

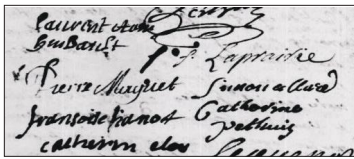
The *Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland • Lake Dunmore • Leicester • Whiting • Sudbury • Goshen*
REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, December 6, 2023

\$1



NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Genealogist Michael Dwyer recounts the journey from Maguet to McGee, another example of French-Canadian adaptation to English.

PG. 3

MORE LIKE A TAX LEAP

Steven Jupiter discusses the proposed 18.5% increase in property tax, with input from State Reps. Stephanie Jerome of Brandon and Butch Shaw of Pittsford/Proctor.

PG. 4



STANDING UP FOR OTHERS

The Reporter's graphic designer, Sepi Alavi writes about her hopes as an American of Middle Eastern descent during this time of turmoil in Gaza.

PG. 5

SNEAK PEAK

The Brandon Free Public Library gives a peek into its ongoing renovation.

PG. 14



IT'S NOT GREEK!

The 'Science Pub' comes to the Brandon Inn for a terrific presentation on Mayan hieroglyphics.

PG. 15



Brush with winter

IT'S BEEN A relatively warm season so far, but snow briefly collected on the banks of the Neshobe River in Brandon recently, as seen beneath an early morning sky.

Photo by David Roberts

Annual Library Friends Holiday Auction was a rousing success!

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- The Friends of the Brandon Free Public Library held their annual holiday fundraiser in the town hall last Sunday afternoon. More than

ninety items were auctioned off, including a king-size, double-sided quilt and a framed piece of fabric art from Judith Reilly. A wide variety of arts and crafts were donated from supporters

in the community. Original as well as vintage art was sold to the highest bidder. The auction featured silk floral arrangements and beautiful wreaths, glass and stone carvings, original paint-

ings, as well as a hand-turned pen and a lathe-turned candle holder.

Over 100 folks attended, con- (See *Library Auction*, Page 14)

Guilty verdict in Harper Rose trial

BY TIFFANY TAN/ VTDIGGER

A former child-care provider in Rutland was found guilty Friday of causing a child's death by giving the infant a sedative, which the defendant denied doing when she took the stand earlier that day.

A Rutland County jury found Stacey Vaillancourt guilty of both manslaughter and child cruelty resulting in the death of 6-month-old Harper Rose Briar in 2019. She faces up to 25 years in prison at her sentencing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Vaillancourt, 58, remains free on a \$50,000 unsecured appearance bond, which she would be required to pay if she fails to appear in court.

The jury announced its verdict around 7:30 p.m. Friday, the last day of Vaillancourt's five-day trial and about four hours after jurors began deliberating.

The state sought to prove that Vaillancourt had fatally sedated Harper — who was described by witnesses as having difficulty sleeping for long periods — on Jan. 24, 2019, the baby's third day at her in-home child-care program.

Dr. Elizabeth Bundock, Vermont's chief medical examiner, ruled that the child died of intoxication from diphenhydramine, an antihistamine that has sedative effects and is the active ingredient in medication such as Benadryl. The child (See *Harper Rose trial*, Page 8)



Moosalamoo Association names new Exec Director and Board members

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Moosalamoo Association has announced that Susan Johnson of Brandon has become its new Executive Director after the recent departure of Susan Hoxie, who left the position to relocate out of state.

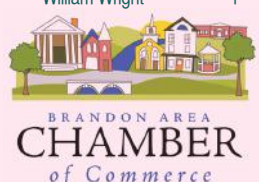
MA is a nonprofit civilian organization that works in conjunction with the National Park Service to maintain and promote the vast, federally owned Moosalamoo National Recreation Area (MNRA), which was established in 2006 and covers (See *Moosalamoo*, Page 8)

Brandon's 2023 Memory Tree

"Annie"	10	Albert Bryant	1	Rollie Devino	11	Jim Gunn	1	Leary Family	1	Classmates from		Ralph Severy	2
"Barney"	10	Cheryl (Flood) Bryant	2	Florence DeWitt	1	Justin Hackett	1	Joshua Michael Lee	5	OV Class of '73	1	Robert Severy	1
"Bobo"	1	David Bryant	2	Tom DeWitt	1	Alfred Haisch	1	Jean Lertola	1	Angela Ovecka	1	Vivian Severy	2
"Charlie"	1	Jack Bryant	1	Mildred DeWitt	1	Irene Haisch	1	Justin Lertola	1	Gene Pagano	1	Joseph & Grace Sherlock	3
"Chico"	1	James (Buddy) Bryant	1	Ralph DeWitt Jr.	1	Mary Hall	1	Viola Leskinen	1	Donna Marie		Jim Sherwin	5
"Gabby"	5	James (Erik) Bryant	2	Ralph DeWitt Sr.	1	Eleanor Hanson	1	Earl Lewis	1	(Ducky) Palmer	5	Kathleen Short	1
"Ginger the Laziest Cowdog"	1	Jeffrey Bryant	1	Albert Disorda	1	Willis Hanson	1	Lyn Lewis	1	Erma Paquin	1	Robert Short	1
"Hoochie Mama"	1	Ken Bryant	1	Ron Disorda	1	David Hardin	1	Ron Lewis	1	Rene Paquin	1	Elinor Sioco	1
"Max"	5	Larry Bryant	2	Donald Donewirth	1	Davy Hardin	1	Ronald Lewis	2	Wess Paradise	1	Linda Sjoberg	1
"Miss Scarlett"	1	Lois Jean Bryant	2	Lore Donewirth	1	Kathleen Hardin	1	Jill Lillard	1	B. Robert Parker	1	Carl E. Smith	1
"Piggus"	1	Margaret Bryant	1	Art Doty	1	Adam Harrison	1	Littlefield Family		Bernard Parker	1	Chester Smith	1
"Rufio"	1	Pauline (Polly) Bryant	2	Art & Donna Doty	3	Gloria Harrison	1	Deceased Members	1	Genevieve Parker	1	Mildred M. Smith	1
"Solo"	1	Rick Bryant	1	Judith (Judy) Douglas	1	Johnny Harrison	1	Donald (Don) Longaway	10	Gale & Elaine Parmelee	8	Zachary Meyer Smith	1
"Spike Carrduzco"	1	Ronald Bryant	1	Frieda Dykstra	1	Sewell Harrison	1	Irene Loveland	1	Elida Patch	1	Carl R. Smith, Sr.	1
Becky Adams	2	Walter Bryant	1	Mick Dykstra	1	Father Doug Hawkins	1	Marvin Lowell	1	Irma Patch	1	Jordan Snow	1
Cecil Adams	1	Dorothy Burgess	1	Jessica Ebbighausen	1	Padre Cito Hawkins	1	Eleanor & Ken MacAlpine	1	Nona F. Peck	3	Debby Ghiselin Somerset	1
Mabel Adams	1	Henry Burgess	1	Mary Ellis	1	Arden Hayden	1	Doug MacMurtry	1	William W. Peck	3	Moose & Margaret Somerset	1
Clifford F. Aines	1	Jean Burt	1	Carolyn English	1	Eddie Hayes	1	Harold MacMurtry	1	Harold (Bud) Pelkey	1	Patricia Somerset	1
Marian Aines	1	Lisa Burt	1	Stan English	1	Edward S. Hayes	1	Phyllis MacMurtry	1	Anne Pfenning	1	Lee & Leona Stanley	1
Phyllis Aitchison	4	Lyle Burt	1	Penny Estabrook	2	Florence Hayes	1	David MacMurtry, Sr.	1	Arthur Pfenning	1	Jennifer Stepp	1
Mark Albert	5	Yvonne Carr	3	Brigette Fahrenbach	1	George Hayes	1	John Malewicki	1	Howard & Anna Pfenning	1	Arthur (Skip) Stevens	1
Ronald Alger	1	Verna Carr	1	Nancy Faller	1	Kenny Hayes	1	Elmer Mallory	1	Herbert Pidgeon	1	Peg & Doc Stewart	1
Charlene Allis	4	Marcus Carr Jr.	1	Francis Fallon	1	Marion Hayes	1	Iola Mallory	1	Stella Pidgeon	3	Harland Stockwell	1
Allen Arkett	1	Marcus Carr Sr.	2	Harriet Fallon	1	Pearl Hayes	1	Jessica Mallory	2	Paul Steven Pidgeon Jr.	4	Shirley Stockwell	1
Phyllis Arkett	1	Christy Jean Carswell	1	Rita Fallon	5	Thomas Hayes	1	John Mallory	2	Paul Steven Pidgeon Sr.	1	Marjorie Sturtevant	1
Kathryn (Kathy) Atwood	11	Harry Carter	1	Reginald Ferson	1	Walter Hayes, Jr.	1	Keith Manning	1	Brianna Popp	1	Sally Sugarman	1
Robert Atwood	2	Irene & Florrie (Trostel) Cavanagh	1	Ruth Ferson	1	Walter Hayes, Sr.	1	Ortenza J. Marden	11	Eleanor Pratt	1	Bob Sugarman	1
Stephen (Steve) Atwood	11	Azem Churchill	1	Francis G. Fielder	1	Al Hilborn	1	William J. Marden	10	Ron Preseau	1	Frank & Annie Sullivan	1
Viola Austin	1	Richard Churchill	1	Muriel Fielder	1	Carol Hocker	1	Linda Markowski	2	Sarah Pulsifer	2	Lisa Tonucci Sweet	1
Minnie Baker	1	Yvonne Churchill	1	Richard Fielder	1	Kathy Hopperstad	2	Charles Marks	1	Pulsifer Family		George O. Swingleton	1
Raymond Baker	1	Bill Claghorn	1	Rodney Fielder	1	Pamel Hromek	1	Gen Marks	1	Deceased Members	1	John A. Swingleton	6
Richard Baker	1	Connie Claghorn	1	Doris Filioe	5	Mike Huber	1	Wayne Martel	5	Rene & Lorraine Quenneville	1	Mary Swingleton	1
Volney Baker	1	Dave Claghorn	1	John A. and Ruth Filioe	10	Phyllis Humiston	1	James J. Martin	1	Alice Quesnel	1	Donald Taylor	1
Henry Beauregard	1	Jo Claghorn	1	Keith Filioe	5	Bonnie Hunt	1	Janet Martin	1	Lewis & Agnes Quimby	1	Patricia Taylor	1
Red Beauregard	1	Judy Claghorn	1	Kim Filioe	5	Charles Hurst	1	Patricia Martin	1	Curtis Rawson	1	Ernest Taylor Sr.	1
Retta Beauregard	1	Greg R. Clark	6	Walter and Fern Filioe	10	Janet Hurst	1	Ray Marvinney	1	Ruth Marvinney	1	Janet Thomas	1
Timothy Beauregard	1	Alexa Lynn Williams Clement	6	Carrie Flynn	1	Kathi Irizarry	1	Margary Masterson	1	Kimberly Raymo	1	Ken Thomas	1
Hubert Belden	1	Kerry Clifford	6	Catherine Flynn	1	James Jackson	1	Ned Masterson	1	Agnes Reed	1	Bill and Gwen Thompson	1
Cindy Bell	1	Yolande Cline	1	Joseph Flynn	1	Leon Jackson	1	Derek Reed	1	Derek Reed	1	Lillian Thomsen	3
Henry Bertrand	1	Tara McKay Colvin	1	Kevin Flynn	1	Louis Jacobs	1	Doris Reed	1	Richard Mathis	1	Maxine Thurston	1
Jeannette Bertrand	1	Betty Conlin	2	Terry Flynn	1	Marie Jacobs	1	Kimi Reed	1	Ray Mathieu, Jr.	1	Andy Tibbals	1
Katherine Bertrand	2	Jane Coolidge	7	Barb Forquites	2	Lois Jacobetz	7	Norman Reed	1	Joe & Joan Maurer	1	Ann Tibbals	1
Paul Bertrand	2	Agnes M. Coons	2	Jack Forquites	1	Elenita Jennings	2	Patricia Reed	1	John & Stella Mauer	1	Sonny Reed	1
Romeo Bertrand	2	Carolyn J. Coons	2	Janice Forquites	2	George Jennings	1	Carl Reed, Jr.	1	Dr. Philip Mayo	1	Carl Reed, Jr.	1
Theresa Bertrand	1	Earl T. Coons	2	Leslie Forquites	2	Janet Jennings	1	Philip Mayo	1	Mabel Jennings	1	Patty Anne Reilly	1
Micah Biello	5	Edith Cooper	1	Robert Forquites	2	Nancy Jennings	1	Beverly Mayo	1	Noble Jennings	1	Byron Ricard	2
Chad Bird	1	Mickey Cooper	1	Irene Forrest	1	Robert Jennings	1	Barbara Mazza	1	Allen Michael Johnson	4	Carla Ricard	2
Ed Bird	1	Roy R. Cooper	1	Rev. Oliver Fournier	1	Allen Michael Johnson	4	Annette McCoy	1	Austin S. Johnson	3	Darla Ricard	1
Grace Bird	3	Gigi Corsones	1	Sr. Elaine Fournier	1	Donald Johnson	1	Abbie McCullough	1	Donald Johnson	1	Francis & Ina Ricard	1
Roger Bird	3	Tom Cox	1	Grampa Fox	1	Edward Johnson	2	Theresa McDonough	1	Edward Johnson	2	Manuel L. Ricard	1
Herman Bisette	1	Alfred Cram	1	Mimi Fox	1	Katherine A. Johnson	3	Gaston McDuff	1	Nancy Johnston	2	Brett Hanson Rideout	1
Mary Bisette	1	Marlin Cram	1	Bette Fredette	1	Nancy Johnston	2	Pauline McDuff	1	Tom Johnston, Jr.	2	Donald C. Rideout	1
Charles Bizzarro	2	Verne Creed	1	Annie Frizzell	2	Tom Johnston, Jr.	2	Bill McKay	1	Larry Keane	6	Doris Rideout	1
John T. Bizzarro	2	Father Al Croce	1	Edwin Frizzell	2	Larry Keane	6	Liz McKay	1	Debbie Keith	3	Faith Hanson Rideout	2
Philomena Bizzarro	2	Eleanor H. Crossman	3	Gladwyne Fuller	1	Debbie Keith	3	Red McKay	1	Ed Keith	1	Neil Rideout	2
Charlie Blake	1	Evelyn S. Crossman	3	Don Gallipo	1	Ed Keith	1	Danny McKeighan	1	Joey Keith	1	Ellen Ripley	1
Jorge Blanco	1	Wesley E. Crossman	3	Edward Gallipo	1	Joey Keith	1	Priscilla McKeighan	2	Mike Keith	1	Janipher (Jan) Ripley	7
Danielle Booska	17	Irv Cummings	2	Estelle (Stella) Gallipo	1	Mike Keith	1	Jack McKernon	1	Keith Family	1	Rena Ripley	1
Ed & Jean Bosti	1	Nelly Cummings	2	Lottie Gallipo	1	Keith Family	1	Dodie McLaughlin	1	Henry Gauthier	2	Robert Ripley	7
David Bradley, Sr.	5	Karen Currier	2	Henry Gauthier	2	Joan Kelley	1	Elwood T. McLaughlin	1	Luise Kempel	1	Russel Ripley	2
Harper Rose Briar	1	Greg Danyow	1	Shirley Gauthier	1	Luise Kempel	1	John McLaughlin	1	Hayden (Pip) Kennedy	1	Gramp Rivers	1
Judy Brodsky	1	Theresa Davis	1	Michael Genier	1	Hayden (Pip) Kennedy	1	Peter McLaughlin	1	Marion Kennedy	1	Jeannie Wetmore Rivers	1
Bea Brown	1	Dorothy Dayton	1	Rae Genier	1	Brian Kerr	1	Luise Medlin	2	John & Marry Kerr	2	Frank Roberts	1
Dan Brown	2	Joseph Decker	1	Anna Germond	1	John & Marry Kerr	2	Sandra Quimby Menard	1	Chet Ketcham	1	Perry Rosen	1
Dorothy Brown	1	Bud DeLancey	5	Connie Germond	1	Kay Ketchum	1	Gladys Merrill	2	Leon Merrill	2	Sibby Rosen	1
Francis (Bud) Brown	2	Rhoda DeLancey	6	Helen Germond	1	Wally Kimball Jr.	1	Leon Merrill	2	Peter Miller	10	Sidney Rosen	1
Janet L. Brown	2	Louis Denis	1	James E. Germond	1	Wayne Kingsley	1	Peter Miller	10	Leo H. Miner	1	Roger Rotundi	1
Julie Brown	2	Paul DePalma	1	Paul Germond	1	Terry Kline	1	Leo H. Miner	1	Cherie Rouse	1	Charlie Rouse	1
Laura Brown	1	Sadie DePalma	1	Ronald Germond	1	Randy Klinger	1	Freda Marie Mitchell	5	Karen Rouse	2	Karen Rouse	2
Raymond Brown	1	Leo Desforges	1	Smith Germond	1	Stephen Smith Germond	1	Homer Josiah Mitchell	5	Sophia Rouse	2	Sophia Rouse	2
W. Frank Brown	1	Yvette Desforges	1	Stephen Germond	1	Virginia Germond	1	Bette Moffett	1	Stewart Rouse	1	Stewart Rouse	1
Chris Bruce	2	Dick DesMarais	1	Stephen Smith Germond	1	David Gibson	1	Brendan Molloy	3	Theda Rouse	4	Theda Rouse	4
Janie Lynn Bruce	1	Jerry Devino	1	Virginia Germond	1	Clarence Giddings	1	Gloria Montague	1	Wendell Rouse	4	Wendell Rouse	4
				David Gibson	1	Eloise Giddings	1	Twila Moody	1	William Rouse	2	William Rouse	2
				Clarence Giddings	1	Edgar Goodspeed	1	Clifford Morin	2	Fred Rowe	10	Fred Rowe	10
				Eloise Giddings	1	Percy & Maude Goodspeed	2	Dorothy Morin	2	Chris Russ	1	Chris Russ	1
				Edgar Goodspeed	1	Rod Goodspeed	3	Mabel Narabone	1	Maureen Saunders	1	Maureen Saunders	1
				Percy & Maude Goodspeed	2	Brian Gorton	2	Charlie Nesbitt	1	Arthur Sawyer	1	Arthur Sawyer	1
				Rod Goodspeed	3	Lucien Gorton	2	David Newton	1	Marion Sawyer	1	Marion Sawyer	1
				Brian Gorton	2	Bill Gould	1	Jeff Newton	1	Mary Sawyer	1	Mary Sawyer	1
				Lucien Gorton	2	Hazel Gove	1	June Newton	1	Maxine Sawyer	1	Maxine Sawyer	1
				Bill Gould	1	Helen Gove	1	Kelly Newton	1	Meryl Sawyer	1	Meryl Sawyer	1
				Hazel Gove	1	Donna Gravelle	1	Mildred Newton	1	Wallace Sawyer	1	Wallace Sawyer	1
				Helen Gove	1	John Paul Greene	1	Patrick Newton	1	William Sawyer	1	William Sawyer	1
				Donna Gravelle	1	Linda Greene	1	Patrick Newton	1	Zula Sawyer	1	Zula Sawyer	1
				John Paul Greene	1	Benoni Griffin	1	Philip Newton	1	Charlie Scarborough	1	Charlie Scarborough	1
				Linda Greene	1	Deacon Gary Griffin	6	Naomi Nickerson	1	Gram Scarborough	1	Gram Scarborough	1
				Benoni Griffin	1	Glen & Irene Griffin	1	George & Margaret Nicklaw	1	Gramp Scarborough	1	Gramp Scarborough	1
				Deacon Gary Griffin	6			Richard Nicklaw	1	Norma Scarborough	1	Norma Scarborough	1
				Glen & Irene Griffin	1			Lynn Severy Nielsen	3	Perley Scarborough	2	Perley Scarborough	2
								Victor Noble	1	Michael Schroeder	1	Michael Schroeder	1
								Helen Noel	1	Doris Senecal	1	Doris Senecal	1
								Norma Norton	1	Ivin Senecal	1	Ivin Senecal	1
								Michael O'Brien	1	William Senecal	1	William Senecal	1
								Timothy O'Mara	1	Elmer Severy	3	Elmer Severy	3
								Orion	1	Hayden Severy	2	Hayden Severy	2
								Peter Orvis	2	Judson Severy	2	Judson Severy	2
								Jeanette Osterhout	1	Laura Severy	3	Laura Severy	3
										Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Severy	2	Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Severy	2



