

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

A community supported newspaper

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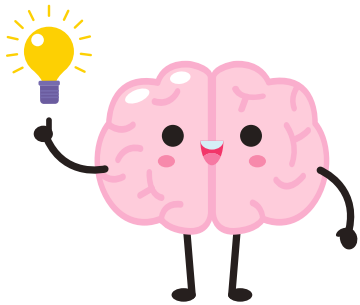
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

\$1

CHANGES AT OVUU

OVUU School Board appoints new members.

PG. 3



BRAIN BUSTER

Brandon Brain Buster is back with a new puzzle! Test your synapses.

PG. 11

BUTTON UP BRANDON

Brandon Energy Committee helps homeowners button up their homes for winter.

PG. 8



SING OUT LOUD

Barn Opera announces its fun-filled holiday/winter schedule.

PG. 3



PG. 10

FRUSTRATING COMMUTE?

Is Route 7 one of the worst highways in America? Find out where it ranks.

PG. 21



Brandon SB discusses trees, downtown, and Grand List

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Monday evening.

Town Manager's Report

After approval of the agenda and minutes, Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins offered his report, the full text of which can be found in the Selectboard packet for 11/13/23 on the town's website.

Highlights from the Town Manager's report included:

The Brandon Historic Preservation Commission is looking for historical material on the Brandon Town Farm, the Teahouse Observatory, and Brandon cemeteries. Anyone who has any such material should contact Dennis Reisenweaver of the Commission or Town Manager Seth Hopkins.

(See Brandon SB, Page 24)



We Remember: Veterans Day 2023

ERIC STRANGE, VETERAN of Desert Storm, delivers the keynote address at the Veterans Day ceremony in Pittsford on Saturday, November 11. Mr. Strange recounted the inspiring relationship he had with an older schoolmate who went on to serve in Vietnam. See pages 14 and 15 for more photos of Veterans Day in Brandon and Pittsford.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Marsha Bruce, longtime Director of Special Services at RNEU, to retire

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In Marsha Bruce's office at Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, (RNEU) there is a painted vinyl album hanging on the wall. Made for Ms. Bruce by Ethan Nelson, a speech language pathologist at Neshobe Elementary School, the album bears a phrase that could be said to sum up Ms. Bruce's approach to her work: "Everyone deserves that respect...that dignity of risk." In other words, every student, no matter what challenges they may face, deserves the opportunity to take risks and, more importantly, to learn from their failures. To protect special-needs students from failure, in this view, is to keep them from reaching their full potential.

A Connecticut native and UVM alum, Bruce has worked in the field since the late 70s, having begun her career at what was then called the Vermont Association for the Crippled (now the Vermont Achievement Center) in Rutland. While working toward a graduate degree in education in the early 80s, she

(See Marsha Bruce, Page 8)



MARSHA BRUCE, DIRECTOR of Special Services for RNEU, will retire at the end of this year after 20+ years helping kids with special needs in the District. Here, she stands next to a vinyl album painted for her by a colleague. It bears the phrase "Everyone deserves that respect...that dignity of risk." Photo by Steven Jupiter

Brandon Budget Committee debates police expansion

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Every fall, the Brandon Budget Committee is tasked with creating a town budget that will be offered for approval to the voters of Brandon at Town Meeting the following March. The Committee is composed of citizens appointed by the Brandon Selectboard and members of the Selectboard itself. This year's appointed members are Doug Bailey, Jan Coolidge, Neil Silins, Barry Varian, Patricia Welch, and Peter Werner.

The Committee held the first of its four scheduled "workshops" on Wednesday, November 8. Among the topics discussed was the budget for the Brandon Police Department (BPD). Members of the Committee had differences of opinion on how best to fund the Department and whether additional personnel were needed to provide adequate coverage to Brandon.

BPD currently has an annual bud- (See Brandon Budget Committee, Page 11)



The second in a series of articles spotlighting individuals who are making a difference in Brandon through gardening.

BY LYN DESMARAIS

BRANDON—During the Segment 6 construction project in Brandon, many small gar-

dens were created in Brandon, adding to the parks we already have: Green, Kennedy, Central, and Crescent. Brandon has one town employee in charge of all of the public spaces: cutting all the grass, edging, and mulching trees and gardens. It

was obvious to Sarah Pattis, a keen gardener, an avid Town of Brandon supporter, and the former owner of the Brandon Inn with her husband Louis, that the town employee would probably welcome some help with these new gardens, as there were no employees added in the budget to maintain the gardens. Sarah continues:

“During Easter 2022, we happened to stay in a small town in Washington state for a week. The town had signs in their public gardens, ‘please adopt this garden.’ I looked at those signs and thought ‘oh, that’s what we need to do in Brandon. We need to divide and share the work.’ I knew that there were a lot of keen gardeners in Brandon from living here so many years. I came home to Brandon. I checked with the town and made sure that I would not tread on anyone’s toes. I counted the number of gardens. There are 27 in total. I started to email people to form a group and spoke with them when I’d see them. I had noticed that the town in Washington used plain municipal signs for those who adopted its gardens. One of Brandon’s

strengths is its wonderful artists.

So, I reached out to Robin Kent and asked if she would help me make original signs. Ed Thomas made the signs. Cindy Thomas and I painted them white. Robin Kent finished painting them with a name and an original design.

The response was great. I gave my gardeners simple instructions. Keep the gardens tidied, weeded, and cut back. Pick up litter and poop and that was it. Almost every one of the gardeners has done much more than I have asked. The gardens took off from there. People are taking real pride in what they’re doing. In some gardens, the gardeners have added perennials, others have added annuals, with some adding both. We have a spring workday and a workday sometime in the fall. We help each other, we clean up the gardens thoroughly, and we plant bulbs and mulch.

The bulbs, mulch, and Robin Kent’s signs that we have added to the gardens are paid for by the Town of Brandon. We try to use local Vermont companies to supply us. We get soil and mulch from local stores. Currently we are getting our bulbs from a company called American Meadows. They are headquartered in Shelburne, Vermont and sell online. Among other things, their wildflowers are in the following gardens: the library, Kirk Thomas’s pocket garden, Bob Reed’s bank, and the Stephen Douglas house. Sally and Warren Foster’s daughter works for American Meadows, so that’s how I heard about them originally.

If anyone wants to help out in these gardens, or adopt one when one becomes available, please contact me or Heather Nelson.”

As part of my series on beautifying Brandon I reached out to

the gardeners who are adopting these gardens and asked them a few questions about why they adopted a garden and what their gardening style is.

The bus stop garden. This garden is on the east side of Center Street near the bus stop, Congregational Church, and cemetery.

“I decided to care for the ‘bus stop garden’ because Sarah needed someone,” says Jessica Doos. “My husband, Jay Merluzzi, agreed to help me care for it. Plants make people happy. The garden was already planted with Catmint, Rudbeckia and some Potentilla bushes. The Catmint buzzes with happy bees in summer. So fun. I gave it a haircut but may need to be more assertive with it! A centerpiece of this garden is Joe Pye Weed, which has sprouted in just the right place. It’s a lovely pollinator-friendly native that bloomed this summer. It gets to stay, of course. I like to have the Rudbeckia seed heads remain all winter for birds and visual interest, though this year it’s been mysteriously deadheaded... Whodunnit? Some bulbs Sarah arranged for will pop up to welcome spring after our long winter.”

Fun fact? The name Joe Pye by some accounts was the name of an actual person in the late 18th-century Massachusetts and was the cognomen or a/k/a of Joseph Shauquethqueat, an indigenous person, possibly Wampanoag or Mohican. It was possibly used to cure typhus and other fevers by making it into a tea. The name entered the English language in 1818, according to Webster’s dictionary. A scholarly article out of Michigan goes into great depth to try to find the origins of the name.

Next time we switch to trees, Part 4 will contain more tips from the gardeners of these 27 gardens.....



Golf Course

NESHOBE
Est. 1958

Member’s Holiday Party

‘Tis the season to come together, celebrate, and share some holiday cheer! We are excited to invite all members to the Neshobe Golf Club Member’s Holiday Party, an event that promises a wonderful evening of festivities, good company, and delectable treats.

Date: December 2nd
Time: 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

This year, we’re making the celebration extra special by extending a warm welcome to your guests. Members may bring their friends, family, and loved ones to join in the merriment and make this gathering a true holiday delight.

Party Highlights:
Complimentary Hors d’Oeuvres: Delight your taste buds with an array of mouthwatering hors d’oeuvres. Our culinary team has prepared a selection of savory and sweet treats to satisfy your palate.

Cash Bar: Enjoy your favorite libations with a fully stocked cash bar. Toast to the holiday season and make memories with fellow members and their guests.

The Member’s Holiday Party is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect with friends, and make new ones as we celebrate the joy of the season. It’s our way of expressing our appreciation for your continued support and camaraderie throughout the year.

The golf course is OPEN!
Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

We can be thankful for Vermont’s wild turkeys

One of our native wildlife species historically played an important role on Thanksgiving Day. North America’s native wild turkeys were the ancestors of the Thanksgiving turkey on our dinner table.

Originally found only in the wild, turkeys now exist as meat-producing domesticated derivatives -- the broad breasted white, broad breasted bronze, white Holland, bourbon red, and a host of other breeds -- all of them descended from our native wild turkey.

More than 140,000 servings of Vermont wild turkeys are har-

vested each year -- that’s 140,000 servings of free-ranging, wild and sustainably harvested protein.

Wild turkeys exist throughout Vermont today, but that was not always the case. Wild turkeys disappeared from Vermont in the mid-to-late 1800s due to habitat destruction when land was cleared for farming and only 25 percent of the state was covered by forest.

The wild turkeys we see in Vermont today originated from just 31 wild turkeys stocked in Southwestern Vermont by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife De-

partment in 1969 and 1970. Vermont’s forest habitat was once again capable of supporting turkeys. State wildlife biologists moved groups of these birds northward, and today Vermont’s population of turkeys is estimated at close to 50,000.

This is just one of many wildlife restoration success stories we can be thankful for in 2023. Funding for Vermont’s wild turkey restoration was derived from the sale of hunting licenses and a federal tax on hunting equipment.

OVUU School Board appoints new members

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—At its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 7, the OVUU Board appointed 2 new board members and resurrected the middle-school concept. Vacancies that had opened on the board because of resignations were filled by secret ballot. Letters of interest were requested and received from Pittsford and Brandon residents. Pittsford resident Brooklyn Markowski was appointed to fill the vacancy created when Eric Pearsons resigned. Brandon resident and former student representative

to the OVUU Board, Pajua W. Gamba was appointed to fill the spot vacated by Derek Larsen. They will be voted on at March's Town Meeting to complete the remaining terms.

The board has decided to revisit the middle-school concept. The process was well along its way when it was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. At that point, the board was considering the creation of a middle school for grades 6-8, either as an addition to the Otter Valley building or as a separate structure. This could occur either on the Otter Valley

grounds or elsewhere. A middle school would have its own programs geared to the students. Superintendent Kristen Hubert and OV principal Michael Ruppel both have expressed their support for this concept. The Reporter will reach out to them for explanation of why it is advantageous to separate these preteens from the older students. Community involvement is anticipated and appreciated.

Policies regarding treatment of staff, communication, and support to the board, and delegation to the superintendent were updated and passed.

In other business, the Board accepted the resignations of Kim Faber (retiring after decades of teaching 5th grade at Neshobe), Mary Heath (retiring after years as PE teacher at Neshobe), Christina Sweet (OV health teacher), and Vicki Wells (principal at Neshobe for the past 2 years).

The Board approved the annual reports of and asked for an update from the administration regarding the Ely Trust and the Booth, Burditt, and Pinney funds. Questions about how the funds could be accessed and used will be answered. The

first reading of the updated Ely Fund Investment Policy was undertaken.

Monthly community forums continue with the focus on values, mission, and vision. September's forum focused on safety and October's on goals, values, and hopes. The next forum will be held on Tuesday, November 28th at the OV library from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The Otter Valley community is invited. Zoom is available.

The board finished its evening with an executive session.

BARN OPERA announces programs for the 2023 Holiday Season

BY THE BARN OPERA TEAM

BARN OPERA (which recently expanded its reach to more Vermonters by launching Opera Vermont) is thrilled to announce a continued effort of community partnership between BARN OPERA and other community organizations throughout New England for the holiday season 2023.

