

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, January 10, 2024

\$1

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NAMES LOST

Genealogist Michael Dwyer visits with the Shortsleeves and Bluebeach families (among others).

PG. 2



MAKING IT BETTER

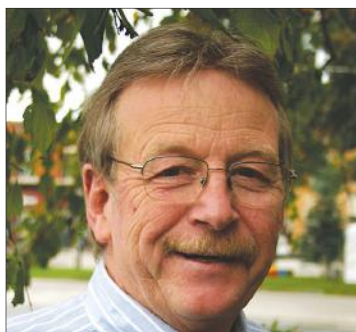
Local Boy Scout performs good deed for Proctor hikers to earn Eagle rank.

PG. 3

A LIFE WELL LIVED

Rev. Richard White, longtime pastor at the Brandon Congregational Church, has passed.

PG. 6



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Rep. Butch Shaw fills his constituents in on his doings in Montpelier as the Biennium begins.

PG. 8

PITTSFORD SELECTBOARD

Pittsford Selectboard discusses town budget and traffic on Arch St.

PG. 9



Conversation with an Artist: Caleb Kenna

This is the first in a series of interviews with Vermont artists. The questions are not exclusively about their work or practice; they're also some fun queries meant to help us get to know them better.

Caleb Kenna is a nationally recognized photographer who grew up in Brandon and now lives in Middlebury. His photographs have been published in the *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Yankee*, and *Lonely Planet*, among others. He has recently published a book of his popular drone photographs of Vermont, "Art from Above Vermont." And now, without further ado...

Q: What job would you have if you weren't a photographer?

A: If I weren't a photographer, I'd like to be a chef. I love food and culture and history and am always amazed how great restaurants consistently produce amazing food.

Q: What conversation would you like to have with any dead artist?

A: I'd like to talk with Ansel Adams and see how he worked.

Q: Describe the experience that led you to become a photographer?

(See Caleb Kenna, Page 8)



GOSHEN, VERMONT.

Photo by Caleb Kenna

Brandon voters agree to pursue land deal for tank at annual Fire District meeting

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Fire District #1 held its annual meeting at the Brandon American Legion on Monday evening. The Fire District oversees the Fire and Water Departments in Brandon and is separate from the Town of Brandon. It is overseen by the Prudential Committee and not by the Brandon Selectboard.

The meeting began with the election of Karen Rhodes as Moderator, replacing Seth Hopkins. Ms. Rhodes then managed the remainder of the evening's agenda.

The centerpiece of the meeting was a presentation by Raymond Counter, who heads the Water Department. Mr. Counter explained the need to replace the District's underground water tank, which was built in 1908 and

is one of three water tanks currently in use.

The underground tank and the District's main above-ground tank are adjacent and feed into a single pipeline. It is not good practice, Mr. Counter said, to have the two main water-storage tanks depend on the same pipeline, since if the line were damaged or clogged, the town would not have an alternative source of water. The third tank, a tower located off Arnold District Road, does not hold enough water to supply the town, should the other two tanks become inoperable.

Working with Otter Creek Engineering from East Middlebury, the District identified 3 sites in Brandon that made sense as the location of the new tank: Rich-

(See Fire district, Page 6)

Brandon Selectboard approves 13.4% budget increase despite pushback

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—At its regular meeting on Monday evening, the Brandon Selectboard approved a proposed FY25 budget of \$3,796,180, representing an increase of 13.4% over the current year's budget of \$3,346,150. The Board received criticism from attendees not only for the size of the increase, but also for decisions to retain or eliminate specific line items.

"I've never been so disappointed with the results of the budget workshops," said Neil Silins, who has participated as a citizen advisor on the Budget Committee for 4 years. "I don't feel it was straightforward, cooperative, or honest."

Mr. Silins took issue with several decisions the Board made with respect to the proposed budget for the Brandon Police Department (BPD). In particular, Mr. Silins said that the Board had ignored the 6-member citizen advisory panel's advice to retain BPD's K-9 unit and to hire an additional full-time officer, despite

the panel's insistence that they were relaying the wishes of Brandon residents. Instead, the Board had voted to eliminate the K-9 unit and not to hire the additional officer that BPD Chief David Kachajian had requested.

The Board entered a lengthy discussion about the K-9 Unit, which BPD had acquired through private donations, but which cost BPD roughly \$26k per year to maintain. Several attendees voiced displeasure with the decision to eliminate the program. Brandon Fire Department Chief Tom Kilpeck suggested that the Board allow Chief Kachajian to run his department as he deems proper. The discussion culminated in one attendee, Brandon resident Sharon Stearns, suggesting that Board member Tim Guiles, who remained steadfastly opposed to the K-9 program, be ousted from the Board.