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Names Lost in Vermont, Part 13: Mayo, Magee, McGee, & Sanspre

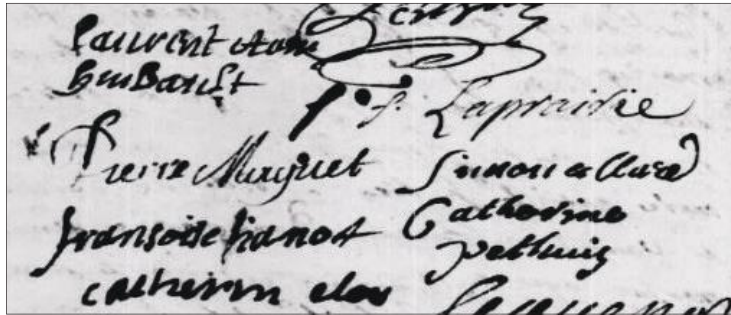
BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

A steep climb in Chittenden's rocky Horton Cemetery brings us to a large memorial stone inscribed like two faces of the same coin. One side reads MAYO and the other side reads McGEE. Gravestones around this one bear both names. To unravel the story of how this Chittenden family lived with interchanged names, we need to begin with Civil War soldier Joseph McGee (1826—1889). Juxtaposition of these two grave markers document the chronology of the name change. Although two-year-old Homer Mayo died in 1897, eight years after his grandfather, Joseph McGee, Homer's gravestone was erected soon after his death, whereas Joseph's stone, with its Civil War marker, was not placed there until after the death of his wife Phelinda in 1930. The Mayo surname was seemingly closer phonetically to Joseph's original surname, Maillé, pronounced "My Yay."

Born in Terrebonne, an island south of Montreal, on April 7, 1826, Joseph was the son of Alexander Maillé and Elizabeth Montigny. His early years elude documentation—his siblings, save one brother, Lewis, stayed in Canada. On August 5, 1862, at Troy, New York, as Joseph Mayo, he enlisted in Company 7 of New York

Heavy Artillery Infantry and served until his discharge at the end of the war. Within the next few years, he moved to West Castleton, Vermont. On February 28, 1869, he married for the

riously, it was Phelinda alone who took out a mortgage in 1882. As described later, it consisted of "a log house, barn, 20 acres of rocky mountain land, no income from said premises



PIERRE MAGUET'S SIGNATURE on a Quebec marriage record from 1686. "Maguet" would eventually become "McGee" in the United States.

first time, under the name Joseph McGee, to a young Civil War widow, Phelinda Belden, born in Whitehall, New York to French-Canadian immigrants. Phelinda's first husband, Homer Belden, a veteran of Company E, Vermont's Fifth Volunteer Infantry, had died only ten months prior, leaving her with two toddlers, Homer and Henry Belden.

In the early years of their marriage, as Joseph made his living as a lumberman in the woods, cutting down trees and burning charcoal, they moved frequently before settling in Chittenden around 1876. Cu-

and just serves as a home and shelter." Moving forward, we have much detail about Joseph's last four years from his Civil War pension file, housed at the National Archives in Washington. In 1885, at age 59, 5' 3," 145 pounds, Joseph attempted to gain a Civil War disability pension, citing bowel problems, asthma, and "moon blindness," all of which interfered with ability earn a living as a manual laborer. Because the pension board could not determine his ailments were a direct result of the war, and with no record of his wartime hos-

(See Names lost, Page 9)



THE GRAVESTONES OF Homer Mayo and Joseph McGee, grandson and grandfather, respectively. The story of how this French-Canadian family ended up using Irish names took some effort to uncover. Photo by Michael Dwyer

2023 BRANDON MOONLIGHT MADNESS WEEK!!

Thru Dec. 8th

Many shops open till 8pm-12/6 & 12/8
Please check with each business for their days and hours open for the holiday season.

We look forward to enjoying the holidays with all of you!