Beginning on November 18th, BARN OPERA (as Opera Vermont) is overjoyed to be partnering with such esteemed organizations as the New England Repertory Orchestra, and Clark University to bring to life one

and BARN OPERA's Artistic and Associate Directors, tenor Joshua Collier and baritone Nicholas Tocci, along with other local and regional vocal talents. For any one company in New England to bring together the number of forces and resources to produce an event of this size would be nearly impossible. However, through collaboration, this magnificent work will be produced in the remarkable acoustic of Mechanic's Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts. While we recognize that this production will not be housed in Vermont, this region-wide event will surely draw spectators from

this year, but in addition to the two performances (5:30 & 7:30 p.m.) at Salisbury Congregational Church on the 21st of December, Williston Congregational Church will be welcoming BARN OPERA into their sanctuary for one day of performances on December 22nd (5:30 & 7:30 p.m.) to invite our friends and neighbors in Williston, and surrounding environs, to experience this beautiful piece. Information and tickets are available now at www.barnopera.com/amahl-and-the-night-visitors To celebrate the arrival of the (See BARN OPERA, Page 11)

the region and beyond. Thanks to the generosity of Clark University, there will not be any admission price for this production, but reservations must be made at www.mechanicshall.org/turandot.

BARN OPERA has developed a reputation over the past 4 years for their heartwarming and poignant production of Amahl & the Night Visitors at Salisbury Congregational Church. Then-

2023 BARN OPERA HOLIDAYS

Puccini's TURANDOT
November 18, 2023
Mechanic's Hall (Worcester, MA)

Menotti's AMAHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS
December 21 & 22, 2023
Salisbury Cong Church (Salisbury, VT)
Williston Federated Church (Williston, VT)

From Venice to Vermont
December 31, 2023
The Brandon Inn (Brandon, VT)

For More Ticket Information
www.barnopera.com

of opera's most spectacular, and well-loved works - Puccini's Turandot. International superstar soprano, and reigning Turandot of our time, Othalie Graham will appear alongside renowned soprano Janinah Burnett as Liù,

wonderful production - headlined by the dream team of Helen Lyons, Ambrose Cusick, Cailin Marcel Manson, Joshua Collier, and Nicholas Tocci, with Kristen Carr leading the production from the piano - will be the same

Chamber Corner Holiday Events

Saturday, Nov. 25—Small business Saturday, shop local!
This celebratory day was founded to encourage consumers across the country to support local, small businesses within their hometowns.

Monday, Dec. 4th through Friday, Dec. 8th—Moonlight Madness
Week of savings and specials! All throughout town! Bargains, sales, specials and drawings. Many shops offering 20% off storewide and you'll have a chance to win \$100 in Brandon Bucks! Shop local! Go to Brandon.org to see each shop's offerings and hours-many stores open till 8:00pm on Wed the 6th and Fri the 8th!

Sunday, Nov. 26—Memory Tree Lighting
Join us in front of the Town Hall to see our pair of beautiful trees, donated by Steve & Elsie Sherrill, lit up to remind us of our loved ones who have passed. Catch the magic of the season at 3:30 p.m. with carol singing by the Brandon Festival Singers. At 4:00 p.m., the Memory Trees are lit to brighten our dark winter months.

Contact - info@brandon.org or 802-247-6401

GO FUND ME SALE!

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LX Coupe, 4cyl, Loaded, 109k miles
\$10,995

2016 JEEP RENEGADE
Trail Hawk, 4X4, Auto, Loaded, 80k miles
\$16,995

2018 KIA SEDONA
SX Limited Van, Loaded, V6, 91k miles
\$21,995

2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
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\$22,995

2011 TOYOTA TACOMA
DB Cab, 4X4, Auto, 6cyl, 177k miles
\$14,995

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In the rural town of Washington, rumors fill the void as details prove scarce in the deaths of 2 women

BY DIANE DERBY/
VT DIGGER

WASHINGTON — At the place where Poor Farm Road meets Route 110, about five miles south of Washington Village, a simple wooden cross stands beside the road sign where Michele Demar's body was found on the morning of Aug. 3.

The cross, placed by her family, is adorned with photos of Demar as a child and as a young woman. It bears her name and a simple heart at the intersection of the wooden pieces.

The 33-year-old woman's death received little attention at the time, as outward appearances suggested her death was by suicide. A press release issued by the Vermont State Police said an autopsy confirmed that Demar's death was due to hanging but added, "the manner of death remains pending." As of this month, her death certificate still said the same.

One gift does double duty this holiday season. Make a donation to support VTDigger's local nonprofit news and you'll also send five meals to the Vermont Foodbank for our neighbors facing hunger. Donate now

"Initial evidence gathered at the scene indicated the death is not suspicious, but this remains an active and open case," state police said in mid-August, encouraging anyone with information to call the agency or leave an anonymous tip.

But Demar's death has received more attention, and more scrutiny, since Oct. 25, when hunters came across the body of a second woman, 23-year-old Tanairy "Tanya" Velazquez Estrada, at the northern end of

Poor Farm Road. The remoteness of the location was not lost on area residents, who were still questioning the circumstances of Demar's death about three miles away and not even three months earlier.

"People come up here to dump tires and trash, not bodies," said Bob Sherman, a retired Montpelier lobbyist and 40-year Washington resident. Velazquez Estrada's body was found about 20 feet from the gate to his property, Sherman said, in or near an old cellar hole at a spot where the rural road turns particularly rugged.

"Clearly, the person who dumped the body didn't have four-wheel-drive," he said. Noting that the remote road has long attracted illicit activities, he added, "I believe they knew exactly where they were going when they left that body there."

Velazquez Estrada, who state police said had lived "most recently" in Barre, had been reported missing by her mother on the same day the hunters found her body, police said. Her mother told police in Fitchburg, Massachusetts that she had not heard from her daughter in more than a week.

The cause of Velazquez Estrada's death remains pending, as toxicology tests are expected to take from "several weeks to several months," state police said.

On Thursday, Maj. Dan Trudeau, who heads the state police Major Crime Unit, confirmed that police "were treating it as a homicide," but offered few other details, citing the importance of protecting the investigation.

In the days following the dis-

(See *Rural deaths*, Page 9)



The littlest birds sing the prettiest songs

ONE OF MY favorites is this Lincoln's sparrow seen at Pomainville Wildlife Management Area in Pittsford.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Rutland County Humane Society Turkey Trot, a fun way to help animals

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. 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!

Brandon Area Toy Project and Silver Bells to collect gifts for kids and seniors

It's that time of year again! The Brandon Area Toy Project (BATP) and Silver Bells are asking the community to help make the holiday season joyous for kids and seniors who might otherwise not receive gifts.

Anyone wanting to donate

gifts to kids or seniors can go down to the Brandon House of Pizza and pick up cards that list the ages and personal interests of the recipients. Both the donors and the recipients remain anonymous.

It's a wonderful way to

spread holiday cheer. Cards can be picked up at Brandon House of Pizza until December 1. Gifts will be dropped off at the American Legion in Brandon on Sunday, December 10 and Monday, December 11.

Gift-of-Life Blood Marathon in Rutland

Vermont's biggest blood drive is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year - with a Rutland resident's story of survival highlighting the need for blood.

The Gift-of-Life Marathon (GOLM) Blood Drive, which began in 2003, will cover four days - Dec. 5, 7, 13, and 15 - and

Rutland resident Alex Adams is serving as ambassador, hoping his story will inspire friends, co-workers, and neighbors to donate to help people like him.

At 34 years old, Adams experienced several life-threatening heart attacks and had three blood clots from a viral infection earlier

this year - but was saved in part by blood donors who had rolled up their sleeves to help people like him.

After being transported from the Rutland Regional Medical Center Emergency Room to the University of Vermont Medical (See *Gift-of-Life*, Page 7)

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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

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

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Letter to the Editor

I agree that the police log is harmful to innocent people accused, identified, but not guilty of crimes

In reference to the letter by Lisa Peluso, "Why I think that publishing the police log is harmful to our community," I agree with this, especially #7. My grandson was charged with cruelty to a child. This happened at the end of March of this year. It was false but the Brandon PD investigated, as was part of their

job. I am not condemning the PD but should they be allowed to print a person's name, whether true or false?

Anyone who knows my grandson knows he couldn't or wouldn't harm any child, especially his own. My grandson went to court on this issue and it was dropped. Until all facts

and findings are in, none of this should be printed. What happened to confidentiality? Nothing should be printed in serious situations unless a person knows and gives their permission.

Wanda Martin
Brandon

Letters to the editor

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

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

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

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

Open letter to the Friends of Otter Valley Football, we couldn't have done it without you

Dear Friends of Otter Valley Football,

As you may know, the Otter Valley Football Club Inc. (OVFC) was established in 1995 as a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization with a singular mission : to support the sport of football at OVUHS along with the values of good sportsmanship, school spirit and community pride.

Recently, the Otter Valley Football Club's vision of establishing permanent lights at Markowski Field was unanimously approved by the Otter Valley Union Unified School Board.

For a period of time, night games were possible through the use of portable lights. The Otter Valley Football Club secured the lease for the lights, transported them, set up the 12 portable light units needed for this event, along with providing our usual services of assistance with field set-up and take-down, concession, clothing sales, raffles and general chaotic festivities.

In addition to football, Varsity Boys and

Girls Soccer and Field Hockey night games were played under the portable lights, thanks to the Otter Valley Booster Clubs' partnership with us. Unfortunately, the portable light units were banned by the Vermont Principals Association prior to the 2020 season.

I don't know if you have ever been to a night football game at OV, but it is quite a spectacle. The current status is that you have missed your chance, and believe me, they were quite an event!

Hundreds of fans, young folks, and seniors, Brandon

Recreation Football Program and Pittsford Youth Program youngsters getting out there on the field to "play under the lights like the big guys" at half-time, dogs (edible and canine), music, kids running around, concession, raffles, lights, burgers, action, OV students with painted faces and flour in their hair, radio stations, cheering, competition, advertising signs, TV, colorful play-by-play coverage, outrageous noise, and high school football under the lights! Whew! It doesn't get any better than that!

The value of this event was truly one of the highlights for our community for those years. Certainly, for the School and our OV students.

So, I'm asking you to do some stuff. Ask around and present the question to your spouse or partner, friends, family, neighbors, children and the guy in the check-out line next to you: Would you support the Otter Valley Football Club and OVUMHS in fundraising efforts for establishing permanent lights at Markowski Field?

Would you attend one of our regularly scheduled monthly Football Club meetings? (first Tuesday of the month, and some extra meetings)

Would you make a phone call, send an e-mail, write a letter, or speak to a friend about getting involved in our fundraising efforts? Could you join us?

Would you talk to your sons and daughters who have had a positive experience playing for OV Football or Soccer, or have attended or played in a Night Football or Soccer Game and ask them to contact an OVFC Board Member and offer their

assistance in support of permanent lights?

Are you an OV sports fan? Do you support OV football? Do you wear a

T-shirt that says "Our World is Not Round"? (I know there might be thousands of those shirts out there). Could you drop a note to any OVFC member and lend your support?

Are you an OV alumni? A

former football, field hockey or soccer player? Did you play under the lights, or wish you had? (I know there are hundreds of you out there) Would you let someone at the school know about your experience and join us in one of our fundraising events?

Are you a current or former member of the OVFC Board? (I know there are about 60 of you

out there!) Did you pull trees from an abandoned cow pasture or hand-rake tons of topsoil? Did you build a Press Box or jump around in an Otter mascot suit? Did you play golf or drive around selling raffle tickets in a golf cart at a "Block and Blitz" event? Were you our #1 cheerleader? Did you cook more spaghetti than you thought was (See Friends of OV Football, Page 7)

The value of this event was truly one of the highlights for our community for those years. Certainly, for the School and our OV students.



You are invited!

TREE OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region's Tree of Remembrance Ceremony is a way for community members to reflect, honor, and celebrate loved ones and friends who have passed away. The event will feature music by the Hospice Trillium Choir, remarks by guest speakers, recitation of loved ones' names, the lighting of the tree, refreshments, and fellowship.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6 PM

(Snow Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6 PM)

Franklin Conference Room
(located in the Howe Center)
1 Scale Ave. Rutland, VT 05701

Please join us for our first in-person ceremony since 2019.

If you would like to have your loved one recognized during the ceremony, please email jesse.bradley@vnahsr.org with the name(s) of your loved ones by 11/24. For event questions, please call Jesse at 802.855.4225.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

VNA & HOSPICE
of the Southwest Region
Serving Bennington and Rutland Counties

Obituaries

Debra Lynn Degenhardt, 61, Pittsford

Debra Lynn Degenhardt, age 61, passed away Sunday, November 12, 2023, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.



