REPORTER

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SHARING SCARES

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NOT FORGOTTEN

Brandon Senior Center honors departed members with leaf people.

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Mosquito District faces fines from state agency

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCWICD or the District) held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 25 to discuss its response to the imposition by the state of penalties totaling \$9,125.

In a letter dated October 4, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets (the Agency) notified the District that the Agency believed the District had violated the Vermont Rule for Control of Pesticides (the Rule) in two separate incidents that occurred in June in Leicester and in September in Brandon.

OCWICD is a "union municipal district" that provides insect control to the towns of Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Pittsford, Goshen, and Proctor but is independent of these towns' governments. It has its own Board of Trustees composed of representatives appointed by the Selectboards of the participating towns. The District receives its operating budget from the taxpayers of these towns as well as from grants and donations.

The District's stated mission is "to control nuisance mosquito and biting fly populations in member towns." It achieves this goal through the application of chemical insecticides that are sprayed from a truck that drives along designated routes in each participating town. Residents along these routes can opt out of the program if they wish that their properties not be sprayed.

In the October 4 letter, the Agency alleged that on June 20, 2023, the District violated the Rule when Doug Perkins, who was driving the spray truck and who is the current chairman of the District's Board, sprayed pesticides on the property of Elise and Doug Haydon of Leicester even though the Haydons' property was posted as a "No Spray Zone." The Agency further al-

(See Mosquito District, Page 6)



What a view!

LATE AUTUMN COLORS at the Blueberry Management Area in Goshen.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Longhill Maple Equipment keeps the syrup flowing in Pittsford

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—There are scant few things as Vermont as maple syrup. Everyone here has a friend or relative who sugars, if they don't do it themselves. And everyone here has happily gotten a jug of the stuff from a home sugar maker as a holiday gift. And we pour it on everything from pancakes to pork chops. Maple syrup practically flows in a Vermonter's veins.

And Longhill Maple Equipment in Pittsford is now open to make the sugaring process accessible to everyone.

Owned and operated by Reg Charbonneau, a Pittsford native, Longhill has all the supplies you need to convert sap to syrup. Whether you're a complete newbie or a commercial producer, Longhill has the equipment to get you started or keep you in business.

Charbonneau started making syrup with his friends while he



THE STAFF OF Longhill Maple Equipment in Pittsford (I to r): Cameron Sheltera, Kyle Lothian, Sam Bascomb, Justin Severance, Reg Charbonneau (owner), and Sierra Combs.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

was in high school, even fabricating some of his equipment in the metal shop at Otter Valley. What started out as a hobby eventually grew into a sizable

supplement to his landscaping and masonry business. He turned his hobby into a viable commercial enterprise in 1999.

(See Longhill Maple, Page 3)

Tips to make Medicare work better for you

BY DR. GEORGE FJELD

Are you on Medicare? Are you confused by all the mail and sales pitches? Which ones are from Medicare and which ones are sales pitches? What do you have and what do you need? These are the questions many older Vermonters are asking. It's also why there is an avalanche of information, solicitations, and calls.

for services and care. Part A deductible is \$1,600 and there is no copay until certain limits are reached. Part B deductible is \$226 and then there is a 20%

We are in a period called open enrollment when you may choose among different options for Medicare healthcare coverage. Basically the different parts of Medicare are:

Part A (Hospital Insurance) helps to

Use Medicare.gov to research available prescription drug, Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans. cover

Medicare is the national health insurance that covers most older Americans and less able individuals. It is not all free. Part A is free for most and Parts B and D are often paid for by a deduction from one's Social Security income. Medicare allows wide choices in providers as most Vermont providers are covered. However it does not cover all the costs. There is a deductible as well as a copay

services such as inpatient care in hospitals, skilled nursing facility care, hospice care, home health care, and blood.

Part B (Medical Insurance) helps to cover services such as services from doctors and other health care providers, outpatient care, medical equipment, and preventative services.

Part D helps to cover prescription drugs. It is an optional benefit available to everyone with Medicare. Part D is provided by private insurance companies that contract with Medicare.

Together, Parts A and B are commonly referred to as "Original Medicare."

After enrolling (or buying Medicare), one can purchase a "gap" policy which covers the difference between what hospitals, doctors and other providers charge and what Medicare pays. It may provide additional benefits as well. This is commonly called MediGap. This is sold by commercial insurance companies and varies in cost (in addition to Medicare premium) and how broad the coverage is. These policies are regulated by the state.

The other option is to opt out of Medicare into a Medicare Advantage plan. This is commercial insurance that replaces Medicare. If you have this, you no longer have Medicare but, instead, a contract with a commercial insurance company. If you choose this option, you want to read the details of the contract which spell out what benefits you will receive and who gets to choose your providers (either you or the insurance company). These policies usually provide prescription drug insurance. These

policies are often sold with extra benefits not available with Original Medicare. These can include dental, vision and healthy choices like gym memberships. The insurance company gets to choose the level of benefit and who provides the benefit. The State of Vermont reviews and approves these policies to be sold in Vermont.

The Vermont Department of Financial Regulation is offering the following tips:

Read the fine print and don't be fooled by how an ad looks or appears. Many websites and print ads look like they are from Medicare but are not. When looking for information about Medicare, go to the official website at https:// www.medicare.gov. Websites with similar addresses like Medicare.com, Medicare.org, or Medicare.net are NOT OF-FICIAL.

Don't believe agents who claim to work for Medicare, or ads that claim to offer plans that are "sponsored" or "endorsed" by Medicare. There are no Medicare sales representa-

Hang up on unsolicited phone calls trying to sell you a Medicare plan. Neither insurance companies nor insurance agents are permitted to make unsolicited Medicare-related

Although recent policy changes allow Medicare Advantage plans to offer benefits that aren't health-related to enrollees with certain chronic conditions, insurance agents can't guarantee that you will be eligible for those benefits before you enroll.

Don't give out your personal information over the phone to someone who tells you that you must provide information to keep your Medicare coverage.

If you see or hear a Medicare Supplement advertisement or solicitation that you think is deceptive, misleading, or a scam, report it to the department by email at dfr.insuranceinfo@ vermont.gov or by phone at 800-964-1784. You can report

a Medicare Advantage-related concern at 800-MEDICARE and ftc.gov/complaint.

Medicare has a website, medicare.gov, which has tools to help choose health and prescription drug plans. It is rela-

Medicare changes for 2024

Medicare changes for 2024 Medicare Part B premiums will increase to \$174.70 for 2024, an in-

crease from \$164.90 in 2023.

The Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible beneficiaries pay with hospital admission will be \$1,632 in 2024, an increase of \$32 from \$1,600 in 2023.

About 99% of Medicare beneficiaries do not have to pay a Part A pre-

The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$240 in 2024, up from \$226 in 2023.

> tively easy to use and includes all the plans approved in the State of Vermont.

When choosing, it's important to consider your present health condition and future needs. High-need individualsthink cancer, heart disease or dementia-generally fare better with Original Medicare and a substantial Medigap policy as well as Part D prescription drug coverage. Delaying enrollment in a prescription drug plan will result in permanently increased prices when you do enroll. Medicare Advantage plans generally are less expensive and best for people with low-impact chronic disease or are healthy and can take advantage of the additional options provided. They are not portable and are location dependent (you must change plans if you move). For this reason they are usually not ideal for snowbirds (i.e., those who travel south in the winter), although some do have nationwide coverage, usually for an additional premium.

Plans can be changed during open enrollment which ends December 7th this year. You can opt out of a Medicare Advantage plan and back into Original Medicare anytime during the first year and then during open enrollment in subsequent years. There is no penalty for switching unless you didn't have prescription drug coverage.



Shine on

SILVER BELLS HALLOWEEN Pageant was held at the Brandon American Legion on October 22. Here are the results: Arahbella- Queen; Ivy- Queen, Personality, Ambassador; Alyvia-Princess, Spookiest Costume; Raelynn- Princess, Best Smile; Vivianna- Queen, Overall Winner, Best Costume, Creepiest Costume; Korbin- King, Coolest Costume; Dylan- King, Best Costume, Spookiest Costume, and Second-best pumpkin; Trystin- Princess, Best eyes, Funniest Costume; Autumn- Queen, Best Hair, Photogenic, Best costume, Funniest Costume; Ashlynn- Queen; Bella, Queen, Most Creative, Third-best pumpkin; Cameron- Queen, Most Creative Costume; Torrence- Queen, First-best pumpkin; Peggie- Queen; Deborah- Queen, Funniest Costume; Nikia- Princess, Coolest Costume, Creepiest Costume.