THE INN ON PARK STREET GREEN MT. SMOKE & VAPE SHOP BRANDON HOUSE OF PIZZA NESHOBIE CAFE RED CLOVER ALE CO. SISTER WICKED	BRANDON TOWN HALL ACROSS THE STREET AT THE BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD CAFE PROVENCE FRIENDS OF THE BRANDON LIBRARY	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK BRANDON BLUE SEAL BLUE MOON CLOTHING & GIFTS SCRIBNER FINANCIAL, INC. THE BOOKSTORE CARR'S GIFTS
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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

A tax too far?

BY STEVEN JUPITER

Last week, heads exploded all around the state when Vermonters heard about the projected 18.5% increase in property taxes next year. Social media lit up with anger, disbelief, and dismay. Vermont already has among the highest taxes in the country and now the state tax authorities are advising us to brace for one of the largest single-year increases in state history. People are understandably worried and ticked off.

Everyone is feeling squeezed. It's not a matter of perception: life is simply more expensive now than it was before the pandemic. We can debate the causes—supply-chain disruptions, pent-up demand, corporate greed—but we can't debate the effects. We're all watching our purchasing power diminish at a rapid clip. The announcement of such a large increase in property tax is pretty much the last thing anyone wanted to hear.

But it's important to keep in mind that we, the taxpayers, are still in control of this process. The 18.5% hike is, for the moment, just a proposal. A lot of commentary on social media took the projection as a done deal when, in fact, it is just a prediction of the cost of maintaining all the educational services that we're currently providing. We will not end up paying 18.5% more in property tax unless we agree to it.

The portion of our tax bills that will account for the huge hike is the portion that supports our schools. There are costs that districts have to deal with every year: payroll, health insurance, equipment, supplies, etc. But this year we're in an especially tricky

position because much of the federal pandemic-era funding that allowed districts to weather that storm is now coming to an end. Taxpayers will have to work with their school districts to decide which pandemic-era staff and programs should survive and which should be phased out.

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, which encompasses Otter Valley, Neshobe, Lothrop, and Barstow, has been sounding the alarm for a while now, warning that we were heading toward an "ESSER cliff." ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief and was the source of much COVID-era funding.

RNESU will have to make many tough decisions over the next month or two while it prepares the budget it will present to voters in March. Residents of the district should make an effort to familiarize themselves with the budget, attend School Board meetings, and let their representatives on the Board know their preferences. This is an instance when civic participation can make a huge difference.

State Representative Butch Shaw (R-Pittsford/Proctor) said, "In my 14 years serving as a Representative this is the largest increase that I have seen in the annual forecast letter. This increase is driven in part by actions of the General Assembly in the past session, the ending of large amounts of one-time federal funding made available to school districts during the pandemic, a 16% increase in health-care benefits, overall inflation increasing the price of operating our schools, and overall increases in school budgets statewide."

(See *Tax too far*, Page 15)



Baby it's cold outside

SNOW BUNTINGS ARE starting to be seen in Vermont as they migrate down from the high Arctic

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Rutland County Head Start to open Early Head Start infant and toddler program this winter

Rutland, Vt. – Rutland County Head Start, which operates within the Rutland Community Programs division of Community Care Network (CCN), today announced the implementation of its new Early Head Start program designed to provide high-quality care for infants and toddlers.

"Rutland County Head Start has long recognized the increasing need for quality infant and toddler services in Rutland County, and we are so excited to be able to now offer this essential

program to families in our region," said Donna Barrow, Di-

rector of Rutland County Head Start. "Quality early childhood care and education is vital to the successful development of a child's social and emotional

"A hallmark of Head Start and Early Head Start is a holistic approach spanning health and safety, education, nutrition and family wrap-around services, all delivered by loving, committed caregivers and teachers,"

— Donna Barrow,
Director of Rutland
County Head Start

skills and is paramount to laying the groundwork for continued future success throughout a child's educational path." The new Early Head Start program, which will be hosted at Rutland County Head Start's Meadow Street and Discovery Center facilities in Rutland beginning in late-December, will offer 27 openings for

children ages birth to 3, in addition to the 45 existing open-

ings currently offered to children ages 3 to 5 through the traditional Head Start program.

Leveraging improved classroom environments made possible through grant funding provided by The Bourse Trust and Let's Grow Kids - including cribs and rest areas, indoor and outdoor play areas and spaces for parents to engage with teachers and family advocates, the Early Head Start program will function around the Creative Curriculum model, the leading and top-rated whole-child curriculum to support infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers.

Additionally, in collaboration with trained professionals from CCN's Rutland Mental Health Services, Early Head Start will be offering attending families a range of supplemental self-care and parenting support services including the Circle of Security program, the Parents and Babies Stress Management program and other

(See *Head Start*, Page 7)

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REPORTER

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

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Women, Life, Freedom—as in, Free Palestine

BY SEPI ALAVI

I am an American woman of Middle-Eastern descent who grew up Quaker. Not as strange as it may sound at first blush, if you consider that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. While my family isn't actually Quaker, my parents always taught at Quaker colleges and high schools, and as I grow older (no, I won't tell you how much older), I find that the tenets of my education seeped in when I wasn't looking. Quakers believe that there is "that of God" in everyone—that goodness and dignity are inherent in all human beings. Quakers are pacifists and seek nonviolent solutions to conflict. For indeed, if there is that of God in everyone, then to kill another person is to kill God.

I grew up in Washington, DC and am no stranger to protests. My parents took me to Iraq war



CROWDS GATHERED IN front of the State House this past Saturday to demand a permanent ceasefire in Palestine.

protests in the 90s, and when (See *Free Palestine*, Page 20)

Guest Essay

A dream about shifting our approach to climate change

BY JIM EMERSON

I recently dreamt I was at an auditor training. I used to be an auditor myself and was remembering sloppy bookkeeping practices I dealt with. Only I realized that the topic of this dreamed audit training was climate change. It was focused on determining the environmental impact of everything we consume and providing a rating for every item we buy or use.

This applied to everything from plastic bags to gasoline to screws, lawn mowers, and toothpaste. Presumably, some scientists had come up with an objective way to rate every product, much like the nutrition facts we find on food products today. Every environmental impact for each item from its extraction from the earth to its manufacture, transport, storage, use, and ultimate disposal was rated.

Our training was to assure fair objective standards were being followed in developing the ratings. Every item got a rating from 1 to 100. And everyone who bought the item paid an ad-

ditional fee based upon that rating to compensate for that environmental impact.

As I awoke, I realized two things. One, how complicated this would be and how subject to manipulation and distortion it could be. Two, my God, what if we . . . that is you and I, were each responsible for the full environmental impact of our consumption from "birth to death" (so to speak) of each item? What if we had to confront the likelihood that my toothpaste gets a 60 rating and cost \$3 more when taking into account the full environmental impacts of creating the tube, the printing on the tube, the product itself, the transport of it, the manufacturing processes, and so on.

What would our world be like if we individually had that level of consciousness? We have tried to pin responsibility for detrimental environmental impacts on corporations and now more so on nations. What if we could wake up to this issue as individuals armed with objective information?

Letter to the Editor

Thanks to you, our fundraising auction was a great success

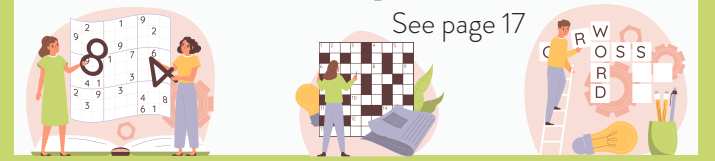
The Friends of the Library would like to thank the amazing artists and friends who donated the offerings this year. There was an array of beautiful and useful items that provided something for everyone. We also thank our wonderful volunteers Bruce and Nancy Spaulding Ness, Pat Wood, Bill Moore, Gary and Nancy Meffe, Jeff Haylon, John Peterson, George Fjeld, David Roberts, Sarah and Louie Pattis,

Barbara Scribner, and our cookie volunteers for their help in making the annual auction such a success. With about 100 folks in the Town Hall, there was merriment and bids filling the air. You all made it a great night for the Friends of the library and our town.

Carol Fjeld and
Bobbi Torstenson

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 17



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Obituaries

Gail Fay Biggi-Brooks, 65, Brandon

Gail Fay Biggi-Brooks, age 65, passed away on November 29, 2023 at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Gail was born in Orlando, Florida on February 17, 1958. She was the daughter of Wayne and Norma (Parker) Kenyon. She came to Middletown Springs, Vt. with her family at the age of 4. On July 4, 1981, she married Richard Lawrence Biggi in Wells. They moved to Brandon from Rutland in 1991.

Gail is survived by her daughter, Barbara Lynn Biggi, and two sons, Frank Biggi and Michael Biggi. Several brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive her.

Respecting her wishes, all funeral services will be private.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flow-



GAIL FAY BIGGI-BROOKS

ers may be made, in her memory, to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Michael Frederick Lovelette, 76, Brandon

Michael Frederick Lovelette, age 76, passed away on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

Michael was born in St. Albans on September 30, 1947. He was the son of Frederick and Barbara (Stanhope) Lovelette. He grew up in Richford and received his education in St. Albans Schools. He worked in food service at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington for over 30 years. Following his retirement from there, he continued working in food service at St. Joseph's and the Vermont Police Academy. He was forced to retire in July of this year due to illness, after spending 14 years in food service at Middlebury College. He collected Antique Farmall Tractors, loved music, the great outdoors, and cookouts.



MICHAEL LOVELETTE

He is survived by his wife, Mary (Sullivan) Lovelette of Brandon, whom he married in St. Mary's Church on October 17, 1981, one son, Chris, and his wife Donna of Brandon, two daughters, Stephanie Lovelette and Jennifer Lovelette, and one sister, Patricia Broe of

Richford. Four grandchildren, nieces, & cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and a brother, Bruce Lovelette.

The Memorial Service "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon, where friends may pay their respects to the family, from 12 noon until service time at 2 p.m.

A private graveside committal service and burial will follow in the family lot at Pine Hill cemetery.

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

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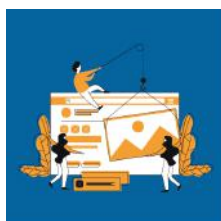
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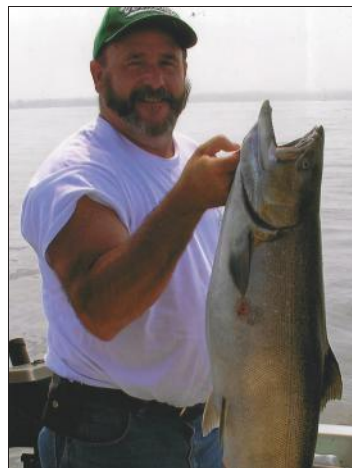
addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing



Jeffrey Elroy Michaud, 61, West Rutland

Jeffrey Elroy Michaud, age 61, passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Jeff was born in Middletown, Conn. on March 15, 1962. He was the son of Doran "Mitch" Michaud and Florence (Pinette) Scovill. He came to Vermont with his father in earlier years. He graduated from Mill River Union High School, class of 1980. He earned his degree his at UMass Amherst. Following his education, he began his working career with Suburban Propane and Trees Incorporated. He later became co-owner of Trees Incorporated, for many years climbing trees that no one else would dare. He worked at Casella Construction for the past 8 years. He loved the great outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He especially enjoyed hunting and ice fishing with his occasional partner in crime, his grandson,



JEFFREY ELROY MICHAUD

Gavin.

He is survived by his parents and stepparents, two daughters (Katelonne (Jeremy) Disorda of Brandon and Erica Loso of Pittsford), his five grandchildren (Gavin, Garrett, and Kendall Disorda and Aiden and Kathryn Fowler), three brothers (Mitch

(Rita) and Grayson (Nancy) Michaud, Billy Pettengill), 2 sisters (Dorothy (Patrick) Bernard and Kathy Pettengill). Several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive him.

The memorial service "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 12 noon, at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. Following the ceremony, the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion for a time of remembrance. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place in Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

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



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Christopher Book/Director

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Obituaries

William Arden Retell, 81, Brandon

William (“Billy”) Arden Retell, age 81, passed away on November 30, 2023, at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Billy was born in Rutland on September 3, 1942. He was the son of Richard and Nancy (Simmons) Retell.

