

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 42

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

\$1



FISH-TASTIC!

Otter Valley Aquarium Society welcomes fish lovers of all stripes.

PG. 3



CHEEK TO CHEEK

Tango once again heats up the Brandon Inn.

PG. 9

POLICE NEED HELP

Rutland Police seek help with stolen police cruiser and rifle.

PG. 21



GET THE HELP YOU NEED

Family and money are a volatile mix. Joyce helps a couple sort out tricky situation

PG. 8



STARSHIP BEAN

The further adventures of George and Carol Fjeld on their road trip to Texas.

PG. 2



OV's Lucas Politano stands tall on the fairway

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Lucas Politano, a junior at Otter Valley, is having a fantastic season on the school's golf team, winning
(See Lucas Politano, Page 20)



Chili Winners' Circle

THE 7TH ANNUAL Pittsford Chili Cook-off was won by (l to r) Craig Pelkey in 1st place, with 2nd place going to Michele Kehoe, and a three-way tie for 3rd: Riley Farrell, Cory O'Dell, and Bill White-man. Hottest chili went to Dennis Bonanza (not pictured). See page 14 for more. Photo provided.

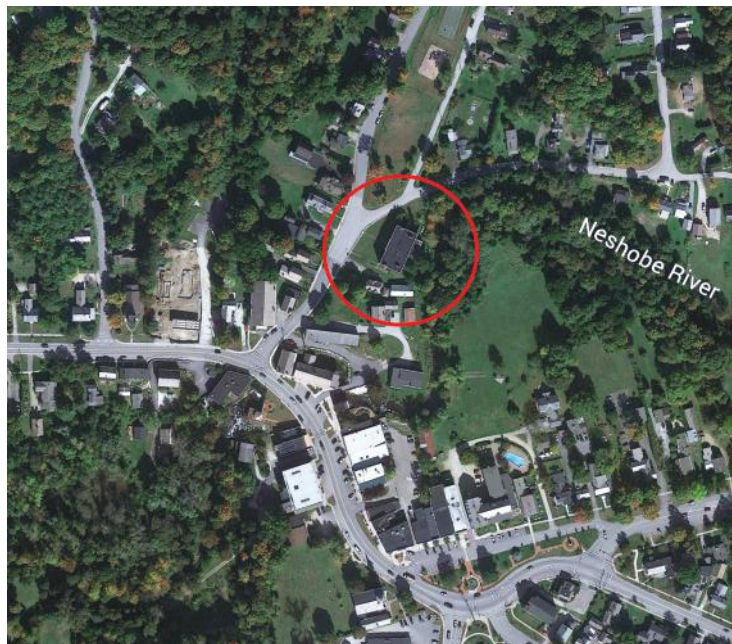
Brandon High School project faces pushback

BY STEVEN JUPITER/
DAVID ROBERTS

BRANDON—The proposal to rehabilitate the old Brandon High School on West Seminary Street (see the 9/27/23 issue of The Reporter) is now facing some procedural hurdles as well as resistance from surrounding landowners.

At a hearing of the Brandon Development Review Board (DRB) on Wednesday, October 11, the principals behind the project—Frank Briscoe, Jr., Jeff Dardozzi, and Joy Marcotte—sought a Conditional Use Permit in order to begin work on the building. The principals are eager to complete initial phases of the project, previously referred to as “ReBHS” by its organizers, in order to take advantage of state tax credits that expire next summer. Missteps in the permitting process may now put those plans—and credits—at risk.

The DRB hearing was intended to give the principals a chance to explain the project to the Board to obtain a Conditional Use Permit, which is necessary when a change is planned for the use of a building



THE OLD BRANDON High School (circled in red) sits at the intersection of several streets in Brandon village. The proposal to rehab the building has become a source of concern for residents worried about the impact on the neighborhood.

or parcel. In this case, the school building is not currently being used and the proposed uses—residential and community spaces—will differ markedly from its edu-

cational use in the past.

The meeting was attended by several of the surrounding landowners, who expressed their concerns about the proposed use

of the building, noting that the project would increase traffic in the neighborhood to dangerous levels, given the topography of the streetscape.

The building sits at the juncture of West Seminary Street, East Seminary Street, and River Street, and is just steps from downtown Center Street. The traffic patterns in the neighborhood are already a concern to residents.

Kevin Thornton and Maureen O'Reilly, who live next door to the high school at 7 West Seminary and share a driveway with the building, wrote in their submitted “Abutter Concerns” that the proposed parking design, which shows cars parking on the street in front of the high school, would necessitate that they back out of their driveway without being able to see cars coming around the corner from River Street, in putative violation of Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO) Section 605, which stipulates that all new driveways must allow room for cars to turn around and enter traffic facing forward.

(See Project pushback, Page 11)

Further adventures of Starship Bean crossing the country

BY GEORGE FJELD

Carol and I headed out with Bean in tow to Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello, Virginia in late September. After an uneventful drive, we over- nighted in a small Pennsylvania town and had dinner in a local Irish Pub where there was an annual Oktoberfest celebration. I was coerced into entering the beer-stein-holding contest. One-liter steins were filled with water, not beer, and had to be held at arm's length without spilling or lowering the mug till there was only one participant left. The first round was the women and the winner held it up for 2 minutes and 45 seconds. That seemed like a very long time to me. I was in the first elimination round of the men's group where 6 out of the 12 participants would move on. Imagining that I could get to the second round, I used my weaker shoulder, my right one because of prior injury, in this round. Indeed I was able to best 6 of the other participants and surpass the women's time, I might add! The final round looked difficult as I was probably 2 decades older than the next younger participant among the 12 at the table. I switched to my left arm and the battle commenced! At the 3-minute mark, 4 participants had already dropped their mugs down to the table, probably because they used the same arm which was suffering from some fatigue after the first

round. I might have a chance! At 4 minutes there were 4 left and I could see some shaking in one of them, but the owner of the bar looked formidable. Young and fit from weekly trips to the gym, he was, as I later found out, the

land, and West Virginia to get to Virginia. Meanwhile, a tropical storm was headed in the opposite direction with hard rain and high winds. It was a nerve-racking drive but thankfully uneventful.

It is a stately home surrounded by beautiful gardens. Jefferson owned a thousand acres of surrounding farmland which were care for by a total of 604 enslaved people

was great. Bull is such a great TV (tow vehicle), he didn't have any trouble with the hills and high speeds. Even merging onto the big road was no sweat for him. I'm so proud of him!



LEFT: GEORGE FJELD relaxes next to Bull and Bean in Virginia. Both the truck and the RV have performed admirably on this journey. Right: George and Carol Fjeld at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia. Below: A glimpse of Thomas Jefferson's desk and possessions.
Photos by George and Carol Fjeld

3-time champion in this contest. I made it to over 4.5 minutes before my shaking arm spilled some water. The winner held out over 5 minutes! I happily settled for 3rd place and was awarded one of the steins. Not bad for an old man!

Another travel day got us to a short distance from our goal. But what a day it was. We drove through Pennsylvania, Mary-

On to Monticello, whose "c" is pronounced "ch," as in "cello." All those years, I have been mispronouncing the name. But my what a beautiful place! Atop a hill taking advantage of the summer breeze, the home Jefferson designed and built is truly magnificent. Incorporating elements of southern architecture as well as a decidedly Continental European influence.

Carol had arranged for a tour of the building and grounds from the perspective of Sally Heming, an enslaved woman and mother to 6 of Thomas Jefferson's children. What an eye opener! Sally was 16 years old when she bore her first child with the future President. Jefferson's first wife, Martha, had died after childbirth. Sally and Martha were 1/2 sisters as their father, Thomas Jefferson's father-in-law, had children with both his wife and Sally's enslaved mother. This was never publicly admitted, however. In fact, it is only in the last few decades that Jefferson's paternal bonds with the 6 children have been established. We viewed Sally's room, which was a privileged one, attached to the main house through a tunnel. The tunnel's main use was bringing food to the Jefferson family, but it was also the access for Sally as Jefferson's mistress. Thomas and Sally's children grew up on the plantation and were put to work in the fields and kitchens. 4 of the 6 survived to adulthood. This was a remarkable and eye-opening experience.

Bull and Bean performed admirably, so I'll let her have a turn:

Wow, leaving Vermont was quick. I didn't realize I was so close to New York. This was my first experience on an interstate highway and boy did we go fast! Heading south, we encountered many huge trucks that I found very intimidating. But the roads were smooth and the scenery



Then we hit the STORM! The rain came pelting down, the wind blew hard, and I was really scared! I've never seen anything like this! But remarkably we weren't blown off the road even a little bit. And it was kinda nice getting a rinse off! That night was scary with the wind howling and being parked under some big trees. It was really frightening. Luckily, only a few small branches fell on us and we woke to a clear day! Off we went, how I love the open road. A little less so when there are a lot of big trucks around us. They make me feel so small. We're headed south, I hope there are no more storms!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

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



BOB HOOKER (LEFT) and Emily Nelson (right) stand in front of some of the massive fish tanks in Mr. Hooker's home in Pittsford. Hooker & Nelson are members of the Otter Valley Aquarium Society, aka "Fish Club." The first rule of Fish Club is you talk about fish. Photo by Steven Jupiter.

Otter Valley Aquarium Society unites local "a-fish-ionados"

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—If the thought of keeping fish conjures up images of lonely little goldfish in tiny little fishbowls, you ought to see the tanks in Bob Hooker's place. His living room is home to four massive tanks, each teeming with a variety of aquatic exotica, in addition to the other aquariums around his 19th-century, antique-laden house in Pittsford village. Big fish, small fish, frolicky fish, bashful fish, you name it, Bob's got it. On a recent visit, a beautiful, white, bug-eyed koi glided in its tank like a spectre through the air. It was easy to fall into a trance just watching its graceful movements in the water.

"I got my first fish at 11. That was 62 years ago. You do the math," said Hooker, a trim man with a ponytail as white as the koi.

"My parents took me to visit my Uncle Archie and Aunt Madge in Montpelier. Madge had a 10-gallon tank full of guppies in her living room. I was fascinated by the colors. My mother tried to stop it, but I went home with a bunch of guppies in a mayonnaise jar."

"My first fish was a blind cavefish," offered Emily Nelson of Brandon, as if everyone has at some point owned a

blind cavefish. Emily sat next to Hooker, wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the logo of the Otter Valley Aquarium Society (OVAS), which she and Hooker refer to simply as "Fish Club."

mythology there's a story about the blind cavefish that involves a deity punishing a mortal by plucking out its eyes. In any event...

"There was a fish store in Middlebury," continued Nel-



A WHITE BUTTERFLY koi similar to the one owned by Bob Hooker. Many fish enthusiasts are captivated by the creatures' beauty.