Longhill Maple

(Continued from Page 1)

"It was something to do during the downtime for landscaping," Charbonneau said surrounded by gleaming tanks and evaporators in the new store, which occupies the building at Route 7 that locals still refer to as "Tuffy Toys" and which Charbonneau bought 13 years ago as an "eyesore." He now taps roughly 11,000 trees and produces 5,000-6,000 gallons of syrup per year. When you consider that the ratio of raw sap to finished syrup is about 50 to 1, you realize just how much goes into producing that quart of syrup sitting on your pantry shelf.

Josh Drake and Barbara Thornton of Richmond, Rhode Island are loyal customers of Charbonneau's and drove up for Longhill's open house last week. Like many other sugar makers with commercial aspirations, they got started as hobbyists. Now, 10 years in, they've got 2,000 taps and produce about 500 gallons of syrup. They graduated from an 18" x 48" evaporator to one that measures 2.5' by 10'.

When asked for the smartest decision they'd made as budding sugar makers, they were quick to respond, "Building our own sugarhouse." You often see these small shacks as you drive around Vermont, usually with a steady stream of vapor coming out of the stovepipe.

"Everything gets sticky if you try to boil syrup in the house," laughed Thornton.

And the biggest challenge for newcomers to the process, they said, is getting the viscosity right. Too watery and the syrup will grow mold. Too thick and it will turn to crystals. Mr. Drake added that it's also important to filter the syrup to remove impurities.

Jenna Baird of Baird Farm in Chittenden was at the open house to support Charbonneau's new venture. A family-run operation in business since 1918, Baird Farms currently taps about 14,000 trees and produces approximately 7,000 gallons of syrup per year, often infused with artisanal flavors like sumac, spruce, and mint.

Baird Farm runs maple contests and Ms. Baird says she's on the lookout for "off flavors" in a syrup that can result from using too much defoaming agent (used to keep the syrup from boiling over) or from scorching the sap in the evaporator. And maple syrup is generally graded in four categories:

Golden delicate: very subtle and sweet

Amber rich: "typical" breakfast syrup

Dark robust: a deeper maple flavor good for cooking ("nice

through plastic tubing from the trees to the collection vats, creating complex zigzag patterns of blue lines in heavily tapped woods.

"Get the tubing tight. No



LONGHILL MAPLE EQUIPMENT is at 1867 US Route 7 in Pittsford. Reg Charbonneau has everything you need to sugar, whether amateur or pro.

oomph," said Baird)

Very dark strong: similar to molasses

The specific species of maple can also affect the final taste of the syrup: the sap of a Norway maple apparently has a more vanilla-like quality than that of the sugar maples predominant in Vermont.

And the changes in Vermont's climate are affecting maple production as well, with warmer winters spurring earlier sap production.

"The saying used to be that you start tapping at Town Meeting in March," said Charbonneau, "but these days the season can start in December and go into May."

Charbonneau hopes that Longhill Maple Equipment will reach a new generation of sugar makers and encourage younger folks to learn the ropes.

"It only costs a couple hundred bucks to get started in your backyard," he said. Longhill sells kits for beginners alongside the imposing professional equipment. And the Vermont Sugar Makers Association is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about sugaring, either as a hobby or a profession: vermontmaple.org.

"The Association offers classes," said Baird. "It's not geared just toward the big boys."

Baird also noted the importance of equipment in modern sugaring. On a professional level, the days of buckets hanging from metal taps is pretty much over. Now, sap travels

leaks," advised Mark Stewart, who runs Stewart Maple in Cuttingsville. One of the larger producers at the Longhill open house, Stewart has been in business since 2010 and collects from 45,000 taps and buys from another 20,000 to produce roughly 34,000 gallons of syrup per year, which the company sells wholesale rather than bottling it itself.

But even a large producer like Stewart often starts small(ish).

"Our first year we had 2,000 taps," said Stewart. What started as a family hobby is now a family-run business overseen by Stewart and his sons.

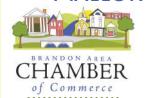
Charbonneau loves helping these local operations stay viable.

"Local people keep you afloat," he said. And judging by the turnout at the open house, he's going to get plenty of support from local sugar makers, many of whom seemed to come as much for the camaraderie among likeminded souls as for the equipment.

"My wife says the only reason I do this is because I like to talk sugar," joked Charbonneau.

So, if you've ever just wondered whether you could coax a few gallons of homemade syrup out of your backyard maples, or have professional aspirations, come by Longhill Maple Equipment at 1867 Route 7 in Pittsford.

Spotlight On Business MALLORY AUTOMOTIVE



Mallory Automotive is a highly respected, straightforward, honest, and excellent establishment for your automotive needs. Eric Mallory has been the proud community-oriented owner of the establishment for more than thirty years. With his values of hard work, family, and giving back, Eric brings something special to Brandon through Mallory Automotive, Great



Eric Mallory

service and fair prices for all your automotive needs with a welcoming atmosphere and a no-beating-around-the-bush attitude, Beyond that, Eric sponsors and donates to many local teams and events.



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BLOWOUT SALE

•••••

As we near the end of another fantastic golf season, we're excited to announce a special treat for all of you – our Blowout Sale at the Pro Shop!

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Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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New State project imagines new housing in five Vermont town

BY EMMA COTTON/ VTDIGGER

VERGENNES — In the eyes of Amy Tomasso, a community planner for Vermont, the state's smallest city is a perfect laboratory to test out a potential solution to its housing crisis.

Vergennes, which encompasses only 2 square miles and is home to about 2,560 residents, has recently reformed its zoning regulations to accommodate denser residential development.

"We have stated goals in our plan that we'd like to actually increase our population, because there are so many benefits to having more people," said Shannon Haggett, chair of the city's planning commission. "More houses means more people. More people means more money in terms of people going to our school system, and a larger tax base, and more commerce in our stores and shops."

To that end, the city is one of five municipalities participating in a state-led project designed to identify nooks and crannies where residents and small developers could build new housing.

Tomasso, who is leading the project, ticked through the "different fronts" of the state's "huge housing crisis," including Vermont's "really slow" rate of new housing construction, a housing stock that is second-oldest nationwide and a low rental vacancy rate.

"And so that means that both on the renter friend and homeowner front, there's very little supply available, and it's not affordable," she said.

The project aims to fill already-developed downtown areas with more buildings that offer a diverse range of housing options. Situating the new housing in downtowns could make cities and towns more walkable, prevent sprawl and reduce the amount of local driving, Tomasso said.

In mid-October, state officials traveled to each of the selected municipalities — Arlington, Bellows Falls, Middlesex, Rutland City and Vergennes — with members of the Bostonbased architecture firm Utile to move through the project's first stage. Among their top goals: getting local buy-in.

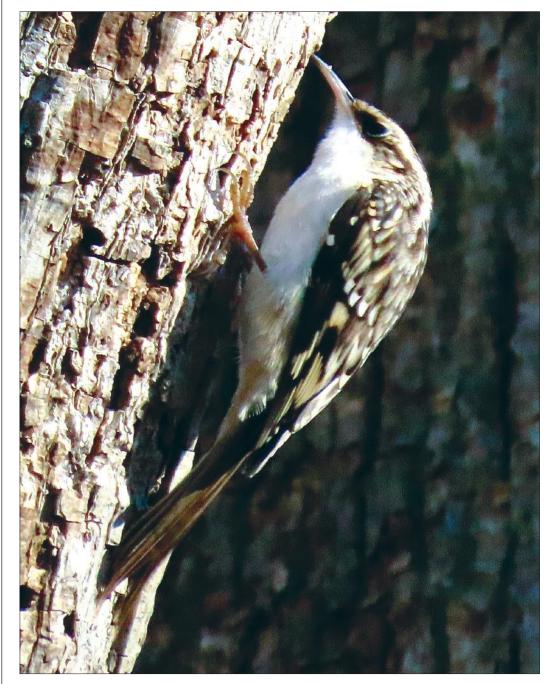
In Vergennes on a recent Friday, a standing-room-only crowd that included members of the city's planning commission, lawmakers, state officials from the Department of Housing and Community Development and members of the public gathered in a conference room at City Hall.