"Then vote me out," replied Mr. Guiles.

Board chair Tracy Wyman also remained opposed, stating that

(See Brandon SB, Page 20)

Names lost in Vermont, Part 15: Shortsleeve[s], Cole, Simes, Pistol, and Bluebeach

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Growing up in Fall River, Massachusetts, once a bastion of immigrants from Québec, as well as studying French since sixth grade, gives me an advantage in deciphering changed Vermont French-

Canadian names. Shortsleeve[s] was the first Vermont surname I recognized as a literal translation of the two French words court [short] and manche [sleeve]. On French maps you will see the English Channel labeled La Manche because it was thought to have resembled a sleeve.

About one hundred people named Shortsleeve lived in Vermont at the time of the 1920 census. In 1850, however, only three families bore this name: John Shortsleeves of New Haven, with wife Mary aka Josephite, and their four children. John was born Jean-Baptiste Courtmanche in Iberville, Québec. Dennis Shortsleeves [Denis Courtmanche] of Burlington, his wife Mary, and eight children, came from St.-Denis-sur-Richelieu, Québec.

And the specific family under study here, that of Peter Shortsleeve of Brandon, came from St.-Ours, Québec. Undoubtedly, he traveled south along the Richelieu River into Vermont. While not closely related to one another, all three Courtmanche men descend from French soldier Antoine Courtmanche dit Jolicoeur who emigrated to New France (Québec) in the 1660s.

Brandon immigrant Peter Shortsleeve (1820–1900), ninth child of Jean-Baptiste Courtmanche and his wife Louise Adelaide Letarte, arrived here as a teenager in the late 1830s. On July 25, 1840, Peter married fifteen-year-old Angeline Twodshid [a rough phonetic attempt at Touchette!]. With no Catholic priest in the area, Rev. Cornelius A. Thomas of the Brandon Baptist Church officiated their wedding. More the norm among French-Canadians, Peter and Angeline had their marriage blessed by a Catholic priest, and when St. Mary's Church in Middlebury opened in 1845, their first three children were baptized there on the same day. Altogether, over a span of 25 years, the cou-

1850	1850	Peter Shortsleeve	30	m	Angeline	15	f		
		Angeline	25	f					
		Joseph	8	m					
		David	6	m					
		Aurilla	3	f					
		Francis	1	m					
1871	1871	Francis Vorill	32	m					Canada
		Louisa	49	f					
		Hervier	9	m					
		Orrin	6	f					

1850 U.S. CENSUS entries for Peter Shortsleeve and Francis Vorill, both of Brandon. Photos provided

ple had eleven children.

As revealed in Brandon's 1850 census, Peter Shurslieve, 30, occupation tanner, headed a household with wife Angeline, 25, and their children Joseph, David, Aurilla, and infant Francis. At first glance, the next household, that of Francis Vorill, 32, also a tanner, with probable wife, Louisa 49, and children Hervier [Xavier] 9 and Orrin [Aurelia] seemed to have no connection with Peter's family. The seventeen-year age difference between Francis and Louisa struck me as odd, leading me to think that Louise was not the mother of these young Vorill children. Proximity of family households is always worth fur-

ther exploration and took me in the direction of documenting the parents of Angeline (Touchette) Shortsleeve, Charles Touchette, and Louise Letourneau. As remembered by Angeline's children, the name Touchette became Thatcher.

Angeline's father, Charles Tuschette, died in Brandon on 21 March 1848, age 51, as evidenced from a broken French-language gravestone at the edge of the steep ravine in the west end of the Brandon Congregation Church Cemetery. Leaning into Charles's stone is a badly damaged one that faintly reads "Louise femme [sic, femme, wife] (See Names lost, Page 11)



JOSEPH COLE'S GRAVE monument, St. Mary's Cemetery, Brandon.

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Local Boy Scout brings winter safety to Proctor trails as community project

BY DALE CHRISTIE

PROCTOR—As part of the requirements to earn the elite Eagle Scout rank, eligible Boy Scouts of Troop #116 are given the task of completely managing and executing a project that benefits a local community. Ideas have to go through a lengthy review process. Troop leader Nick Flanders is closely involved with each project from start to finish. As part of it, he challenges them to interact with municipal leaders in order to demonstrate communication and organizational skills.