The blind cavefish is so called because, naturally, it is blind and lives in caves. A member of the tetra family, it has red streaks where a fish would normally have eyes, creating the unsettling impression that someone had gouged them out. It would not at all be surprising if in some culture's

son. "It was going out of business. The cavefish was unique."

At different times, both Nelson and Hooker worked in pet stores in Rutland, Nelson at Royal Pets and Hooker in the pet department at W.T. Grant (where Walmart now is). Hooker moved on to a pet store in (See *Aquarium Society*, Page 6)

Spotlight On Business AWESOME GRAPHICS



BRANDON AREA
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Awesome Graphics is an award-winning woman-owned sign shop specializing in vehicle wraps, signage, trade show displays, apparel, and promotional products. Founded in Rutland, Vermont in 1994, Awesome Graphics has grown from a two-person shop to a staple in the community, with eleven full-time employees and servicing clients all over the United States. Awesome Graphics founder



Tami Napolitano

and owner, Tami Napolitano, credits the business's wonderful, faithful clients and her amazing staff for its growth and success over the years.

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Green Mountain Power's unrealistic promise

This commentary is by Andrew K. Gentile, an electrical engineer who lives in Sheffield.

Green Mountain Power has made the unrealistic promise that soon it will rid Vermont of all power outages. GMP's plan, as explained on WCAX News, consists of burying power lines and supplying customers with battery backup systems.

The utility said the project would cost \$1.5 billion over the next seven years and would eventually lower costs for customers.

The claim that there will be zero power outages is nonsense. However, almost every Vermonter I know owns a generator, which underscores the fact that power in Vermont is unreliable. Therefore, it is worth considering whether the changes GMP is proposing would decrease outages, and how much those changes might cost.

Because most of Vermont's outages are caused by trees falling on lines, converting overhead lines to underground would certainly help reduce outages. Underground lines do not get hit by trees; however, they are prone to damage from flooding, earthquakes, lightning and rodents. In addition, they are sometimes accidentally dug up by humans.

The cost of converting overhead lines to underground is dependent on, among other things, the voltage of the line. The higher the voltage, the higher the cost.

Transmission lines are considered high-voltage and are very rarely installed underground. The cost of underground transmission lines can be five to 10 times the cost of overhead lines.

Furthermore, the life span of an underground transmission line is less than half that of an overhead line. Under most conditions, it is not cost-effective to install transmission lines underground.

Distribution lines constitute most of Vermont's power infrastructure, and they account for most of the outages. These lines are considered medium-voltage and are commonly installed underground. Despite that, the cost of underground distribution is still more than double that of overhead. Under the right conditions, moving distribution lines underground can be a cost-effective measure to reduce outages.

The second idea proposed by GMP was to provide Tesla battery backup systems to its customers. According to a New York Times article, these batteries are the core of the GMP plan. The batteries would be indirectly tied to the grid, and GMP would remotely control them to absorb excess energy.

Given that Vermont imports most of its electricity, it's not clear how much excess energy would be available. But the point is, with a home battery backup system, a house would instantly and automatically switch to battery power during an outage.

Despite this convenience, the battery backup system is neither practical nor a cost-effective solution for most Vermonters. A Tesla Powerwall home battery capacity is 13.5 kWh, which can provide enough power to get through most outages, but not enough for an extended one. Even with a battery system, homeowners would still need a (See *Unrealistic promises*, Page 8)



So long for now!

ONE OF THE last vireos to migrate is the Blue-headed vireo. This species spends winter in the deep south.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Update on 3-on-3 Basketball League

Due to the soccer jamboree the fifth through eighth grade 3 on 3 basketball league has made a schedule change. Saturday, October 21 is canceled and the boys will go from 3 PM to 5 PM on Sunday, October 22 and the girls will go from 5 PM to 7 PM

on October 22. The rest of the schedule remains the same.

This also depends on whether we get enough kids to run each league. Right now we only have five girls signed up and one boy. If your child would like to participate, please contact Fred at

802-247-6722. Or you can contact me through Facebook messenger. You may also email Steven Keith at skeith@rnesu.org. The deadline for signing up is Friday, October 20. There is no charge for this league. It is free to the kids.

'FALL FOR DANCE' final performance continues to give adults a chance to shine

"FALL FOR DANCE" is Marble Valley Dance Collective's final public performance of 2023. Earlier this year, MVDC performed as part of both Poultney ArtsDay and the Vermont State University

Castleton Campus Soundings Series. The performance will include a wide variety of dance genres, including ballet, contact improv, contemporary, improvisation, jazz, modern, and tap. The program will feature

pieces choreographed by Denise Dugan Cupoli, Margaret Francoeur-Dunne, Zoë Marr Hilliard, Alycia Hollister, Kris Jacoby, Stephanie A. Jones, Twyla Marr, Suzanne Mueller, (See *FALL FOR DANCE*, Page 5)

Veterans Benefits Fair in Fair Haven

The Fair Haven American Legion Post 49, the White River Junction Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare System, and Veteran Benefit Administration (VBA) are teaming up for a Veterans outreach event! On Sunday, October 29th at the Fair Haven American Legion, representatives from multiple departments of the White River Junction VA and VBA will be

present and ready to help Veterans with claims, enrollment, and answer questions.

Representatives from VBA will be on site to help initiate, check the status of, and answer questions related to disability claims. Eligibility personnel will be ready to enroll Veterans as well. Please remember to bring a copy of your DD-214. Someone from Women Veteran

Care Clinic, Mental Health, Eligibility, White River Junction Vet Center, and more will all be available to speak with.

The goal of this event is to bring VA benefit information to a location within our Veterans' community providing easy access to have all their inquiries addressed.

If you would like to work (See *Veterans Benefits*, Page 5)

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

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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Veterans Benefits

(Continued from Page 4)
with VBA or speak with eligibility and other representatives, no appointments are needed for this event. Remember to bring a copy of your DD-214 so you

can be enrolled and scheduled on the spot! If you do not have it, that is okay as they may be able to assist you in beginning the enrollment process. For more information, please

reach out to the Public Affairs Office at the White River Junction VA Healthcare System at 802-295-9363 extension 5880 or via email at vhawrjpao@va.gov.

'FALL FOR DANCE'

(Continued from Page 4)
Sarah E. Oakley, Nicole Ullman, Alex Welych-Miller, and Abyrana Wood. In addition to the choreographers, the ensemble of 17 dancers will also include Mary Barron, Candy Jones, Janet Kennedy-Farmer, Julie Newirth Redington, and Susan Wood.

December 2021 has blossomed into an official and thriving non-profit organization.

“Marble Valley Dance Collective started as a conversation between friends,” said Zoë Marr Hilliard, MVDC Vice President and one of the group’s founders.

“We found each other through our mutual passion for dance and decided to work together towards increasing the opportunities for adult dancers and dance enthusiasts in the area. Our collective is currently made up of 17 performing members plus many more who join us for weekly classes,” said Hilliard.

What began as two friends meeting at a kitchen table after putting their kids to bed in

“We are so thrilled to see our vision come to fruition and to be able to provide adult dancers in our community the opportunity to take class, teach,

choreograph, and perform. We have also developed beautiful friendships, artistic connections, and a network that continues to grow. We are so excited to see what the future holds and are delighted to be able to share our work with you.”

“FALL FOR DANCE” will take place at the West Rutland Town Hall on Saturday, November 11th at 7 PM and Sunday, November 12th at 4 PM. Purchase tickets at: <https://sevendaystickets.com/events/fall-for-dance>. For more information, contact Stephanie Jones at stonevalleydancevt@gmail.com or 802-438-3154.

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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

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Obituaries

Kenneth Mitchell, 72, Brandon

RUTLAND—Kenneth “Beaver” Mitchell, age 72, passed away Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Beaver was born in Middlebury on February 24, 1951. He was the son of Doc and Judy (Ryan) Mitchell. He grew up in the Middlebury area, where he received his education. He began his working career as a self-employed cross-country trucker. He later followed in his father’s footsteps as a livestock dealer, buying and selling cattle. Horses were his passion. He loved trail riding and was an avid NASCAR fan.

He is survived by his mother, Judy Mitchell of Brandon; 2 children, Amy and Jamie Mitch-



KENNETH MITCHELL

ell both of Brandon; a brother, William R. Mitchell of Milton and one sister, Susan Crosby of Deland, FL. Five grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and several aunts, uncles, nieces, neph-

ews, & cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his father and a sister, Nancy Lash.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the family lot at Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Oct. 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, 26 Franklin St. in Brandon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to; Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

Aquarium Society

(Continued from Page 3)

Essex Junction. He married, had kids, got divorced and had to take five fish tanks with him when he moved out.

It is no exaggeration to say their lives have been full of fish. They have formed relationships with fish that lasted longer than many marriages.

“I love catfish and had a red-tail catfish for 19 years,” Hooker said. It died when Hooker made the mistake of putting another fish in its tank. Catfish just Hoover up their food and Hooker’s beloved redtail vacuumed up this intruder and ended up unable to digest it.

“We aim for longevity,” added Nelson. “But it’s a continual learning process that involves death. It happens.”

Nelson has bought most of

her fish at the auctions run by OVAS. The club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the lower level of the Maclure Library in Pittsford. After congenial fishchat (accompanied by snacks and beverages), there’s often an expert speaker and then a sale of fish, aquatic plants, and aquarium supplies. OVAS does run a major auction on the third Sunday in May at the American Legion in Rutland that brings out many more folks, but the monthly auctions are smaller affairs. At the most recent meeting, for example, Nelson was the only member to bring fish (properly bagged for transport). They did find a buyer in a guest from the Tropical Fish Club of Burlington who had traveled down to hear OVAS’s scheduled speak-

er, Lee Newman.

Mr. Newman had come to the meeting to deliver a presentation on South American cichlids (pronounced “sick-lids”), a collection of over 3,000 species that includes the aquarium-favorite angel fish but encompasses many others with different colors and different shapes. Newman had a 33-year career at the Vancouver Aquarium in Canada and now, in his retirement, keeps a “modest fish room,” which in fishspeak means a room with several 300-gallon tanks and a reserve of treated water to replenish the tanks as needed (careful with copper levels in untreated water!).

“I have over 1,000 gallons of water in my basement...on purpose,” he joked.

Hooker and Nelson encourage anyone with an interest in fishkeeping, whether beginner or pro, to come to the meetings and join this community of fish-minded souls. They’re happy to help folks get started. (According to Hooker and Nelson, guppies are good starter fish. Avoid goldfish: they soil their water very quickly.)

The atmosphere at the meeting was warm, witty, and decidedly fishy. So, if you’ve been thinking about starting an aquarium but didn’t know how to begin, give the Otter Valley Aquarium Society a try. And remember: the first rule of Fish Club is you talk about fish.