He is survived by his sister, Sandra Retell, of Winooski. 2 nephews and several cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and a

sister, Melanie Kenny.

A private graveside committal service and burial took place on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, in the family lot at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor of Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church officiated.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

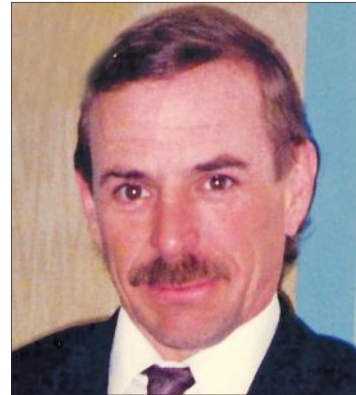
Donald Michael Castonguay, 65, Brandon

Donald Michael Castonguay, age 65, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2023, at his home in Brandon.

Donny was born in Middlebury on December 8, 1957. He was the son of Edgar and Rena (Charlebois) Castonguay. He grew up on the family farm in Whiting. He graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1975. He began his working career at Carris Reels in Rutland. He later formed his own house painting business. Donny loved hunting, travelling, and playing cards. He loved the great outdoors.

He is survived by his son, Ryan D. Castonguay of Brandon; two stepsons, Andrew Buckley of Brandon and Jonathan Whittemore of Leicester; and one sister, Lynn Delancey & her husband Rusty of Port Orange, Fl. He was predeceased by his parents and his loving wife, Mary Ruth Alberico, who died October 3, 2015.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor of Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church in Brandon, will officiate.



DONALD CASTONGUAY

Following the ceremony, the family will receive friends for a “Celebration of His Life” at The Lilac Inn on Park Street in Brandon, for a time of remembrance.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Brandon American Legion Post #55, P.O. Box, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

Leicester News

Historical Society is busy this time of year

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring the final Prize Bingo of 2023 on Sat., Dec 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center at the Four Corners in Leicester. Refreshments served and all are welcome. Prize Bingo will resume in April 2024.

The Society is also sponsoring the annual Memory Tree to remember loved ones.

The cost is \$5.00 for six names or \$1.00 per name. Names and payment can be sent to Diane Benware at 1594 Old Jerusalem Road, Salisbury, VT 05769. Deadline is Dec 21. The tree, in front of the Meeting House, will be lit at 5:00 p.m. on Dec 23. Names will be found on the town website after Dec 24.



Head Start

(Continued from Page 4)

er specialized parent and child treatment options.

“A hallmark of Head Start and Early Head Start is a holistic approach spanning health and safety, education, nutrition and family wrap-around services, all delivered by loving, committed caregivers and teachers,” said Barrow.

Dick Courcelle, Chief Executive Officer of Community Care Network, emphasized both the vision and need for the Early Head Start program in the Rutland area, as well as the importance of community support during its development.

“Rutland County Head Start is known for high-quality programming, and the Early Head Start program too will be based on best practices and the high-

est quality standards of care which are crucial to healthy development and learning,” said Courcelle. “We are incredibly thankful for the seed funding provided to help kickstart this new program, as well as the strong backing we received from Vermont’s congressional delegation, namely Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Peter Welch and Representative Becca Balint, which underscored the important role Head Start plays in supporting family stabilization and school readiness for children and families here in Rutland County.”

To learn more about Rutland County Head Start, its new Early Head Start program and other supportive resources, visit rutlandcountyheadstart.org.

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Moosalamoo

(Continued from Page 1)

over 15,000 acres primarily in Salisbury, Goshen, and Ripton. Popular spots within MNRA include Silver Lake, Falls of Lana, and the Blueberry Management Area (not to be confused with the privately owned Blueberry Hill Recreation Area in Goshen).

A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Ms. Johnson moved to Brandon from Colorado in 2021 and comes to the Moosalamoo Association with 16 years of experience with the National Park Service in Colorado. Her tenure at the Park Service encompassed policy work in air quality and climate change.

“I’m happy to get back into this kind of work,” Johnson said. “It was nice when Sue [Hoxie] approached me about this position.”

“It’s important to find a balance between recreation and conservation,” Johnson continued, who noted the marked difference between the overcrowded parks she knew in Colorado and the relatively serene resources here in Vermont.

“The Association has done a lot over the last few years to open up the area—new trails especially—but the area’s natural resources have a lot of economic value to towns like Brandon and Middlebury that are gateways to tourists who come to hike and ski and stay in our hotels and eat in our restaurants.”

MNRA is open year-round for hiking and there are trails for backcountry skiing, most of which are maintained by the Moosalamoo Association rather than by the Park Service, which does not have the staff to keep up the extensive network of trails.

Association Board President Angelo Lynn welcomed John-



SUSAN JOHNSON, FORMERLY of the U.S. Park Service, is the new Executive Director of the nonprofit Moosalamoo Association.

son on board in a newsletter sent out last week and thanked outgoing Executive Director Susan Hoxie.

“We absolutely couldn’t have made the progress these past years without Sue’s incredible organization, determination to see things through, and keen ability to keep the MA board committed to the numerous projects we had on our plate,” said Lynn. “We can’t thank her enough and wish her all the best.”

Four new Board members are also joining MA: Joanie Donahue of Cornwall, Wendy Leeds of Ripton, Bill Sessions of Weybridge, and Keith Wilkerson of Bristol.

Ms. Leeds wrote in an e-mail to The Reporter that she is “interested in efforts that increase accessibility and encourage a stewardship mindset—the more time people spend in nature, the better... And I’m curious about the intersection between



SUSAN HOXIE, THE Association’s former Executive Director, leaves a trail of accomplishments.

the different kinds of users in the MNRA and how we can be community builders.”

The Association spends roughly \$50K per year on its efforts to maintain and improve the MNRA. Approximately \$5K-\$10K of that money comes through donations, the remainder through grants and MA’s partnership with the Park Service.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Moosalamoo Association, or donating to help support their efforts, can visit moosalamoo.org. Memberships are available, which provide maps, updates about events, volunteer opportunities, and construction projects.

“We’d like to focus more on education and conservation,” said Susan Johnson. “But we also want people to understand the physical and mental benefits of enjoying the MNRA. We want to get people to understand the value of what they have in their backyard.”

Harper Rose trial

(Continued from Page 1)

had not been prescribed this type of medication.

The chief prosecutor, Rutland County State’s Attorney Ian Sullivan, said Harper had been healthy and active up until she was dropped off with Vaillancourt around 8 a.m. on Jan. 24. He said the baby was solely in Vaillancourt’s care until around 3 p.m., when emergency responders were called after Vaillancourt found that the baby was not breathing. Harper was pronounced dead at the local hospital shortly after 4 p.m.

“For hours and hours, Harper was only in the care of the defendant,” Sullivan told jurors in his closing arguments Friday. He said Dr. Bundock had considered, and ruled out, other potential causes of death, such as external trauma and infectious diseases.

Defense lawyers, on the other hand, argued that someone else could have fatally medicated the child before she arrived at Vaillancourt’s home. Lead defense attorney Robert McClallen said investigators

never recovered any medication with diphenhydramine court. He said only found in bottle, which provided Vail-

The de-witness, Scott specializes in and toxicology, of diphenhydr-Harper’s blood given multiple medication 24-fore her death.

If the child only one toxic hydramine, her have reflected higher con-the drug, said fessor at Har-School and McLean Hos-

itorial Psychopharmacology Research Laboratory.

During his closing statements, Sullivan said, “Even if the assumption about multiple doses is true, there’s certainly hours and hours on the 24th where the defendant had the opportunity to provide multiple doses to Harper.”

In her hourlong testimony, Vaillancourt acknowledged that the baby had some difficulty going to sleep but denied ever giving her a sedative. “Never,” Vaillancourt said when defense attorney McClallen asked if she’d ever given the infant any food or medication outside what her parents provided.

In the nearly 26 years she ran her state-licensed child-care program, Vaillancourt said, she’d never been disciplined by regulators, though she admitted to putting a blanket on Harper’s legs knowing there was a policy that prohibited child-care providers from putting blankets on infants.

Sullivan asked Vaillancourt about several earlier incidents in which she received notices of violation, such as taking in more children than the maximum her license allowed and leaving children in the care of her teenage daughter. Vaillancourt said she couldn’t remember most of the incidents.

When the jury foreperson announced the first “guilty” verdict — to the charge of manslaughter — some people in the courtroom gallery and those watching the proceedings online erupted into cheers. This led Judge Cortland Corsones to warn spectators to maintain silence. “If I hear any more noise, I will clear the courtroom,” he said.

Vaillancourt and her attorneys have 14 days to file an appeal.

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THE GRAVESTONE OF Phelinda Sanspree. Her surname started out as Saint-Esprit in Quebec.

Names lost

(Continued from Page 3)

pitalizations, they turned him down. Joseph “Magee” died in Chittenden three years later, age 63, of dropsy (i.e., congestive heart failure).

Over sixty additional pages of the pension file describe how Joseph’s death plunged Phelinda into crisis mode. She had seven children to support, the youngest less than three. The Mayo/McGee name-tangle impacted and delayed Phelinda’s pension on two fronts. First, she had to clear the hurdles of how the man who enlisted in the Civil War as Joseph Mayo was the same as Joseph McGee. One of her depositions stated, “said McGee enlisted under the name Mayo because that was the English way of speaking.” Unable to read or write, she had to be persuaded to assume the name Mayo to facilitate getting the pension. Secondly, and unbeknownst to her at the time of her marriage, the clerk in Fair Haven, Vermont recorded her name as Cordelia, not Phelinda Belden on her marriage certificate. She could not explain the discrepancy, only that she did not speak much English. With testimony from Joseph’s older brother, Louis McGee, and other neighbors in Chittenden, she eventually prevailed and gained a pension of eight dollars per month, with two dollars per month added until each of her children reached the age of 16.



THE LARGE MAYO headstone in Horton Cemetery. The other side bears the name McGee.

Phelinda’s widowhood lasted 41 years. She held her family together. Eight of her nine children married and had children of their own. With her pension, she kept her house in Chittenden—at least one of her sons always living adjacent to her. After Phelinda’s seventieth birthday, her pension increased to \$20 per month. In 1921, electricity came to her house. By 1928 she was getting \$40 per month, a far cry from the original \$8! Phelinda’s obituary in the Rutland Herald, written by a Chittenden correspondent, reflects how local news and society happenings were then reported.

Phelinda’s gravestone,

matching her husband’s, inscribes her maiden name as Sanspree, a phonetic variant of Saint-Esprit (literally “holy spirit”), adopted by her parents after they had moved to Whitehall, New York around 1840

From Maillé to Mayo and McGee, we come full circle with Joseph’s first patrilineal ancestor from Paris, Pierre Maguet, pronounced “Ma Gay.” Sounds a lot like McGee, doesn’t it? Pierre signed his name on this marriage record from Pointe-aux-Tremble, Québec, on 7 January 1686.

With thanks to Muriel (McGee) Soulia and Frank Musaw.

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Morgan McMahon

GRADE: 5

SCHOOL: Lothrop

MEDIUM: Watercolor Paint

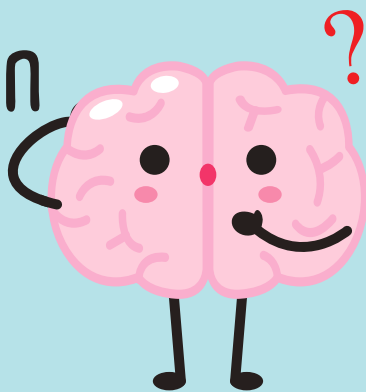
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



STATEMENT FROM MATT AUCOIN:

Morgan created this painting of a tree in autumn. She put a lot of effort into this piece. Notice how she used her brush to make the grass look realistic.