DEBRA LYNN DEGENHARDT

Debra was born in Proctor on September 15, 1962. She was the daughter of Robert and Marguerite (Johnson) Smith.

Following her education, she married John Edward Degenhardt on November 12, 1983 in Mendon. She was a wife, mother, and homemaker. She enjoyed fishing with her husband in earlier years.

She is survived by her husband, John, of Pittsford, and by one daughter, Danielle Marie Degenhardt of Colchester.

Three grandsons, several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot at Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; The I.V. Infusion Department, c/o Rutland Regional Medical Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT 05701.

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

Timothy Bruce Trombley, 62, Leicester

Timothy Bruce Trombley, age 62, passed away unexpectedly, on November 8, 2023, at his home in Leicester.

Tim was born in Proctor on April 12, 1961. He was the son of Moonyeen Trombley. He grew up in Leicester, where he received his early education, and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1979. He began his working career at Red Rose Farm Depot in Leicester. He later worked at Old Fox and Blue Seal. Tim also worked at New England Outdoorsmen where he met the love of his life, Susie, whom he married in Brandon on June 23, 2000. He retired in May of this year to care for her.

Tim enjoyed hunting and fishing, especially with his grandsons and nephew. His pride and joy was being PaPa to those who loved him. As a lover of the great outdoors, he also took pride in his lawn and using the wide va-



TIMOTHY TROMBLEY

riety of John Deere landscaping tools he acquired over the years. Tim also had a very green thumb, especially with his tomatoes! Tim enjoyed sharing his gardening knowledge with his daughter. When not spending time outdoors, Tim could be found inside baking cheesecakes, rocking in his rocking chair, drinking iced Red Rose tea, and spending time with Susie and their dog,

Raider. He also found the time to acquire quite the collection of John Deere memorabilia which he proudly displayed throughout their home.

Surviving is his wife, Susan Trombley of Leicester; daughter Renee Houck (spouse Kim Houck) of Springfield; sister Jennifer LaRock of Sanford, ME; grandsons Alexander Trombley (Henry) and Emmett Ellis (Barney); a niece Abigail Pauline Trombley LaRock; nephew Donald Timothy (Timmy) Trombley LaRock; and several extended family members.

A private memorial service "In Celebration of His Life" will take place at a later date at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to; the Timothy Trombley Memorial Fund, c/o Miller & Ketcham, 26 Franklin Street. Brandon, Vermont 05733.

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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WE NEED U

Helen Kahrs, 89, West Addison

Helen Kahrs of West Addison Vt. passed away on Nov. 3, 2023, after a struggle with dementia. She was 89.

Helen was born on June 27, 1934, in Albany, NY, the fourth of seven girls to Elizabeth and Albert Munton. Her sisters, her love of children, her compassion, her kindness, and her Catholic faith defined her.

Helen moved frequently in her childhood, living primarily in Burlington, Vt. and Albany. She earned her BA in education from SUNY Oneonta and pursued her dream of becoming a teacher. Early in her career, she found a teaching position in a two-room schoolhouse. Having slightly more experience than the other teacher, she became the principal.

Helen met Edward Kahrs, the love of her life, in the ski lodge at Lake Placid in March 1959. The story goes that she was on a double date with her sister, Alberta, and didn't really care for the guy she was with. Uninterested, she glanced toward the bar, saw a handsome skier standing there, and went over to talk to him. She and Ed were married six months later. And Helen did not ski.

After Ed earned his Master's degree from SUNY Albany and the birth of their first child, Larry, the couple moved to Grand Isle in the Niagara Falls area.



HELEN KAHRS

Two more children, Lee and John, completed the family.

Helen and Ed found promising teaching jobs in Orange and Rockland County, NY respectively, and the family moved to the Hudson Valley, residing in Highland Mills.

Helen spent 14 years instructing first and second graders at Lee Road School in Cornwall, NY. To this day, many people in the area remember Helen as a gifted educator whose intelligence and kindness shaped their early years.

In 1983, Helen left teaching to start a new adventure, founding the Butterhill Day School. From its modest beginnings in the basement of the Cornwall Methodist Church, the daycare center and preschool expanded to several locations, becoming the standard bearer for childcare in

the area. Ed retired and together the couple ran the school for 16 years.

Helen retired from education in 1999, and she and Ed relocated to West Addison, Vt., building their retirement home on the shores of Lake Champlain, where the family's camp stood for many years. She and Ed lived there happily for over twenty years, unbothered by the harsh winters.

Helen was predeceased by her husband, Ed; and her sisters, Ruth and Elizabeth. She is survived by her three children, Larry Kahrs (Liz), Lee Kahrs, and John Kahrs (Gennie Rim); her sisters Jean, Mary, and Alberta Munton, and Carole Hoffmann; her brother-in-law, Werner Hoffman; her grandchildren Jack, Audrey, Ben, Anneliese, Johnny, and Joshua; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at Mountain View Nursing and Rehab Center in Rutland for their wonderful and compassionate care over the last several months.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Nov. 17, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Saint Peter's Catholic Church at 85 S. Maple St, Vergennes. followed by a burial at the Lake View Cemetery, 4150 Lake St, Vergennes.

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Jim & Liz McRae

Gift-of-Life

(Continued from Page 4)

Center for surgery, Adams suffered three cardiac arrests. He received multiple blood transfusions to reduce strain on his heart until it could beat on its own again.

“Your donation can help ensure doctors and hospitals have what they need to treat patients like me,” said Adams, who works at Green Mountain Power, one of the sponsors of the GOLM. “I am here today because three people I don’t know donated blood, something members of my family have long done to support our community. Blood donation has become truly personal.

“I’m incredibly thankful to everyone who donates blood, and have a very personal, renewed appreciation for donors,” Adams said.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood donations to the American Red Cross, which collects, processes, and distributes 40% of the nation’s blood supply, to help ensure that new moms, premature babies, accident victims as well as heart surgery, organ transplant and cancer patients

have access to safe, lifesaving blood. In Vermont, the Red Cross must collect 80 pints of blood every day to meet hospital demand. That work is made possible, in part, by generous community sponsors that help ensure hospital shelves are stocked by hosting blood drives.

This year’s GOLM marks 10 years since Rutland set the record for the largest one-day blood drive in American history in 2013 - a record that still stands. Along with Green Mountain Power, it is also sponsored by Mix 98.1-WJJR. The GOLM will include drawings at the Castleton Campus of Vermont State University, the Elks Club in Rutland, and Rutland High School.

“We’re thrilled to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the national record,” WJJR’s Terry Jaye said. “The greater-Rutland community has come through at this drive for decades, and with a national blood shortage going on right now, it’s as important as ever that folks step up again.”

The four days of the drive are:

- Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the President’s House, 119 Alumni Drive, in Castleton.

- Thursday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rutland

High School, 22 Stratton Rd., Rutland.

- Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Elks Lodge #345 at 44-46 Pleasant St. in Rutland.

- Friday, Dec. 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Elks Lodge #345 at 44-46 Pleasant St. in Rutland.

Don’t wait – patients are counting on critical care this holiday season. To make an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Enter sponsor keyword: GOLMWINTER.

“We’re thrilled to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the national record,” WJJR’s Terry Jaye said. “For decades, the greater-Rutland community has come through at this drive, and with a national blood shortage going on right now, it’s as important as ever that folks step up again.”

“We never dreamt in the early days that the GOLM would become as big as it did,” said Steve Costello, one of the organizers. “It’s helped save thousands of lives, and it continues to be one of the brightest spots on Rutland’s calendar, year after year.”

Friends of OV Football

(Continued from Page 5)

humanly possible for teenagers to consume? Did you help erect goalposts at the JV Field? Were you on the chain-gang? Did you hand-craft items for donation to the Club? Did you run the concession? This possibility for Night Football Games is the culmination of all of your efforts. Will you join us again? (there is a very little known clause that the President can recall you into service!)

Are you or have you been a member of the Otter Valley Booster Club who supported co-sponsoring the portable lights for Varsity Soccer and Field Hockey Games? Will you join in the effort to make lights a permanent fixture at OV?

Have you volunteered at a Night Game? Are you a member of the Brandon or Pittsford Fire Department who has helped us with parking cars or directed traffic to keep everyone safe? Flipped burgers or worked on the chain gang? Are you a medical professional who volunteered for years to provide medical services at home games, or are a member of the Brandon Area Rescue

Squad providing emergency services? Have you worked in the concession stand? Have you provided Police protection at a night football game?

Are you a coach or parent of a Town Recreation Program? Are you a Town Recreation Director? Did your son or daughter “play under the lights” at an OV night football game? Did they enjoy that? Did you enjoy that? Would you like to see others do it again?

Did you sing the National Anthem at a night football game? Wasn’t that cool? Would you like to do it again? Would you like to see someone else be able to do it again in the future?

Are you a “Light Sponsor”? Have you supported having your donation go towards permanent lights for night football games at Markowski Field? I’m sure that you have picked up some extra accounts, secured a new job bid for your company, or made some additional sales due to your advertisement at the Night Football Game.

Light up the Valley! Together, we can make this happen. Go Otters!

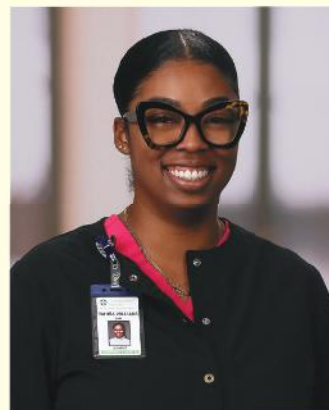


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Brandon Energy Committee has a message for us: Button Up Brandon

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—With winter and its cold air breathing down our necks, the Brandon Energy Committee hosted a free informational meeting at the historic Brandon Town Hall. Approximately 40 people came out to hear about weatherization, heat pumps, and solar installation. Dana Peterson from BROCC presented two options they have for reducing your energy needs. The Green Saving Smart program provides coaching to lower-income individuals and families/households. A coach helps participants set financial and energy goals and then helps implement the plans. Rebates and savings are available on electric vehicles as well as weatherization and heat pumps. Another program called Community Action Weatherization Process includes education as well as a comprehensive energy audit. This audit provides a comprehensive look at the needs and opportunities for reducing the energy usage in a home. An evaluation of a home's electric service is also completed and assistance is given to fix any problems found. This program is available to

individuals making \$55,050 or less and a family of 4 making \$78,600 or less. They are willing to assess your eligibility for this free weatherization program! Last year they served 274 people in 137 households in Brandon. The program is available throughout Rutland County.

Jim Crawford from Green Earth Energy discussed cold-climate heat pumps. These amazing machines function as reverse air conditioners taking heat from outside and bringing it inside. However, they are much more energy efficient than your wall AC unit and can heat a home when outdoor temperatures are lower than 0 degrees Fahrenheit. They also reduce your carbon footprint. A heat pump can provide 1 million BTU's of heat for about \$20 at present electric rates versus \$25 for cordwood (at \$375/cord). This compares to wood pellets at \$30 per million BTU's and fuel oil at \$32 per million. Jim estimates that with the rebates and tax credits offered through state and federal programs, payback can occur in as little as 3-4 years.

Solar energy, through stand-alone

or roof-mounted panels, is an option for producing your own energy, says Shannon Jackson from Green Mountain Solar based in Rutland. They use US-made products exclusively! Because these systems can be tied into the grid and excess energy is given credit to be used to purchase power when the sun isn't shining, they can help with energy independence. Batteries to store power can also be installed. Federal tax credits of 30% for the entire project cost can make investment in these systems pay off in less than a decade.

Tom Perry from ZEN or Zero Energy Now has a program to help homeowners design a manageable and affordable plan to get a household off fossil fuels entirely! They work with a homeowner to utilize all the available rebates and tax credits available in Vermont to make the transformation possible for the average Vermonter. He said, "Remember, it doesn't all have to happen at once! But you do need a plan."

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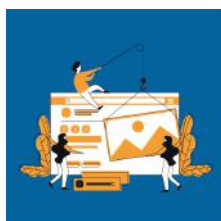
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Marsha Bruce

(Continued from Page 1)

found her "passion" helping autistic children in a residential program in Waterbury integrate into the community in Barre.

"They were called 'childhood schizophrenics' at the time," recalled Bruce, noting that the language used to describe the challenges some kids live with has changed markedly over the years.

After Waterbury, Bruce moved to Rutland Mental Health (RMH), where she remained for 21 years

and rose to Managing Director. One of her most meaningful projects at RMH was the integration of roughly 85 residents of the Brandon Training School into the surrounding community when the residential facility was closed by the state in the 1990s.