Brandon Energy Committee

Brandon businesses meet to discuss cheaper, cleaner, smarter energy options



gional Planning Commission Planner Jeremy Gildrien, and Green Mountain Solar Advisor Shannon Jackson, as well as discussions with local energy vendors and lenders who can help businesses become cleaner and more profitable.

Tim Guiles’s beautiful piano music and the delicious homemade food from the Stevens Farm helped set the mood for warm and collaborative discussions and local solutions.

Despite the early October darkness, more than 30 business owners and advisors gathered at the Brandon Town Hall last Wednesday night to get the latest information about how to cut costs and improve business operations with clean, renewable energy.

Convened by the Brandon Energy Committee, with the support of the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, and SolarFest, the 90-minute session included presentations from Energy Committee Chair Jim Emerson, Rutland Re-

For anyone interested in finding cheaper, cleaner, and smarter ways to button up their home or business, SolarFest is hosting workshops at the Grace Church in Rutland on October 28th and the Energy Committee will have a Button Up Brandon event for homeowners on November 8th at Town Hall.

Visit SolarFest.org or email brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com to get more details.

Bobcats are on the hunt

BY SHELBURNE NEWS

It was a normal morning for Shelburne resident Chris Latta as he cruised in his car down Clearwater Road near the train tracks one early Wednesday morning when he felt the uncanny sensation that he was being watched.

“I saw what I thought was just a cat with a stubby tail,” he said.

It’s not unusual for him to see a slew of different kinds of wildlife on his morning rides, he said, since the residential neighborhood is surrounded mostly by woods.

“We have bears, rabbits, turkey vultures and foxes,” he said. “All these animals live pretty harmoniously. We’ve got all this wildlife around us just kind of peacefully coexisting.”

But as he inched closer to the creature, he realized the feline

was more than just the average house cat he frequently sees darting across the road, but a massive bobcat — the first time he had ever seen one so close.

“I didn’t think much of it until I got closer, and I said, ‘Holy crap. I got a bobcat,’” he said. “It really had no fear.”

It’s not unusual to catch a bobcat lurking on trail cameras in Shelburne, often with a gray squirrel or rabbit hanging from its chops, and although they may be a relatively common animal for the area, Declan McCabe, professor of biology at Saint Michael’s College, says it’s uncommon to actually see one.


“What I mean by that is they’re very secretive,” he said. “They’re very keenly aware of us and very good at avoiding us. One time with

(See Bobcats, Page 23)

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BRANDON REPORTER

Notes from the Pulpit

Jesus showed us that the evil of violence can be overcome by good

BY JOHN HARDMAN-ZIMMERMAN

Evil - in a hundred words or less? Not!

Evil - in one murdered body or more. Yes, evil.

No volume of words is the reality of evil itself, only a way of illustrating the reality. But the reality of evil is self-evident when we or those we love are the victims of its destruction and death. If we are the perpetrators of the violence, chances are we may not see our actions as evil. We can feel quite justified about our use of deadly force. Aggressions and retaliations are typically promoted as "just" causes, though they solve no underlying condition and

only compound the suffering, destruction, and environmental degradation. They will likely stoke hatred and become a prelude to the next outbreak of violence. What are we to do about ourselves and our endless proliferation of this evil and its misery? Be run over by it? Fight it?

Jesus showed us another way, a "Third Way," to address the violence within us and against us. "Do not resist

evil with evil, but overcome evil with good." Jesus' Third Way is neither passivity nor counterviolence, neither submission nor assault, neither fight nor flight. It is a jujitsu in initiative that asserts one's dignity while recognizing the humanity of others. It is courageously assertive, non-retaliatory and creatively non-

violent. And long before violence breaks out, the preventative measures of justice - for all

- are pursued; friendship sought and nurtured, truth upheld and fear-mongering debunked; violence discredited; and love lifted up. Jesus' Third Way was recognized by Tolstoy, employed by Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr., and is now the cornerstone of nonviolent direct action by many groups around the world seeking to bring about justice and peace. It is the way of those who have been converted by the Spirit of Compassion to compassionate action that does no harm and is willing to suffer for it.

Society legitimates violence at every turn of the channel, and when war breaks out, we ask God to bless our killing so

as to stop the killing. It seems a miracle that we haven't gone completely MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction through nuclear warfare) by now. As Shane Claiborne said, "We may not all agree on whether or not there is a place for 'necessary' evil in the world, but perhaps we can agree to call it what it is - Evil - even when we deem it necessary." Meanwhile and ultimately, there is a (Third) way forward that can yet lead to our conversion and to the peace desired by the vast majority of humanity.

John Hardman-Zimmerman is Pastor at the United Methodist Church of Brandon

Society legitimates violence at every turn of the channel, and when war breaks out, we ask God to bless our killing so as to stop the killing.

SPREAD THE WORD!
Have an event to add to our calendar?
EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

First-Time Homebuyer Seminar

Preparing to buy your first home?

Join us for a light dinner and learn more about the process of buying a home, what you need to do to prepare, and the programs available for first-time home buyers.

DATE: November 7, 2023
TIME: 5:30pm - 7:00pm
LOCATION: Brandon Office
6 Park Street
Brandon, VT 05733
COST: FREE
DEADLINE: RSVP by November 1

LEARN MORE & RSVP

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Reporter advice columnist

My family is upset that my husband's raise doesn't trickle down to them

Dear Joyce

My husband just got a nice raise at work. Nice enough to make a difference in our lives. We can start paying off some of our credit cards and spend a little bit more on our kids. But it's not like we're suddenly rolling in dough. When we told our families about the news, my sister and her husband were immediately like "Let's go celebrate!" So we got a sitter and went to a restaurant up in Burlington that they suggested and that would normally have been out of our price range. When the check came, my sister and brother-in-law didn't offer to even pay half. I tried to joke about it and make clear that even just our half was way more than we ever spent eating out. Finally, they kicked in their half but complained about it all the way home, to the point where the whole thing didn't feel anything like a celebration. They kept saying that family should share the wealth and what's the point of the extra money if we were going to be stingy with it. We didn't mind paying our half but are really surprised they expected us to pay the whole check, especially since they know we're not well off and going out to dinner was their idea in the first place. And every time we've ever been out to dinner just the four of us, we've always split it 50/50.

It's been a few weeks and we haven't really talked that much since. I want to get everything worked out before the holidays roll around so we're not all feeling angry at Thanksgiving. What should I do?

-Looking for Peace

Dear "Looking for peace"

It sounds like everyone got caught up in the excitement of your husband's announcement and agreed to a celebration that turned out to reflect a windfall and not a raise. A happy, spontaneous decision by everyone that unfortunately did not end well due to assumptions by

both couples. However, from what you report, your expectation was not without foundation.

Sadly, it all too often happens that families and friends will do and say unpleasant things when it comes to money. Things that are hurtful and confusing and may be an indication of issues that go well beyond the situation at hand. I believe your sister and her husband's accusations about being "stingy" and "not sharing the wealth" are not only unreasonable, but so far off track as to perhaps be an indication of what I am suggesting...something deeper.

The air does need to be cleared between all of you and how that will be done I believe falls on you to suggest. For starters, a conversation with your sister in order to get the ball rolling. Perhaps an expression of how bad it feels to be in the situation. How things went so wrong. Be open and honest no matter how difficult it may become and keep in mind the possibility of what I discussed above. If something deeper does exist and if that can be talked about...you will have had that windfall after all.

Best,
Joyce

"Joyce" is a local social worker (Masters of Social Work) and counselor with decades of experience helping people sort through personal problems. Her responses are *advice only* and neither she nor The Reporter takes responsibility for any outcomes of the situations described in the letters received.

Anyone with a question/problem for Joyce should send an email to news@brandonreporter.com with "Dear Joyce" in the subject line. We do not guarantee that all submissions will be used. Anonymous submissions are fine, though we will reject anything obscene, violent, or disrespectful toward any community. We will also edit for length, clarity, punctuation, and spelling.

Unrealistic promises

(Continued from Page 4)
generator.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the average U.S. household uses 11,000 kWh per year, or about 30 kWh per day. As such, a 13.5 kWh battery backup would provide enough power for about half a day. A house that didn't have electric heat, an electric stove, and an electric hot water heater might get a full day out of it. Ironically, a battery backup system would clash with Vermont's shortsighted push toward an all-electric state.

A Tesla battery pack costs about \$12,000, and given that you might need it for 100 hours a year, it would take over 200 years to pay for itself. It would be more economical to purchase a 7.5 kW Champion generator for about \$900.

Considering the expected costs of providing battery packs and installing underground power lines, GMP's predicted project cost of \$1.5 billion over the next seven years is grossly underestimated. If GMP were to provide each of its 270,000 customers with a \$12,000 battery system, the cost for that alone would be \$3.24 billion. And the installation of underground lines would cost even more than the batteries.

In 2008, the state of New Hampshire funded a study that came up with similar conclusions regarding the costs and benefits of moving overhead lines underground. In that study, the N.H.

Public Utility Commission concluded that converting its overhead lines to underground would be prohibitively expensive and, in many cases, impractical. "According to data supplied by the New Hampshire utilities, in good soil conditions, the cost of a 34.5 kV line may be in the range of \$2,000,000 per mile. If built in granite, that cost could increase by another \$500,000 per mile."

GMP has 22,000 miles of power lines, and if it converted just 25% of its overhead lines to underground, it could cost over \$10 billion, upward of \$37,000 per customer, and that's based on 2008 estimates.

The New Hampshire study also concluded that, if the financial burden of the underground lines was transferred directly to customers, rates would increase by 110% to 150%. And here in Vermont, we have the added cost of a very expensive battery backup system, pretty much guaranteeing that our rates would triple.

I agree that we need improvements to Vermont's power grid. In Sheffield, our power has been out so many times this summer I have lost count. I have the utility service department phone number on speed dial.

I would welcome any improvement in Vermont's electric grid, but the costs proposed by GMP are unrealistic. I would need to see a lot more details on this one before I would sign off on it.



SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY,
OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com

It takes two...to tango at the Brandon Inn

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The music is instantly recognizable. It's passionate and dramatic, with a rhythm that compels movement. Leggy women and slick men—body pressed against body—glide as one across the dance floor, their steps at once independent and coordinated. It looks complicated but, according to lead instructor Gerd Hirschmann, it's essentially “the art of walking with a partner.”

Every Monday evening, a group of tango enthusiasts gather in the ballroom of the Brandon Inn, roll

but has not lost his passion for tango itself. When an Argentinian (Isidro “Sid” Beccar Varela) purchased the Inn earlier this year, Hirschmann thought it seemed appropriate to bring the Argentinian dance back to the Inn. Though not a tango enthusiast himself, Mr. Varela was happy to open the Inn to the classes.