The star of this particular story is Mitchell Knowles. In February of 2022, while walking with his family on a trail in Burlington, he noticed an offering by a community group to help people explore the great outdoors during the winter months. As we know, conditions can get difficult when snow and ice are present. Road travel is improved by the use of salt and plowing, but hiking trails are usually left to nature. Some people use snowshoes or hardy footwear with heavy treads or that even contain metal spikes, but not all people have them or have access to them. Many libraries now lend snowshoes to local residents. In Burlington, there was a system to borrow a cleated overshoe made by Yaktrax, which manufactures great products that are used in conjunction with the footwear you already have. They are similar to adding chains to your vehicle's tires for added traction in the winter. The footwear was offered to hikers to borrow and return when finished. Knowles wanted to create the same opportunity for residents of his hometown of Proctor.

Mitchell first contacted and met with the volunteers that maintain the local recreation area centered around Beaver Pond. He explained his project and his goals. With the support of the recreation committee, an agenda item was added to the next Selectboard meeting to the Board's approval. During that meeting, Mitchell proposed to the Board his idea and detailed how it would be done. He answered questions and satisfied all concerns. His proposal was approved and signed by the authorities to be delivered back to his scout troop.

Over the next few months, Mitchell worked hard to get funding to purchase 12 pairs of cleats from Yaktrax (total cost about \$400), and to construct the boxes that would house them. The majority of the funding was secured from a local group called Proctor Community Concerns Council. The boxes were designed to meet the requests by the recreation committee that they appear "natural" looking, fit the landscape, and be long-lasting. For



MITCHELL KNOWLES (LEFT) and Dale Christie (right) show off the box of Yaktrax cleats that Knowles conceived and built as part of his Eagle Scout project. The cleats will help hikers stay safe on Proctor's trails during icy winter conditions. Mr. Christie is on the committee that oversees Beaver Pond and its trails. Photos provided



A CLOSER LOOK at the box containing Yaktrax cleats that was recently installed on the Mountain Trail near Beaver Pond in Proctor.

the construction efforts, and cabinetry-maker, Michael Knowles. Mitchell recruited his father, well-known carpenter This partnership allowed him access to

(See Boy Scout, Page 15)

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Spotlight On Business

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Scott administration urges Vermont lawmakers to address crime

BY SHAUN ROBINSON/
VTDIGGER

MONTPELIER—Gov. Phil Scott's administration is urging lawmakers to increase the consequences for people accused of crimes who violate conditions of release — and to make changes to Vermont's bail policies that could result in more people being held in jail ahead of a trial.

At a legislative hearing on Wednesday and in earlier interviews with VTDigger, administration officials sounded the alarm over what they characterized as a widespread perception that Vermont has grown less safe in recent years. At the same time, the state's judicial system, those officials said, is failing to hold many offenders accountable — and to deter them from reoffending.

Jaye Pershing Johnson, Scott's general counsel, told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday that the administration has heard during recent community meetings that, when it comes to the state's criminal justice system, "it seems like all carrots and no sticks."

"We need to be able to say things out loud like 'chaos' — and 'gangs' to refer to gangs in a community — because there are communities faced with these challenges who are hearing lots of euphemisms, and nothing done to address the problems," she said in an interview. At Wednesday morning's hearing, she urged lawmakers to use such words.

Judiciary committee members said that they've heard similar perceptions about public safety, too, though several questioned whether those perceptions are rooted in data.

The administration's rhetoric — which a lobbyist for the

American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont characterized on Wednesday as "tough-on-crime policies" — is set to spur fresh debate this year as lawmakers attempt to address persistent public safety challenges that frequently intersect with the state's opioid epidemic.

"I don't disagree with most of the governor's priorities," Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, who chairs the judiciary committee, told Johnson at the hearing, though he later added that he looked forward to "healthy" committee debates this year.

The Scott administration is concerned about the rate at which some people who are accused of a crime reoffend when they're released ahead of a trial, Johnson said. She pointed to data from the Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs showing that, as of early December, nearly 60% of the active criminal cases in Vermont involved people with two or more pending criminal dockets.

When a judge is considering whether or not a person should be held in jail, she said, the administration wants there to be a greater emphasis on any previous violations of court-ordered conditions. That can mean abiding by a curfew, for instance, or being barred from traveling outside state lines.

Timothy Lueders-Dumont, legislative and assistant appellate attorney for the state's attorneys and sheriff's department, said the administration believes this could make people less likely to violate conditions and, thus, improve community safety.

The change could also reduce the strain on Vermont's court system, Lueders-Dumont said, which has been plagued for

(See *Address crime*, Page 23)



Fabulous hair day

THOUGH COMMON IN Florida, the Snowy Egret is aptly named for a winter in Vermont!