Utile representatives presented a suite of flexible building renderings, designed to evoke the style of Vermont's existing architecture, which ranged from accessory dwelling units to apartment buildings with room for four families.

Then, they presented a map showing one part of the city, south of Main Street. Parcels, most privately owned, had been shaded different colors to indicate whether they could host new buildings.

Project leaders were clear: None of the property owners would be forced to build new structures on their land. Rather, the project's success hinges on property owners electing to place new buildings on their properties.

After the presentation, the (See New housing, Page 23)



Survival of the sneakiest...

A BROWN CREEPER looks like a piece of bark until it moves. They build a nest under a piece of loose bark that acts like a lean-to for protection.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

The Maple Agriculture Development Grant opportunity is open for applications!

The Maple Agriculture Development Grant aims to develop, grow and sustain maple businesses throughout Vermont. High priority projects include improvements relating to climate resilience, operational efficiency, and food safety and quality.

Project awards will range from \$15,000 to \$100,000 with

no match requirement; a total of \$543,750 is available to award.

These funds are a result of a report from the Governor's Commission on the Future of Vermont Agriculture, identifying maple, meat, and produce as Vermont agricultural sectors with critical funding needs.

The Request for Applica-

tions, program factsheet, and applicant webinar recording can be found at agriculture. vermont.gov. Applications will close on November 21st.

Reach out to Madison Berry at madison.berry@vermont. gov or 802-622-4626 with any questions.

Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 * OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55

The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisements in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur. SJ

Brandon Senior Center announces Games Day!

The Brandon Senior Center will be hosting a Games Day every third Monday and Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m., beginning on November

20, 2023 and running through February 20, 2024.

We will have board games, card games, jig saw puzzles, darts, and adult coloring. Cof-

fee/tea/hot cocoa and cookies will be offered. Don't spend the winter sitting home...come join us for some conversation and fun!

Letter to the Editor

Spooksville was a frightfully good time for all!

Dear Everyone,

Thank you so much for turning Spooksville 2023 into a massive success! Close to 30 displays, hundreds and hundreds of great kids, and amazing weather made it our most successful ever!

Many thanks to the incredible Bootified Brandon Houses! We all had fun looking at your hard work!

Think of us as you get ready to put up your winter lights! The Reverse Parade is on Dec 17!

Join us!

Thanks again- it was such a fun time

Colleen Wright



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Brandon Area Food Shelf filled with food and care

The Brandon Area Food Shelf Drive, held on Saturday, October 28, was a huge success. It was sponsored by St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church. They collected close to \$900 in donations and roughly 500 lbs of nonperishable items to restock the shelves. A special thanks goes out to Cassie Root and George Howard for organizing this great event. Thanks to all those who helped and to those who gave so generously. Brandon sure does take care of its own

Thank you, Kathy Mathis

Grateful that Gov. Scott signed firearms limit bill

It was April 11, 2018 when Governor Scott took the heroic step of signing legislation that restricted the number of bullets that a firearm magazine can carry, raised the age to 21 to purchase a firearm (with some exceptions), banned bump stocks, required a license to sale and transfer firearms, and created an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO). I happened to be there that day. I was a witness to this historic event. It was not signed behind closed doors but instead took place on the front

It was April 11, 2018 when overnor Scott took the heroic ep of signing legislation that stricted the number of bullets at a firearm magazine can carry, raised the age to 21 to purnase a firearm (with some expenses of the capital in front of an unhappy crowd. Countless signs in the crowd denouncing the idea of any kind of gun regulations, shouts of traitor, and promises to never vote for Scott again were plentiful.

Governor Scott, in his usual calm, measured tone, explained to the people gathered how close we had come to being thrust into the national limelight because of a high school mass shooting. He told of how he carried "the journal of an active shooting" in his coat

pocket, the shocking plan created by a disturbed 18-year-old young man to carry out a high school mass shooting. How he read it in horror over and over again, not wanting to believe something like that could happen in Vermont. He explained his soul-searching that brought him to the point where he realized it was time for a change, that the most important job of a governor is the safety of his people.

I have always wanted to (See Firearms Bill, Page 6)

Why I think that publishing the Police Log is harmful to our communmity

I am writing to share my perspective on the publication of police reports in our Brandon newspaper, since I was part of the recent conversation with Mr. Jupiter and others in our community regarding the purpose of publishing the police log. Given the feedback from Mr. Jupiter and others involved in our conversation, I'm sure any poll we might conduct in our community would indicate support for such publication. We know the public delights in spectacle and anonymous trolling - just log into any social media account to confirm this – but I still am convinced there are strong reasons for not publishing police reports, which I would like to highlight:

1. Insignificant Offenses: A significant portion of our weekly police reports documents minor infractions, like traffic stops, alcohol violations, and domestic disturbances. These reports may provide entertainment value but do little to enhance public safety or understanding of real crime in our community.

2. Lack of Due Process Reporting: The "Reporter" is not a court of law, and our publication lacks the depth of reporting needed to follow up on the outcomes of citations. We merely cite accusations without reporting on the due process, ensuing trials or other mediation, and whether the accused were found guilty or not. This

approach contradicts the principle that one is innocent until proven guilty.

3. Unhelpful Policing of Policing: Police reports often lack the nuance that might reveal instances of social, economic or racial profiling or other problematic policing practices. Mr. Jupiter argues for transparency, but publishing these reports without critical examination makes it appear as if the police actions are more objective than they may be. If a review of the police log reveals a crime or series of crimes that is of meaningful interest and community concern, or police activity that brings into question what transpired, I hope we have the wis-

(See Police Log harm, Page 6)

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Letters to the editor

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

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

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

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

Firearms Bill

(Continued from Page 5) thank Governor Scott for that soul search and for asking the legislature to beef up the state firearm laws. I would also like to thank the legislature for being brave enough to take up the challenge and make it happen. After the mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine last week, where 18 innocent people out for a night of bowling and fun lost their lives with 13 others injured, I began to think about that April day again. I thought about not only the people that lost their lives in such a senseless way but about all the people this horrible event will affect in a negative way for years to come. The nightmares that will haunt the people who manage to survive, the survivor

guilt itself, the pain felt by the loved ones that are left behind.

I don't know that we will ever understand why one person feels that they have the right to inflict this kind of trauma on their fellow citizens, but I'm glad I live in a state that has taken some action to prevent such an event from happening here. I find it mindand soul-numbing the number of mass shootings we have to endure each year, but they always seem to be in faraway places until now. New England has had the reputation of being the part of our country with the least amount of violent crime. Maine has for years been the safest with New Hampshire and Vermont trading the number two spot. Now this.

Is it a guarantee that by changing a few laws Vermont will never see a mass shooting? No, it is not. As a matter of statistics, we will most likely see one at some point in our history. But only a fool thinks change will come without effort, and some effort was taken in April of 2018. Thinking about the mass shooting in Lewiston, it brought back to my mind how close we came to becoming yet another state in the nation that had experienced a mass shooting. We didn't because of some incredible luck, luck that our leaders took advantage of and turned into action. For that action I am grateful.

Devon Fuller Brandon

Police Log harm

(Continued from Page 5) dom to investigate all sides and then report.

- 4. Perception of Crime: Publishing weekly police reports may create the false impression that our community is plagued by crime when actual data suggests otherwise. This can contribute to unnecessary fear and alarm, overshadowing the fact that many offenses in the reports are relatively minor. It can also exacerbate existing socio-economic divisions, further driving wedges into our community.
- 5. Contribution to the Poverty-Prison Cycle: Publishing names of arrestees without considering the long-term consequences for individuals

can have devastating effects on their lives. It can hinder their ability to secure employment and break free from the cycle of poverty and crime. Since information is now captured electronically and can "live" in perpetuity online, a seemingly harmless local newspaper mention has potential to be catalogued forever and haunt an individual in their future search for housing, work, and other opportunities.

6. Resource Allocation: Focusing on minor crime stories may divert resources away from more critical investigative journalism. In some cases, important issues such as environmental concerns may be overlooked in favor of quick,

sensational crime reporting.

7. Public Judgment and Sensationalism: Readers and viewers often engage in judging those in their community based on crime stories. These stories generate gossip and do little to inform the public and, in some cases, foster a culture of ridicule.