Brandon Brain Buster



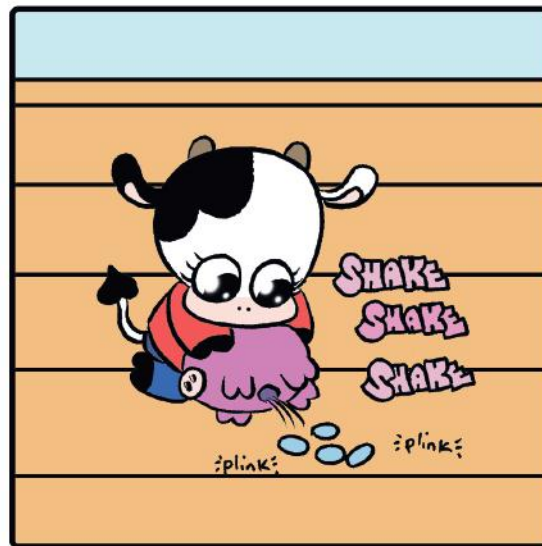
A certain three-digit number XYZ is rearranged into all six of its possible arrangements (e.g. XYZ, XZY, YZX, etc.). These six arrangements are then split into two completely different groups of three arrangements each, so that X, Y, and Z each appear only once in each position in the arrangements within the same

group. If the sum of one group is subtracted from the sum of the other, what is the result?

- A) 1000
- B) 100
- C) 10
- D) 0
- E) Cannot be determined.

Answer on pg.21

MAPLE^{the} COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Mim's Photos

are on page 16!

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Calendar of events

December

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

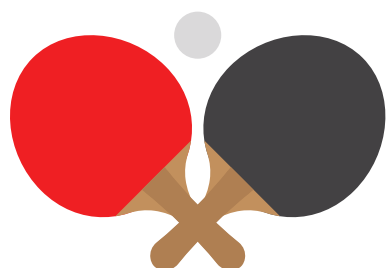
Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join Ariana at 10:30 a.m. for a story and a craft. Age 7 and under recommended. Stay for a cup of coffee!

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12–1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together, Must pre-register, There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

Chaffee Arts Center All About the Arts Free Class for

kids 3–5

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

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

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Wednesday 6th Thursday 7th

Chaffee Art Center Annual Gingerbread Showcase DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Interested bakers, schools, organizations, businesses, families, individuals, and young people are invited to submit

their imaginative gingerbread creations. Entries should pre-register. Theme: Holiday Magic.

All entries must be delivered to the Chaffee Art Center on either Wednesday, December 6th (3pm to 5pm) OR

Thursday, December 7th (10am to Noon)...or by appointment. Complete details and entry form can be found at www.chaffee-artcenter.org, 802-775-0356. Happy Baking!

Don't miss the FREE Gingerbread Open House Sat., Dec 9 (12–2pm)--The gingerbread creations will be on display in our historic 1890's mansion from the Gingerbread Showcase Reception on December 9th from Noon to 2pm until the end of December.

Thursday 7th

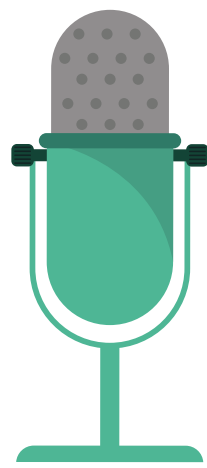
Hildene Reads! "And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle" by Jon Meacham

Join Hildene staff via Zoom or in person for a history-rich conversation on John Meacham's newest Lincoln biography from 7:00–8:30 p.m.

"While there are countless books on Lincoln, one of the most studied and written-about figures in history, Meacham's latest will undoubtedly become one of the

Brandon Fest 41st Christmas December

The 41st Brandon Festival will be held Sunday 3:00 pm in the Brandon Community Center. Singers, under the direction of several area towns since October. The program of musical styles including instrumentals and soloists. There will be a free will offering which will benefit the Brandon Community Center Renovation Fund. We look forward to this holiday favorite!



most widely read and consulted... An essential, eminently readable volume for anyone interested in Lincoln and his era." -KIRKUS

Join Hildene staff via Zoom or in person for a scintillating, history-rich book conversation. It is always a fun, lively discussion. For more information and to receive the Zoom link, register with Stephanie at (802) 367-7960 or stephanie@hildene.org.

Please note: We are a pet free, idle free and smoke free campus. Thank you for understanding.

Friday, 8th

A Celtic Winter at Stone Valley Arts

Join Extra Stout for A Celtic Winter at Stone Valley Arts at 7:00pm. Through the centuries, Celtic music has been rich in its celebration of Christmas, Solstice, and the winter season in general. Come get into the spirit of the season in our lovely first-floor gallery space, see some neighbors, meet new friends, and tap your toes to the great Irish melodies, all while being surrounded by beautiful art in our artist members' show. Donations are requested to help pay for the event and schedule more music for 2024.

Comprised of Mary Barron, Sandy Duling, Marcos Levy, and Helen Mango, and based in our own Rutland County, the very popular Extra Stout is a traditional Irish band that has been playing together for upwards of 25 years. They bring all of the variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads, and from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs, and polkas. We'll hear engaging vocalists who also skillfully play a variety of instruments including guitars, fiddle, whistles, drums and ... well, you will just have to come out and see them!

Stone Valley Arts is located at 145 E. Main St. in Poultney and on the web at www.stonevalleyarts.org. Check the events calendar on the website for updates on all of our offerings from classes to performances, films, jams, literary open mic nights, art workshops, and much more.

Festival Singers Christmas Concert

10th, 3 pm

Festival Singers Christmas Concert December 10th, 2023, at Congregation Church. The group of Gene Childers, come and have been rehearsing and features a wide variety of original pieces, instruments is no admission charge. Tickets will be received, a portion of the proceeds will be forwarded to seeing you at

Friday 8th Saturday 9th

Rutland Youth Theatre presents: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr. Three shows! Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. & 7p.m. Adults: \$15 + tax/fees Children under 18/ Seniors over 65: \$10 + tax/fees Come along with us as we take you to a "world of pure imagination, as Rutland Youth Theatre performs Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr., a musical based on the timeless children's book

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

In Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR., a world-famous reclusive candy man named Willy Wonka announces that he will offer the tour of the lifetime through his secret chocolate factory to five children who find a golden ticket in one of his world-famous candy bars. One ticket-holder will also win a lifetime supply of chocolate.

Against all odds, an impoverished but sweet-natured boy named Charlie Bucket wins a golden ticket. He and his fellow tour members — the spoiled-rotten Veruca Salt, gluttonous Augustus Gloop, gum-chewing Violet Beauregarde and television junkie Mike Teavee — spend a day traveling with the mysterious and marvelous Willy

Wonka and his crew of Oompa Loompas through the fantastical factory.

The children encounter marvelous sights and tastes along the way, including giant nut-selecting squirrels, fizzy lifting drinks, Everlasting Gobstoppers, and a chocolate river.

But each stop proves to be a test, as only one can go on to win the Wonka prize.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. is adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald. The show features lyrics and music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, including beloved songs "The Candy Man," "I Want It Now!", and "Pure Imagination" from the classic film Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

Paramount Theatre, VT, 30 Center Street, Rutland

Rutland Free Library Book Sale

Friday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Public Always Welcome

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.

Saturday 9th,

Buffet Breakfast at The Brandon Inn with Santa and friends

Frosty the Snowman, Elf on the Shelf, the Gingerbread Man, Elsa and Olaf, The Grinch, and more will join Santa in welcoming kids to a fun filled breakfast.

Professional photos will be taken.

Each ticket includes one free photo and buffet breakfast.

Seatings at 8 am 9 am 10 am and 11 am

\$25 per person • Under four is free • Family of four discount \$70

BARN OPERA announces community reduced pricing for all performances of Amahl & the Night Visitors

Salisbury Congregational Church: December 21, Two shows at 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

BARN OPERA is thrilled to announce a continued campaign of community engagement by reducing the cost per ticket to a standard \$10 ticket, regardless of age or socio-economic standing.

BARN OPERA has developed a reputation over the past 4 years for their heartwarming and poignant, "Community-Christmas-Card," production of Amahl & the Night Visitors at



the Salisbury Congregational Church. The acclaimed production is to be headlined by the

dream team of Sopranos Helen Lyons and Ambrose Cusick, Baritones (and Music Director/Associate Director of BARN OPERA) Cailin Marcel Manson, Nicholas Tocci, Tenor (and Artistic Director of BARN OPERA) Joshua Collier, and Cameron Wescott, with Kristen Carr leading the production from the piano.

Information and tickets are available now at www.barnopera.com/amahl-and-the-night-visitors

year to include a 4 course farm-to-table dinner and dancing! Music will be provided by the Speak Easy Prohibition Band as well as BarnArts performers. A cash bar will be available. Join us for a lovely evening with old friends!

Stone Valley Arts Film Series - Zoom Shorts

Award winning Zoom Shorts to be Screened at SVA

Films that will make you laugh, weep, and forget all your troubles!

On Saturday, December 9th at 7pm the SVA Film Series will feature four original films by Zoom Shorts, an independent film production company, created by Karen Klami, Burnham Holmes, and Ken Holmes.

Each episode tells a different story and from a different perspective.

The four films being shown have won twenty-three International Film Festival Awards between them. Among the titles are Best Short Film, Best Independent Film, Best Women's Film, Best Experimental Film, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Editor, and Best Mobile Film.

Born as a film experiment in 2020, during the pandemic, the group has since made over 32 award winning shorts, and are working on a full length film, "I Love You, Maria," about

a young, career couple who are challenged by an unplanned pregnancy of a child with special needs.

Ambition, love, joy, and pain are all on show over Zoom, as people from various walks of life call each other to air their grievances and say what's on their minds.

Much of life is online now, but how much are we truly listening to one another?

From the studios Rain & Neon Productions, Klami/Holmes Productions, and Eugenia Films.

Zoom Shorts Films Inc is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to new filmmakers.

From 7:00–9:00 p.m at Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 East Main Street, Poultney.



For tickets and details call 8027791611

BarnArts Holiday Cabaret

BarnArts Holiday Cabaret is a lovely winter celebration with local music, farm-to-table dinner,

and dancing. Cash bar also available. From 6–10 p.m., Barnard Town Hall. Tickets at barnarts.org

BarnArts Wassail Weekend tradition is reimagined this

Goings on around town

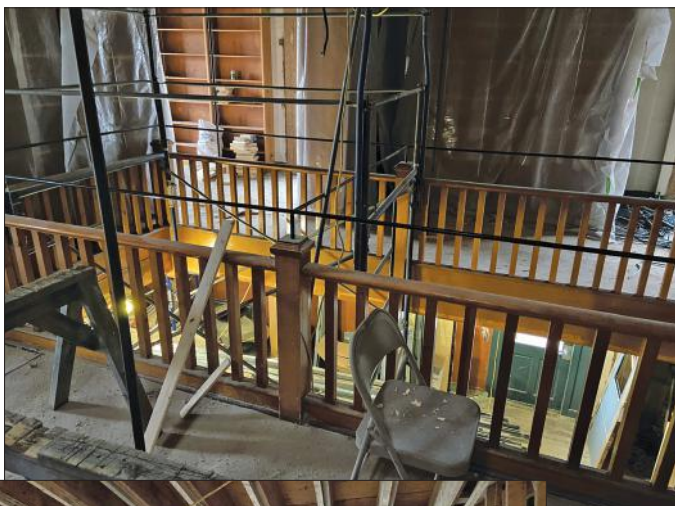
Unfinished Business at the Brandon Free Public Library

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- In case you were wondering what is going on in the Brandon Library, here's a few pictures and some news. After completing a number of reparative/restorative infrastructure projects, there is finally construction underway. Issues with the crumbling piled-rock

foundation and reinforcing the floors to handle the weight of the books have kept the general contractor, Naylor and Breen et al., busy for months. In prior renovations, supporting beams were cut away and now need to be reinforced. All of the asbestos had to be removed. Rewiring and replumbing are in the future, as

much of the old had to go. The basement where the book sale was now has a level concrete floor. Finally, it is time to rebuild the interior and add the addition for the stairwell and elevator. Take a look at the pictures to get an idea of just how extensive the restoration and addition are. We'll continue to update the community as things progress.



VIEWS OF THE interior construction of the Brandon Library as it undergoes its renovation. The project is slated for completion in spring of 2024. Board member Bruce Ness, in red, is shown here on a site visit.