"How humble I had to be," said Bruce. "Parents who had been told that they had to give up their kids and had to carry that guilt for years were now being told that their kids were going to be living with other

families, that another family was going to be given the opportunity they never had."

That project at the Training School ended up resonating throughout her career in some poetic ways. In 2001, Bruce left RMH and became Coordinator of Alternative Education at RNESU, which now occupies one of the buildings on the campus of the Training School. Her current office is a former boy's dormitory room.

(See Marsha Bruce, Page 9)

Rural deaths

(Continued from Page 4)

covery of Velazquez Estrada's body, grisly details about her death spread among community members in the small central Vermont town, which claims just more than 1,000 residents, while high school students took to social media to share what they had heard.

Rumor and speculation have filled the void left by the lack of information offered by state police, whose resources have been stretched thin by a string of eight apparent homicide cases in the month of October alone.

While it is not unusual for police to hold back details of a case that is under active investigation,

Sherman and others said the silence does little to squelch the rumors or offer residents some needed context.

With the deaths being the topic of conversations at local gathering spots, including the Washington Village Store and the post office, Sherman said of Demar's death, "I haven't talked to anyone in town who believes it was a suicide."

"Two deaths on a rural road, it makes no sense," Sherman said, adding that the deaths have prompted "a plethora of emotions."

"Some people are scared, some are confused, some are angry," he said. "I think they should be

releasing more information to the community."

Trudeau, however, said nothing more could be offered at this point.

"I'm well aware that with any death investigation, there are often rumors among people in the communities," he said. "In these cases, I cannot provide any more details to the public because it would jeopardize the investigation."

Trudeau also declined to say whether there are any known connections between the two women or their deaths.

"The investigations into both of the deaths have been complicated by the fact it has been diffi-

cult to track down and interview associates," he said. "But that is common in a lot of investigations."

As he spoke, he chose his words carefully, clearly struggling with the limitations of what he could offer and urging patience.

"I feel like we're making progress on the majority of the cases that we have pending right now," he said. "Unfortunately, cases sometimes take a long time. They are not solved in the first week or so, and it is frustrating to us as well."

What are the chances?

Henry Demar, Michele's father, is among those looking for answers.

"Police aren't telling me anything. It's been very limited. I've actually had to contact them and they are all short-staffed," Demar said this week.

Demar said his last contact with police was when he reached out to the detective heading up his daughter's case and learned that there were polygraph tests being conducted. He estimates that was about five weeks ago.

There's been no further communication since Velazquez Estrada's body was found, he said.

"I know police had issued a statement saying (Velazquez Estrada's) death was not connected to any of the other ones where foul play was happening, but they didn't mention whether it had anything to do with our daughter's death," said Demar, a Northfield resident who, with his wife, also named Michele, have custody of their daughter's two children.

Demar is forthright in acknowledging that his daughter led a troubled life, stemming

(See Rural deaths, Page 20)

Marsha Bruce

(Continued from Page 8)

Over the years, Bruce was promoted to Co-Director of Special Services with Michele LaRouche and then, in 2012, to Director when Ms. LaRouche departed. Now Bruce oversees all the staff that provide support services to students with special needs throughout the Rutland Northeast District, which encompasses Otter Valley Union Middle and High Schools, Neshobe Elementary School, Lothrop Elementary School, Barstow Memorial School, and Otter Creek Academy. The staff that Bruce supervises includes occupational therapists, speech pathologists, school psychologists, special-education teachers and paraeducators... anyone who may be called upon to help stu-

dents with special needs to receive a "free appropriate public education" (known in the field as FAPE).

"Without my teams," said Bruce, "I accomplish nothing." But with them, she has accomplished a lot. In 2021, Bruce was named the Gail Lynk Special Education Administrator of the Year by the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators.

To succeed at her role, Bruce must be a skilled communicator, she said.

"Everyone knows the three 'Rs' in education: reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic, but there's a fourth one: relationships. It's all about relationships, and open and honest communication between the school and students' families."

A big part of her relationships with parents is guiding them through the sometimes-onerous process of determining which support services, if any, would be

helpful to their children. The current approach in special education is individualization, with the goal to minimize the disruption to the child and maximize their continued integration into their community school.

"Kids should be able to get an education in their community," said Bruce.

But sometimes the best response to a student's needs might actually be a residential program elsewhere. Bruce recalled with pride a student who was struggling terribly at OV but who thrived at a residential program Bruce was able to get him into, with help from colleagues at RMH and the Department of Children and Families. Years later, Bruce ran into that student in a local store.

He recognized her and thanked her for going the extra mile for him.

"It was music to my ears," she said.

Part of Ms. Bruce's sensitivity toward those with special needs stems from her own challenges: she was born with physical disabilities in her feet, which required several surgeries when she was a child and for which she was bullied.

Now, as Ms. Bruce nears the end of her tenure at RNEU, she looks back with extreme fondness at the students she assisted and the staff she worked with.

"How wonderful it feels to end my career being appreciated by my leader [Superintendent Kristin Hubert]," Bruce said. "To begin with [former RNEU Superintendent] Bill Mathis and end with Kristin means a lot to me. Bill hired me at RNEU. He believed in me."

"Marsha is a fiercely dedicated educator," Bill Mathis wrote in an

email to The Reporter. "Her commitment to all children was a beacon of light. She earned her promotions. Marsha never saw barriers; she only saw opportunities. I particularly valued her friendship, her counsel, and her impeccable instinct of what was needed at any particular time."

Current RNEU Superintendent Hubert echoed many of those sentiments in her own email:

"Marsha Bruce is one of those rare individuals who are known not only for their commitment and drive, but also for their kindness and generosity. She is quick to help others, but even quicker to offer a smile, a hug, or a colorful anecdote to brighten someone's day. I have worked in Vermont schools for over 20 years, and I can honestly say that she is a bright light who will be missed by many and remembered by all.

"Marsha has more than earned her right to relax in retirement, knowing that the students, staff, school boards, and families of RNEU are all better off for having known and worked with her."

As for retirement, Bruce said, "there's a time when older people leave" and make way for a new generation. She plans to remain in the area.

"My parents are buried in Pine Hill [Cemetery in Brandon] and I will be, too," she said.

In retirement, she will have more time to focus on her efforts rescuing animals. She currently lives with three rescued cats.

"I can't say no to animals that need help," she said. "My vessel is filled by filling others' vessels."

But for the rest of the year, Bruce will continue to do what she's always done: provide the same educational opportunities to all students, regardless of their challenges.

"I just do my work," she said. But then she allowed, "I can look back and feel proud."

"Marsha is a fiercely dedicated educator, her commitment to all children was a beacon of light."

— Bill Mathis

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OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENT: Brady Kennedy

GRADE: 5

SCHOOL: Lothrop

TITLE: Flags

MEDIUM: Markers

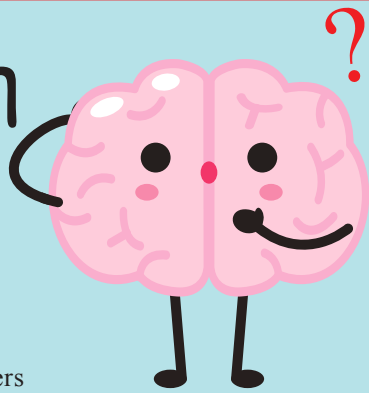
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



STATEMENT FROM MR. AUCOIN

Brady worked diligently to create these 16 flags. He started with the Canadian flag because he likes Canada and hockey. He kept exploring different country's flags because he enjoyed the art making process. Students around Lothrop have enjoyed seeing Brady's work.

Brandon Brain Buster



A certain art school offers classes in painting, sculpting, and drawing. All students must take at least one of these subjects but may take any two or even all three. In the current term, 51 students take painting, 36 take sculpting, and 33 take drawing. If exactly 10 students take painting and drawing only, exactly 8 students take painting and sculpting only, exactly 5 students take drawing and sculpting only, and

exactly 3 students take all three subjects, which of the following most closely approximates the percentage of the current student body that takes only painting?

- A) 20%
- B) 23%
- C) 25%
- D) 27%
- E) 30%

Answer on pg. 21

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Brandon Budget Committee

(Continued from Page 1)

get of \$864,915, which is intended to cover all of its expenses, including payroll. BPD currently has 6 full-time officers, in addition to Chief David Kachajian, and 2 part-time officers. The Department fields an average of 226 calls per month, or 56 calls per week.

With the current staffing levels, BPD states that it cannot provide 24/7 coverage by on-duty officers. Instead, officers are asked to be “on call” at night and can be summoned from their homes in the middle of the night if the need arises. Officers who are called from home are paid overtime rates.

BPD Chief Kachajian advocates for the hiring of an additional officer to allow BPD to provide round-the-clock coverage and to help officers maintain morale and effectiveness.

In an email to The Reporter, Chief Kachajian stated:

“Having another officer will allow us to go to 24/7 coverage, thus being able to eliminate on-call and call-in pay. Officers will be better rested and have a higher morale when they don’t have to get called in during the middle of the night, sometimes multiple times a night. Constant interrupted sleep is not good for the officer and their health.”

Moreover, according to Chief Kachajian, an additional officer would allow BPD to cut response times, because an officer would always be on duty in Brandon instead of having to come in from their residences. And BPD would be better

able to respond to incidents that occur often at night, such as speeding and break ins.

“Our current staffing levels are below what is recommended by the FBI/Department of Justice, so being able to have 2 officers per shift would go a long way towards keeping our officers safe,” the Chief wrote.

However, not all members of the Committee were convinced that an additional officer was justifiable. Selectboard member Tim Guiles was among those who felt that an additional officer might not be advisable.

“My position on the police budget is to have a conversation about the right level of service for Brandon,” Guiles wrote in an email to The Reporter. “There are several Vermont communities that I’m familiar with that have a lower level of police service. I’m also aware of some Vermont communities with higher levels of police service.”

“My opinion is that Brandon would be well served with a smaller, well compensated staff of police officers who live in our community. During my 4.5 years on the Board, I have seen many officers come and go. I would like the town to develop long-term police officers who become more integrated into our community.”

“Lastly, it’s important to remember that my opinion is only one of 5 [Selectboard members]. Ultimately, the town will have their opportunity at the polls to express their opinion about the budget by voting it up or

down.”

Selectboard member Cecil Reniche-Smith wrote in an email solicited by The Reporter:

“When asked at the meeting for my position, I explained that my priority is that the citizens of Brandon feel that, when they are in need of police protection, the police will be there—and that relying on officers working overtime and being on-call is not a sustainable model. It’s expensive and, more importantly, it is hard on the officers and their families.”

“But I am also aware of the financial constraints we face as a town. That is why I would like a more in-depth exploration of the financial scenarios and options.”

Ms. Reniche-Smith referred above to the request by the Committee to Chief Kachajian to prepare cost analyses for the competing scenarios—overtime/on call vs. additional officer—so that the Committee could make a more informed decision as to which approach to recommend in the proposed budget. Chief Kachajian will present this information to the Committee at a later meeting.

The next meeting of the Brandon Budget Committee will be held on Monday, November 20 at 6 p.m. in the basement lobby of the Town Hall. All Budget Committee meetings are open to the public.

BARN OPERA

(Continued from Page 3)

new year, BARN OPERA has, for the last few years, had gala performances of Gilbert & Sullivan shows, with raucous parties afterwards to ring in the new year. This year, BARN OPERA is partnering with the Brandon Inn by inviting many of Vermont’s operatic artists to perform their favorite arias for us, with the inimitable Claire Black at the piano.

The event is a masked ball, in the Venetian style - black tie, or costume - and will be predominantly candlelit. Tickets for the event are on sale now, and will include heavy hors d’oeuvres, an open bar of wine and beer, as well as a champagne toast at midnight. The event’s entertainment will conclude at 10:30 p.m., at which point the candlelit ambience of Venice is exchanged for a nightclub atmosphere, complete with dancing, laser lights, and a streaming of the Times Square celebrations. Tickets are available at www.barnopera.com/tickets.

BARN OPERA seeks to continue to lead the opera world in efforts toward accessibility, inclusivity, and celebration of community as its principal support

system. Please consider BARN OPERA in your end-of-year donations, as your contributions ensure this high-quality art form is available for the entire region for years to come. Feel free to contact Executive Director, Tricia Welch via email at welch@barnopera.com about our many methods of donation. We thank you in advance for your continued support of our organization and beloved art form. All donations to BARN OPERA are tax-deductible so far as permitted by law.

BARN OPERA INC. is a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Organization established with a mission to enrich the community’s experience by providing access to the operatic medium and to inspire people of all ages, cultures, and economic backgrounds to appreciate the arts and learning, through high-quality performances and educational programs.

