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Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 19)
 mittee to assume that Brandon-area business owners had not already researched and rejected the committee's proposals. Furthermore, she felt that it was inappropriate for a town committee to promote any particular private business.

Mr. Hopkins responded that the Energy Committee has an explicit "outreach" budget and that the mailing fell under that rubric. But he did state that it was "regrettable" that taxpayer money, even if budgeted, had been "wasted" on multiple mailings to single addresses.

Bernie Carr, Executive Director of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce interjected that the Chair of the Energy Committee, Jim Emerson, had made an effort to weed out duplicate addresses from the mailing lists they were able to obtain but it isn't possible to catch them all.

A representative of the Otter Creek Communications Union District then presented a report detailing its budget for 2024 and its proposal to bring high-speed internet to "the rural communities of Rutland County," an area encompassing not only Brandon, but also Benson, Castleton, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Goshen, Hubbardton, Pawlet, Pittsford, Poultney, Sudbury, Wells, and West Haven. It's a \$14-million project slated to begin in 2024 and reach completion in 2025. Cop-

ies of the report can be found on the organization's website: occud.org.

The Board then took up a discussion of the electric-car chargers in the municipal parking lot behind Dunkin' Donuts. Mr. Coolidge stated that he believed the chargers should be financially self-sufficient, including eventual replacement costs. The charging heads have a lifespan of approximately 10 years and currently cost about \$600 each to replace. The town's current rate structure of \$0.75/hr to plug in and \$0.17/KWh for electricity has netted the town only \$110/year, which Mr. Coolidge deemed insufficient.

Mr. Coolidge proposed increasing the rate to \$1.50/hr to plug in and \$0.30/KWh for electricity, which Mr. Guiles argued was out of line with what neighboring towns were charging. After a lengthy and sometimes contentious discussion, during which it was suggested that perhaps Brandon should rethink even offering charging stations at all, Mr. Coolidge's motion to increase the current rates failed in a 2-3 vote, with Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Wyman voting yea and all other members voting nay.

The Board then voted unanimously to approve a new agreement with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to reduce the amount of money the town

needed to borrow from the fund for the ongoing wastewater plant project from \$1.5 million to \$849,457.00. The town has received a grant that offset the amount it would need to borrow to complete the project.

The Board also unanimously approved a warrant in the amount of \$455,428.55.

The discussion turned to a proposal to use \$18,318.00 in federal grant money obtained through Senator Sanders's office to purchase an electric motorcycle for the town's police department, which already has one. The Board was not enthusiastic about the proposed purchase and did not seem inclined to approve it. Ms. Reniche-Smith noted that before they make a decision to reject the proposal, they should determine whether the terms of the grant required that it be spent on the motorcycle or whether the money could be used in other ways. Mr. Hopkins cautioned the Board that since Sen. Sanders's office had approached the town to offer the money, rejecting it might be perceived negatively and jeopardize future requests for funding. The Board ultimately decided to table the item until it could research the terms of the grant and speak with Chief Kachajian, with Mr. Guiles and Mr. Coolidge voting against tabling in favor of outright rejection.

The Board's final bit of pub-

lic business for the evening was the appointment of six members to the Budget Committee: Doug Bailey, Jan Coolidge, Neil Silins, Barry Varian, Pa-

tricia Welch, and Peter Werner. The committee will begin work on next year's budget in November. All meetings are open to the public.

Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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@mesu.org by no later than Thursday, November 2, 2023.

The Board intends to take action at the following OVUU School Board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the OVUHS Library.

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CATEGORIES

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

** No charge for these ads

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TOTAL: _____

GOLD SPONSORS:

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UPCOMING SHOWS

New shows announced each month!

VISIT PARAMOUNTVT.ORG FOR THE COMPLETE LISTING

AN EVENING WITH
LIVE UNPLUGGED

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 | 7:30 PM

HONORING THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED
50TH ANNIVERSARY "AMERICAN PIE" TOUR
DON MCLEAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | 7:00 PM

BRIAN GLOWACKI
www.BGlowComedy.com
B.GLOW COMEDY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 7:30 PM

CHELCE LYNN
2 FINGERS AND A 12 PACK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 | 7:00 PM

EAGLEMANIA
The world's greatest Eagles Tribute Band

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 7:00 PM

BRUCE COCKBURN
O SUN O MOON
IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 7:30 PM

TOWER OF POWER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 7:30 PM

RAILROAD CENTRAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 7:30 PM

5 TIME GRAMMY WINNER
DIONNE WARWICK
LIVE IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | 7:00 PM

CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC
5 WORLD CLASS ILLUSIONISTS - 1 INCREDIBLE SHOW

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 | 7:30 PM

Comedian
BOB MARLEY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 | 8:00 PM

KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND
DIRT ON MY DIAMONDS TOUR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | 7:30PM

JOSH BLUE
THE FREAK ACCIDENT TOUR
2023

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 | 7:30 PM

ACE FREHLEY

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 | 7:00 PM

An Evening with
David Sedaris

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | 7:00 PM

Mutts Gone Nuts!
Canine Cabaret

FRIDAY, MAY 3 | 7:00 PM

STOMP

2 Shows! MAY 28 & 29 | 7:30 PM



30 CENTER ST.
RUTLAND, VT
802.775.0903

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