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Building Smarter, Stronger: Vermont's homebuilding dream team takes off

In the heart of Vermont, a market transformation is underway in the world of homebuilding construction, and it's not your average headline. This isn't just about bricks and beams; it's about creating homes that are healthier, more energy efficient, and built to last.

Picture this: The year is 2023, and the Legislative Committee's

Building Energy Code Study Committee has just released a report. While it delves into the intricacies of ACT 47, it takes an unexpected turn, shining a spotlight on something that affects us all — education and continuous learning with the building trades.

The committee's findings are eye-opening. They reveal that a

lack of understanding of building science is causing buildings to fall prey to costly problems like mold, mildew, and rot. Building science, you ask? It's the secret sauce — the physics behind how water, air, and heat flow through a house, ensuring it meets the demands of energy efficiency, durability, indoor air quality, (See *Building Smarter*, Page 7)

37th Annual Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championships coming in March

The 37TH Annual Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championships will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Craftsbury Academy, 1422 N Craftsbury Rd, Craftsbury Common, VT 05827. This is the selection tournament for Vermont's nominees to the national Denker, Haring, Barber and Rockefeller Invitationals. This tournament is open to Vermont students in grades K-12. Participants must be VT resi-

dents or be enrolled in a VT public or private school. VT resident home school students are eligible. Chessboards, pieces, and clocks will be provided. No prior tournament experience necessary. High School and 8th Grade sections will be USCF rated. K-7th Grade sections will be unrated. Individual and team prizes will be awarded. All players must pre-register for the event. No walk-ins allowed. Regis-

tration closes on March 17th. Registration may close prior to March 17th due to space limitations. If registration is still open, the entry fee after March 1st will increase to \$25. Online registration only, no entries will be accepted via mail or email. Complete rules and registration information can be found at <https://vermontchess.org/>.

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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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Green Mountain Riding School of Brandon achieves United States Pony Club Riding Center status

Michelle Kingston, President of Green Mountain Riding School at Lazy Acres Equines in Brandon, proudly announces the approval of her barn and program as a United States Pony Club (USPC) Riding Center. This prestigious designation positions Green Mountain Riding School as the second barn in Ver-

mont to achieve such recognition, joining the esteemed ranks of Juniper Knoll in Jericho.

"Our passion for horses and commitment to fostering a positive equestrian community have been the driving forces behind Green Mountain Riding School & Lazy Acres Equines," said Kingston. "This exciting news

signifies a new chapter in our journey, and we are eager to continue providing exceptional experiences for riders of all levels."

The Green Mountain Pony Club Riding Center, an integral part of Green Mountain Riding School & Lazy Acres Equines, offers a comprehensive array of opportunities for equestrians.

Members can enjoy monthly full-club unmounted meetings and special events, along with weekly unmounted and mounted small-group meetings (lessons). The center also facilitates rally (show) participation and offers the chance to pursue USPC certifications. As part of the Green Mountain Pony Club Riding

Center, members can aspire to Championships, convention participation, and even International Programs. This broad spectrum of offerings reflects our commitment to nurturing a diverse and enriching equestrian experience for our riders.

The cornerstone of the center (See *GM Riding School*, Page 7)

Shoreham Congregational Church to host free presentation by Age Well Vermont on January 17 in the Fellowship Hall

Age Well Vermont is a non-profit organization that supports and advocates for the aging population of Northwestern Vermont. It has programs for nutrition and wellness, support for transitioning from hospitals to home, services like transporta-

tion and friendly visits to help elders remain at home, assistance and information about insurance and community agencies, and more.

Over 1000 volunteers assist the staff in meeting the diverse needs of clients, their families,

and caregivers, with the goal of helping our community members to age with confidence. Age Well wants seniors to have social opportunities, opportunities for good meals both at home and dining out, wellness and safety checks, and proper information

about local agencies and services.

This program is free and open to the public. Come if you are a senior citizen yourself. Come to get information to give to a family member or neighbor or friend. Come if you are a caregiver

for someone. And come if you would like to volunteer -- there are many and varied opportunities to do so.

Rutland Regional Plan Survey launched

RUTLAND, VT - Beginning this week, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission will ask residents to participate in the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 Online Survey. Survey results will be used to guide policies and actions for the 8-year plan update, which is intended to help shape coordinated and efficient community economic development.

The plan is a vision for the future with broad goals to facilitate that vision.

The survey is an important piece of the overall development process. Information collected will help inform a plan that features equitable policies to best serve the region's communities.