BARN OPERA is a proud professional company member of Opera America and supported in part by grants from the Vermont Arts Council and others. Contact us to find out how you can help support your BARN OPERA.

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

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

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

Every Wednesday beginning December 6, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Wednesday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

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

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

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

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

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on email list. \$15/class

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12–1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must

pre-register, There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

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

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

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free



Red Clover is turning 5!

Thursday the 16th: Open mic with home-made mexican food from Mari

Saturday the 18: 12–7 pm and DJ Fancy Pants, Lendell th 8–close The Worm Dogs from the Brandon Town

Friday the 17th: Bloodroot Gap playing, Shady J BBQ providing the food

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 17th

Mill River's Stage 40 presents The Miser!

A delightful adaption of a classic! Stage 40 presents Moliere's classic 1668 comedy, The Miser. In this modern translation, Harpagon, a wealthy old skinflint, contracts with the matchmaker Frosine for the hand of the beautiful Mariane. The war between the generations boils over when his son Cleante makes a play for the same young lady. Meanwhile, Harpagon's daughter Elise, is secretly in love with Valere who has insinuated himself into Harpagon's employment. The clever servant, Jacques, tries without success to talk sense into anyone. The whole situation comes to a head in a surprise ending.

Showing from 7:00– 9:00 p.m., at 2321 Middle Road, Clarendon VT \$10.00

Holiday Exhibit & Shoppe Opening Reception Friday at the Chaffee!

The Chaffee Art Center, Your Center for Creativity, invites the community to our Annual Holiday Exhibit & Shoppe Opening Reception November 17th from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy holiday music, wine, hot cocoa bar and holiday sweets while you explore the one-of-a-kind handmade treasures that are perfect for gifting this holiday season.

Please plan on joining us to experience the beauty of



the arts. Perfect time to start holiday shopping and to mingle with the artists and the community. This is an all-member show celebrating the talented artists in our communities whose works will be on display throughout our historic 1890's mansion until early January. There is no charge for admittance.



2 new beers from the LAN chef Burlington at

BAG Meet the Artist

Come hear our Artist of the Month talk about their work and have a chance to ask the artists questions.

Meet the Artist Night

Photographer, Judy Knope, uses light, emotion, and black and white photography, to capture a thoughtful awareness of the New England landscape. Judy incorporates contemporary photo techniques in varied approaches to bring her subject beyond the familiar "big picture".



Friday 17th Saturday 18th

Four-Church Christmas Bazaar (St. John, Castleton, Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Fair Haven, St. Paul, Orwell and St. Raphael, Poultney) Friday, from 3-6 p.m.

and Saturday, from 9 a.m.

There will be a Basket Raffle, traditional raffle, 50/50 raffle, food tables, Trash and Treasures, and vendor tables. Stay for supper or lunch from our kitchen! Raffle drawings at 2p.m. Saturday. For vendor information call Claudia Stacey 802-265-8049

St. Raphael Catholic Church, 21 East Main Street, Poultney



Friday 17th Sunday 19th

Annual Okemo Ski and Snowboard Swap

The Annual Okemo Ski and Snowboard Swap to benefit Okemo Mountain School is the best place to gear up for the winter with new and used equipment at great prices.

You will find everything you need to get out on the hill this season.... skis, snowboards, boots, bindings, helmets, goggles, outerwear, and more! The best part about it is that all proceeds go to benefit the Okemo Mountain School in Ludlow, VT. The OMS Ski Swap will once again take place in the Round House at the Jackson Gore Inn.

This year's swap dates and times are:

- Friday, November 17th, 4 – 7 p.m. (3-4 p.m. is an early buy hour at \$5 admission or free for Okemo employees)
- Saturday, November 18th; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, November 19th; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Also, if you are interested in selling your old gear (please no skis, boots, or bindings older than 5 years), you can sell it on consignment at the swap. 25% of the selling price goes to Okemo Mountain School – the remainder you will receive in a check about 3 weeks after the swap. You may also choose just to donate your equipment – all donations are

tax-deductible. All gear must be dropped off on the following days and may not be brought to the swap during sale hours. Equipment drop-off is at the Round House at the Jackson Gore Inn of Okemo Mountain. For drop off, please drive around the back of the Roundhouse by going past the main entrances to the Spring House and Hotel, and past the loading docks toward the ski slopes.

Drop-off dates and times are:
Saturday; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Okemo Mountain School is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the academic and athletic development of serious snow sports athletes. Student athletes are given the opportunity to train in alpine ski racing, snowboarding, and freestyle skiing, while pursuing a rigorous course of academic study. Okemo Mountain School relies heavily on fundraisers like the Swap to help keep tuition affordable. Come to the Swap and gear up for the winter while supporting a great cause!

For questions, please contact Kate Foster at kfoster@okemomountainschool.org

Jackson Gore Inn at Okemo Mountain Resort, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow.

Saturday 18th

You Can Make a Difference: Volunteer for Hospice VNAHSR provides training for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Training will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Casella Conference Room at 7 Albert Cree Dr., Rutland

Share your compassion and talents with patients and their families in your community

At the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR), volunteers play a critical role in enhancing the end-of-life experiences of people facing serious illness and their families. Volunteers represent all life experiences and are drawn to hospice for a variety of reasons, but the defining characteristics that unite them are compassion and the desire to help others. Their many skills are matched to important tasks within our mission.

Does this sound like you?

VNAHSR provides training for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Training will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 8am – 4pm in the Casella Conference Room at the Rutland office, located at 7 Albert Cree Drive. Training is free and open to individuals 16 years of age and older. Volunteers need to pass a background check. No previous hospice and health care experience is required. Pre-registration and proof of

Goings on around town

COVID-19 vaccination are required.

Once training is complete, assignments and schedules are tailored to the volunteer's geographic and time commitment preferences.

- Training Topics include:
- Understanding the Hospice philosophy of care
 - Knowing boundaries when interacting with patients and families
 - Communicating with

patients and families

- Understanding basic health and safety precautions
- Understanding patient confidentiality

The Benefit of Becoming a Hospice Volunteer
While our volunteers make a tremendous impact on the lives of our patients, families and staff, we hear time and again that they, too, benefit from their hospice experiences. Among the things they mention are:

- Increased appreciation for living life in the moment and defining what is really important
- Greater knowledge and more inner peace about the end-of-life experience
- Greater insight about diversity and the different perspectives among cultures
- Heightened sense of fulfillment and pride because of their contributions to patients and families and to the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region.

For more information or to register call Mary at 802.442.0540 or email at mary.pleasant@vnahsr.org.

2nd Annual Rutland Youth Theater Craft Fair Fund-raiser

Join us to support youth theater which spans participation from the Rutland region...And pick up a few holiday gifts along the way!

RYT's 2nd Annual Craft Fair - Rutland Community Center, 134 Community Drive, Rutland, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- CRAFTERS, ARTISANS + VENDORS BAKE SALE
- FOOD VENDOR
- KIDS CRAFT CORNER
- HOLIDAY RAFFLE TICKETS
- PERFORMANCE BY RUTLAND YOUTH THEATRE

<https://facebook.com/events/s/rutland-youth-theatres-2nd-ann/268130849480222/>

And step right up for Musical tickets ~ December 8th & 9th!

Tickets are now on sale: <https://www.paramountvt.org/event/rutland-youth-theatre-presents-willy-wonka-jr/>

For more information for a promising youth in your life, as well as, to make a donation, including those in honor of Barbara Lassen: <https://www.rutlandrec.com/ryt> Appreciations in Advance!



Wednesday 29th

The Birds of Costa Rica at Grace Church (Rutland)
Professor emeritus Michael Blust will present The Birds of Costa Rica at Grace Church (Rutland) Conference Room 6:30 p.m. Free to all. Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon. Any questions, please email birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org

Local Covered Bridges from a Local Covered Bridge Builder

A presentation by Nick Strom-Olsen on Nicholas M. Powers. Wednesday, at 6 p.m. at the Proctor Free Library.

VTSU Castleton Jazz Ensemble Concert November 28th

The VTSU Jazz Ensemble is celebrating the Music of Thelonious Monk! One of the pioneers of Bebop, Monk was an incredible jazz composer and pianist. The Jazz Ensemble will feature his music at their concert on Tuesday, November 28th at 7:00 PM in Casella Theater on the VTSU Castleton Campus.

Tickets for the performance are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free for VTSU faculty, staff, alumni, and students. Tickets can be reserved in advance at the Casella Box Office by calling 802-468-1119 or purchased at the door up to an hour before the performance. All seating is general admission.



Honoring our Veterans



IN BRANDON AND Pittsford, we gathered to pay tribute to all our fellow Americans who served their country with honor and courage so that we may have the freedom we enjoy.



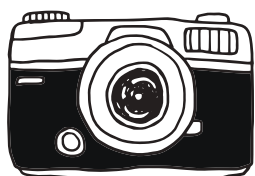
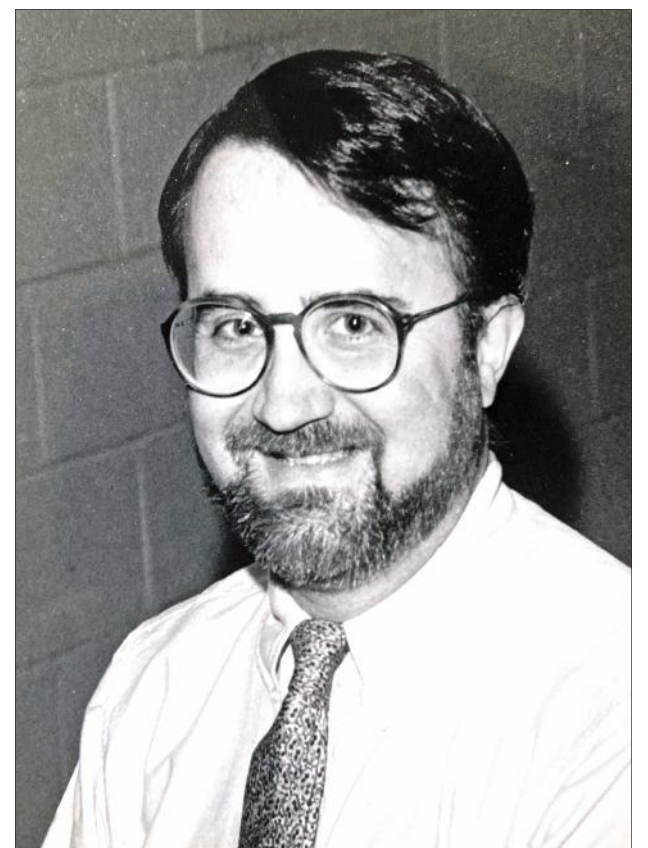