I believe that the publication of police reports, particularly in a small-town newspaper like ours, should be reconsidered. Instead of devoting valuable space to minor incidents and potentially harmful sensationalism, we should redirect our resources towards more substantive reporting that truly benefits our community.

I thank Steven for the thoughtful and respectful conversation, and I thank the BPD for keeping us safe and enforcing the law. Finally, thank you for considering my perspective on this matter, and I hope we can engage in meaningful discussion about the role of police reports in The Reporter.

Sincerely, Lisa Peluso Brandon

Taxes are due and bingo is fun!

are due, paid in full, on Wednesday, Nov 15. Postmarks are not accepted as proof of timely payment. She is in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 am to 2pm.

Sat., Nov 11, at 1pm at the Senior Center. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

Mosquito District

(Continued from Page 1)

leged that when the Haydons confronted Mr. Perkins about the spraying, Mr. Perkins negligently sprayed them directly with pesticide when he attempted to demonstrate the sound made by the truck's pump as opposed to the sprayer.

The Haydons subsequently lodged a formal complaint against the District with the Agency, which resulted in the Agency sending an inspector, Specialist Clark Parmalee, to investigate the claims. Mr. Parmalee met with other members of the District staff and examined the District's equipment. The letter stated that Parmalee was able to determine that even if the sprayer was turned off, the pump could still spray residual insecticide left in the lines. Mr. Parmalee was also able to obtain records from the District that showed that a neighboring property to the Haydons had been sprayed on June 20, indicating that the spray truck was on the Haydons' street that day.

The Agency seeks to impose penalties totaling \$7,500 for the incident in Leicester.

The letter also alleged that on September 6, 2023, the District misused an insecticide called PermaSease 3-15 along two routes in Brandon. The specific allegation is that the truck used to spray the insecticide was not equipped with a flow meter to ensure that the proper amount of insecticide was released from the truck. The letter went on to state that Specialist Parmalee inspected the trucks used by the District in Brandon on September 6, 2023 and did not observe any equipment on either vehicle that would allow measurement of the amount of pesticide in the tanks.

The Agency seeks to impose a penalty of \$1,625 for the incident in Brandon.

The District called the special meeting of its Board of Trustees to decide its response to the Agency's letter. The members of the Board agreed to request a hearing with the Agency to explain the District's opposition to the penalties and to dispute the allegations in the letter. The Board declined to specify the exact reasons for its disputation of the Agency's claims, stating only that there was a difference in interpretation of the events.

Board member Bradley Lawes of Brandon stated that he'd been through this process with the "multiple times" (unrelated to the District) and that a discussion with the state often resulted in a reduction or suspension of proposed penalties. If the state pursued the penalties regardless, the District should appeal the decision and retain counsel at that point, Mr. Lawes continued.

Dr. Ben Lawton of Brandon, who's been on the Board since 1990, said that he couldn't recall any similar situations in his history with the District. This statement ran counter to an assertion by former Board member Wayne Rausenberger that the District had received similar fines in the past but never paid them.

The Board stated that payment of the full set of penalties (\$9,125) would reduce the District's cash reserves by half and greatly impair its ability to carry out its work.

Leicester News

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds property owners that taxes

Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on

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

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

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Preserving the spirit of 1620

BRANDON TOWN MANAGER Seth Hopkins has been installed as the 34th Governor of the Vermont Society of Mayflower Descendants. The group "endeavors to preserve and extend the memory of the Mayflower Pilgrims of 1620," according to Mr. Hopkins. The organization has 500 members in Vermont and is composed of direct descendants of Mayflower passengers. Here, Mr. Hopkins receives the gavel of office from his predecessor in the position, Mrs. Peggy Sherlock. Mr. Hopkins pledges to bring some of the Society's events to Brandon during his tenure.

Brandon Energy Committee

Why button up, green up, save up?



The most expensive decision you can make is to do nothing!!

This claim rings true for steps you can take to weatherize you home, add heat pumps, and/or install solar systems.

This is especially true now with the newly passed federal 'Inflation Reduction Act', with state supported incentive programs, and a host of just common sense ways to save.

The Brandon Energy Committee with support from SolarFest is offering an opportunity to learn about the costs and benefits of three key programs: weatherization, heat pumps, and solar installations. The program on November 8th from 5:30 to 7 PM at the Town Hall will cover these topics and give you an opportunity to talk one on one with lenders, vendors and installers.

One surprising perspective will be offered by the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Coun-

cil which serves Brandon. Their program provides free weatherization and heat pump installation for those who qualify. Qualification criteria is far more favorable than most of us, including myself expect. They offer a "whole house assessment" of energy related problems and opportunities. They offer state of the art building diagnostics, including blower door, carbon monoxide, and heating system and infrared scans. They provide full service energy efficiency retrofits, including dense pack sidewall insulation, air sealing, attic insulation, and heating system upgrades and replacements.

There are options to consider for heat pumps and solar installations that we will cover. You will be able to speak with contractors about your specific needs and questions. You will also be able to learn about financing options that allow you to pay for upgrades through energy cost savings you achieve.

Do join us on November 8th by registering at solarfest.org/ brandon. A light meal will be provided for free.

Jim Emerson, for the Brandon **Energy Committee**



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Sports

Otter Valley Football winds down a successful 2023 season with a loss





OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL ends the season with an impressive 6-3 record. Its final game was on Saturday the 28th, against Springfield. OV fought valiantly but Springfield prevailed 18 to 12. Looking forward to the 2024 season! Go Otters!

Photos by Virginia Carroccia

Otters impress at Cross Country State Championships

BY BARBARA EBLING

THETFORD – High School runners from around Vermont gathered at Thetford Academy on Saturday for the State Cross Country Championships. Otter Valley runners posted impressive results in the 5-kilometer race, with junior Luke Calvin placing top for OV and 22nd among Division III Boys with 21:00.1. In his final race for OV, senior Baker LaRock placed 35th with 22:34.5. Otter Valley runners rounding out the results were Jonathan Johnson, 22:56.4; Eli Bagley, 23:30.7; Cooper Rubright, 33:35.5, and Jackson Rawls, 41:34.2. In Division III Girls, junior Sara Loyzelle placed 29th, with a time of 27:04.2.

Top finishers in each division:

Division I Boys: Carson Eames (St. Johnsbury), 16:56.1

Division I Girls: Alice Kredell (CVU), 19:49.3

Division II Boys: Cyrus Hansen (U-32), 16:56.8

Division II Girls: Ginger Long (U-32), 20:33.3

Division III Boys: Ben Mattern (Thetford), 17:51.0

Division III Girls: Leila Griffith (Stowe) 20:55.9

From the Lion's Den: a monthly update from the Brandon Forestdale Lions Club

DIAPER DRIVE

State funding to the Vermont diaper bank has been severely cut from approximately \$320,000 a year to \$100,000. These funds help families with limited income have access to free diapers, and diapers as you know are extremely expensive. Imagine not having a lot of money yet having a baby who you need to provide diapers for. There are plenty of people in the state and in this town that are in that predicament. Diapers are a necessity. Not only do they provide comfort to the baby, but they are also essential for a baby's health and well-

District 45 of the Lions Club sees this as an opportunity to provide an essential service. They are starting a statewide diaper drive among Lions. Many local clubs, including the



Brandon Forestdale club, are not only purchasing diapers for the drive, but are also collecting diapers from their communities. We are asking people the next time you go shopping to pick up some diapers to donate. Donations can be brought to the Brandon Food Shelf, located at the Baptist church in Brandon, on Sundays from 12:30 PM to 2 PM, and Tuesdays from noon to 3 PM. You may also have your diapers picked up by a Lion if you prefer. Just call Fred at (802) 247–6722 (after November 9th), Bruce at (802) 558-5449, or Sandy at (802) 779-2486.

If there's anyone reading this that needs diapers, you may pick them up at the Brandon Food Shelf within the above hours. Or you can go to either the Addison County Parent

Child Center, 126 Monroe St., Middlebury, Vermont or the Rutland County Parent Child Center located at 61 Pleasant St., Rutland, VT.

In other news from the Brandon Forestdale Lions, it was a quiet month but we did manage to get out and sell some baked goods and rip tickets at the local Harvest Fair. Thanks to all of you who came out and supported us. Thanks to the generosity of the Ripton Distillery in Brandon, we always have our rip tickets on sale. So, if you're feeling lucky, stop in and say hello to them and buy a ticket. Even if you don't win, you do, because remember EVERY NICKEL WE RAISE FROM THE COMMUNITY GIVE BACK TO THE COM-MUNITY.