Photos by George Fjeld



THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY Auction organized by the Friends of the Brandon Free Public Library brought in over \$8,000 this year. Auctioneer Bill Moore is shown above driving up the bids on a bunny sculpture donated by Alison Levasseur of Brandon, as displayed by Library Board member John Peterson.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Library Auction

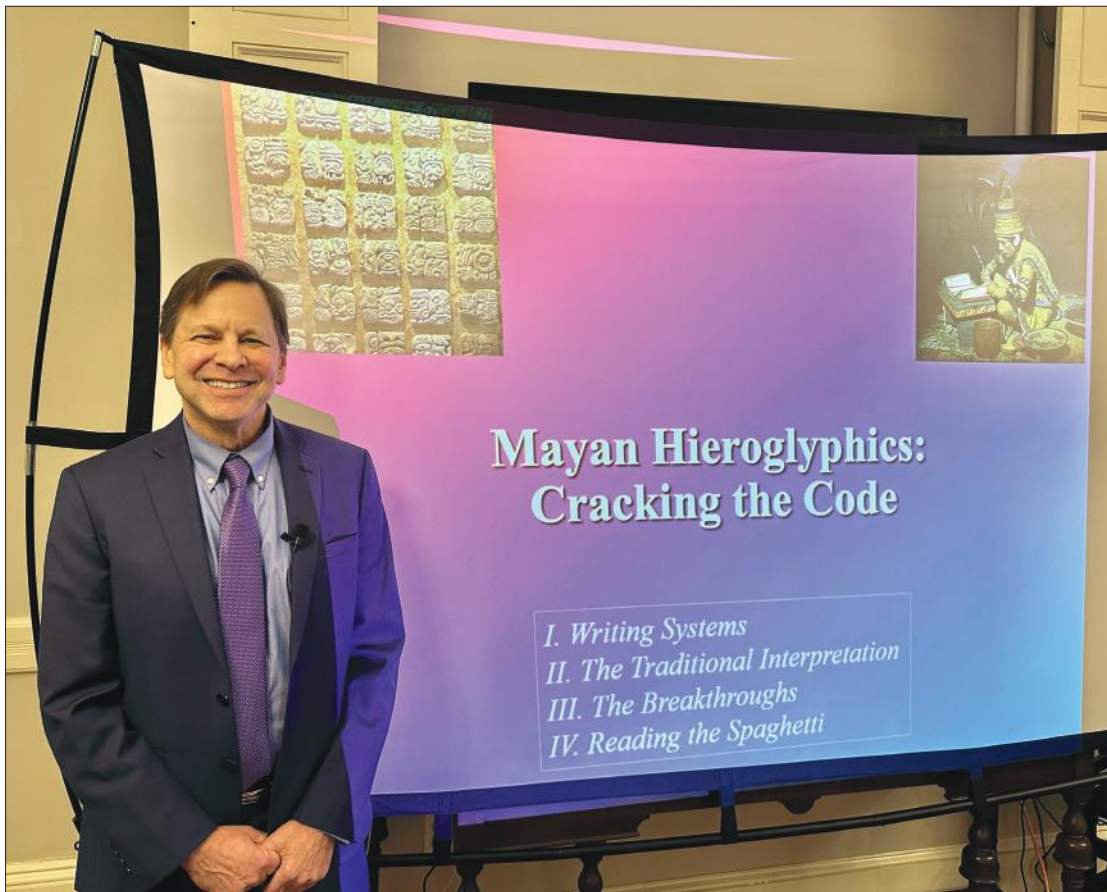
(Continued from Page 1) tributing money (the bidders) and time (the volunteers). Over \$8,000 was raised for the Friends organization, whose work is to support the ongoing operation of the Library. Tuxedoed Bill Moore did a fabulous job as auctioneer, ably assisted by his runners and spotters: Gary Meffe, John Peterson, Jeff Haylon, George Fjeld, and Nancy and Bruce Ness. Sue Gage, Sue Stone, and Tracy Holden staffed the tabulation table. Library board president David Roberts kept the wine flowing all evening. Sarah and Louis Pattis provided a delicious cheese board for all to enjoy.

The Friends welcome all to help in their efforts to support the Library. Other fundraising efforts include a spring plant



sale in the park and a summer book sale traditionally held in the basement of the Library. Contact the Friends members

Bobbie Torstensen (802 247-6778) or Carol Fjeld (802 236-4519) to join this worthwhile and long-standing group.



JONATHAN SPIRO, FORMERLY President of Castleton University, just before his fascinating presentation on Mayan hieroglyphics at the Brandon Inn on Sunday. The presentation was part of the "Science Pub" series of lectures and dinners sponsored by the Friends of the Castleton Free Library.
Photo by Steven Jupiter

Cracking the code: 'Science Pub' fascinates with tale of Mayan hieroglyphics

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Back in the 1840s, Englishman Frederick Catherwood and American John Lloyd Stephens came across the ruins of the Maya Empire in the rain forests of Central America, specifically in the area now known as Belize (formerly British Honduras).

They were not prepared for the extent of what they discovered: great cities—remnants of what was clearly an advanced civilization—lost deep in the jungle. Though the human faces carved on the crumbling stones resembled those of the indigenous people who still lived in the area, not much was known at that point about the population that had built and abandoned these structures centuries earlier.

"The city was desolate and in ruins," Stephens later wrote. "Architecture, sculpture, and painting had once flourished here. Orators, warriors, and statesmen had once lived here. But no one now alive knew that such things had been, or could tell of their past existence."

"In the romance of the world's history nothing ever impressed me more forcibly than the spectacle of this once great and lovely city, overturned, desolate, and lost, overgrown with trees for miles around, and without even a name to distinguish it."

One of the most compelling and mysterious features of this lost civilization was the "writing" it left behind: symbols carved in stone and written in books made of mulberry bark and jaguar skin. It was a system quite unlike any European language. And for centuries, no one was able to decipher any of it.

But on Sunday afternoon, Jonathan Spiro, the former president of Castleton University, led a rapt audience at the Brandon Inn through the improbable journey from discovery to decipherment as part of the Science Pub series of lectures organized by Martha Molnar and the Friends of the Castleton Library. The series brings guest speakers to monthly gatherings where the intellectually curious learn about arcane topics from experts in their fields.

Spiro clearly loves to talk about Mayan hieroglyphics and his enthusiasm was contagious. By the end of the presentation, the standing-room only crowd had learned some of the most basic rules of Mayan grammar and heard a dizzying tale involving Spanish clergy, French polymaths, British archaeologists, Soviet eccentrics, and American prodigies, each contributing to—and sometimes hindering—the incremental process that has allowed researchers to demystify

one of linguistics' big mysteries.

Spiro explained that writing systems generally fall into three categories:

Logographic: symbols represent words, as in Chinese.

Syllabic: symbols represent consonant-vowel pairs, as in Linear B of ancient Greece.

Alphabetic: symbols represent discrete sounds, as in modern European languages such as English, French, and Russian.

It turns out that Mayan script is a hybrid logographic-syllabic system, where some of the 800 or so known symbols ("glyphs") correspond to particular words, but most correspond to syllables that are combined in specific ways to represent whole words.

Starting with the numeric system—the Maya carved numerals everywhere—the secrets of the Mayan script slowly opened up. Many early assumptions about the system and the Maya themselves turned out to be inaccurate. For example, one of the leading scholars of Mesoamerican culture, J. Eric S. Thompson, believed that the preponderance of numerals in Mayan carvings indicated that the Maya were peaceful mystics and astronomers who mapped the heavens.

Later study in the 1930s by Tatiana Proskouriakoff, a Russian-born archaeologist, showed that
(See Science Pub, Page 23)

Tax too far

(Continued from Page 4)

According to State Representative Stephanie Jerome (D-Brandon), "the letter sent by the Tax Commissioner on December 1st is only a starting point. It is based on very preliminary budget information submitted by school districts across the state, revenue forecasts, and the assumption of NO legislative action."

Both Jerome and Shaw emphasized that the process is far from over. Voters must approve the school budgets in March. And then the legislature will determine the tax rate in the spring, when a clearer picture of our schools' needs and our state's resources is available. Voters have time to make a difference.

"I have confidence in our local school boards that they will work diligently to keep costs down and reduce increases," added Jerome.

Yet, the likelihood of reducing the 18.5% to something insignificant is itself insignificant. There will probably be a substantial increase in school tax no matter what.

This is no small matter for many Vermonters.

"Vermont's tax burden is already, unfortunately, among the highest in the country," Governor Phil Scott wrote in response to the tax letter. "And families are bearing an incredible burden with increased costs of living across the board, including new and higher taxes and fees imposed by the Legislature. Put

simply, a nearly 20% property tax increase would hurt Vermonters and our economy, and we cannot let it happen...I sincerely hope the Legislature agrees."

"We should agree it is time for us to take our affordability crisis seriously," Gov. Scott continued.

Vermont is in a bind: a relatively high cost of living combined with a relatively low population yields a relatively high tax burden per capita. There just aren't enough people in Vermont to share the costs of the things we need, let alone the things we simply want. But with each tax increase, we diminish the appeal of relocating here. We're seeing the influx of new residents who made money elsewhere and the exodus of longtime residents who can no longer afford to stay.

If the cost of owning and maintaining a home here is out of reach for average Americans, we're in deep trouble. The labor shortage we're now experiencing will only get worse if Vermont is not affordable.

The cost of living everywhere in the U.S. is on the rise. Vermont is not unique in this. But what does make Vermont unique is our hands-on system of town and school governance. Go to meetings, speak with your reps, make your voices heard. Remember, when folks reference a "20% increase" as if it were already in effect, that none of this is inevitable if we use our power as voters.

REAL ESTATE



Stylish home in great condition. Woodland Park custom build, featuring a bright and crisp interior with a vaulted ceiling in the kitchen, dining, and living areas and a roomy loft above the bedroom. The open layout and large window banks really connect the house to its country setting. The home is sited on a private 15.44 acres with a small pond and stream, and panoramic views of the surrounding woods. A detached one-car garage provides additional storage. Close to Lake Hortonia and Lake Bomoseen with quick access to Route 30. \$205,000



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

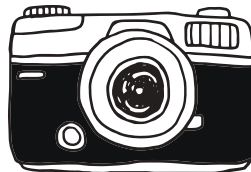


Mim's Photos

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

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

Or call us at 247-8080



Recognized



Terry Ferson of Brandon called to identify these four boys. From left to right, they are: Eric Nelius, Eric Kerns, Matt LaDuke, and Bill Bonsignore. They all were good basketball players and they all graduated from OVUHS in 1993. Terry thinks this may have been an AAU Basketball event.

Patti LaDuke also recognized the boy on the left as Eric Nelius, the third boy from the left (blue shirt also) as Matt LaDuke, her nephew.

Helyn Anderson of Brandon identified Eric Nelius, Eric Kearns, Matt LaDuke, and Bill Bonsignore as well. She told us the photo is likely from 1990 or 1991. The boys graduated OVUHS in 1993.



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. It begins with them
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. Back parts
22. 8th month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Quebec river
29. A doctrine
30. Popular pickup truck
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. A "place" to avoid
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Canadian politician Josephine
48. French ballet/acting dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom
55. Sound
56. Yankees' slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. More wise
60. Flash memory card
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supply
4. Storage units
5. Investment vehicle
6. Colorado Heisman winner
7. In a way, sank
8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. The opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
15. Showing since conviction
18. Not safe
21. The number above the line in a fraction
24. Yard invader
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start anew
32. While white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Up-to-date on the news
39. Campaigns
42. Touch softly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. Phony person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. Man
68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18					19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44			45		46			47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

2023 Critter Community Holiday Card

It's time for the Critter Community Holiday Card, a holiday tradition for 44 years! You can participate by making a donation to the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) and providing us with the exact name you want on the card. It can be your name or your pet's name, or, in memory of a loved one, person, or pet. Your generous donations will allow us to provide vaccines, medical treatment, and necessary care to the homeless animals in Rutland County. Then, on December 23rd, keep an eye out for the Critter Community Holiday Card in the Rutland Herald, wishing happy holidays to the community! To participate, check out our website at rchsvt.org, or stop by the shelter to pick up a form. Submissions are due to RCHS before Wednesday, December 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Barb in the RCHS Business Office at Barb@rchsvt.org, or 802.483.9171 ext. 207.

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



MEET PLYMOUTH - 2-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. POODLE MIX. BLACK/WHITE.