Mim's Photos

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

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



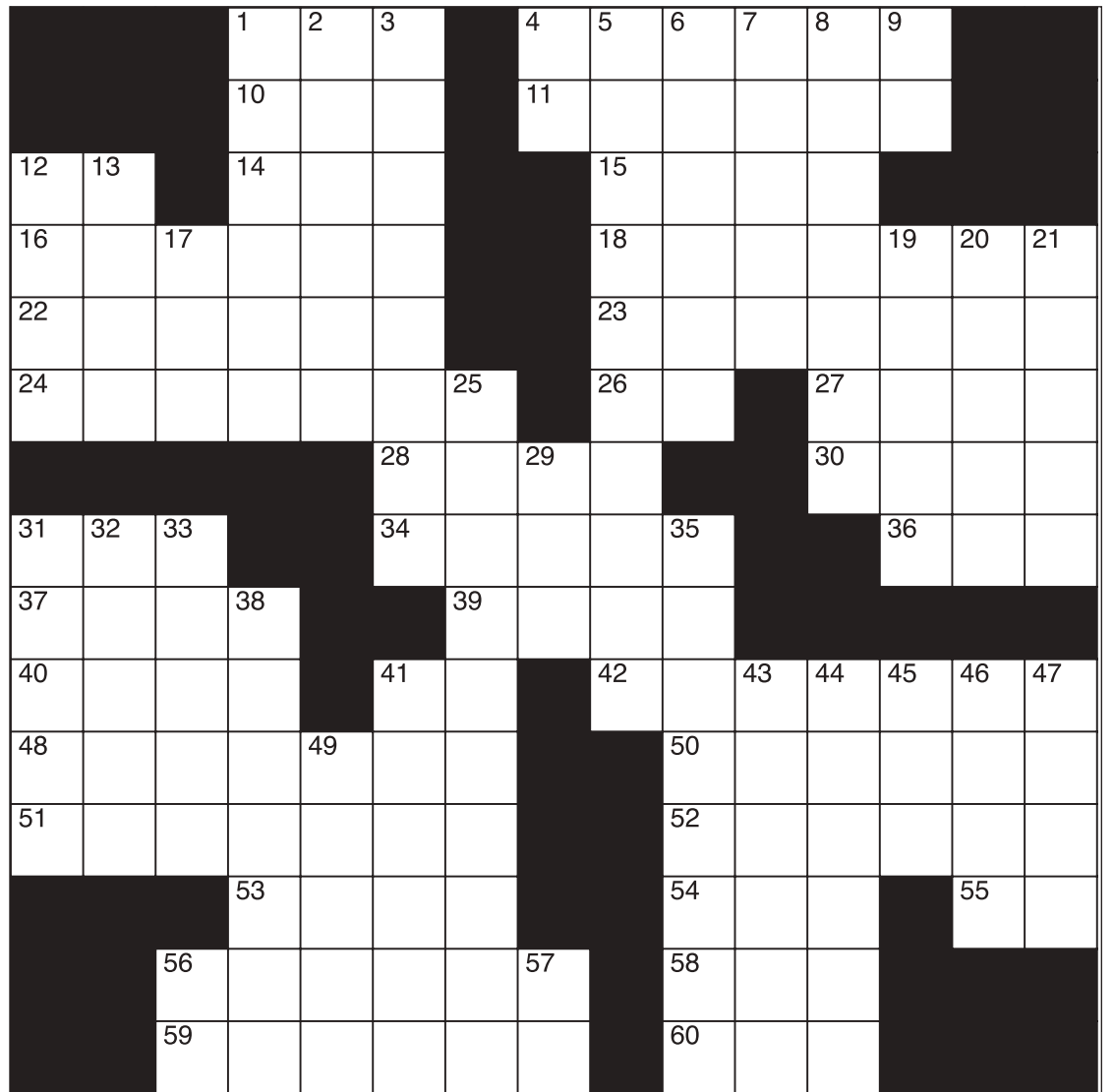
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Beats per minute
4. Hindu deity
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Not chained to
12. Metric ton
14. Tall, rounded vase
15. Musical composition
16. St. Francis of ___
18. Discover the location of
22. Compact group of mountains
23. Mend
24. Not current
26. Atomic #64
27. Young hawk
28. Or ___
30. Pouches
31. Southern Thailand isthmus
34. Mends with yarn
36. Downwinds
37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
39. Italian archaeological site
40. Cold appetizer
41. Yes
42. Peninsula
48. Of that
50. A way to divide
51. Relating to the physical senses
52. One who makes money
53. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
55. South Dakota
56. Snow sport
58. The products of human creativity
59. Change mind
60. Born of

CLUES DOWN

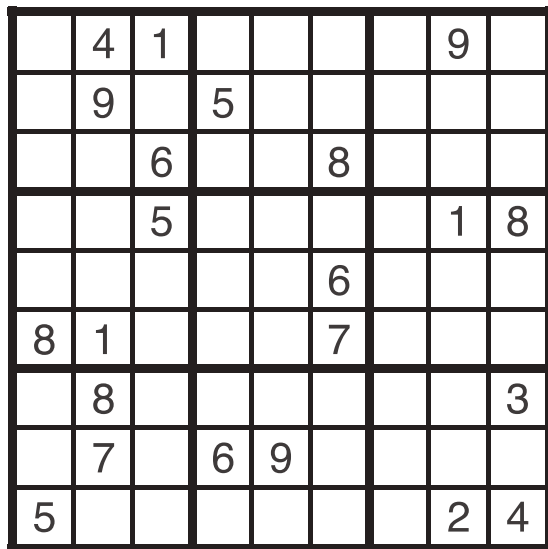
1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
2. Former name of Iran
3. Made smaller
4. Type of meter
5. Revolt
6. Killed with rocks
7. Gregory ___, US dancer
8. Nullifies
9. Home to the Flyers
12. Female parent
13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
19. Regal
20. Line
21. Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha"
25. Clearing up
29. No seats available
31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
32. Groove in organ or tissue
33. Not of this world
35. Cooking device
38. Forget
41. Operational flight
43. Actress Danes
44. Poke holes in
45. A way to discolor
46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
47. Pharrell's group
49. Red fluorescent dye
56. Jr.'s dad
57. Electronics firm



SPONSOR THE RCHS AD FOR \$275 A MONTH CONTACT GEORGE@BRANDONREPORTER.COM OR CALL 802 236-4662

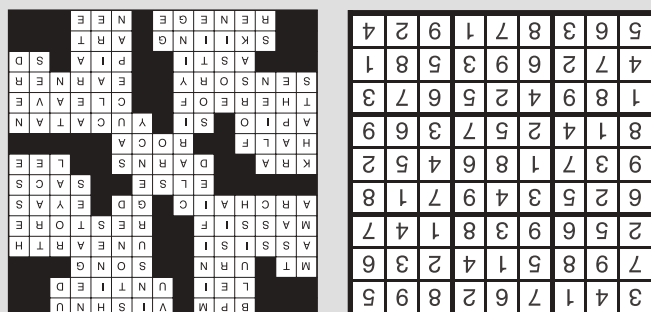
Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Thanksgiving Safety Tips for Pets

Thanksgiving is right around the corner! While you're making preparations for your holiday feasts and family gatherings, Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to offer some tips on how to make your holiday festivities as safe and enjoyable as possible for your pets as well! Thanksgiving is all about food, but not all people food is safe for pets. Keep their noses away from the mixing bowl while you get the pumpkin pie ready. Raw eggs can lead to food poisoning, and artificial sweeteners can also be harmful. Make sure to keep the leftover turkey away from your pet, too. Dogs and cats have difficulty processing fatty foods like turkey skin, and even small pieces of bone can lead to gastrointestinal injury. With company arriving, all the coming and going of family can be stressful for pets, and strangers may make them anxious. If your furry friend seems anxious, try putting them in a quiet room away from the action with a favorite toy, calming music and plenty of fresh water. Lastly, with holidays, comes travel, so if you're bringing your pet along, make sure you are prepared. You should bring vaccination records and your pet should have an updated ID, any supplies/medications needed for travel and for the time you plan on being away from home. For more information, contact the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700, or check out our website at rchsvt.org.

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

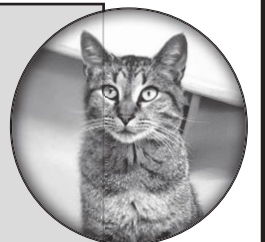


MEET MUDPIE - 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. BEAGLE MIX. BLACK AND BROWN.

Mudpie is the "class clown" at RCHS. She is goofy, enthusiastic about life, and absolutely loves people! She is sure to put a smile on everyone's face. She is so well-rounded; she likes dogs, and kids and even seems to like cats. We think she would mesh well with most homes. She loves to play with her toys, and really wants to be the best girl! If you are looking for a sweet and lovable pup to join your family, stop by to meet her. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am-4 pm.

MEET PURDY - 2 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TIGER.

This handsome boy is sweet as pie! He has so much love to give (and receive). He came to us on October 25th as a stray from Brandon. Therefore, we have no history on how he is with dogs or kids. He is currently living in the community cat room and adjusting great! He is the biggest lovebug. He will rub against your leg until you give him attention! He also loves to jump on people's laps! He will most definitely be a lap cat in his forever home. Once you get him to purr, he will not stop. He loves cat trees and likes to be up high! If this cuddle bug sounds like the cat for you, please stop by and visit with him! He will be waiting for you! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.



RUTLAND COUNTY

HUMANE SOCIETY

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



OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN

TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM
11AM-4PM.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Adult Fiction

Edith Holler by Edward Carey

The year is 1901. England's beloved queen has died, and her aging son has finally taken the throne. In the eastern city of Norwich, bright and inquisitive young Edith Holler spends her days in Holler Theatre, warned by her domineering father that the playhouse will literally tumble down if she should ever leave its confines. Fascinated by tales of the city she knows only from afar, she decides to write a play of her own: a stage adaptation of the legend of Mawther Meg, a monstrous figure said to have used the blood of countless children to make the local delicacy known as Beetle Spread. But when her father suddenly announces his engagement to a peculiar, imposing woman named Margaret Unthank, heir to the actual Beetle Spread fortune, Edith scrambles to protect her father, the theatre, and her play—the one thing that's truly hers—from the newcomer's sinister designs.

Lilith by Nikki Marmery

Before Eve, there was Lilith. Lilith and Adam are equal and happy in the Garden of Eden. Until Adam decides Lilith should submit to his will. She refuses and is banished forever from Paradise. Lilith watches in fury as God creates Eve, the woman who accepts her submission. But Lilith has a secret: she has already tasted the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Endowed with Wisdom, she knows why Asherah—God's wife, the Queen of Heaven—is missing. Lilith has a plan: she will rescue Eve, find Asherah, restore balance to the world, and regain her rightful place

DID YOU KNOW?

It's Giving November at the library - some of our generous patrons have agreed to match donations this month up to \$60,000! Stop in to grab a form or donate on the website.

in Paradise. Lilith's quest for justice drives her throughout history, from the ziggurats of Ancient Sumer to the court of Israel's Queen Jezebel, and to the side of a radical preacher in Roman Judea. Noah's wife, Norea, Jezebel, and Mary Magdalene all play their part in Lilith's enlightenment. In the modern age, as she observes the catastrophic consequences of a world built on inequality, Lilith finally understands what must be done to correct the wrong done to women—and all humankind—at the beginning of time.

Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward

Annis, sold south by the white enslaver who fathered her, marches from North Carolina to a plantation in Louisiana. As she struggles through the miles-long march, Annis turns inward, seeking comfort from memories of her mother and stories of her African warrior grandmother. Throughout, she opens herself to a world beyond this world, one teeming with spirits: of earth and water, of myth and history; spirits who nurture and give, and those who manipulate and take.

The following Large Print book was donated by Brenda Whittaker:

Dirty Thirty by Janet Evanovich, donated in memory of Marion C. Sawyer

Bounty Hunter Stephanie Plum is offered a freelance assignment that seems simple enough. Local jeweler Martin Rabner wants her to locate his former security guard, Andy Manley, who he is convinced stole a fortune in diamonds out of his safe. Stephanie is also looking for another troubled man, Duncan Dugan, a fugitive from justice arrested for robbing the same jewelry store on the same day. To complicate matters, her best friend Lula is convinced she is being stalked by a mythological demon hell-bent on relieving her of her wardrobe. An overnight stakeout with Stephanie's mother and Grandma Mazur reveals three generations of women with nerves of steel and driving skills worthy of NASCAR champions. As the body count rises and witnesses start to disappear, it won't be easy for Stephanie to keep herself clean when everyone else is playing dirty. It's a good thing Stephanie isn't afraid of getting a little dirty, too.

In addition to many new books, we also have new issues of Good Housekeeping, Smithsonian Magazine, Yankee Magazine, Consumer Reports, Prevention, Out, Advocate, Threads, Bird Watcher's Digest, and Real Simple.

Drunk drivers and drug sales keep the BPD busy this week

November 6

- Brandon Police Department (BPD) investigated an act of vandalism in the area of Union Street and Ella Dean Road involving damaged property.
- BPD investigated an act of vandalism in Park Village.
- Police investigated an alleged act of child abuse at a residence in Brandon.
- A welfare check was made at a residence on Barlow Avenue. All involved were found to be okay.
- A hit-and-run vehicle crash was reported after the fact at the Walgreen on Union Street.
- Vehicle stop at McConnell Road and Franklin Street for failure to stop at a stop sign. The driver showed signs of impairment and was arrested and charged with DUI – Second Offense. Adam Leggett of Pittsford was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on 11/27/23 at 10 a.m. for arraignment.

November 7

- A suspicious vehicle was reported on North Birch Hill Road. An officer made contact with the vehicle and determined that the driver was waiting for a friend who was cleaning a residence in the neighborhood.
- Drug activity that was reported to BPD had actually occurred in the Town of Bradford and not in Brandon.
- A hit-and-run crash was reported on Florence Road. Incident under investigation.
- Vehicle stop on West Seminary Street for following too closely. Ticket issued. The stop was triggered by a concerned citizen flagging down an officer to report a car racing up and down the street.
- Vehicle stop on Union Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

November 8

- BPD responded to Pearl Street for a residential burglary alarm activation. No signs of forced entry or suspicious activity were detected.
- Officers received a report that a driver had almost caused a head-on collision on Franklin Street near Otter Valley Union High School. The driver and vehicle were not located by the officers.
- Officers assisted with a trespass complaint on Jones Drive. The trespasser's property was removed from the structure and the structure was secured.
- A fight was reported be-

Brandon Police Report

tween two juvenile students at Otter Valley High School.