The survey will be complemented by several outreach

efforts led by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission staff, including community open houses and pop-up events. As these activities are scheduled, they will regularly be updated on the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 website: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

"It is crucial that we hear di- (See *Rutland Survey*, Page 7)

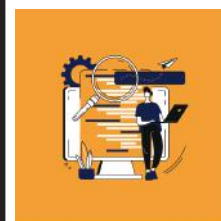
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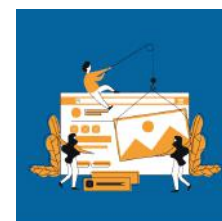
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Obituaries

Reverend Richard Allen White, 75, Bakersfield

Reverend Richard Allen White, 75, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at Northwestern Medical in St. Albans, VT. Richard was born in Damariscotta, Maine, the son of Fred and Lucille (Winslow) White. He graduated from Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, NH in 1966. Richard continued his education at Graham Junior College, Boston, MA with an Associate Degree in Communications in 1968. He graduated from Curry College, Milton, MA in 1970 and graduated from Andover Newton Theological School with a Master of Divinity degree in 1980. Richard was ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ. On October 18, 1975, he married Nancy E. Boyd at the First Congregational Church in Hampton, NH.

Richard's ministry positions included youth minister at the Congregational Church in Hampton, NH, Associate minister of Allin Congregational Church U.C.C. in Dedham MA, Minister of the East Corinth



REV. RICHARD ALLEN WHITE

Congregational and Topsham United Presbyterian Churches, Minister of the Brandon Congregational Church, U.C.C in Brandon, VT and the Hancock Community Church, Hancock, VT as supply minister. More recently, Richard served as church Deacon at the United Church of Bakersfield & Fairfield, VT.

Richard was a member of the Board of Directors and Finance Committee for the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, as well as Conference President. He was also a Synod Delegate from Vermont and a member of the Board of Directors for the National United Church of Christ. Richard was also a longtime member of the Brandon Rotary Club, where he served as Treasurer. He also served Coordinator for Operation Santa Claus. He was a member of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Board, School Director for Otter Valley Union High School, and was a Justice of the Peace in Brandon. At various points in his life, he had worked at the Surfside Restaurant, W.T. Grants, Mr. G's Supermarket, Hannaford, and Shaw's Supermarkets. He was also Dorm Director at Curry College.

Richard is survived by his two sons, Matthew Knight and Kenneth White, two daughters, (See Rev. White, Page 23)

Fire district

(Continued from Page 1)

mond Road, North Street, and Birch Hill Road. A primary criterion is that the new site be at the same elevation as the current site, because the system relies on gravity for water delivery.

The particularities of topography of the three sites have led Mr. Counter and Otter Creek to favor the Birch Hill location: it's level and easily accessible. It's also located closer to areas of Brandon where there is still room for development.

The project comes with a hefty price tag: the North Street site would cost approximately \$5 million, the Richmond Road site would cost approximately \$10.5 million, and the Birch Hill Road site would cost approximately \$12.5 million. These estimates include purchasing the land and installing the tank.

"Birch Hill is the most expensive," said Mr. Counter. "But there's the most to gain there."

Ultimately, the citizens present at the meeting voted to allow the District to begin negotiations with the landowners of the sites. Before any contract is signed, however, the District

will ask voters to approve the specific deal.

Also at the meeting, Kristy Pinkham was re-elected as both Clerk and Treasurer. Kathy Bilodeau was elected 24 to 12 over Linwood Bovey to replace Michael Markowski, who leaves the Prudential Committee after 8 years.

Scott Trask, Amber Lee, and Catherine Bresette were all re-elected as Auditors.

The attendees voted to retain the same compensation structure as last year:

- \$800 per year for each member of the Prudential Committee
- \$100 per year for the Treasurer
- \$25 per year for each Auditor
- \$10 per meeting for the Moderator
- \$10 per meeting for the Clerk

The voters also approved general-fund expenditures of \$1,030,958, of which \$337,600 will be raised by taxes. They also authorized the District to spend any unbudgeted, unanticipated income as long as the expenditure does not create a deficit.



Stay Healthy This Winter

"This is viral season so having great hand hygiene is key. We want to encourage everyone to stay healthy by washing their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and avoid touching their face at all costs. We also encourage community members to get vaccinated for influenza and COVID. People 60 or older should consult with their provider for the RSV vaccine."