On a recent Monday, a dozen or so people filtered in through the night, single or partnered, to socialize and dance. In fact, though Hirschmann was already an experienced ballroom dancer, he came



MS. DALEY AND Mr. Nel are joined on the dance floor by J.P. Cass and his dance partner. Mr. Cass helps lead the sessions, having studied tango for 10 years. “If you can walk, you can tango,” he said.



ADRIAN DALEY (LEFT) and Hannes Nel (right) come to the Inn for tango every week.

Photos by Steven Jupiter.

up the carpet, and tango the night away. Age and experience do not matter, the group is open to all. You don't even need to come with a partner. All you need is a willingness to learn and an ability to walk.

The group is in some ways a small-scale revival of the Moonlight in Vermont Tango Festival that Hirschmann held for 10 years at the Brandon Inn in the days before Covid. Hirschmann decided to cut back on his tango activities

to tango in the early 1990s as a way to meet people after a rough patch in his personal life that included a divorce.

“The first time I went to a tango class was in Northampton, Massachusetts,” said Hirschmann, who is originally from Germany but has lived in Vermont for 45 years. “The people were so friendly. Tango has a large community of really nice and friendly people.”

And it was that hope for community that brought first-timer

Tonya (last name withheld) to the Inn this past Monday night.

A local resident, a recent trip to Europe sparked an interest in foreign cultures.

“I'd like to be a little bit more immersed,” she said. “And dance is a great way to meet people. I'm impressed that we have something like this in our little town. I hope other people will have a chance to come and try.”

Hirschmann is often assisted by J.P. Cass, who has studied tango for 10 years and has made several trips to Buenos Aires to further his understanding of the dance.

“It's more intimate than any other partnered dance,” said Cass. “It's nonverbal communication. You use your [body's] core to tell your partner what your next move will be.”

Adrian Daley and Hannes Nel recently moved to Shoreham and come to the Inn almost every Monday for tango. Daley began her relationship to tango back in 2001 but Nel is a recent convert to the form.

“It's complicated and structured and has the ability to be infinite,” said Daley. “And there are moments when the woman can take control and be flamboyant. It's a symphony of collaboration.”

— Adrian Daley

ments when the woman can take control and be flamboyant. It's a symphony of collaboration.”

“There are 8 basic steps but within that framework you can be free,” said Nel. “And it's the only time I can control my wife,” he joked (with Adrian's laughing approval).

If you're eager to learn, looking for social interaction, and have shoes that allow you to glide

across a wooden floor, the tango classes at the Inn may be a great outlet. There is no set fee for the sessions, though there is a donation box. The sessions are held every Monday evening at 6 p.m.

“If you can walk, you can dance tango,” said Cass.

“It's never too late to start,” added Hirschmann. “You can enjoy it at any age.”



INSTRUCTOR GERD HIRSCHMANN shows off his tango moves.

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Savana Williams

GRADE: 7

SCHOOL: OVUMS

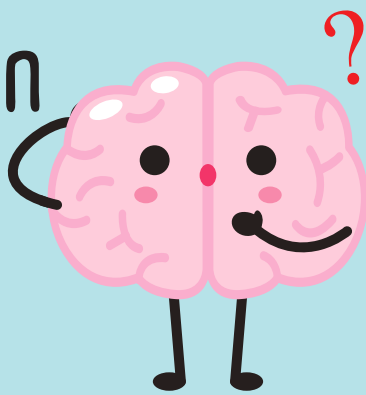
TITLE: Name Art

MEDIUM: Multi-media

TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz



Brandon Brain Buster



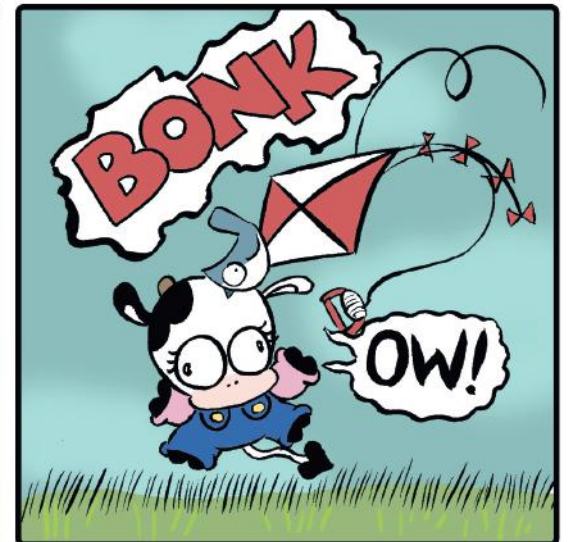
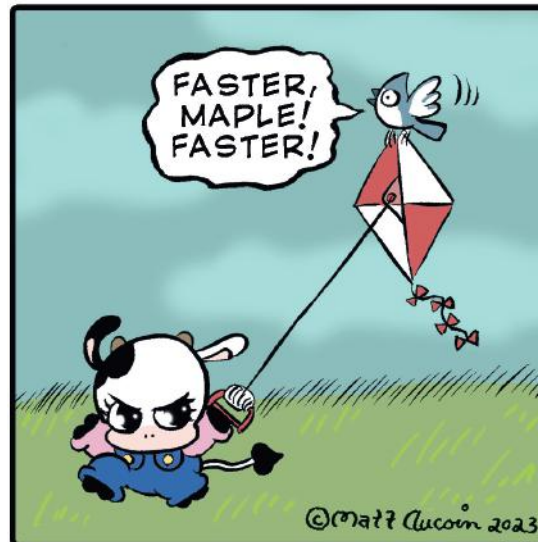
Norman leaves from Point A traveling west on Route X at a constant speed of 50 mph. Three hours later, Daisy leaves from Point A traveling west on Route X at a constant speed of 60 mph. If Route X is completely straight and 1000 miles long, what fraction of its length must Daisy travel in order to catch up to Norman? (As-

sume neither Norman nor Daisy stops at any point along the way.)

- A) 9/10
- B) 7/9
- C) 2/3
- D) 5/8
- E) 3/5

Answer on pg.21

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Project pushback

(Continued from Page 1)

Thornton and O'Reilly also claimed that the proposed design violates a 1916 deed agreement between the properties granting an easement to 7 West Seminary to use as a driveway property that is legally part of the high school's lot.

Faith Daya, who lives across the street at 12 West Seminary, expressed in her written statement that the proposed parking design would hinder the ability of cars to navigate the cluster of streets at the intersection, specifically mentioning school buses. She also noted that residents of Neshobe House (32 West Seminary) who use motorized wheelchairs or other conveyances, often have to travel in the road because of insufficient sidewalks. The increased traffic in the neighborhood (the principals stated that there would likely be 15 new residents in the building and up to 50 visitors for events) would pose a major risk to those people, Ms. Daya wrote.

Janie Young, who lives across the street at 8 West Seminary, also submitted written concerns. Ms. Young also circulated a petition in opposition to the project that

garnered more than 20 signatures in the neighborhood. Moreover, she wrote a letter to the editor that was published in The Reporter on October 11 in which she voiced opposition to the project not only because of concerns she shared with her neighbors, but also because, she claimed, the principals (Mr. Briscoe, Mr. Dardozzi, and Ms. Marcotte) lack the funds to see the project through to completion.

Mr. Briscoe, who owns the building, has had a long and rocky relationship with the building, having owned it since the early 2000s but also having had to surrender and repurchase it because of foreclosure.

DRB Chair Samantha Stone noted in the hearing that the DRB does not take applicants' financial situation into account determining whether a proposed use will be permitted.

"The permit that is issued is for the property and not the owner," said Ms. Stone. "For the purpose of this hearing, financials are not relevant. They may be important to [neighbors], but that does not have any bearing on our decision."

In order to determine whether a new use will be permitted, however, the DRB does take into account the impact of the proposed changes on the surrounding community.

There was also concern on the DRB about the unresolved status of the property with regard to Act 250, which regulates land use

in areas deemed environmentally sensitive. Act 250 reviews can be expensive and lengthy. It was unclear, even to Jeff Biasuzzi, Brandon's Zoning Administrator, whether Act 250 applied to the property in question. The high school is within a Central Busi-

ness District, which might exempt the property from review, but it also abuts the Neshobe River, potentially necessitating review because of adjacent wetlands.

"This is a unique project in my experience," said Mr. Biasuzzi.

Two former clients of Mr. Dardozzi and Ms. Marcotte's construction firm, Livingstructure, spoke in favor of the project. Both clients worked with the firm on their personal residences and praised the process and results. Both clients are also now involved in the high-school rehab project.

Ultimately, the DRB did not take any action on the application. Aside from the neighbors' concerns, the Board found procedural issues with the application itself. The application had been publicized as asking for a Commercial I Conditional Use Permit but, the Board believed, it should have been publicized as Commercial II, given the building's size and the proposed residential uses.

Mr. Dardozzi attempted to explain the discrepancy by stating that the site plan that was submitted to the DRB for the hearing had not been prepared in time to

warn the public of the hearing. In fact, the DRB had not received those plans before the night of the hearing, either.

Ms. Stone advised the principals that they would need to re-submit their application with proper public warning and return to the DRB for another hearing.

"The hearing notice would be considered defective," said Ms. Stone. "The permit and hearing need to be started from scratch."

In an email to The Reporter, Ms. Marcotte of ReBHS wrote,

"All of the ReBHS group would like to thank everyone who came to the hearing and shared both concerns and support. We may have over-prioritized meeting tax credit deadlines to our detriment, and in our excitement to make this happen we ran when we should have walked. Expect in coming months for us to take a breath, continue the conversations, and put our ducks in a row."

Judging from the verbal and written comments of their neighbors, however, it seems as if ReBHS will have a tough row to hoe in trying to win over neighborhood support regardless of the outcome of the permitting process.

"For the purpose of this hearing, financials are not relevant. They may be important to [neighbors], but that does not have any bearing on our decision."

—Samantha Stone
DRB Chair

Calendar of events

October



“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!

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 (hzfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

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

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

book 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.

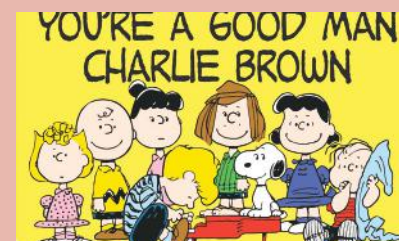
Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon



VTSU Castleton Theatre Arts ‘You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown’

Happiness is great musical theatre! With charm, wit, and heart, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Friday November

Performances a Charlie Brown explores life through the eyes of Charlie Brown and his friends in the Peanuts gang. This revue of songs and vignettes, based on the beloved Charles Schulz comic strip, is the ideal first show for those who would like to do a musical. Musical numbers include "My Blanket and Me," "The Kite," "The Baseball Game," "Little Known Facts," "Supertime," and "Happiness." Guaranteed to please audiences of all ages!