- Rutland Town Police requested the help of BPD in locating a vehicle involved in a theft at Home Depot in Rutland. BPD found the vehicle on Arnold District Road. The driver was brought to the police department for questioning and multiple items were taken from the vehicle. Rutland Town Police are investigating further.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for erratic driving. Operator exhibited signs of impairment and open containers of alcohol were visible in the car. Morton Precor, Jr. of Brandon was arrested and charged with DUI-Second Offense. Precor was issued a citation to appear in Rutland on 1/2/24 at 10 a.m. for arraignment.

- BPD responded to Grove Street for a report of a vehicle that had driven off the road. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

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

November 9

- Officer responded to a 911 hangup at Junction Deli in Forest Dale. It was determined to be a false alarm.

- A man secured a stray dog. The incident was documented and an officer helped facilitate the exchange of information between the dog owner and the man keeping the dog safe. Brandon Animal Control responded to the incident as well.

- BPD responded to a report of a drug overdose on Robin Bird Lane.

- Cellphone found at intersection of Conant Square and Grove Street. Anyone missing a phone should contact BPD.

- Complaint received about property stolen from a storage locker on Grove Street. Incident under investigation.

- Officers responded to a report of a suspicious individual holding a baby on the side of the McConnell Road. Officers were unable to locate the individual or the baby.

November 10

- Vehicle stop for failure to obey a stop sign on Champlain (See Police report, Page 19)

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 17



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
Street. Warning issued.

- BPD received an anonymous tip regarding drug sales in Brandon.
- Traffic stop for expired registration on Park Street.
- BPD responded to a residence on High Pond Road for a report of a household member that was displaying violent behavior toward another inside the residence and had damaged property. Shane Bartshe of Brandon was arrested and charged with Domestic Assault and Unlawful Mischief. Bartshe was released on a citation and Conditions of Release, to appear in Rutland Superior Court on 11/13/23 at 12:30 to answer the charges.
- Single-vehicle crash on Grove Street involving a deer. The deer was gone when officers arrived and the vehicle was able to be driven away with minor damage.
- Brandon K-9 Unit was called to Rutland City to help

with a vehicle thought to contain illicit drugs.

November 11

- Traffic stop on Franklin Street for a cellphone violation. Warning given.
- Police attended the annual Veterans Day ceremony
- Officers responded with Brandon Rescue to an unconscious person at Hannaford Supermarket.
- BPD responded to a 911 hang-up call on Franklin Street. It was determined to have come from a disconnected landline.
- Callers at a residence on Town Farm Road called police after a suspicious individual came to their door requesting money.
- Property watch at a local business on McConnell Road.
- Property watch at a local business on Franklin Street.
- Foot patrol on Center Street.

November 12

- Vehicle stop for stop sign

violation on Conant Square. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop for expired inspection on Franklin Street. Ticket issued for driving without a license.
- Vehicle stop for stop sign violation on Nickerson Road. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop for tailgating on Franklin Street. Warning issued.
- Traffic stop on Union Street. Ticket issued.
- Traffic stop on McConnell Road. Warning issued.
- Traffic stop on Center Street. Ticket issued for driving with a suspended license.
- Traffic stop on Grove Street. Warning issued.
- Traffic stop on Grove Street for parking on the sidewalk. Warning issued for the violation and diversion paperwork was issued to four of the passengers for Consumption of Alcohol under the age of 21.

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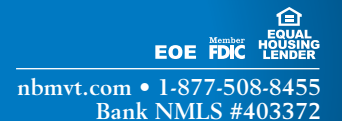
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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES March 21–April 20
It's important to pay attention to your physical health this week, Aries. It's key to give your body plenty of rest and healthy foods to strengthen your immune system.

TAURUS April 21–May 21
Something out of the ordinary may happen to you this week, Taurus. You don't know what to expect, but be aware of your surroundings and the people you meet.

GEMINI May 22–June 21
This is a perfect time to review your goals or to-do list, Gemini. If you don't have things jotted down, brainstorm with friends on what you may want to accomplish, then make plans.

CANCER June 22–July 22
Cancer, do not turn anyone away if they come to you looking for assistance. Some-

one in need is likely to seek you out in the days to come and you should be ready.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23
There is no shame in taking a day off or slowing down for a breather, Leo. Spend the day in bed or lounging on the couch if you desire. Give yourself a break if you've been running around.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22
If emotions are high, Virgo, you might need to figure out a way to relieve some stress. Turn on the music loudly and dance around in your home while singing along.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23
Libra, you could feel sluggish a few days this week. Once some friends urge you to get out and do something, you'll quickly feel reenergized and ready to have a good time.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22
Scorpio, failure can be a tough pill to swallow, but if you don't succeed at something you have to get back up and simply try again. Don't let one setback eat at you for long.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21
Don't let your pride get in the way of rekindling a friendship Sagittarius. Rather than