Nkiruka A. Emeagwali, MS, MD, PhD
Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

 **Rutland Pulmonary Center**
A Department of Rutland Regional Medical Center

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Building Smarter

(Continued from Page 4)

and more. Every component must interface with each other seamlessly, and how they're installed matters. And as Vermont embraces more advanced energy codes, the risk of limited knowledge of these issues and the science behind them looms larger. The benefits to homeowners of advanced learning go beyond energy efficiency and comfort. You'll have fewer callbacks, fewer examples of poor work performance, at the time of sale you'll be reassured your home meets the energy standards if improvements have been made, and lenders and insurers may be more open given

the certification of the builder.

The Legislative Committee did not identify what organization should assume responsibility for designing a state-recognized builder certification, so Vermont's Sustainable Energy Outreach Network (SEON) has rallied the troops, pulling together a coalition of all homebuilding trade and nonprofit organizations in Vermont to help define what Vermont needs regarding the qualifications of our current and next generation of builders and carpenters.

The following organizations have agreed to participate: SEON, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont

Builders and Remodelers Association, Vermont Chapter of Associated Building Contractors, Vermont Chapter of Association of General Contractors, Vermont Green Building Network, Building Performance Professionals of Vermont, Vermont Passive House, Vermont Talent Pipeline, ReSource, and Vermont Works for Women.

The dream team of expertise will have its first meeting on January 29, 2024, and will work together to:

Explore and define a state-recognized builder certification as a high-performance builder, and increase outreach, education, and training. In simple terms – it's your guaran-

tee of a building professional for your home.

Launch awareness campaigns that shed light on the benefits of building science. Get ready to become a savvy homeowner who knows exactly what to ask for when it comes to your energy efficient home.

Many builders and carpenters haven't embraced the high-performance mindset yet, but here's the truth: You can't build to Vermont's Energy Code or achieve net-zero without understanding building science. And as more techniques are made to meet the energy code, many of the old ways of building

don't even work with the new materials. We don't want consumers to be left with the keys to a disaster rather than keys to a home that will last them a lifetime.

This transformation will be a cultural shift that needs everyone's support and expectations – industry leaders, builders, the public, government, media, lenders, insurers and local organizations. Join us in this exciting journey toward a better-built tomorrow, led by a coalition of professionals committed to applying the best practices of science.

GM Riding School

(Continued from Page 5)

is its commitment to utilizing the USPC curriculum in meetings and coaching. This curriculum, known for its thoroughness and completeness, establishes a pathway to success, equipping members with the knowledge and skills to excel in all aspects of horse care and riding. The USPC disciplines covered at Green Mountain Pony Club Riding Center include Dressage, Endurance, Eventing, Mounted Games, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, and the newly added Western Dressage. The center welcomes haul-in member participation, but horse ownership is not required to become a member.

Kingston expressed her enthusiasm about the achievement: "Becoming a United States Pony Club Riding Center is a

testament to the dedication and passion of our team at Green Mountain Riding School. We are excited to provide our members with a comprehensive and enriching equestrian experience that aligns with the high standards set by the USPC."

For more information about Green Mountain Pony Club Riding Center and to request membership applications, please visit the official website at <http://www.greenmountainridingschool.com>.

About Green Mountain Riding School: Green Mountain Riding School, located at Lazy Acres Equines in Brandon, VT, provides a premier equestrian experience. Led by President Michelle Kingston, the school offers a range of programs and activities designed to nurture

and develop riders of all levels. With the recent approval as a United States Pony Club Riding Center, Green Mountain Riding School is poised to offer an even more comprehensive and enrich-

ing experience for equestrians in Vermont and upstate New York.

For further information or media inquiries, please contact:

Michelle Kingston
President, Green Mountain

Riding School

Email: info@lazyacresequines.com

Website: <http://www.greenmountainridingschool.com>

Rutland Survey

(Continued from Page 5)

rectly from the residents we serve. We recognize that each of our 27 towns faces a variety of challenges and that there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution," said Devon Neary, RRPC's Executive Director. "Our hope is that the community will share their thoughts with us so we can in-

tegrate those challenges and potential solutions into the 2026 plan update."

The survey will be open through March 31, 2024, and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutlandRegion-Plan2026>



**HOSPICE
VOLUNTEER
TRAINING**

Please join us for our FREE Hospice Volunteer Training! Available to anyone interested in joining our team. From offering companionship, to singing in a Hospice choir, to delivering meals to patients - there are many ways to give back through our program. Please call Mary at 802-442-0540 to RSVP.