The Box Office w shows. All tickets

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."

Friday 20th

Mayor Michael Doenges; Rutland City Highlights
Mayor Michael Doenges will present "Rutland City Highlights".

Six months in office, Mayor Michael Doenges will share how things are going in our small city, recapping some of the highlights and challenges of his administration.

From 1:30–3:00 pm, at the
Godnick Adult Center
\$8.00

Saturday 21st

Horace Greeley Writers Symposium

The Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium, held each year in Poultney, Vermont, is a celebration of Horace Greeley's life. The symposium explores the art of writing as presented

by publishers and writers in the fields of literature, poetry, philosophy, and history.

We are excited to announce the 21st Annual Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium will take place on Saturday, October 21st, 2023 at the United Baptist Church on the beautiful East Poultney Green from 9:30am-3pm.

This year the Symposium is excited to host local practicing physician and medical fiction and thriller author Peter Hogenkamp as our keynote speaker. He is the producer and host of Your Health Matters, a health information program which airs on cable and Youtube.

Learn more about Hogenkamp at: <https://www.peterhogenkampbooks.com>.

We are also honored to feature Herb Childress. He

has taught writing at venues ranging from Stone Valley Arts Center to Duke University. His 2019 nonfiction book *The Adjunct Underclass* was strongly reviewed in *The New Yorker*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes*.

Learn more about Childress at: <https://herbchildress.com>

We're also delighted to feature Martha L. Molnar. She is a writer, commentator and public relations professional. *Playing God in the Meadow: How I Learned to Admire My Weeds* is her third and most recent book, and has been compared to the writing of Robin Wall Kimmerer and Michael Pollan.

Learn more about Molnar at: <http://www.marthalebmolnar.com>

You can register and sign up for the Symposium using our secure Pay Pal Link (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/horacegreeley>). Cost of the Symposium are \$65 or \$20 Student fee. Or send a check to the Horace Greeley Foundation, 95 On the Green, Poultney, Vermont 05764.

We are looking very forward to the 2023 Horace Greeley Writers' Symposium, and hope that you will plan to attend.

See you there!

The Story of Jeffrey Brace: Slave and Revolutionary War Soldier

Jeffrey Brace was born a slave but went on to fight for his Revolutionary War pension.

Join genealogist Joanne Polanshek as she takes us on her journey describing how her genealogical curiosity helped unveil the story of an incredible man. Learn how this historically significant Vermonter gained his manumission from slavery. Joanne will take us from his capture as an innocent African village boy to his struggles in gaining his Revolutionary War pension. She will explain how her genealogical research uncovered incredible documents which tell a story that is both sad and inspiring. This class will be a Zoom webinar. Classes for the Vermont Genealogy Library will be held online via Zoom from 10:30 to noon. Cost is \$10.00. Please visit our website, www.vtgenlib.org for additional details and for registration.

Saturday 21st Sunday 22nd

Haunted Village Theater

A theatrical walking tour around Barnard with seasonally haunting stories & scenes. Saturday from 5–9 pm & Sunday from 4–8 pm. Tours every 30 mins, first two each day are family-friendly. Dinner available.

A unique theater experience for all ages staged around the small village of Barnard, Vermont. Tours start every 30 minutes with guides leading the audience to 5 outdoor locations where actors will tell short stories or perform haunting scenes around a fire pit. The scenes will get more haunted as the nights go on - first two tours are guaranteed family friendly! Dinner as well as accessible parking and bathrooms available.

Meet at Barnard Town Hall, 115 North Rd.

\$10.00–\$20.00

Sunday 22nd

OLLI Lecture Series: Pagans, Jews, Jesus Followers, and the Birth of the West

An Archaeological and Literary Overview of the First Five Centuries CE, with Valerie A. Abrahamsen

The roots of Western civilization lie in Greece and the Roman Empire. In this lecture, we will use both literary and archaeological evidence to examine

those roots from the perspectives of polytheism, Judaism, and the early Jesus movement. In the first century Before the Common Era (BCE) through the fifth century of the Common Era (CE), a vast amount of literature was

COCOON Brings True Stories to the Stage November 3 11th Annual Event Inspired by "The Moth"

Middlebury, VT—The Mahaney Arts Center will host the live performance event Cocoon, inspired by the popular storytelling phenomenon *The Moth*, on Friday, November 3 at Robison Hall (live and streaming) Six hand-picked storytellers will share a diverse range of stories around the theme of "Playing the Long Game." The audience is invited to a reception with the storytellers after the show.

This year's storytellers will include: Middlebury students Youness Cheboubi '24, Beckett Pintair '24.5, and Hannah Alberti '26; and Middlebury faculty and staff members Karl Lindholm, Mark Saltveit, and Raghad Sayyed. Middlebury Moth-Up producers Harper Nichols '24.5 and Joseph Wilson '24 will host, with Mahaney Center Technical Director Mark Christensen providing the musical interludes. This 11th annual community-wide event is co-organized by Middlebury Moth-Up students Kristen Morgenstern '24, Ewan Inglis '24, Rach Peck '25, as

well as Nichols and Wilson, in partnership with Mahaney Center Director Liza Sacheli.

Since 2013, Cocoon has brought students, professors, alumni, and members of the greater Vermont community together to tell stories on a given theme. The event has two rules: one, all stories must be true; two, no notes allowed. This event is presented with real-time captioning, and is appropriate for mature audiences.

Performance Details

Cocoon will take place at the Mahaney Arts Center's Robison Hall on Friday, November 3, 2023 at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$15 for the general public; \$12 for Middlebury College ID card holders; \$8 for youth; and \$5 for Middlebury College students. This event will



also be streamed; streaming tickets are \$15, or \$5 for Middlebury College students. Both live and streaming versions will offer live captioning. The Mahaney Arts Center (MAC) is located on the campus of Middlebury College, at 72 Porter Field Road, just off Route 30 south/S. Main Street. Free parking is available curbside on Rt. 30 or in the MAC parking lot, in rows marked faculty/staff/visitors. For tickets or further information, call (802) 443-MIDD (6433) or go to <http://go.middlebury.edu/arts>.

produced that allows us to know a great deal about the Empire, its people and its deities. The literature was, in general, however, created by elite men. Professional archaeological excavations throughout the Mediterranean and Europe over the past century help fill in the gaps of those traditional treatments, including the importance of pagan deities and the lives of more "hidden" people such as women, slaves, and children. We will see that some of the extant literature, including the writings of St. Paul and other documents of the first few centuries CE, have been misinterpreted and misused, to the detriment of many. Using photos taken on-site, we will learn about liberating themes that can enhance our current lives in the West, including the involvement and leadership roles of women in paganism, Judaism and early Christianity and the positive contributions of same-sex missionary pairs. A packet of resources will be available to attendees, and there will be time for questions.

Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney.

\$8.00 - \$20.00

Spooktacular Family Mask Making Event, FREE!

Celebrate the Halloween season early with a Spooktacular Family Mask Making event at Stone Valley Arts on Saturday, October 22nd at 1pm - 3pm. This creepy crafting drop-in program is free and open to local families.

Join us at SVA for a frightfully good time to make Halloween masks whether they be ghoulish, creepy or even your favorite superhero. Eerie edibles including ginger dead-men, cauldron brownies, clementine pumpkins, boo berry bananas, graveyard dirt pudding and witch's cider brew will be served. There will also be Halloween-themed games like witch hat toss, ghost tin can bowling and a ghoulish photobooth.

We hope you join us for this freaky, fun Halloween activity. The event will take place at Stone Valley Arts, 145 East Main Street Poultney VT.

Goings on around town

JUST CHILLIN' AT THE CHILI COOK-OFF



Photos by
Steven Jupiter
and Meghan Fox



The 7th Annual Pittsford Chili Cook-Off raised \$10,000 from sponsors, entrants, and guests. In its first year, the event brought in only \$800. This year's event was well-attended, with scores of people clamoring to taste the chili. Some entries emphasized the beans, some the beef, some was hot, some was mild, but all was tasty! The

cornhole tournament was won by Ronan Daly and Colton Leno. Keith's and Kamuda's donated food to round out the offerings and Liambru Ale Company was on hand with their beer. The proceeds from the event go to Sara's Stories, which provides books to children under 5 in Pittsford and the surrounding communities.

Upcoming Programs Highlight Archaeology at Fort Ticonderoga

Fort Ticonderoga celebrates International Archaeology Day with guided exhibit and battlefield tours

(Ticonderoga, NY) Fort Ticonderoga will celebrate International Archaeology Day on Saturday, October 21, 2023 with two premium tours led by Fort Ticonderoga Director of Archaeology, Margaret Staudter, which will highlight Fort Ticonderoga's historically significant archaeological collections and Carillon Battlefield. With one of the richest, and relatively untouched,

historic landscapes documenting North America's 18th-century military history in the country, Fort Ticonderoga is poised to become a center for archaeological investigation, education, and preservation.

The special tours are FREE and included in Fort Ticonderoga's general admission ticket. To purchase tickets and learn more, visit www.fortticonderoga.org.

"We are thrilled to offer two special tours on International Archaeology Day to highlight Fort Ticonderoga's incredible history, collections, and current and future plans for archaeological investigations and programming," said Fort Ticonderoga Director of Archaeology, Margaret Staudter. "The archaeology program at Fort Ticonderoga continues to build momentum through

our recent battlefield survey and research, and increasing public access to our collections and landscape."

International Archaeology Day celebrates the field of archaeology and provides an annual day for organizations to offer programs and activities dedicated to archaeology.

The Premium Tours Offered on October 21, 2023:

Archaeological Collections Museum Guided Tour | 11:30am – 12:15pm

Explore Fort Ticonderoga's exhibit spaces and learn about important finds from the last one hundred years. From buttons to stoneware plates, see a range of artifacts that were used by the soldiers and citizens of 18th cen-

tury Fort Ticonderoga. The tour begins in the Parade Ground.

Carillon Battlefield Walking Tour | 3-4:30pm

This tour will introduce you to the Carillon battlefield's remarkable history, discuss recent survey work, visit key archaeological features, and share exciting initiatives for long-term investigation and stewardship. This tour covers 1.2 miles of walking from Fort Ticonderoga's Log House Welcome Center to the Carillon Battlefield, walking along the paved exit road. This tour includes inclined walking, comfortable footwear is recommended.