Plymouth is an outgoing and spunky girl. She arrived at RCHS from a busy shelter in Texas. She was recently groomed due to matting, and she feels much better! She is a busy girl who is looking for an active home. She would do best in a home with dogs her size. She loves people and children but would do best with older children due to her exuberance. She is independent and loves to learn. She is food motivated and already knows "sit" and "come". She loves car rides and would do best with a very active family to keep her happy. If you would like to meet her, please stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am- 4 pm.

MEET GEM - 1 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. TORBIE.

Gem is a one-of-a-kind gal! We have discovered that she will do a dance for food/treats! It is impressive. She came to us on October 17th as a stray from Rutland. She was recently adopted out, but brought back because she was not getting along with the other cat in the house. Therefore, she should probably be the only feline in the house! We also have no known history on how she will do with dogs or children. She is a very sweet girl who loves people and attention! With some patience she will be your best friend! Wand toys really seem to do the trick for her! She loves them. She has her bags packed and is ready for her next adventure. If this lovebug sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with her. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.



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OFF THE SHELF



We have new issues of Birds & Blooms, The Family Handyman, Prevention, Sports Illustrated Kids, Real Simple, Practical Homeschooling, Girl's Life, HGTV and EcoParent Magazine!

Large-print books recently donated by Brenda Whittaker

Inheritance by Nora Roberts, donated in memory of Marion Philipsen

Sonya MacTavish is stunned to learn that her late father had a twin he never knew about—and that her newly discovered uncle, Collin Poole, has left her almost everything he owned, including a majestic Victorian house on the Maine coast, which the will stipulates she must live in for at least three years. Her engagement recently broken, she sets off to find out why the boys were separated at birth—and why it was all kept secret. Trey, the young lawyer who greets her at the cliff-top manor, notes Sonya's unease—and acknowledges that yes, the place is "just a little" haunted. Sonya finds objects moved and music playing out of nowhere. She sees a painting by her father inexplicably hanging in her deceased uncle's office, and

a portrait of a woman named Astrid, whom Trey refers to as "the first lost bride." It's becoming clear that Sonya has inherited far more than a house. She has inherited a centuries-old curse, and a puzzle to be solved if there is any hope of breaking it.

Adult Fiction

The Star and the Strange Moon by Constance Sayers

1968: Actress Gemma Turner once dreamed of stardom. Unfortunately, she's on the cusp of slipping into obscurity. When she's offered the lead in a radical new horror film, Gemma believes her luck has finally changed. But the set of "L'Etrange Lune" is not what she expected. One night on set, between the shadows of an alleyway, Gemma disappears and is never seen again. Yet, Gemma is still alive: she's been transported into the film and the script. In 2015, Gemma Turner's disappearance is one of film history's greatest mysteries—one that's haunted film student Christopher Kent ever since he saw his first screening of L'Etrange Lune. The screenings only happen once a decade and each time there is new, impossible footage of Gemma long after she vanished.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jonathan Root will be presenting the Chinese essay "The Orchid Pavilion" and its comments on the poignancy of life on Thursday, December 14th at Brandon Town Hall. Watch our website / social media / sign board for the time.

The Narrow Road Between Desires by Patrick Rothfuss

Follow the Kingkiller Chronicle's most charming character as he schemes his way through the small town of Newarre. While Bast cares nothing for the laws of man, he is beholden to older, deeper laws. And despite his cleverness and care, Bast finds himself forced to choose between betraying his master and helping a hated enemy. Playful, sweet, and sly as Bast himself, The Narrow Road Between Desires explores a previously unseen part of Temerant and shows a side of Bast we've only glimpsed before. Learn more about Bast as he goes against his better judgment and follows his heart's desire. For after all, what good is wisdom if it keeps you from finding your way to danger and delight?

A tough week in Brandon with K9 drug busts and child cruelty charges

Brandon Police Report

November 27

- Brandon Police Department (BPD) assisted with traffic control per request of the Town of Brandon for some temporary construction on Center Street.

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

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

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for failure to signal turn. Driver was screened for impairment because of bloodshot and watery eyes. Ticket was issued and driver was released.

November 28

- BPD responded to three-car motor-vehicle crash on Grove Street and Arnold District Road in which a utility pole was struck. Investigation still ongoing but the cause is believed to be sudden freezing conditions on the roadway.

- Officers responded to two-car vehicle crash on North Street. The incident was found to be non-reportable and was documented for insurance purposes.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for illegible rear registration. As a result of the stop, it was determined that the operator had a criminally suspended license. The driver was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court on 2/12/24 at 10 a.m. for arraignment on the charge of Driving with a Criminally Suspended License.

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

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for failure to display license plate and for equipment violation. Warning issued.

November 29

- BPD assisted Brandon Rescue with a medical call on Severy Farm Road.

- BPD assisted volunteers with the Vermont Covered Bridge Association with traffic control while they hung some wreaths on the Sanderson Covered Bridge on Pearl Street.

- Police assisted a woman who requested help with home security on Grove Street.

- BPD assisted a Mustang Rescue organization from New York State with trying to corral two horses that were turned over to the organization by an

owner on Town Farm Road. BPD was assisted by the Brandon Animal Control Officer.

- BPD received a hang-up call from the main office of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union on Court Drive. No response necessary after it was determined that the call was accidental.

- A walk-in complaint was taken at the Department regarding a minor motor-vehicle crash on Union Street. Documented for insurance purposes.

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

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

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

- After officers pulled over a vehicle on Grove Street for erratic driving, the Brandon PD K9 Unit was called in to screen the vehicle for illegal drugs. The driver was ultimately arrested for DUI and possession of controlled substances. The suspect was released on a citation to appear at Rutland Superior Court on 2/20/24 at 10 a.m. for arraignment.

November 30

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

- Officer responded to a juvenile problem on Neshobe Circle.

- BPD received a report of an altercation between two students at Otter Valley Union High School.

- BPD responded to a residence on Pine Tree Drive for a report of a 911 hang-up call. The responding officer was able to determine that the call had been an accident caused by a child playing with a phone.

- An officer assisted the Department of Children and Families with an ongoing investigation regarding an alleged domestic assault on Nickerson Road. As a result of the joint investigation, the suspect was later charged with Domestic Assault-1st Degree Aggravated, Domestic Assault, and Cru-

(See Police report, Page 19)

GIVING December

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
 elty to Children By One Over 16.

- BPD responded to a parking complaint at the intersection of Briggs Lane and Conant Square. The vehicle was gone when officers arrived.

- Officers assisted Brandon Rescue on Union Street with a mental-health call at a residence. The subject was later transported to the hospital for treatment.

- Officers responded to a dispute over gasoline charges at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. The matter was handled civilly without further issues.

- Brandon K9 Unit assisted Rutland City Police with a search of a vehicle suspected to contain illegal drugs. Illegal drugs were indeed found, and the incident was further handled by RCPD.

- Officers assisted a woman at a residence on River Street who had suffered injuries related to a fall from a staircase. The woman was later transported to the hospital by Brandon Rescue.

December 1

- BPD responded to Franklin Street for a report of a car that hit and damaged a light pole and then fled the scene. The operator was later located and charged with Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Crash with Damage Resulting.

- BPD responded to Neshobe House on West Seminary Street after receiving three 911 hang-up calls in a row from the same phone number. Officers were able to determine that there was no emergency.

- A complainant on Triangle Court sought assistance from BPD with Notices against Trespass against several individuals.

- BPD assisted Vermont State Police with serving a citation to an individual on Fox Road.

- Property watch at a business on Union Street.

- Property watch at two businesses on Franklin Street.

December 2

- A Brandon officer was re-

quested to assist an Addison County Sheriff Deputy with taking a suspect into custody after a pursuit. The request was cancelled when the suspect was taken into custody moments after the request was made.

- BPD were contacted regarding an incident on Maple Street in which the complainant's ex-boyfriend would not give her car back to her. The situation was later remedied and the vehicle returned to its owner without further issue.

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

- Vehicle stop on Park Street. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for speeding. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop at McConnell Road and Franklin Street for failure to display license plates. Operator issued ticket for driving with a civilly suspended license.

- Property watch at the Vermont Liquor Outlet on Conant Square.

- Property watch at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street.

December 3

- Report of a vehicle crash on Prospect Street. Responding officer checked the area but was not able to locate the vehicle.

- Vehicle stop on High Street for a moving violation.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for continued failure to use turn signal. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment and failure to maintain travel lane. Warnings issued.

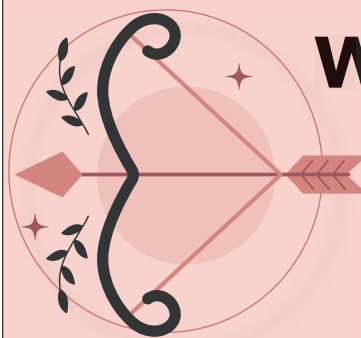
- Vehicle stop at intersection of Pearl Street and Conant Square for driving with tail-lights off and crossing the center line. Officers observed impairment in the driver, who was ultimately arrested and charged with DUI-First Offense. The operator was issued a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court on 12/18/23 at 10 a.m. for arraignment.



Autumn colors

A RED SQUIRREL checks out Dale Christie as Dale checks out the squirrel. Red squirrels are known to be more mischievous than their gray cousins.

Photo by Dale Christie



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

right there. It pays to dream a little because you never know when great ideas will come to you.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Put your emotions first, Leo. Rather than thinking with your head, you need to think with your heart. You have to trust your gut and make decisions based on intuition right now.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, empathy will come very easily to you this week, when you can easily put yourself in someone else's shoes and know just what they are feeling. Continue to support your friends.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Motivations may be running low right now regarding improving your health, Libra. You can start thinking of strategies to put into effect for New Year's resolutions.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Try to keep your feet firmly planted on the ground this week, Scorpio. Various distractions are trying to knock you off course, but you don't have time for that now.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

You need to put family first right now, Sagittarius. Every other thing that is in your orbit should take a back seat to familial obligations and the needs of loved ones.

ARIES March 21-April 20

Take it easy this week, Aries. You may need to coast for a little bit rather than racing that car around every turn. Enjoy all the simple things you can do and cherish the memories.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, if you cannot be yourself with your friends, then with whom? Let down your defenses and do what you want this week, especially if you are celebrating at a social event. No one will be judging.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, devote some time to planning your vision of the future, rather than just focusing on the work in front of you. It is wise to be planning months ahead to set yourself up for success.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Others may tell you to get your head out of the clouds, Cancer, but you can leave it

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

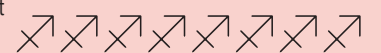
Capricorn, a conversation with a neighbor or colleague can begin on a casual note and then grow into something much more profound. Always keep your eyes open to possibilities.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

There are more ways to increase your income without having to resort to back-breaking work, Aquarius. Look around to explore the possibilities that might be out there.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, rather than trying to fit in this week, march to the beat of your own drummer. You'll soon find a squad who thinks similarly to you. Then you can enjoy longlasting friendship.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 8 Sammy Davis Jr., singer, actor (d)
- Dec. 9 Dame Judi Dench, actor (89)
- Dec. 10 Ada Lovelace, mathematician (d)
- Dec. 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, novelist (d)
- Dec. 12 Edvard Munch, painter (d)
- Dec. 13 Diego Rivera, painter (d)
- Dec. 14 Tycho Brahe, astronomer (d)

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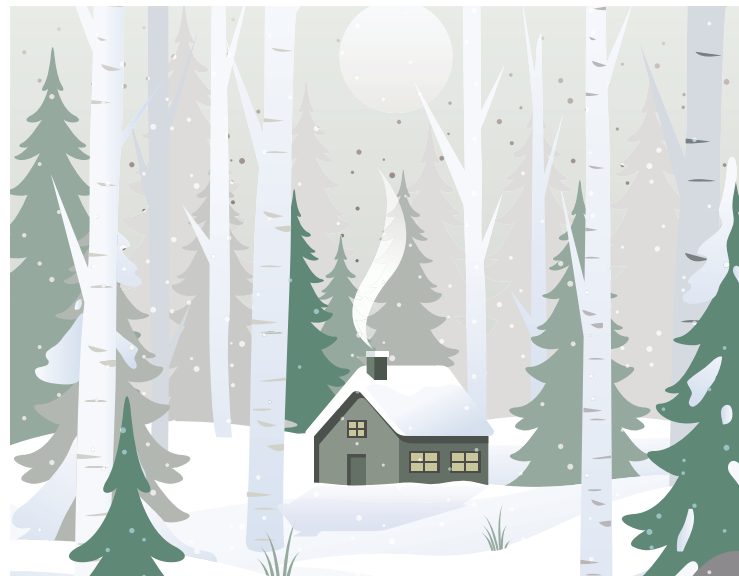
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SIGNAGE GOES UP at the start of the rally.