Page 10 — The Reporter, Novermber 1, 2023



STUDENT: Jaelyn Martin

GRADE: 7

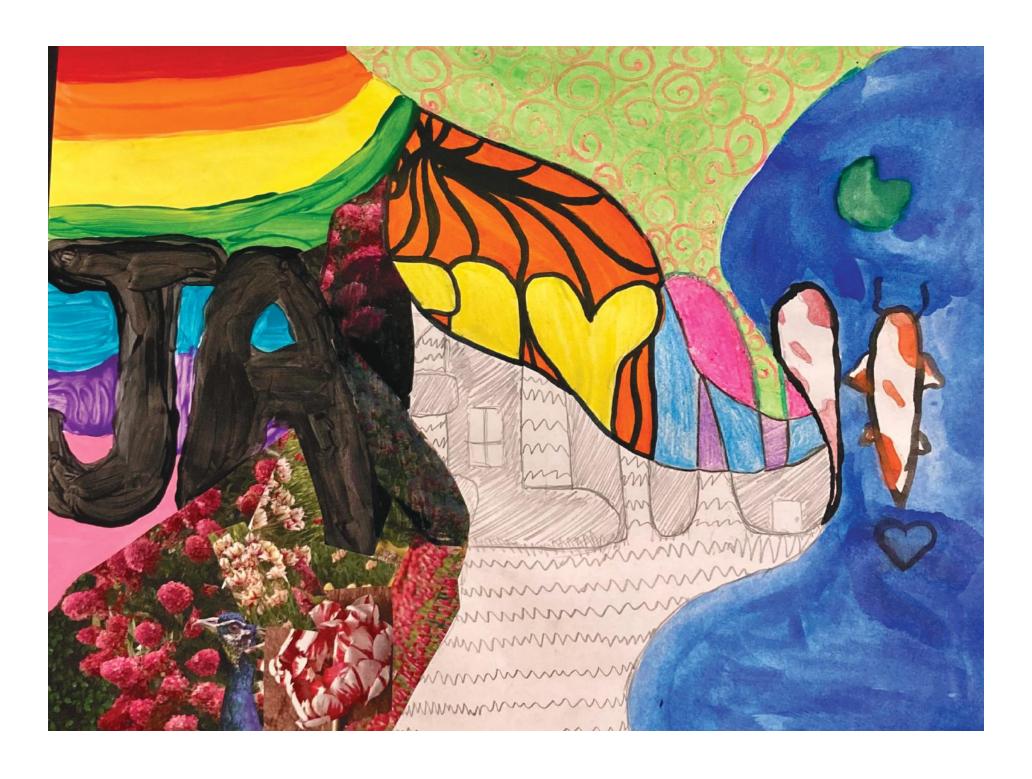
SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle

School

TITLE: Name Art

MEDIUM: Multimedia

TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz



Brandon Brain Buster

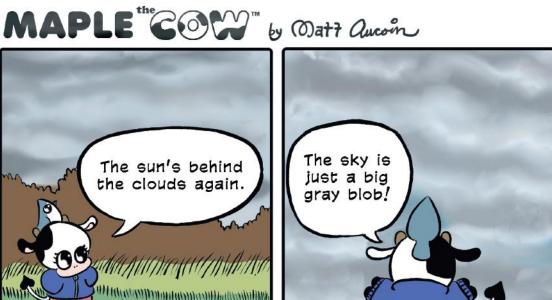
A certain panel has three colored lights: red, blue, and yellow. The red light flashes every 5 minutes. The blue light flashes every 6 minutes. The yellow light flashes every 7 minutes. If all three lights flash simultaneously at noon, what is the next time

at which they will all flash simultaneously again?

- A) 12:18 p.m.
- B) 12:35 p.m.
- C) 2:00 p.m.
- D) 3:30 p.m.
- E) 3:45 p.m.

Answer on pg.21

The sun's behind the clouds again





attalaenhimminanmonnykalionnykk

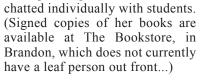




Local kids learn to write scary stories from pro at Lothrop



PITTSFORD - Young fans of internationally acclaimed Vermont author Katherine Arden gathered at Lothrop Elementary School on Thursday, October 19 to learn more about writing scary stories. The event - organized by RNESU librarians Hannah Fjeld (Neshobe School), Erin Bodin (Otter Creek Academy), and Christine Tate (Lothrop School) - gave students the chance to meet and ask Ms. Arden questions about where she gets her ideas, what scares her, and how a book makes it from idea to publication. Among her books is the quartet of middle-grade novels Small Spaces, Dead Voices, Dark Waters, and Empty Smiles, each book taking place in a different season. Arden, a former Brandon resident, based the creepy scarecrows in the 2020 Golden Dome Award-winning Small Spaces on Brandon's "Leaf People." After the question-and-answer period, Arden signed copies of her books and





ON THE LEFT: L to R: Christine Tate, Hannah Fjeld, Katherine Arden, Erin Bodin. On the right: L to R: Olivia Gibbs, Katherine Arden, Amelia Gibbs, Caledonia Gibbs.

Photo credit: Barbara Ebling





BRANDON'S 'SPOOKSVILLE' A big success at Estabrook. Hundreds of kids (and parents) put on their Halloween best and went trunk-or-treating at Estabrook Park on Friday, October 27th. The event included over 30 candy-dispensing displays, DJ Bill "Banana" Moore, EmmaJean Hoops, and a whole lot of fun. It was perfect weather and a perfect way for families to celebrate Halloween safely.



Calendar of events

November

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

Come explore Conant

Brandon on Saturday, No-

vember 4. A day of events

chance to learn new things,

Architect and teacher

meant to give people a

make new connections,

and build community.

Robert Black will give

a talk exploring ideas of

"homes and homelessness"

at the Brandon Free Public

Sister Wicked will host

"Tea & Tarot" from 4 to

Library at 2 p.m.

Square in downtown

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 literacybased 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.

Conant Square Celebrates!

The Conant Square Gal-

lery will offer an art talk

music from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Bookstore will

present readings from 2 to

ery and Nifty Thrifty will

Come learn from and

connect with people you

may not know. Make new

the Brandon and Conant

friends. Help celebrate

Square communities.

be open as well.

Gourmet Provence Bak-

from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and

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.

125th Proctor Fire Department Celebration Sunday November 5, 2023

Come meet your Proctor Firemen from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Proctor High School Gym. The recognition ceremony will begin at 3:30. Historical display~ Refreshments ~ Try on Turnout Gear~ Firetruck Photos



Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on email list.

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.



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

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.



Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of Pong!"

For further

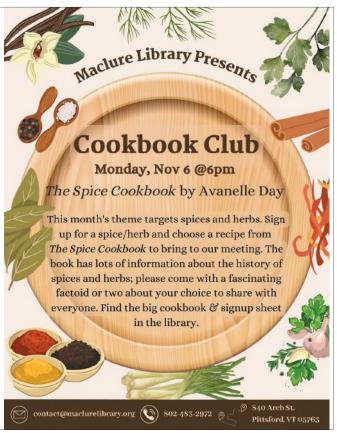
information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

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

From 10:30–11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscientious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

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

We spend a fair amount of the time exercising in a seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think will soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you in class!



Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

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

From 11am-Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating

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

Friday 3rd

COCOON Brings True Stories to the Stage

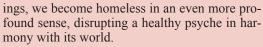
Middlebury, VT—The Mahaney Arts Center will host the live performance event Cocoon, inspired by the popular storytelling phenomenon The Moth, on

At Home In The World Lecture at Brandon Free Pulic Library 2 p.m., November 4th.

As an Architect, I designed houses, constructed from tangible materials, shelters built to protect inhabitants - from heat, cold, rain, and snow. These physical structures also became reliquaries for myriad objects people amassed to give meaning to their lives.

"Meaning" makes a house a

"Meaning" makes a house a "home". The feeling of home generates a sense of physical well being in the house's inhabitants. As the physical structure falls into disarray, we become homeless, and our senses descend into fear and despair. Moreover, to the extent that our architectural houses are not in harmony with their natural surround-



Moreover, through our philosophical capacities, we speculate on life beyond this world, where we can never be homeless. This is the point where we created "religions" to imagine

some "perfect" world beyond this imperfect world, a mythical home that never changes or brings us discomfort.