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

Impressive 2-story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, and a yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state-of-the-art heating system with radiant heat and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3-bay garage and a spacious back yard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building. Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at \$425,000



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Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. A device to disengage without a key
5. Subdivision
8. Network of nerves
12. Lounge chair
14. Ocean
15. C. European river
16. Bowl-shaped cavity
18. ___ Caesar, comedian
19. Lyric poems
20. Tia's sister
21. A way to develop
22. Cows collectively
23. Areas close by
26. Slightly disreputable
30. Made a mistake
31. One who cites
32. Food stall: ___ pai dong
33. Narrow valley between hills
34. Members of people living mainly in the Congo
39. More (Spanish)
42. Classroom implements
44. Cognizant of
46. One who tells on others
47. Free from slavery
49. Thick piece of something
50. Containing two nitrogen atoms between carbon atoms
51. Removed entirely
56. Late rocker Turner
57. Appreciated
58. Observation expedition
59. Opposite of subtracts
60. Unit of work
61. Wreckage on the sea bed
62. Affirmative! (slang)
63. Witness
64. River in England

CLUES DOWN

1. A dissenting clique
2. Japanese city
3. Spiritual leader
4. Second letter of Greek alphabet
5. Musical term
6. Ruled over
7. Fortified wine
8. First year player
9. Moved in a circular way
10. Adolescents
11. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
17. Bring up
24. Factual written account (abbr.)
25. Having three sides
26. Annoy
27. Hustle
28. American WW2 leader
29. Stale atmosphere
35. US Treasury
36. Sound unit
37. They ___
38. Soviet Socialist Republic
40. Places to play video games
41. Medical event
42. When you hope to arrive
43. Fixed prices
44. Popular Boston song
45. Valley in Indiana and Illinois
47. Omit when speaking
48. German explorer of the Congo Basin
49. Stick around
52. From a distance
53. Heroic tale
54. Amounts of time
55. Eat

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	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43					
			44	45				46						
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49					50				51		52	53	54	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.

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

Level: Advanced

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Protecting Your Dog During Hunting Season

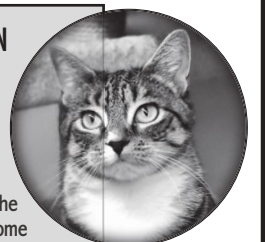
Hunting season is just around the corner and the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) wants to provide you with some tips to stay safe. Make yourself familiar with when hunting season is, find out where hunting areas are, and try to avoid them, if possible. Take precautions even if hunting is not allowed in the area. Consider putting a bright-colored vest, sweater, or bandana on your dog. This will identify him and will help make sure he is not mistaken for a hunted animal. A bell added to their collar can also help as well. If you live in a rural area and have a lot of land, make sure that your dog is kept on a leash, fenced in, or tied out during hunting season to prevent your dog from roaming too far away. No matter what your plans are this fall, remember these tips to ensure an enjoyable time together. Keep your dogs visible, controlled and safe so accidents don't occur during hunting season.

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



MEET HOOCH - 3 YEAR OLD. NEUTERED MALE. AKITA MIX. Meet Hooch! As if his sweet, loving personality wasn't enough you will instantly fall in love with his big squishy face and perfect smile! He arrived as a stray on September 23rd with his buddy Turner. Though we do not really have any history on him, we do know that he really enjoys playing with other dogs that he has met here! He has his basic manners down, he knows how to sit, is house trained, crate trained, and doesn't jump! If you are interested in meeting Hooch stop by the adoption center Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm.

MEET MISTY - 1 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TIGER WITH WHITE. Misty is the sweetest girl. When she came to us, she was pregnant. She did have her kittens and now she is ready to leave motherhood for a life of luxury! Misty has been with us since July 14 as a stray from Brandon. She has adjusted great here and has been loving all the attention she has been getting. She is living in the community cat room and walks around like she owns it. She is very respectful of her feline friends. When you go in there, she is the first one to greet you. She will rub up against your legs until you give her all the pets and attention she wants. She has lots of love to give and she is finally ready to find her forever home. If she sounds like your type of cat please stop by and give her some love! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.



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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



New in DVDs!

Elemental (Rated PG)

Ember, a young fire elemental in Element City, learns from water elemental Wade that they have much more in common than they've been led to believe.

Animal Crackers (Rated PG)

A family uses a magical box of Animal Crackers to save a run-down circus from being taken over by their evil uncle Horatio P. Huntington.

Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken (Rated PG)

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Gillman desperately wants to fit in at Ocean High. When she learns that she is next in a legendary line of sea krakens, Ruby struggles even more to fit in when her mother forbids her from going to the beach. After disobeying her mother's rules, she discovers that she is descended from the warrior Kraken queens and will ascend to the throne as the Warrior Queen of the Seven Seas and will need to protect her people from power-hungry mermaids.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sue Wetmore and Nate Dansereau are hosting a **Birding Around Brandon** talk Oct 24 from 6-7 pm. Learn about Brandon's birding hotspots and more!

Strays (Rated R)

After being abandoned in the streets by his owner, Doug falls in with foul-mouthed strays to get revenge.

Jules (Rated PG-13)

Milton lives a quiet life of routine in a small western Pennsylvania town, but finds his day upended when a UFO and its extraterrestrial passenger crash in his backyard. Before long, Milton develops a close relationship with the extraterrestrial he calls "Jules." Things get complicated quickly as two neighbors find out and the government starts closing in.

The following Large Print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

Judgment Prey by John Sandford, donated in memory of Arthur E. Sawyer

When the local police and FBI can't find answers, Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers are brought in to investigate the gruesome murders of a judge and his two young sons.

Blood Lines by Nelson and Alex DeMille, donated in memory of Charles H. Whittaker

Army Criminal Investigation Agents Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor are reunited after a five-month break and are tasked with investigating the murder of one of their own: CID Special Agent Harry Vance of the 5th MP Battalion, an accomplished counterterrorism agent who had been stationed in western Germany and whose body was discovered in a city park in the heart of Berlin's Arab refugee community. The authorities suspect an act of terrorism, but Brodie and Taylor soon believe there is more to this case as they work to discover what the victim was doing in his final days in Germany.

Serious traffic violations keep the Brandon Police busy

October 9

- Multiple break-ins and thefts of items from cars reported overnight on North Street. Investigation ongoing. Citizens are advised to remove valuables from their cars and keep the doors locked.
- Officers assisted Brandon Rescue with a medical call on North Street.
- Directed traffic enforcement on Franklin Street. No violations noted.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Alta Wood Drive (Blue Seal) for a car with excessive exhaust smoke. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Foot patrol on Center Street.
- Vehicle stop on Forestdale Road for stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Carver Street for stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- Accidental dispatch to Brandon Police Department (BPD). Incident reported actually occurred outside BPD jurisdiction in Fair Haven.
- Vehicle stop at intersection of Grove Street and Town Line Road for speeding. Warning issued.
- Single-vehicle crash reported on Wheeler Road. No injuries reported.

October 10

- VIN verification conducted for a resident of Garden Lane.
- Vehicle stop on Marble Street for expired registration. Warning issued.
- A suspicious vehicle with a sleeping man inside was reported on North Birch Hill Road. The responding officer was unable to locate the vehicle. Officer returned later for a report of the same car having returned, but the car was once again gone when the officer arrived.
- Report of a man and woman with rifle on Forestdale Road. It was determined that they had been hunting and no violations had occurred.
- BPD received a complaint about harassment by an ex-boyfriend. BPD advised caller as to available options.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective headlight. Warning issued.
- BPD received complaint about a vehicle with a loud exhaust traveling up and down Town Farm Road. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
- Police confiscated a ciga-

Brandon Police Report

rette pack with crack cocaine inside of it from a driver outside Champlain Farms on Grove Street.

• Officers responded to a building alarm on Town Farm Road. The perimeter of the building was secured and no forced entry was found.

October 11

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for lack of inspection sticker. Two tickets were issued, one for unlicensed operation and one for defective equipment. A warning was also issued to the driver for not having an inspection sticker.
- Officers responded to an apartment building on Conant Square for a domestic disturbance between a girlfriend and boyfriend. It was determined that the altercation was verbal in nature and that no crimes had been committed. The male partner left the scene without further incident.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to signal turn. Warning issued.

October 12

- Single-vehicle crash on North Street in which a utility pole had been struck and a child in the car sustained minor injuries. Brandon Fire and Brandon Rescue both responded to the scene. Green Mountain Power also responded to repair the broken pole. Investigation ongoing.
- An incident of vandalism was reported on Conant Square. As a result of the information gathered from the victim, Jami Burns, 37, was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on 11/20/23 to answer the charge of Unlawful Mischief.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for use of cellphone while driving. During the stop, it was determined that the operator had a criminally suspended license. Jeremy Bougor, 27, of Middlebury was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on 12/11/23 for arraignment. A ticket was also issued for the cell phone use.
- Police assisted an individ-

(See Police report, Page 19)

GIVING November

Help us turn \$60,000 into \$120,000 with your gift in November!

Thanks to a few pledges from very generous local patrons, the Brandon Free Public Library will be able to match every dollar given to the library renovation in November!

\$60,000 goal
+ \$60,000 matched funds
= \$120,000 in total

Stop in the library and fill out a Giving November pledge sheet, or go online and donate between Nov. 1 - Nov. 30. We can do this together!

<https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/renovation>

Connect directly with David Roberts, President of the BFPL Board of Trustees: 617-512-3894



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
ual with locating personal belongings at a residence he had left as a result of a domestic disturbance on Conant Square.

- Vehicle stop on Forestdale Road for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.
- BPD received a call about a suspicious vehicle that had backed up to the Parent Child Center on Jones Drive. It was determined that the car belonged to an employee of the Center who was unloading items.
- Vehicle stop for defective headlight on Grove Street. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop at Center Street and Mill Lane for a stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for cell phone use. Warning issued to first-time violator.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for defective taillight. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

October 13

- Police responded to a report of a prowler in the early-morning hours on North Street. Officers were unable to locate the individual and no other reports were received.
- BPD received a report of a motorcyclist who might have

been having engine trouble and might have been intoxicated on North Street. Officers were unable to locate the man or the motorcycle. A report was received later on about the same man having returned to the area with beer. The officer was again unable to locate the man, who was said to be “drunk.” Officers checked the area all the way to the Goshen line but did not locate him.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for stop-sign violation. Warning issued.
- The Union Street Market requested two Notices Against Trespass against two individuals. The notices were served without incident.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for following too closely. Warning issued.
- Officer served a restraining order to an individual on North Street.
- David B. Ambrose of Shoreham was arrested on Grove Street for Eluding a Police Officer, Grossly Negligent Operation, and Driving with a Criminally Suspended License. Ambrose was released on a citation to appear before Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division on 12/4/23 to answer for the charges.
- BPD took a complaint regarding possible harassment from a defendant in an active

relief-from-abuse order. Information was documented at the complainant’s request.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for failure to signal a turn. 2 warnings and 1 ticket were issued.