Friday, January 19, 2023

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Casella Conference Room
7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland**

VNA & HOSPICE
of the Southwest Region

Serving Bennington, Franklin, & Rutland Counties

S — BSCRIBE

to THE BRANDON REPORTER

Annual subscription for just \$50, and \$45 for seniors
brandonreporter.com

WE NEED U



Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

Getting ready to advocate for Pittsford and Proctor

The start of the 2024 Legislative Session was gavelled in on Wednesday, January 3, without the usual fanfare of the beginning of a biennium. Speaker Krowinski gave a short “Welcome Back” speech and sent the members back to their respective committees to resume their work where they left off upon our adjournment on June 20, 2023.

The 2024 Legislative Session will present a new challenge that clearly two-thirds of the members of the House of Representatives have yet to witness: an austere budget without the millions of dollars of federal recovery funds that were made available to the State of Vermont during and after the COVID crisis. I am eagerly awaiting the Govern-

nor’s proposed FY25 budget to see where the State stands fiscally and how the Legislature will move forward with reduced spending available for special projects!

My most important priority in the upcoming session will be to represent the citizens of Pittsford and Proctor and address their needs and concerns. Beyond that, as I have stressed in the past, is to build a balanced budget that does not grow faster than Vermonters’ ability to pay for it, does not raise taxes, and yet allows the State to make critical investments for the benefit of all. We must continue to grow the State’s economy while making it more affordable to live here and protecting the most vulnerable of

our neighbors. No small task in these uncertain times!

Another area of importance and concern form me is the disregard that certain individuals have for the laws of the State. The Legislature must address the daily attack on the once peaceful and safe lifestyle we enjoyed as Vermonters. I have heard from constituents that the Legislature “must do something” to stem this seeming attack on our way of life. The Legislature must move to make lawbreakers more accountable for their actions, by giving the police, the judiciary, the prosecutors, and the mental-healthcare providers the tools they need to “stem the tide” of criminal activity.

“We need more housing” is a

battle cry that I hear everywhere I go and in every conversation I have with employers, social service agencies, housing advocates, and others. I could not agree more! Our region is critically short of all types of suitable accommodations for our varied populations. A critical need is for market-rate workforce housing. The lack of this type of housing is stifling the economy of our region as new workers coming to our communities cannot find a suitable and reasonable place to live. We must continue to build out mixed-use affordable housing to accommodate our most vulnerable neighbors in their quest to find a wonderful place to live with their families. Finally, we need to work towards

a solution to house our unhoused population that does not stress our local community’s resources. This is a very tall order that will not go away on its own. The Legislature needs to pass serious Act 250 reform to make it easier for developers and others to create useful housing. We can and must make this happen!

Questions, comments, or conversations! I can be reached by email at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us, by phone at (802) 483-2398, or by mail at PO Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763. I am always available to have a conversation concerning our Legislative District and your Vermont state government!

*Representative Butch Shaw
Rutland-8*

Pittsford-Proctor

Caleb Kenna

(Continued from Page 1)

A: I took a photography class in high school and one of the assignments was to photograph strangers. Ever since then I have loved to meet new people and engage with a camera. The drone [camera] allows me to soar and look and see patterns on the land.

Q: Why live in Vermont?

A: I grew up in Vermont, but have lived in Thailand, Zimbabwe, California, New Mexico, and the US Virgin Islands. I have also traveled in India, Morocco, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. I love travel and cities, but I feel a freedom in Vermont to roam, breathe fresh air, and explore the natural and man-made landscapes.

Q: What's your favorite smell?

A: Garlic

Q: What book(s) are you reading right now?

A: The New Yorker

Q: What does your daily routine look like?

A: Walk to school with my son and dog and, if the conditions are right, go out and take



WEYBRIDGE, VERMONT.

Photo by Caleb Kenna

THE OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, RICK OBERKIRCH, ON HIS RECENT RETIREMENT

Rick spent a long career of 46 years with the State of VT and is now starting his new career as retiree and full time OVFC President!

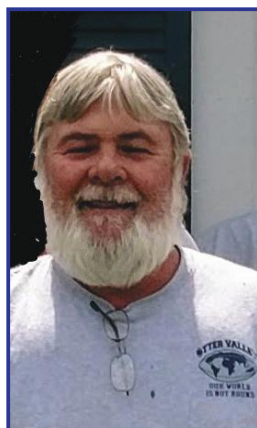
Congratulations Rick!

If you would like to help us celebrate, consider donating to Light Up The Valley. It 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 non-profit 501-3c. Your gift is tax deductible.

Please make Checks payable to Otter Valley Football Club



some photos for an hour or two. Work at the computer on editing, managing my archive, print sales, and assignments. Play tennis, make good food, take a walk, make dinner, watch Netflix.