Photos by Sepi Alavi

Free Palestine

(Continued from Page 5)

I moved home after college, I found myself regularly going to anti-war protests with my friends—since 1776, the United States has only had 17 years of combined “peace” times. My family is Iranian and I have traveled far to participate in the Women, Life, Freedom protests that occurred after Jina Amani was murdered by the Iranian “morality police” last year for refusing to cover her head with a hijab. I have recently been participating in the protests here in Vermont to support Palestine.

My parents would leave my brother and me for a month every summer as they traveled to the Occupied West Bank to work at the Ramallah Friends (Quaker) School. The very same school that the three young men who were shot here in Burlington graduated from. These three young men, who were shot at point blank for speaking Arabic and wearing traditional Palestinian scarves, spent their lives being taught nonviolence.

We were taught to use our voice, our silence, and our money to lift up those who are oppressed. That is why I have been going to every protest I can, that is why I am hopeful that the Anti-Apartheid ballot measure in Burlington will pass the City Council vote.

Amidst all this horror that I see flashing on my phone screen, I am hopeful. I am hopeful because for the first

time in my life, I am not a minority. For the first time in my life, I see, hear, and witness people on a mass scale struggling to define their own relationship to what is right.

In the last two months the world has been watching the destruction of Gaza and the death of the Palestinian people who live there being live-streamed online while traditional media has largely glossed over the terror being rained upon the Holy Land. We have watched children—approaching 10,000 as of the printing of this paper—murdered in their homes and on their streets. We have

seen the heart wrenching tenderness that Palestinian men have been bestowing upon the children of Gaza, the women of Gaza, and the other men of Gaza. We have seen doctors defy evacuation orders from an army intent on indiscriminate attack. We have seen journalists risking their lives to share this horror with the world. As of the 3rd of December, there have been 73 Palestinian journalists murdered in this invasion. The highest number ever in a “modern” conflict, and in the span of only 58 days.

And to the civilians of Gaza, (See *Free Palestine*, Page 21)



WITH ECHOS OF their own past, the crowd had a number of Bosnians standing against the war.

Photos by Sepi Alavi

Free Palestine

(Continued from Page 20)

it seems as though the world has abandoned them. How can the whole world be offered proof like this, of four babies left to starve and suffocate to death while their doctors were forced out of al-Nasar Children's Hospital at gunpoint by the Israeli army, friends digging with their bare hands to pull each other out of the rubble, grandfathers cutting locks of hair from their children's babies?

Well, it turns out, it is the governments who will not intercede, it's not the people who are ignoring this. With only 16% of American voters opposed to a ceasefire in Palestine, what is stopping Biden, arguably the only leader in the world who has the power to

stop this massacre with a phone call, from doing this? I suspect it is the decades-long fear of conflating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. I suspect it's the economics of lending Israel 3.3 billion dollars—which comes to 10.7 million dollars a day—which then contractually requires Israel to then put 99.7% of that money back into purchases from U.S. arms manufactures. I suspect it's the oil that has been discovered under Gaza's sea.

I am also seeing millions of people in the Western world taking to the streets and saying "Not in my name. Not with my money." I am in a coalition of Vermonters—Vermonters for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voices for Peace, University of

Vermont Students for Justice in Palestine—who are dedicated to raising our voices to uplift the struggles of people across the world who are fighting for their freedom. I have seen how the realization that the struggle in Iran is the same struggle in Palestine is the same struggle in Ukraine is the same struggle in the Sudan is the same struggle in...Vermont for fair wages. And that, that brings me hope amid the horrors.

Sepi is the graphic designer for The Reporter, and she recommends Amnesty International, Jewish Voices for Peace, and If Americans Knew as places for further investigation of this subject.

Brandon Brain Buster Answered

Answer: D

The easiest, though not fastest, way to solve this is to pick values for X, Y, and Z and see what happens. Let's say that XYZ is 753, where X = 7, Y = 5, and Z = 3. The six possible arrangements would be:

753
735
573
537
375
357

If we split these six arrangements into two different groups so that no two arrangements within the same group have the same digit in the same position, we would have:

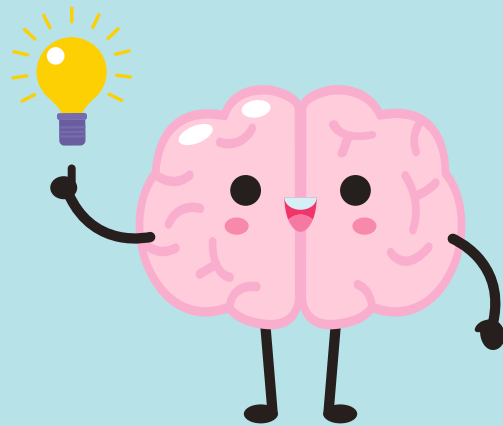
753 735
537 and 573
375 357

Now, if we added up each group, we'd get 1,665 for each. So, the sum of one group would be the same as the sum of the other and if we subtracted them, we'd get zero.

But how do we know it would be the same for any values we picked for X, Y, and Z? How do we know it would work for 567 or 921 or 874? Do we need to keep trying different values to make sure we keep getting the same result?

No.

If we take any three-digit number XYZ, X is in the "hundreds" column, Y is in the "tens" column, and Z is in the "ones" column. So XYZ can be expressed as $100X + 10Y + Z$.



For example, 753 is $(7 \times 100) + (5 \times 10) + (3 \times 1) = 700 + 50 + 3 = 753$.

Now, if you go back and look at the list of all six arrangements of 753 above, you'll notice that each digit appears exactly twice in each column. If we made that list for XYZ, it would look like this:

XYZ
XZY
YXZ
YZX
ZXY
ZYG

And since the question asks for two groups where X, Y, and Z appear only once in each position, we'd get:

XYZ XZY
YZX and YXZ
ZXY ZYG

So, each group would have X, Y, and Z once in the hundreds column, once in the tens column, and once in the ones column. Therefore, the sum of each group could be expressed as $(100 \times X) + (100 \times Y) + (100 \times Z) + (10 \times X) + (10 \times Y) + (10 \times Z) + (1 \times X) + (1 \times Y) + (1 \times Z)$, which is the same as $100X + 100Y + 100Z + 10X + 10Y + 10Z + X + Y + Z$, which is the same as $111X + 111Y + 111Z$. And since the sum of each group would be $111X + 111Y + 111Z$, subtracting one sum from the other would yield zero, no matter what values we pick for X, Y, and Z.



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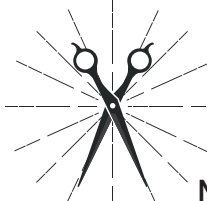
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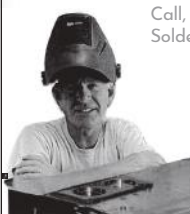


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Science Pub

(Continued from Page 15) the ubiquitous numerals were actually dates and that many carvings were biographies of elite members of ancient Mayan society. Further study also revealed that many of the carved texts discussed brutal warfare, countering Thompson's view of the Maya as peaceful.

Another Russian, the linguist Yuri Knorozov, uncovered the hybrid logographic-syllabic nature of Mayan script, even figuring out how syllables were sequenced to produce words. But his work was routinely rejected because of his eccentricities (he co-authored papers with his cat, Asya, a habit sure to endear him to the serious academy).

"Knorozov was one of the great minds of the 20th century," said Spiro, clearly a fan of the man and his quirks.

In the 1980s and 90s, an American prodigy named David Stuart began making even more significant breakthroughs in Mayan syntax and grammar, leading to his receipt of a MacArthur "genius" Fellowship while he was still a teenager.

According to Spiro, Mayan script is the "most complex writ-

ing system ever devised" and it's still bedeviling linguists despite all the progress that's been made. While most glyphs are now understood, many are still elusive.

At the end of the presentation, Spiro distributed copies of a Mayan syllabary and engaged the audience in a brief exercise, asking us to "write" a Mayan word using what we'd learned.

Spiro was clearly in his element, comfortable in front of a room and in control of his material. He took questions, many of them quite thoughtful, from the audience before he joined them for dinner in the Inn's dining room—it's a tradition of these events for the speaker to join the audience for dinner afterwards to continue the conversation over food and drinks.

For anyone who loves to scratch their intellectual itch, the Science Pub series is a terrific way to learn new subjects



AN EXAMPLE OF Mayan hieroglyphics carved in stone. A devilishly complex system, it remained undeciphered for centuries.

and meet likeminded souls. The lectures are free, but dinner and drinks are paid by attendees.

The next event will be on February 4, 2024 at 4 p.m. at the Tap Room on Lake Bomoseen. The topic will be "Decoding Insect Smell," presented by Gregory Pask, Professor of Biology at Middlebury College. Arrive early to get a seat...the events draw big crowds.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

RESPITE CARE - BRANDON.
- We are currently looking for an individual who would be willing to provide respite support/care in your own home occasionally- some daytime hours and overnights available. Flexible employer and excellent pay. The position is for a lovely elderly lady. Please call/text or email for more information. 802-398-5657 or respit2022@yahoo.com

workplace? The co-op is hiring full-time & part-time positions with a set weekly schedule. Benefits include a 20% staff discount, 3+ weeks paid time off, medical, dental, and vision insurance, profit-sharing bonus, 401k, life insurance and more. Pay starts at \$16.50 an hour, **\$1000 hiring bonus available after completing 90 days. To learn more and apply visit www.middlebury.coop/careers or pick up an application in store.

HIRING

MIDDLEBURY COOP IS HIRING
- Looking for a supportive, active

FOR RENT

12' x 25' STORAGE SPACES - in Brandon. Call 802-349-4212.

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WE NEED U

TOGETHER WE CAN



YOUR GIFT WILL HELP US INSTALL PERMANENT LIGHTING ON MARKOWSKI FIELD AT OTTER VALLEY

Light Up The Valley is a fundraising campaign run by the Otter Valley Football Club with the goal of installing permanent lights on Markowski Field. In addition to football, the aim is to benefit our greater Activities Community through night games for as many sports as possible, theater events, graduation activities, and more!

OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB IS A NONPROFIT 5013C. YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Yes!

Count me in.

Donation Amount: _____

Name/Business: _____

Address: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send form and check to: OV Football Club, PO Box 16, Brandon, VT 05733
Questions? Please email OVFC2023@gmail.com



From The Reporter

Silver Bells of the Brandon Area Toy Project Christmas Pageant!

The local pageants are fun ways to not only come out of your comfort zone, but also to win some amazing prizes. The funds raised at these events by Silver Bells of the BATP go back into the community by supplying our elderly and veterans with necessities and gifts throughout the year.

Silver Bells is currently looking for items such as bar soaps, shampoos, lap blankets, socks, bathrobes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, heal balms, candy canes, hot chocolate, Christmas mugs, combs, deodorants for both men and women. These items can be dropped off at the Brandon House of Pizza, or at the Brandon American Legion on December 11 from 3-6 pm.

PAGEANT WINNERS:

- Ivy:** Queen, Ambassador, ugly sweater, and personality
- Vivianna:** Queen, Ambassador, ugly sweater
- Dylan:** King, ambassador, ugly sweater, best attire
- Autumn:** Queen, ugly sweater, photogenic
- Ashlynn:** Queen, ugly sweater
- Bella:** Queen, ugly sweater, smile

- Nikya:** Queen, ugly sweater, eyes
- Maggie:** Queen, ugly sweater, best Hair
- Brookelyn:** Queen, ambassador, ugly sweater, most decorative, overall winner
- Peggie:** Queen, Ugly Sweater



SILVER BELLS OF the Brandon Area Toy Project held its annual Christmas Pageant, giving out prizes for ugly sweaters among other holiday categories. Left: Crystal Eastman Ketcham, organizer of the Silver Bells, and Aaron Tucker, Commander of the Brandon American Legion.

Photos provided

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!



36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-6718
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-9961
stonecdjr.com