October 14

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for defective taillight. As a result of the stop, it was determined that the driver had a criminally suspended license. Leon Forest, 42, Leicester was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on 12/18/23 for arraignment.
- BPD responded to a hit-and-run vehicle crash on Sunset Drive.
- Stolen coffee reported at Dunkin’ Donuts on Conant Square.
- Police responded to Forestdale Road for a report of a woman lying in the roadway. Officers were able to locate the woman and Brandon Rescue transported her to Rutland Hospital for evaluation.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Erica Fitzgerald, 34, of Pittsford was arrested for DUI and Driving with a Criminally Suspended License after being stopped for erratic driving on Grove Street. Fitzgerald was

released on a citation to appear before Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on 10/16/23 for arraignment.

- BPD assisted a motorist who reported that the wheel to his truck was falling off because of a broken lug nut at the intersection of Park and Center Streets. Officers directed traffic until the situation was resolved.

October 15

- Property watch at Union Street Grocery on Union Street.
- Property watch at the 802

Spirits liquor store on Conant Square.

- Report received of two individuals attempting to start a fire on Route 7 near Otter Valley Union High School. No evidence of fire was located.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Complaint received about noise from an adjacent apartment on Carver Street. Responding officer was unable to detect any noise coming from said apartment.

Restaurant guide



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De la Provence à Vous

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21–April 20

Pull together your dream team, Aries, because you are going to need all the help you can get at this point. The week is jam-packed with many different events.

TAURUS April 21–May 21

Taurus, now is not the time to employ tough love if a friend or family member comes to you looking for help. You have to keep an open mind and a willingness to assist.

GEMINI May 22–June 21

Your clever brain has a lot of creative ideas running through it, Gemini. It's just a matter of zeroing in on one and then putting a plan into effect. Recruit some friends.

CANCER June 22–July 22

If you believe and have faith, you will receive what you need this week, Cancer. Your patience finally may pay off in the form of just rewards. Keep your eyes open.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Leo, your desires are limitless and you want things to go exactly how you envision them. However, sometimes you have to make compromises or concessions, like this week.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

It's possible you may find refuge in relationships this week, Virgo. Surround yourself with the people closest to you who are pillars of support when you need them.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Libra, do not put a half-hearted effort into self-care this week. You deserve to pamper yourself to the fullest level right now. Book that spa appointment or getaway.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

You might be caught in a daydream this week, Scorpio, which typically is not your modus operandi. It's alright to let the brain wander a bit as long as you come back down from the clouds.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Sagittarius, are you able to work from home this week or take some PTO? You likely can use the opportunity to avoid crowds for a while until your energy stores build up.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

People often appreciate your frank way of sharing information, Capricorn. However, this week you may need a little more finesse. Don't be too blunt when conveying ideas.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, shift your focus from what you lost or missed out on to all of the things you have and enjoy. A simple change of perception can do a world of good.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Things could be so much easier if you go with the flow instead of swimming upstream like salmon, Pisces. This is not a battle you want to pick this week.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 20 Viggo Mortensen, actor (65)
- Oct. 21 Ursula K. Le Guin, author (d)
- Oct. 22 Derek Jacobi, actor (85)
- Oct. 23 Weird Al Yankovic, singer (64)
- Oct. 24 Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, “the father of Microbiology” (d)
- Oct. 25 Anne Tyler, novelist (82)
- Oct. 26 Mahalia Jackson, singer (d)

Ad design included in pricing
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george@brandonreporter.com
for more information

Lucas Politano

(Continued from Page 1)

the individual State Division II Championship for a second year just last week. But his success on the links doesn't come as a surprise: one might say that he was born to play golf.

"I've had a club in my hand ever since I could walk," Lucas said in his family's home in Brandon.

His parents — Paul and Erika Politano—are accomplished players, come from golfing families, met at golf camp in Stratton, and even got engaged on a golf course. Paul is now an assistant golf coach at Middlebury College and the golf pro at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course on Midd's campus, just one of several such positions he's held over the last 30 years. But whether Lucas followed in his folks' footsteps was resolutely his own choice.

"He's in the driver's seat," laughed Paul. "And he was successful pretty early."

One of Lucas's earliest golfing memories was of scoring a birdie at Montague Golf Course in Randolph when he was 6 or 7 years old. (A player scores a "birdie" when they complete a hole one stroke under the hole's par.) By the age of 10, Lucas was playing competitively at PGA Vermont events. At 12, he landed a hole-in-one at the Vermont National Country Club in South Burlington, a shot he remembered with special fondness.

"I knew it was a good shot," Lucas said when asked if he'd been surprised by that result.

He's already setting his sights beyond Vermont and has been playing in events all over the country and making a name for himself in the process: Lucas tied for third place at the Arnold Palmer Junior Invitational in Orlando, Florida in July. He was 19th out of 312 at the 2023 PGA Junior State Champion-

ship in Frisco, Texas.

The result in Georgia was especially meaningful to Lucas because the course is "a good test" of a golfer's skill. "There's a lot of water on the course," he said. "A lot could go wrong."

A summer foray to the Mizuno/Keith Mitchell Junior Championship at the Sea Island Resort in Georgia wasn't his finest hour—"I didn't do so great"—but his mother praises his ability to keep his cool even when things aren't working out in a particular round.

"He's very strong mentally," said Erika. "You'll never

see him throwing his clubs if he misses a shot. You never know when he's not doing well."

"I'm pretty levelheaded. And I'm proud of myself for having a short memory," said Lucas, referring to his ability to stay calm and move on from a missed opportunity. "I'm always confident that the next shot will be a good shot."

Now in his junior year at OV, Lucas hasn't made any firm decisions about his post-graduation plans, but he does know they'll include golf, eventually at the pro level. For now, though, he's hoping for a golf scholarship to a Division I school somewhere in the south.

"I don't like winter," laughed the boy from Vermont. But the statement isn't just the usual complaint about the cold: for a golfer, harsh winters mean no play. Here in the Brandon area, there are several excellent courses (Erika calls the course at Neshobe "one of the best in the state"), but freezing temps and heavy snowfall keep them closed for much of the year, greatly limiting practice and play. For someone who likes to be on the course "every day" during the summer, Vermont winters are more than just an inconvenience.

"I'm pretty level-headed. And I'm proud of myself for having a short memory," said Lucas, referring to his ability to stay calm and move on from a missed opportunity. "I'm always confident that the next shot will be a good shot."



LUCAS POLITANO SWINGS to secure his second consecutive state individual championship. He comes from a family of accomplished golfers and hopes to play for a Division I university.

Photo provided.

Lucas is the youngest of four Politano kids, all of whom have fared well as golfers. Sister Mia

is now a junior at Middlebury and had 2 state individual championships while at OV. Brother Thomas was on 2 state-champ golf teams at OV and is now at SUNY/Delhi, where he's studying the science of turf management—a great course is more than just mowing the grass. And sister Elena (twins with Thomas) was on 2 state-runner-up teams at OV and is now at St. Lawrence University in Ne2w York.

"All our kids have done great

with sports," said Paul. In fact, Lucas's focus may be on golf, but he's also played basketball and soccer at the varsity level at OV.

"You can play with people from very different backgrounds, and you end up talking with them for hours, all our kids are very social."

—Paul Politano

Paul and Erika also credit golf with teaching their kids sportsmanship, etiquette, and social skills. "You meet people through golf," said Erika.

"You can play with people from very different backgrounds, and you end up talking with them for hours," said Paul. "All our kids are very social."

"I'd love more people to get into golf," said Lucas. "I love

the uniqueness of individual sport. It's just you against the course." And he seems to have developed a sophisticated ability to assess the lay of the land when teeing up a shot.

"I'm always looking for anything that will put me on the green," he said. "I'm trying to figure out which way the ball is going to bounce."

For many teenagers, spending more time with their parents isn't at the top of their wishlists, but Lucas genuinely enjoys playing with his parents and siblings and genuinely enjoys the game.

"I would lose a lot of love for the game if I didn't still play for fun," he said. "If I play for fun, the rest will take care of itself."

And given Lucas's track record, the rest seems to be taking care of itself very well.

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Authorities search for suspect who stole state police cruiser and patrol rifle in Rutland City

BY ALAN J. KEAYS/
VTDIGGER

RUTLAND—Vermont State Police released an image of the suspect in the theft of a police cruiser and patrol rifle in Rutland City on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. Photo courtesy of Vermont State Police

Vermont State Police are investigating the theft of one of its cruisers and a patrol rifle that was inside the vehicle early Tuesday morning in Rutland City.

The theft took place between 2 a.m. and 4:40 a.m. from outside a residence in Rutland City, according to a press release issued Tuesday by state police.

“The cruiser was subsequently located elsewhere in Rutland City, but the Sig Sauer patrol rifle that had been secured in the vehicle had been forcibly removed,” the release stated.

The release did not provide the exact locations of where the vehicle had been stolen or where it had been located. The release also did not say how entry into the vehicle was made.

Adam Silverman, a state police spokesperson, said early Tuesday afternoon that the cruiser belonged to state police Cpl. Christopher Lozelle. As for questions about the exact location where the vehicle was stolen from and later located, Silverman replied that he didn’t

have that information.

“I don’t know the exact location, all I know it was a private residence in Rutland,” Silverman said.

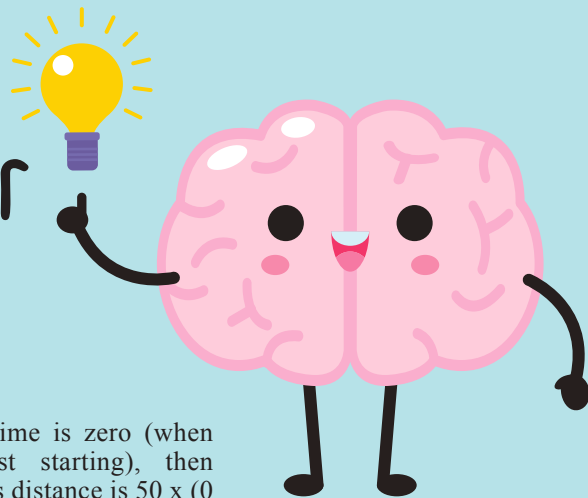
Asked if the vehicle was locked or if the keys were inside it, Silverman referred to the press release that stated, “The circumstances of the vehicle theft are under active investigation.”

State police did release an image captured from surveillance video that showed a bearded man, dressed in a hooded Knicks sweatshirt and yellow sneakers, carrying a rifle. Police identified the man as the theft suspect.



AN IMAGE FROM surveillance footage of the man that police believe stole a police cruiser and a Sig Sauer police rifle in Rutland early Tuesday morning. Anyone with any info about the theft should contact Rutland Police.