This talk will explore ideas of homes and homelessness, imagined over many generations and incarnated into the world of matter. Compelling images and creative personal expressions will portray how much at home we are in this place and in this moment.

Robert Black lives in Downtown Brandon with partner/artist Fran Bull. He is a licensed architect, teacher, artist and professional facilitator. Educated at the University of Minnesota and in Europe, he also has

special training in vocal & instrumental music, Spanish language, photography, graphic design, contact dance and improvisational theatre. He serves our larger community as a member of the Downtown Brandon Alliance, Brandon Energy Committee, Vermont Community Foundation and as a Trustee of the Henry Sheldon Museum.



Rutland County

Audubon Event

November 9th

Join us at 8 a.m. at the kiosk on Marble

St. in West Rutland for a 4 mile bird walk

around the WR Marsh. Go half way if you

like. Wear sturdy shoes and warm clothing.

Bring water. This will be held rain or shine.

birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org

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 preregister 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

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!

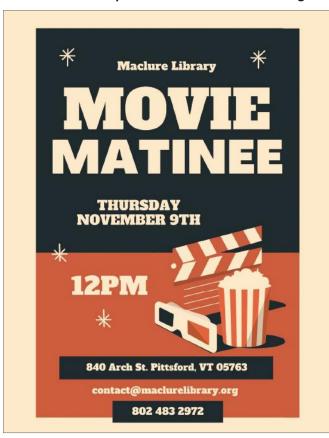
Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

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 Mor-



genstern '24, Ewan Inglis '24, Rach Peck '25, as well as Nichols and Wilson, in partner-



ship 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.

Saturday 11th

GoshenVT Historical Society - Open House

Looking to learn more about the history of our beautiful mountain town? Enjoy history in general? Interested in becoming a member?

Join us from 2-4 p.m. at the Goshen Town Hall. There will be information, displays and items of interest plus refreshments for all.

For info or questions contact Madine Reed @ 802-353-9554

Saturday 18th

Investigating Genocide with Josh White

Beginning at 4 p.m., at the Maclure Library. What can genocide teach us about human behavior? Why do perpetrators not consider their actions during a genocide murder?

Why do people stand by and do nothing?

Do rescuers share a personality trait? Join us at the library with Alfred Lerner Fellow Josh White who seeks to explore these questions.

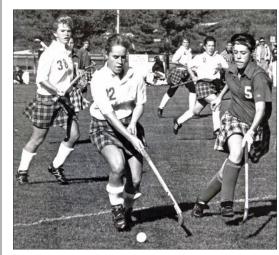
Mim's

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

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

Or call us at 247-8080

Recognized



Sally Cook of Brandon identified the girl in the front-center position as Tammi "Moran" Blanchard. The girl on the left side (#38) is her own daughter, Ashlie Cook. Sally says the photo is probably from 1990.

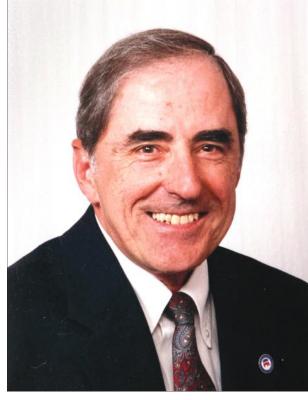












Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A way to drop
- 4. Bits per inch
- 7. Ghosts
- 12 Presents
- 15. Noises
- 16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
- 18. Elevated railroad
- 19. A way to drench
- 20. The Tarheel State
- 21. Lilly and Manning are two
- 24. Where golfers begin
- 27. Harvester
- 30. Unit of subjective loudness
- 31. Jewish calendar month
- 33. Dash
- 34. Armed conflict
- 35. Daisy __: Broadway actress
- 37. Jump
- 39. Get free of
- 41. A written proposal or reminder
- 42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
- 44. African country
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Used to treat Parkinson's disease
- 49 route
- 50. Ed Murrow's home
- 52. Lethal dose
- 53. Give cards incorrectly
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. In an incisive way
- 64. Mark Wahlberg's screen partner
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mountain in the Julian Alps 2. A domed or vaulted recess
- 3. Trade agreement
- 4. Larger
- 5. Edged
- 6. Data
- 7. Something curved in shape
- 8. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 9. Farm state
- 10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- 11. Short-term memory
- 12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 13. Honor as holy
- 14. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 17. Company that rings receipts
- 22. City in Finland
- 23. Small finch
- 24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 26. Very willing
- 28. Partner to "oohed"
- 29. Turntable
- 32. Major Hindu deity
- 36. Move head slightly
- 38. Plain-woven fabric
- 40 Die
- 43. Shipped as cargo
- 44. Something highly prized
- 45. Individual thing or person
- 46. Humbled
- 51. Speak indistinctly
- 54. No seats available
- 55. Financial obligation
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Singer Charles
- 62. Camper

3 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 20 18 19 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 31 30 32 33 34 35 37 38 36 39 40 41 42 43 47 48 44 45 52 49 50 53 58 59 54 55 56 57 61 62 63 64 65

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

			S	1	а				а	3	1			
		Υ	٦	Τ	N	A	٨	Я	3	S	8	0		
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3	1	н	1	Α	Я	d		٦	٧	3	а	s	1	M
а	٦							S	8	О			N	3
A	Ч	0	а		а	A	Я		٧	3	Ν	1	n	Э
٦	0	Ν	3		0	M	3	M		а	1	Я		
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Я	3	Ч	٧	3	Я		3	3	Τ		S	1	٦	3
၁	N			1	3	Я							٦	3
Ν	3	M	0	Ν	9	A		S	Т	3	К	၁	A	Я
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12th Annual Killington **5K Turkey Trot to Benefit RCHS**

Join us Thanksgiving morning, November 23, at 9:30 a.m. for the 12th Annual Killington 5K Turkey Trot at the Pickle Barrel in Killington benefitting the Rutland County Humane Society and the Killington World Cup Foundation! Walk, trot, or run the race. Fun for all ages! The entrance fee is \$30 or \$35 on race day. Register before November 8th for a free t-shirt! Race day registration will start at 8 a.m. The bar will be open, with live music playing and great raffle prizes! We are running rain, snow or ice. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information visit https://killingtonturkeytrot.com/.

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

MEET COOKIE - 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. 45 POUNDS. HOUND MIX. What a road this girl has had! When she arrived at RCHS on August 4th she was missing most of her hair, her ears were horribly infected, and she was terrified of the world. After some good ol' TLC, some allergy treatments, and some time she is now unrecognizable! Once you meet her you will quickly see why she is a staff favorite! She is as sweet as can be and wants nothing more than to be by your side all the time! Cookie seems to get along well with other dogs, but it will be important that if you have a dog at home, you bring them in for a meet and greet. It will also be important for Cookie's new owners to understand that her allergies are going to be something that she will live with for the rest of her life and that she will need to establish a relationship with her vet so they can help point you in the right direction for her needs. If Cookie seems like the girl for you, please come into the adoption center Tuesday-Saturday 11am-4pm!

MEET BUDDY - 6 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE, DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. ORANGE, This handsome

boy is as sweet as pie! He is a bit shy at first, but once he warms up to you, he will be your best friend. He will most definitely be a lap cat in his new home. He came to us on October 3rd as an owner surrender. He was brought to us because he was not getting along with the other cat in the house. Therefore, he should probably be the only feline in the house. We have no history on how he will do with dogs or kids. Moving forward his food will need to be measured because he is a tad chunky. He has also had some dental work done in the past so, that is something that will need to be monitored in his new home. He is currently hanging out at Petco so, if this cuddle bug sounds the cat for you, please stop by Petco to visit with him! His bags are packed, and he is ready for his next adventure. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.





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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS

Just One Flake by Travis Jonker

Determined to catch the perfect snowflake, Liam sticks out his tongue and tries a bunch of tricks. When nothing works, he gives it one last shot, finally catching a flake in an unexpected way.

There was a Party for Langston by Jason Reynolds

You are INVITED. To a most marvelous party. For a most marvelous man. Langston Hughes. King o' Letters. Renaissance Man. So don't be shy. Come on in.

Is this...Winter? by Helen Yoon

High five! It's winter! For one spirited little puppy, winter means romping in the snow, birds to chase, fragrant evergreen trees, and joy, joy, joy! Then again, winter also means . . . oddly unfriendly deer? Millions of little lights? Contorting inflatable snowmen? If this is all winter too, then winter is kind of . . . weird!