drum up old news, talk about the things you look forward to doing together.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20
Capricorn, things may work out if you give them another chance. Don't throw in the towel on your ideas just yet. Figure out a new angle and then get started on a new course.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18
Take the blinders or rose-colored glasses off, Aquarius. You can't adequately handle a situation unless you know all of the facts and have a clear grasp of reality.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20
If things are starting to feel boring, it might be time for a change of pace, Pisces. Simple things like changing around the furniture or taking a new route home can help.

~~~~~

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

|                                               |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 17 Martin Scorsese, director (81)        | Nov. 18 David Ortiz, baseball player, (48) |
| Nov. 19 Indira Gandhi, President of India (d) | Nov. 20 Judy Woodruff, news anchor (77)    |
| Nov. 21 Ronny Chieng, comedian (38)           | Nov. 22 Jamie Lee Curtis, actor (65)       |
| Nov. 23 Robin Roberts, television anchor (63) |                                            |

## November Giving

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!**

Step 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: 417-512-3094

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Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

# Rural deaths

(Continued from Page 9)  
from a decade-long struggle with substance use disorder. She found it difficult to stay off drugs after she was recently released from jail, despite a period of sobriety when she appeared to be pulling her life back together, he said.

Demar has his own theories on how and why his daughter may have died, mostly related to her being caught up in the drug culture that he believes left her vulnerable. While his daughter had previously used heroin, he said,

she had more recently turned to crack cocaine.

Demar also believes there are inconsistencies in the stories of the last people to have seen his daughter alive, and he isn't accepting that his daughter took her own life on that August morning, an explanation he said state police offered soon after her body was found.

"They specifically told me it looked like suicide and I said 'no way.' My daughter has certainly been in the dumps before, but she had two kids she loved and she

and her sister were very close," he said. "Michele would have left a note, and she wouldn't have just drove out there and said, 'that's it.'"

"Something's not right. She could have been drugged out. I just really don't think my daughter would have done this to herself," he said, adding that he has heard the speculation and rumors related to his daughter's death. In one instance, a photo of her deceased body was photoshopped in a manner that only fueled the rumors, he said.

In light of the second woman's death, Demar said the notion of his daughter dying by suicide seems even harder to believe.

"Something's going on there, two on Poor Farm Road," he said. "What are the chances?"

Little has been publicly released about the circumstances of Velazquez Estrada's death, although those with knowledge of the case have said the injuries to her body were extensive and vicious. Efforts to reach her family members were unsuccessful. Fitchburg police, who took the missing persons report from her mother, declined to release the report, citing the ongoing police investigation in Vermont.

At the Goodrich Academy in Fitchburg, Principal Alexis Curry confirmed that Velazquez Estrada was a 2020 graduate of the alternative high school, which is part of the public school system. Curry said she had not been aware of Velazquez Estrada's death.

"She was a very kind young

lady. Staff were very fond of her," Curry said. Noting that Velazquez Estrada had "overcome a lot of challenges in her life," she added, "She just wanted to graduate and do bigger things."

Community candlelight vigil planned

Diane Kinney is co-director of Circle, one of three agencies working in central Vermont to support people affected by domestic and sexual violence. She said the two deaths, combined with reports by women who said they have recently encountered suspicious behavior on rural backroads, has only heightened anxiety levels, as evidenced by an uptick in calls to her agency in October.

"Callers just say they are more afraid than usual; they aren't going out at night. They are worried that there is someone out there hurting people," she said.

Since the three agencies — Circle, Safeline and Mosaic — work with survivors of violence, Kinney said efforts to develop safety protocols have been made harder by all that is unknown about the deaths and reports of suspicious vehicles in the area.

"We're all pretty frustrated, honestly," Kinney said. "We work with a population that is very traumatized. Therefore, they are hypervigilant and want answers, just like the general public. We are finding ourselves not able to support them."

Vermont State Police have said they responded to the reports of suspicious vehicles with "high-

visibility patrols" in the region that includes Corinth and Topsham, but were unable to substantiate that any criminal behavior had taken place.

"The state police is aware of community concerns regarding these reports, and investigators also acknowledge that individuals may have varying perceptions regarding interactions with strangers," state police said in a Nov. 1 press release.

While state police have said last month's eight apparent homicides across the state appear to be "isolated incidents," Kinney said police could do more to elaborate on the reasons why residents should not feel in danger.

"What else can they tell us? I don't know," she said. But given the number of recent homicides, she said, "it just doesn't seem to add up."

The sense of increased violence in the area, she said, prompted the three agencies to organize a candlelight vigil, scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday in the town's Carpenter Park. A flier for the event hangs in the village store, prominent near the exit door. It promotes the vigil as "a gathering for healing from the violence and trauma."

"We decided to come together and invite folks to find a place of support and hopefully, in the community, find a little bit of hope," Kinney said. "We don't have the answers either, but we can support people in figuring out what things they can control."

## Restaurant guide



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for more information

## Join the Shoreham Congregational Church on Saturday November 25 for breakfast

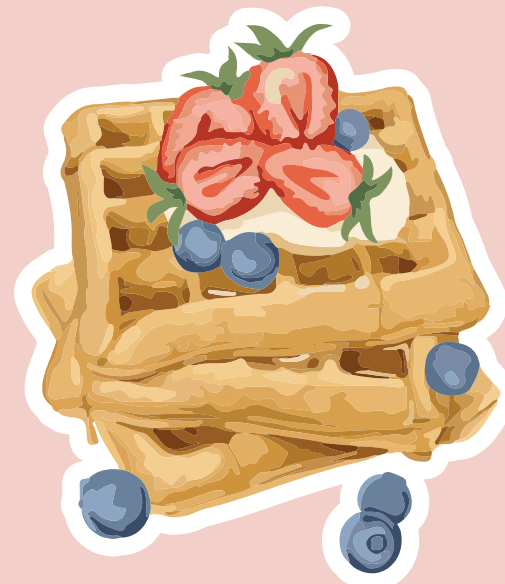
Take a break from all that turkey! Come to a Post-Thanksgiving Day Breakfast at the Shoreham Congregational Church from 8–10 a.m.

Feast on Plain or Blueberry Pancakes or French Toast with Vermont Maple Syrup, Sausages, Home Fries, Quiche, and Beverages.

The cost is only \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Children, and \$30 for Families. It is a great chance to enjoy good food as you chat with your neighbors and friends.

And take a chance on a Basket of Goodies to benefit the Holiday Mitten Project at the Shoreham Elementary School. Raffle tickets are only \$1 each or 10 for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the breakfast that day!

Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf to help those in need.



# Poll deems Vermont's Route 7 the 92nd worst highway in the US

Whether it's the notorious Interstate 345 in Dallas or the infamous Route 29 in Trenton, NJ, many highways across the U.S. contend for the unenviable title of being the most detested by their daily commuters. Sometimes there is nothing worse than reaching the crest of a hill on a freeway, with the city's shimmering silhouette appearing in the distance, when a relentless tide of brake lights paints a different picture.

Gunther Volvo Cars Daytona Beach ran a survey of 3,000 drivers (via QuestionPro) to determine, once and for all, America's most loathed interstates/freeways/highways. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the top 3 positions all went to California freeways. The results were as follows:

1. California, US-101 A Golden Gridlock... The Golden State's golden child of gridlock, US-101 takes the

corona, with parts in San Francisco and LA making drivers question their life choices. Many drivers report that they think of it as a highway doing an impression of a parking lot, especially during peak hours. With major tourist hubs along the way, the traffic pace can decelerate to speeds slower than an average person's walking pace, particularly noticeable during high-density travel times.

2. California, I-5 Snail's Stretch... Silver goes to this extensive stretch - I-5, especially through LA, could give snails a run for their money. From San Diego to Oregon, it's the backbone of the West Coast, but sometimes feels more like a spinal tap with its endless construction zones and "rush hour" that seems to

special spot in the hall of fame of American traffic jams, encapsulating the very essence of

Los Angeles' complex relationship with the automobile.

*Incidents like accidents, construction zones, or adverse weather conditions can further complicate traffic conditions, causing extended travel times for motorists on US-7.*

#4 Pennsylvania, I-76 (Pennsylvania Turnpike)

Historic Halt... In fourth, PA throws its hat into the ring with the I-76. It's a mix of historic charm and modern-

day migraines. Imagine a dance floor, but instead of people, it's cars - shimmying, twirling, and occasionally bumping into each other. Philly and Pittsburgh drivers, especially, know the I-76 tango all too well. Adding to the complexity, the turnpike is peppered with toll plazas that, despite modern EZ-Pass systems, become chokepoints, especially during holiday exodus. And the weather - rain, snow or shine, each brings its own set of chaos.

#3 California, I-405 (San Diego Freeway)

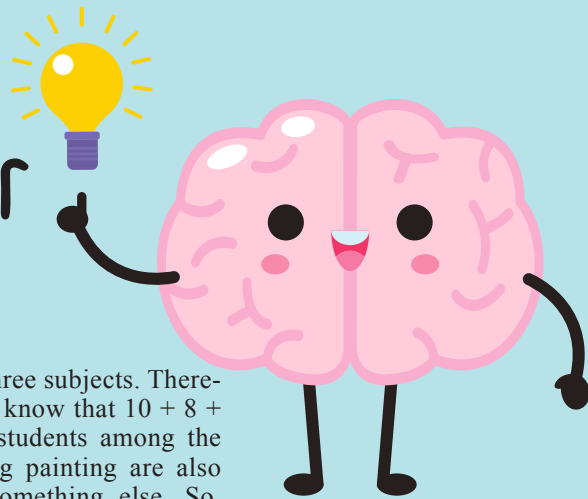
Latte Lockup... And rounding up the top 3 was another California gem, the I-405 (San Diego Freeway). Some say it is like Los Angeles' way of saying, "You thought the 101 was bad? Hold my latte." Navigating the infamous Sepulveda Pass is akin to conquering a mountain... if that mountain was made of cars. The I-405, with its unique blend of infrastructural, environmental, and cultural factors, occupies a

Rocky Road... Claiming fifth, Colorado's I-70 is not just your everyday road trip - it's an epic saga. This isn't just about the stop-and-go; it's about battling Mother Nature herself as

#5 Colorado, I-70

(See Route 7, Page 23)

## Brandon Brain Buster Answered



**Answer: E**

To find the answer, we need to know how many students are currently enrolled at the school and how many of them are taking only painting. We can't simply add up 51, 36, and 33 to figure out the total number of students because in each of those groups there are overlaps with the other two. For example, among the 51 students who take painting, there are also some who take drawing and/or sculpture. If we add up 51, 36, and 33, we will count those overlapping students two or even three times.

So, we need to subtract the students who take more than one subject from the totals for each subject to determine how many students take that subject only. For example, we know that among the 51 students taking painting, there are 10 also taking drawing, 8 also taking sculpture, and 3 tak-

ing all three subjects. Therefore, we know that  $10 + 8 + 3 = 21$  students among the 51 taking painting are also taking something else. So,  $51 - 21 = 30$  students are taking only painting. (Hold onto this number; we'll need it in a minute.)

We can do the same to find the number of students taking drawing only and sculpture only.

If there are 42 students taking drawing and we know that 10 also take painting, 5 also take sculpture, and 3 take all three subjects, then  $42 - 10 - 5 - 3 = 24$  students are taking only drawing.

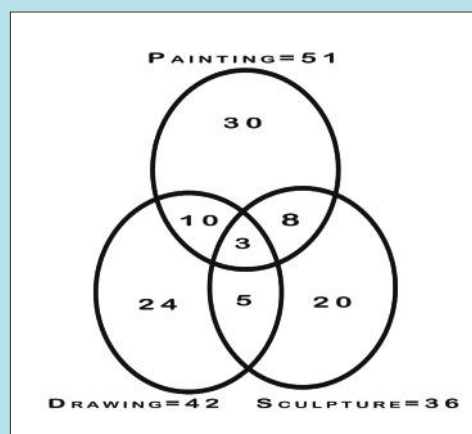
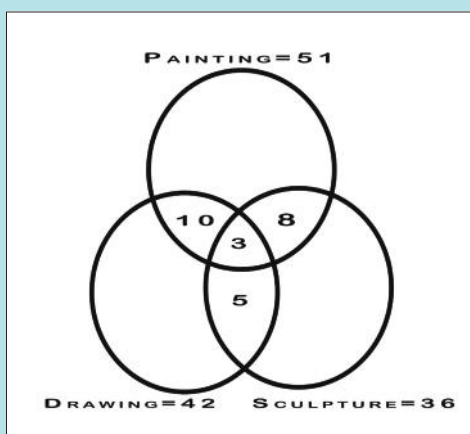
If there are 36 students taking sculpture and we know that 8 also take painting, 5 also take drawing, and 3 take all three subjects, then  $36 - 8 - 5 - 3 = 20$  students are taking only sculpture.

Now we know that the total number of students currently

enrolled at the school is  $30 + 24 + 20 + 10 + 8 + 5 + 3 = 100$ . This represents the students taking only one subject + the students taking two subjects + the students taking all three.

We already figured out that there were 30 students taking only painting. So, 30 out of the 100 students, or 30%, are taking painting only.

You can visualize this with Venn diagrams. In the diagram on the left, we fill in all the information we have from the question itself. The blank sections of the circles represent painting only, drawing only, and sculpture only. In the diagram on the right, we can fill in the blank sections by subtracting the overlapping segments of each circle from the total for that circle.



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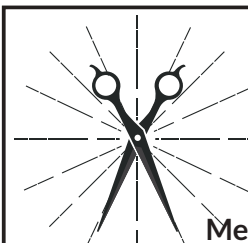
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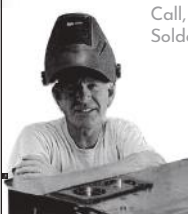


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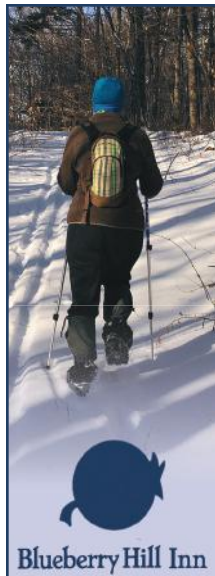
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# Route 7

(Continued from Page 21)  
 you weave through the Rockies. With the Eisenhower Tunnel acting as the gateway to winter wonder (or blunder), travelers often find themselves playing a game of "Will it close today?" due to snowstorms. Roadway improvements and seasonal restrictions for non-equipped vehicles attempt to mitigate these issues, but they introduce their own delays, with travelers often facing mandatory detours or chain-ups during winter storms.

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ity to these areas and its role as a connecting route contribute to its use by travelers. Incidents like accidents, construction zones, or adverse weather conditions can further complicate traffic conditions, causing extended travel times for motorists on US-7. Additionally, routine road maintenance and infrastructure improvements are essential for safety and functionality but can result in lane closures or detours, adding to the complexity of travel on this route.



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Thank you.  
 Susan Gage, Town Treasurer

### Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Otter Valley Union Middle High School Site Work – Modular Unit

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is seeking interested Contractors for site work including excavation and concrete for a Modular Unit Installation.

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11/7/2023 Advertise & invite Contractors  
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# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

A tree that was planted too close to the water fountain in Central Park during the Segment 6 project will be removed. It is not historic or mature, but anyone who has any objection to the planned removal is asked to register their objection with the Town Manager by November 28th.

The Prudential Committee of the Brandon Fire District expressed “conceptual” interest in taking the overage from a town-owned solar array, an arrangement which would benefit both the Fire District and the town. Jim Emerson of the Brandon Energy Committee has 2 proposals for the array in hand and is seeking a third.

The Selectboard is encouraged to decide to whom to dedicate the Town Report that will be released in the new year.

Mr. Hopkins and Selectboard member Tim Guiles each completed 75 hours of training and are now certified Vermont Emergency Management Directors.

Mr. Hopkins sought and received authorization from the Board to begin negotiations with the labor union representing several town employees.

Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian submitted a letter disputing an allegation made by Select-

board member Brian Coolidge at the last Selectboard meeting that Brandon PD had refused a request from the Neshobe School to send an officer to discuss the work of police officers with students. In the letter, Chief Kachajian denied that such a request had been received and stated that Principal Wells assured him that no such request had been made. If such a request had been made, Chief Kachajian assured the Board it would have been accepted. On Monday, Mr. Coolidge reiterated his disappointment.

There was additional conversation about the “adoption” by local gardeners of the bioswales on Park and Pearl Streets. Mr. Hopkins stated that no further progress had been made on that front and Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore state that the town grounds crew was working to clean up the swales.

Board Chair Tracy Wyman asked about the “primitive camp” in Goshen that was seeking access to a Brandon road. Mr. Hopkins explained that he had an upcoming meeting with the owners of the land through which the Goshen owner sought access.

### RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Rec Director Bill Moore offered his report, the full text of which can be found in the Selectboard packet

on the town website. Highlights included:

Registration has opened for winter cheerleading and PK – 6 boys’ basketball.

Only 18 tickets remain for the Celtics trip.

Work will begin on the new floor of the Town Hall on December 11.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith, who is also on the Planning Commission, advised that the Commission’s draft town plan will be submitted for approval by the required statutory parties by 11/18 and will be presented for public comment at a public meeting the week of 12/18.

Board member Heather Nelson asked whether a moratorium on additional ARPA spending could be imposed pending receipt of quotes for the work needed on the roof of the Town Hall. Mr. Hopkins shared that 4 quotes had already been received but more may be coming. The 4 quotes ranged from \$314K for asphalt shingles to \$508K for standing-seam metal. Two quotes for slate came in at \$372K (including redecking) and \$486K. The names of the vendors were not revealed.

It was also determined that a motion passed at a previous meeting to pause any decisions on ARPA funding was still in effect, though the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is advising towns with undesignated ARPA funds to

commit them quickly because the federal government may be seeking to reclaim any undesignated ARPA money earlier than expected. VLCT suggested that ARPA monies could be placed in existing capital-expense funds as a way of retaining them for future designation.

### VERMONT 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION

The Vermont Division of Historic Preservation is seeking “liaisons” from Brandon to work on the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which will begin in 2025 and wrap up in 2027.

The Board approved a motion to participate but declined to designate anyone as liaisons. Instead, participation will be sought among the community. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Hopkins.

### DESIGNATED DOWNTOWN

The Board approved the appointment of the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce Board as the Designated Downtown Board in order to comply with state requirements for access to grants that will benefit Brandon’s downtown. The resolution also entailed the merger of the Chamber with the Downtown Brandon Alliance. More news on this merger will appear in future issues of The Reporter.

### GRAND LIST ERRORS

The Board approved corrections to the town’s Grand List to reflect changes in the physical structures

of two properties and the tax-exempt status of two others. The full description of the changes can be found in the Selectboard packet on the town’s website.

### TREE GRANTS

The Board approved a request from the Brandon Tree Warden, Neil Silins, to apply for a “Communities Caring for Canopies” grant. These grants can be for up to \$20K and require a 50% match from the town, which can be in cash or in kind (the equivalent value in labor).

### PAYROLL

The Board approved a change to the blanket payroll authorization to reflect a merit raise received by a town employee.

Board member Brian Coolidge expressed concern that the receipt of this raise might cause problems with other town employees. Mr. Hopkins assured Mr. Coolidge that the raise was the result of an annual review and had occurred every year of this employee’s time working for the town.

### Warrant

As the Board’s final bit of public business for the evening, a warrant was approved in the amount of \$1,305,354.38 to cover the town’s expenses and obligations, including approximately \$850K for the wastewater plant project.

The Board then went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

# Stuff-A-Truck Toy drive!



Help us support HOPE Gift Shop. Let’s ensure ALL of our local children experience the magic of the holiday! Deliver unwrapped toys to Stone Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram or G. Stone Motors weekdays 8-5, Saturdays 8-Noon. Donations accepted until Monday, Dec. 11!



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gstonemotors.com

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stonecdjr.com