Brandon Brain Buster Answered



Answer: A

The distance one travels will equal the amount of time one travels multiplied by one’s speed. For example, if someone is traveling at 60 miles per hour, then in 2 hours they will cover $60 \times 2 = 120$ miles. So, in order to know what fraction of Route X Daisy has to cover to catch up to Norman, we basically want to know what distance Daisy has to travel so that the distance she’s covered since Point A is the same as Norman’s.

Daisy’s distance will be $60 \times T$, where T is the time that she spends traveling. Since Norman had a three-hour headstart, his time spent traveling will always be three hours more than Daisy’s, so we can call it $T + 3$. So, Norman’s distance can be expressed as $50 \times (T + 3)$. Whatever Daisy’s time is, we can plug that T into $50 \times (T + 3)$ to figure out how far Norman has already traveled. For example, when

Daisy’s time is zero (when she’s just starting), then Norman’s distance is $50 \times (0 + 3) = 50 \times 3 = 150$ miles. This makes sense if you think about it: in the three hours between his start and Daisy’s, he will cover 50 miles per hour or 150 miles.

But when Daisy catches up to Norman, their distances will be equal. So, $60 \times T$ will equal $50 \times (T + 3)$ when Daisy finally catches up to Norman. If we set these distances equal to each other, we can solve for T :

$$\begin{aligned} 60 \times T &= 50 \times (T + 3) \\ 60T &= 50T + 150 \\ 10T &= 150 \\ T &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

Since T is the time Daisy spent traveling, we now know that it would take her 15 hours to catch up to Norman. In 15 hours, at a speed of 60 miles per hour, she would cover $15 \times 60 = 900$ miles. Since Route X is 1000 miles long, she would cover 900 out of 1000 miles

or 9/10 of the length.

Alternatively, if Norman has a three-hour headstart, then we know he’s already covered $50 \times 3 = 150$ miles when Daisy begins to travel. Since she’s traveling 10 miles per hour faster than Norman, she will close the gap between them at a rate of 10 miles per hour. In other words, the gap between them is 10 miles shorter every hour. But for Daisy to catch up to Norman, she has to close that 150-mile gap. Since she gets 10 miles closer to Norman every hour, it will take her 15 hours to close the 150-mile gap between them. So, we know she will need to travel 15 hours to catch up to him. Since she’s traveling at 60 mph, she will cover $60 \times 15 = 900$ miles before she catches up. $900/1000 = 9/10$.

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Bob cats

(Continued from Page 6)

the trail cameras, we got a photograph of a bobcat and three minutes later, the next picture we got was a student picking up that camera. The student was completely unaware that he had been three minutes away from a bobcat.”

According to Brehan Furfey, fur-bearer biologist with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, trapping and hunting data suggests that the state maintains a relatively healthy and abundant population of bobcats, and although development in areas like Shelburne and South Burlington remain on the rise, “trend-wise we haven’t seen any sort of massive declines or any sort of oscillations,” she said.

“They are pretty resilient, and they’ve shown themselves to occupy a variety of different habitats as opportunistic feeders, even with more development,” she said. “Granted, that’s not great for habitat for any species, but they tend to tolerate it.”

With some males reaching up to 35 pounds, Furfey explained that many people will confuse them for cougars or mountain lions.

“We don’t have those,” she said. “That’s not to say that it’s not possible but there’s never been one detected or positively identified and you would know a mountain lion or Catamount when you see it.”

Bobcats travel widely, both Furfey and McCabe said. Through a 2005 study that involved trapping and putting radio collars on bobcats and monitoring their



movements, the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife and University of Vermont found that the home range size averages 9 square miles for females and 27 square miles for males.

“During breeding season, the males will have a larger territory,” Furfey said. “But generally, without the breeding season or outside of the breeding season they don’t really tolerate each other very well,” noting it’s uncommon to see two adult bobcats together in the same area.

Wetland habitats usually provide excellent corridors for them to move freely about to gather food, which are often found in residential areas like Shelburne and South Burlington.

“People often talk about wildlife corridors, but in our context, in Shelburne and South Burlington, it’s patches,” McCabe said. “They’re going from patch to patch using neighborhoods in between.”

In an environmental assessment report of Shelburne done by Arrowwood Environmental last year, the consultant applied a value-ranking process to identify 49 dif-

ferent habitat areas of at least 20 acres within Shelburne.

The two highest-ranked habitat blocks already have some level of conservation protection in place — Shelburne Pond with the H. Laurence Achilles Natural Area and the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area at the mouth of the LaPlatte River — but in almost all these cases there are unprotected portions that remain at risk, the report says.

Gail Albert, the former chair of Shelburne’s natural resources and conservation committees, explained that this report is planned to influence the zoning bylaw update currently underway. According to her, the answer is not to inhibit development, but to outline exactly where to properly place denser housing and populations.

“If we’re enlarging our housing, we really need to be thinking about how we’re placing it, and it’s always been my feeling that we don’t want to inhibit people from living here,” Albert said. “What I want to do is have people who already live here recognize what’s really precious about their property.”

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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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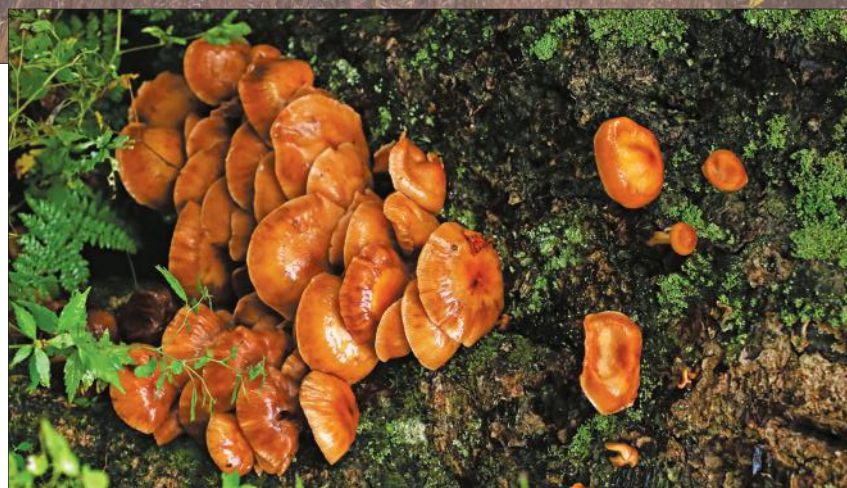
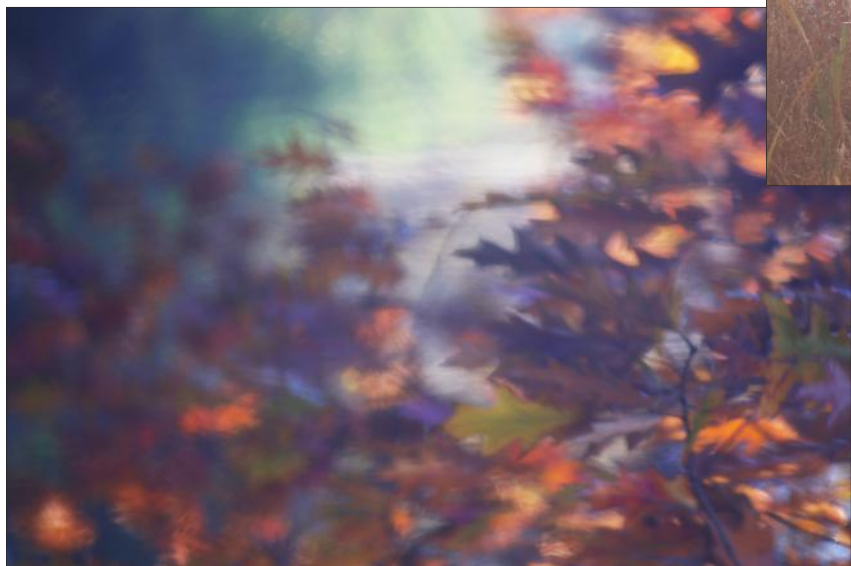
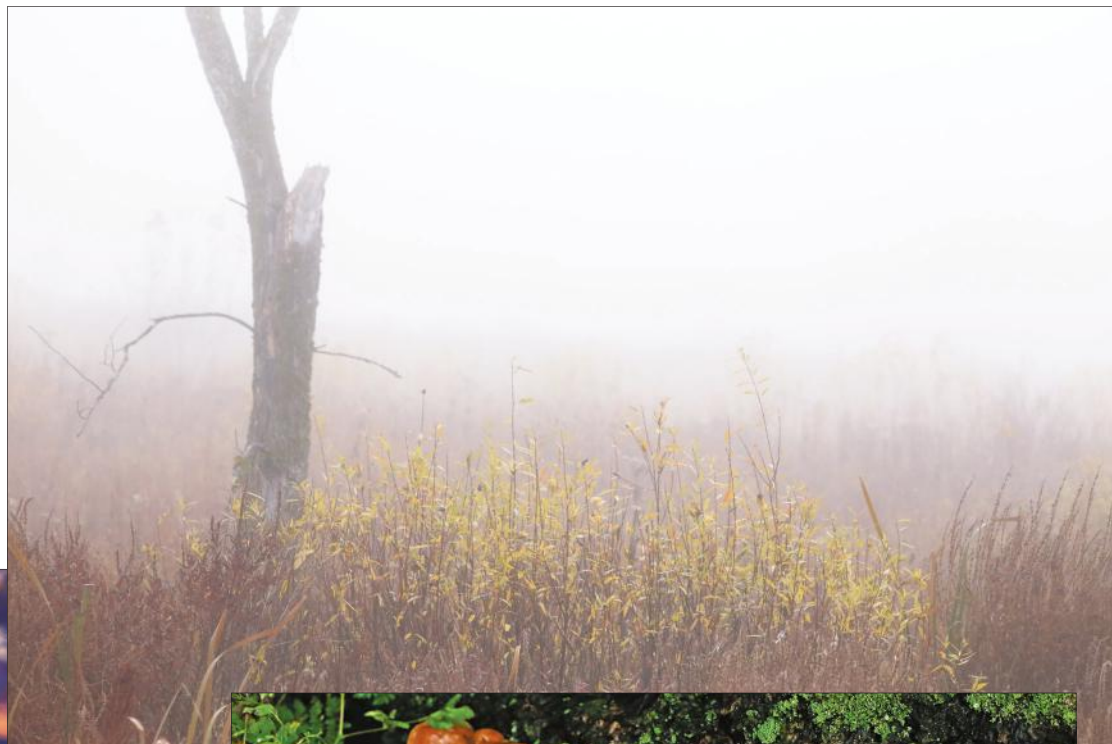
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Photos by Steven Jupiter



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