A Daydreamy Child Takes a Walk by Gianni Rodari and Beatrice Alemagna

Little Giovanni is always daydreaming, always paying attention to the small miracles that lead him to lose track of the big picture. So even though he's promised his mama to keep his

DID YOU KNOW?

Local artist Robert Black will be giving a presentation downstairs in the Town Hall on the philosophy of "home" through images and philosophy, based on his experience as an architect. Saturday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m.

eyes open on his walk, he can't help but get distracted. Here, Rodari highlights the gorgeous way children give themselves over to their attention to the world.

The Puppets of Spelhorst by Kate DiCamillo (Junior Chapter Book)

Shut up in a trunk by a taciturn old sea captain with a secret, five friends—a king, a wolf, a girl, a boy, and an owl—bicker and boast, but they all agree they are part of a larger story. When at last their shared fate arrives, landing them on a mantel in a blue room in the home of two little girls, the truth is more astonishing than any of them could have imagined.

Cat Ninja 5: Cat's Claw (Junior Graphic Novel) by Matthew Cody, Chad Thomas

When a notorious band of ninjas discovers a certain Metro City hero wearing their colors and practicing their Kat Fu, their leader sets out to settle an old score.



Large Print Donations from Brenda Whittaker:

The Exchange by John Grisham, donated in memory of "Judge" Chet Ketcham

Fifteen years after the events of The Firm, Mitch and Abby are living in Manhattan, where Mitch is a partner at the largest law firm in the world. When a mentor in Rome asks him for a favor that will take him far from home, Mitch finds himself at the center of a sinister plot that has worldwide implications.

The Secret by Lee Child, donated in memory of Tom P. Whittaker

1992. All across the United States respectable, upstanding citizens are showing up dead. They don't appear to be connected—until a fatal fall from a high-floor window. The Secretary of Defense wants an interagency task force and he wants Jack Reacher as the army's representative. If Reacher gets a result, great. If not, he's a convenient fall guy. Three questions quickly emerge: Who's with him, who's against him, and will the justice he dispenses be the official kind...or his own kind?

Police kept running to find accidental alarms all around town

October 23

- Foot patrol in downtown area.
- Brandon Police Department (BPD) K-9 Unit was called to assist Vermont State Police (VSP) with a K-9 track for a runaway juvenile from the Lothrop School in Pittsford. The juvenile was located a short time later and it was determined that the K-9 was no longer needed.
- Vehicle stop on Country Club Road for failure to obey stop sign. Warning given.
- BPD responded to a residence on High Pond Road for a report that a mental-health client had made a threat to harm his home-care provider. The incident was subsequently handled by Rutland County Mental Health

October 24

- BPD responded to Hollow Road for a possible burglary in progress. A homeowner believed she heard someone inside her residence. Responding officers did not find any evidence of unlawful entry.
- Vehicle stop on Willowbrook Road at Route 73 for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop at Park Street and Marble Street for stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Carver Street for failure to signal turn. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street for stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for equipment violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for operating without an inspection sticker. Ticket issued.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for blocking an intersection at a traffic light. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display inspection tag. Warning issued.
- BPD responded to a holdup alarm at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street which turned out to be a false alarm.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop for speeding on Arnold District Road. Vehicle was not insured. A ticket was issued to the operator and the vehicle was towed from the scene. The operator, Makayla Hatch, had an active cite-andrelease warrant in Addison County and was issued a cita-

Brandon

Police Report

tion to appear in court.

• Foot patrol on Center Street.

October 25

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- A Be-On-The-Lookout was issued for a vehicle in Leicester, coming into Brandon, with an operator who may have been intoxicated. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for cellphone usage while driving. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for following too closely. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- BPD responded to a residential burglary alarm on Wheeler Road. No suspicious activity was detected at the residence.

October 26

- Two-car vehicle accident at the intersection of Franklin Street and High Street. At least one occupant sustained injuries and was transported to the hospital. Officers determined that the accident was caused by one driver following too closely to the other. A ticket was later mailed to the operator at fault.
- A Be-On-The-Lookout was issued to BPD for a vehicle that had evaded a traffic stop in Middlebury and appeared to be heading to Brandon. BPD was unable to locate the vehicle.

October 27

- Vehicle stop for moving violation on Park Street. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Forestdale Road. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for an uninspected vehicle. Ticket issued for failure to carry proof of registration. Warning issued for the lack of inspection.
- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road for cellphone violation. Ticket issued.
- A resident of Park Street reported an incident in which a male knocked on her door shortly after midnight asking for gas money. The resident

(See Police report, Page 19)



thelp 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) told the man that she would call 911 if he did not leave. The man departed the scene without further incident and the resident was not able to supply a description of him.

- BPD served an outstanding arrest warrant at a residence on Franklin Street. Jacob Delfenthal was taken into custody and brought before a judicial officer at the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division.
- · BPD responded to numerous complaints about a woman in a bathrobe yelling at passing cars at the intersection of Newton Road and North Street. The responding officer checked the area and spoke with residents but did not locate the woman.
- · BPD responded to Franklin Street for an iPhone Crash Alert activation. The area was searched, but no signs of a crash were detected.
- BPD responded to a complaint made by a landlord on Franklin Street that a tenant that had just been evicted had caused an extensive amount of damage to the apartment she had lived in. Complaint under investigation.
- · BPD removed a deceased cat from the roadway on Grove Street
- · Officers passed out candy during Trunk or Treat during Spooksville at Estabrook Park.

- Retail theft reported at Union Street Market. Incident under investigation.
- A citizen dropped off a wallet that he had found in the Haunted House in Pittsford. The wallet was returned to its
- Property watch at Union Street Market.
- Property watch at Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.

October 28

- BPD assisted a Brandon resident with obtaining insurance information following a parking lot collision that occurred the night before.
- BPD conducted security detail at the OV playoff football
- · BPD responded to a juvenile problem on Church Street in which the child was reported to be out of control and verbally abusive. The responding officers were able to de-escalate the situation and calm the child down. Information was provided by the officers to the parent about possible resources that she could seek to assist her in dealing with her child in the
- BPD has been investigating a series of threats against a Brandon resident.
- · Directed patrol on Franklin Street. One vehicle was stopped and a ticket was issued

as a result of the stop.

- · Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Ticket issued.
- · Vehicle stop on Forestdale Road. Two of the four occupants, Larry Lanpher of Leicester and Laryssa Dutton of Middlebury, were arrested on outstanding warrants and transported to Marble Valley Correctional Facility for lodg-
- BPD responded to a residence on Barlow Avenue after receiving a report from a woman stating that her significant other had assaulted. As a result of their investigation upon arrival, Ronald C. Bruce of Brandon was arrested and charged with Domestic Assault. Bruce was later released on a citation to appear in the Rutland Coun-Superior Court-Criminal Division on 10/30/23 at 12:30 p.m. for arraignment.
- BPD received a complaint about unsafe ATV use in Forestdale. A directed patrol was conducted in the area, but no ATVs were observed.
- BPD assisted Brandon Fire and Brandon Rescue with multiple alarms activated on Bryant Circle.

Police responded to an alarm at OVUHS. It was determined that basketball players waiting for practice had set it off accidentally.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES March 21–April 20

GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, you may not have had the entire any way you can. story, but you certainly will get it this week It's up to you to make up your mind how you **SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 want to act on the information you gather.

CANCER June 22–July 22

For some reason you are really interested in a by noisy distractions in the days ahead. friend or family member's behavior and comings and goings, Cancer. Are you having trust issues? Give them the benefit of the doubt

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

A romantic adventure may prove the catalyst Capricorn, you have been making pleasure for change in your life, Virgo. Many exciting and play time your priority of late. It's now prospects are ahead if you allow yourself to time to get down to business. Own up to your get swept along in the momentum of your responsibilities.

well. Figure out some goals on a personal or

TAURUS April 21–May 21
Taurus, do not worry about being passionate about what you do. If you weren't this passionate, you may not be able to persuade others to listen up and follow your suggestions

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23
Unchecked anxiety can lead you down a slippery slope, Libra. It's not easy facing new situations, but worrying about things before it is necessary will not do right now.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, you are no stranger to psychic feel-ings. This week you know what a loved one is thinking and want to help this person out in

Sagittarius, you cannot control the world or others' behaviors. All you can do is control how you react to situations. Don't be sidetracked

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Virgo, ambition may be good for the work-place, but you need it in your personal life as Unraveling old patterns or actions will be good for you right now, Aquarius. If you therapist to get to the root of any issues.

Anna Wintour, editor, Nov. 3 Vogue (74) Matthew McConaughey, Nov. 4 actor (54)

Eliud Kipchoge, marathoner (39) Suleiman the Magnificant, Ottoman Emperor, poet, (d) Joni Mitchell, Nov. 6

Nov. 7

singer-songwriter (80) Alfre Woodard, actor (71) Susan Tedeschi singer, guitarist (53)



Stunning home in Pittsford with the classic features and flow of the 1850's vintage original and with countless modern improvements. High-end kitchen remodel with new granite counters, formal dining room with hearth & gas stove, sitting area and beautifully rebuilt front porch. Built-in shelves throughout offer elegance and warmth. Upstairs there are 3 of the 4 bedrooms, and a private sitting area with

balcony. A slate patio overlooks the large, level, landscaped yard, fully surrounded by upscale fencing. Both full bathrooms have been tastefully remodeled. \$385,000

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Boo!!!!!

WINNERS OF THE Bootify Brandon Halloween Decorating Contest!

1ST PLACE: KELLY Rasmussen at 425 Prospect Street (brown house)

2ND PLACE: SHIRLEY Scott at 1548 Forestdale Road (gray house)

3RD PLACE: JUSTIN Cram at 23 Mount Pleasant Street (yellow house)

DRIVE BY AND see their fantastic decorations!
Congrats to all! Job well

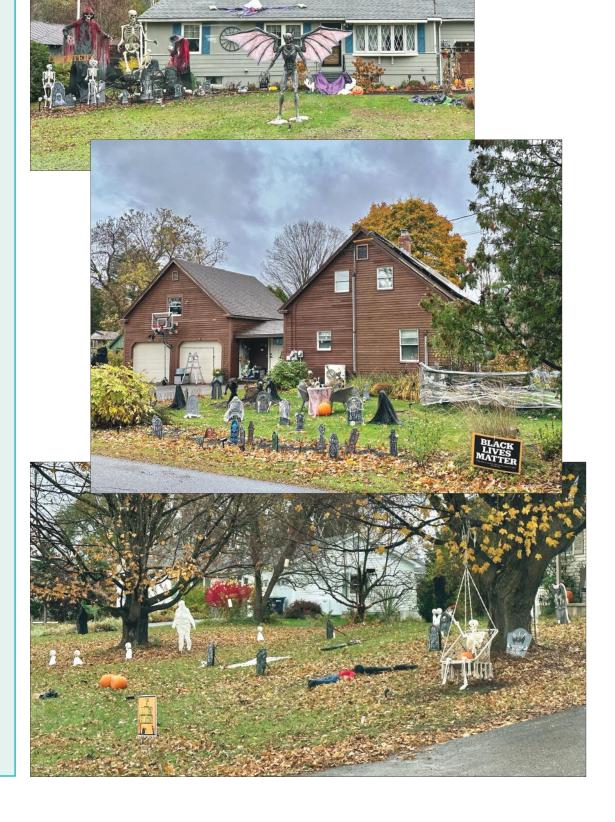


Restaurant guide





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Brandon/Forest Dale Lions Club chooses poster design winners

Every year, the Brandon Forest-dale Lions sponsor an international peace poster contest, and our local Lions Club sponsors area students to participate. Pictured here are this year's participants from the Neshobe Elementary School. This year's winner for the local level was Esmé Davis, who was awarded \$25 from the Brandon Forestdale Lions. Her poster will be in the competition for

the District 45 contest. Arion Aberle captured second place and was the proud winner of \$15. Lulu Young finished third and won \$10 for her fine poster. It was hard to pick these winners because everybody in the contest did a fantastic job. These posters will be displayed in various places around town, so keep your eye out for them. If you happen to get to see them, it will certainly be a treat.







Brandon Brain Buster Answered

Answer: D

You could try listing all the times that each light flashes and see which is the soonest that appears on all three lists.

 Red
 Blue
 Yellow

 12:05
 12:06
 12:07

 12:10
 12:12
 12:14

 12:15
 12:18
 12:21

 12:20
 12:24
 12:28

 12:25
 12:30
 12:35

 12:30
 12:36
 12:42

 12:35
 12:42
 12:49

Notice that there are times on these lists when two of the three flash together (e.g., red and blue at 12:30 or blue and yellow at 12:42) but, so far, there is no time that's common to all three. It could take a good deal of work to find that time if we continue with these lists.

Instead, if we think about why red & blue both flash at 12:30 or why blue and yellow both flash at 12:42, we can get to the answer much more quickly. At 12:30, 30 minutes have elapsed since noon. 30 is divisible by both 5 and 6, which is why the red and blue lights (which flash every 5 and 6 minutes, respectively) both flash at that time. The same logic applies to 12:42, when the blue and yellow lights both flash: 42 minutes have elapsed and 42 is divisible by both 6 and 7.

So, the soonest that all three lights will flash simultaneously again will be the smallest number of elapsed minutes that is divisible by 5, 6, and 7. The easiest way to find this number is to multiply 5, 6, and 7: $5 \times 6 \times 7 =$ 210. So, it will take another 210 minutes for all three lights to flash simultaneously again. 210 minutes is 3.5 hours, which means that the next time all three lights will flash simultaneously will be 3:30 p.m

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New housing

(Continued from Page 4) group took to the streets, walking through neighborhoods shown on the map. Residents who lived within the map's borders occasionally poked their heads out of their homes, curious about the two dozen walk-

ers gazing into their properties. Some wondered aloud whether thev would be good spots for apartment buildings.

While some residents may not be interested in the Toproject, masso said, she believes that Vermonters have a greater appetite than ever to reimagine the function of their land New dwellcould ings come in various sizes and shapes that range from the conversion of

an upper barn floor to the construction of a new multifamily

"There's been an

acknowledgement

that this is a solu-

tion that will work

for Vermont commu-

nities, that it's very

bottom-up. It's local

that they would like

further on their own

to maybe develop

lots. It's not a big

corporation or gov-

ernment coming in

housing develop-

of things."

ment in the middle

– Amy Tomasso,

planner for Vermont

a community

and planting a large

people deciding

The project is meant to give potential developers tools and ideas. It could also spur and streamline additional zoning changes in each municipality.

"There's been an acknowledgement that this is a solution

> that will work for Vermont communities, that it's very bottom-up, Tomasso said. "It's local people deciding that they would like to maybe develop further on their own lots. It's not a corporabig tion or government coming in and planting a large housing development in the middle of things."

Rutland In City, Mayor Mike Doenges recently announced a goal to create 1,000 new housing units by 2030.

"It's a de-

manding target," said Andrew Strniste, the city's planning and zoning administrator. "But we want it to be known that we are trying to encourage housing opportunities here in the city.'

Lawmakers funded the project, called Homes for All, through a 2022 appropriations bill, and it follows a decade of policy work aimed at making development easier, Tomasso said. For example, in 2016, a state initiative offered municipalities sample language so they could incrementally update their bylaws.

"Infill housing, denser development isn't even possible in our often-outdated codes," she said.

The HOME Act gave the project an even more robust foundation. Passed during the most recent session, the legislation enacted statewide zoning changes, such as allowing duplexes and creating more flexibility for accessory dwellings, according to Jake Hemmerick, a community planning and policy manager with the state's Department of Housing and Community Development.

"The housing crisis has become so pervasive that a lot more people might want to become developers, or consider themselves a potential developer, than before," Tomasso said.

Classifieds

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Bad moon rising

MOONRISE OVER PARK St. in Brandon. Photo by Steven Jupiter

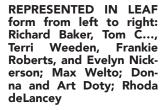
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Brandon Senior Center 'leaf people' honor the departed

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- Leaf people are everywhere in Brandon! There are some special ones at the Brandon Senior Center. According to Kathy Mathis, the Center's leaf people are representations of some of our dearly departed. After one of the seniors

passes on, a request goes out to the family to see if they would like their relative remembered as a leaf person. If so, they donate a favorite outfit and the crew at the Senior Center dresses up one of their stick figures. They're all labeled with badges. Stop by to remember an old friend!



Photos by George Fjeld





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