Q: How do you think about your work locally versus your national presence?

A: I am firmly based in Vermont but feel like I have reached a lot of people through social media interested in Vermont around the country. I also love it when I get the occasional assignment from The New York Times.

Q: Given that your work is a capture of a single moment in time, is there a work of art that is time based (play, movie, song etc.) that you draw inspiration from?

A: I stream shows and movies each that somehow inspire and transport me to different places. I also like watching New Yorker

documentary videos. Music is essential for me too, Classic Rock, Jazz, Blues, Afropop, Reggae. Gil Scott-Heron, Warren Zevon, Miles Davis, Bob Dylan, etc...

Q: Is there a childhood object that you still have? (If not, is there one that you wish you still had?)

A: I grew up in a tea house built on a hill in Brandon in 1909 and I am still very much connected to that place and land.

Q: What's your ideal dinner—food, company, and location?

A: We have friends who are very good cooks, so that’s a real pleasure. We also like to have friends to our house. I cook a lot of Asian food. We also love restaurants, like Minifactory, The Tillerman, Pizzeria Verita, The Gray Jay, etc... We also love going to New York City for the great walking and eating.

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week, we showed you a photo of a street in Brandon “back in the day,” with a row of stately trees on either side. If you guessed it was Franklin Street (aka Route 7, as it heads south out of the village), you were correct! The earlier photo was taken circa 1900, looking north toward the Brandon Inn (which was rebuilt as we now know it after a fire in the 1890s). Next to that image is a photo as the same view is currently seen today. The trees of yore certainly made a difference.



FRANKLIN STREET NOW, and circa 1900.



We have another one for you. Can you guess this street?

Pittsford Selectboard discusses budget and Arch St.

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 3.

As Town Manager David Atherton was not present, Assistant Town Manager Ann Reed presented an abbreviated Town Manager’s report to the Board which included the following:

Water and sewer bills have been sent out and are due by February 2.

A sewer clog on Route 7 had been cleared.

The 2023 Equalization Study had been received.

The town had received a \$4,000 grant for an enhanced energy plan.

The focus of the meeting, however, was on finding \$100,000 that could be removed from the proposed FY25 budget in order to minimize the percent increase over the current year’s budget.

After searching the budget for expenses to trim, the Board focused on the proposed \$400k for paving. Discussions with the

Highway Department had reassured the Board that a cut of that magnitude would not adversely affect the town’s ability to maintain its roads.

However, the Board ultimately decided to reduce the proposed \$400k for paving by only \$60k until it became clear how much money would be requested through special appropriations, in order to maintain some flexibility.

The proposed budget remains to be finalized by the Board and will ultimately be presented to the voters of Pittsford in March.

The Board also continued its discussion about designating Arch Street as a No Thru Street in order to deter drivers from using it as a shortcut to avoid slow traffic on Route 7. Ms. Reed stated that she had not been able to find an example of any other town in Vermont with an enforceable ordinance on the books that Pittsford could emulate.

Ultimately, the Board agreed to place signs stating that Arch Street was not open to “through

traffic” but that there would be no ordinance that Pittsford PD could use to enforce the change. The biggest deterrent to through traffic, it was felt, would be the newly lowered speed limit on Arch Street, which would deprive the route of its primary advantage over Route 7. The new speed limit of 25, which matches Route 7, and the presence of stop signs, will hopefully make Arch Street unappealing as a shortcut.

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Doug Perkins, Jeff Schumann, and Steve Belcher of the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District spoke to the Board about the District’s work in 2023 and what lies ahead in 2024. Mr. Perkins, who recently stepped down as Chairman of the District’s Board to become Vice-chair, said that 2023 had been “less than successful” because of all the rain during last summer’s insect-control season. The rains created ideal conditions for mosquitos but prevented the District from carrying out its work as

normal. Much of the District had not received the usual amount of spraying, though Pittsford received the most among the 6 participating towns (Brandon, Gos-

hen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury.)

Mr. Schumann, who is now the Chair of the District Board, (See Pittsford SB, Page 15)

37th Annual Rutland Regional
Bridal Show
Sunday January 21, 2024
The Brandon Inn
20 Park St. Brandon, VT

Meet The Wedding Pros
who can help make
your day magical!
Doors open 11:30 am
Grand Prizes 2:30

Scan QR Code below for
Tickets & REGISTRATION
Registering before the show
saves time at the door!
Rutlandbridalshow.com
802.459.2897
Presented by the
Vermont Wedding Association

OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Aidan Heredia
and Jordan Herrick

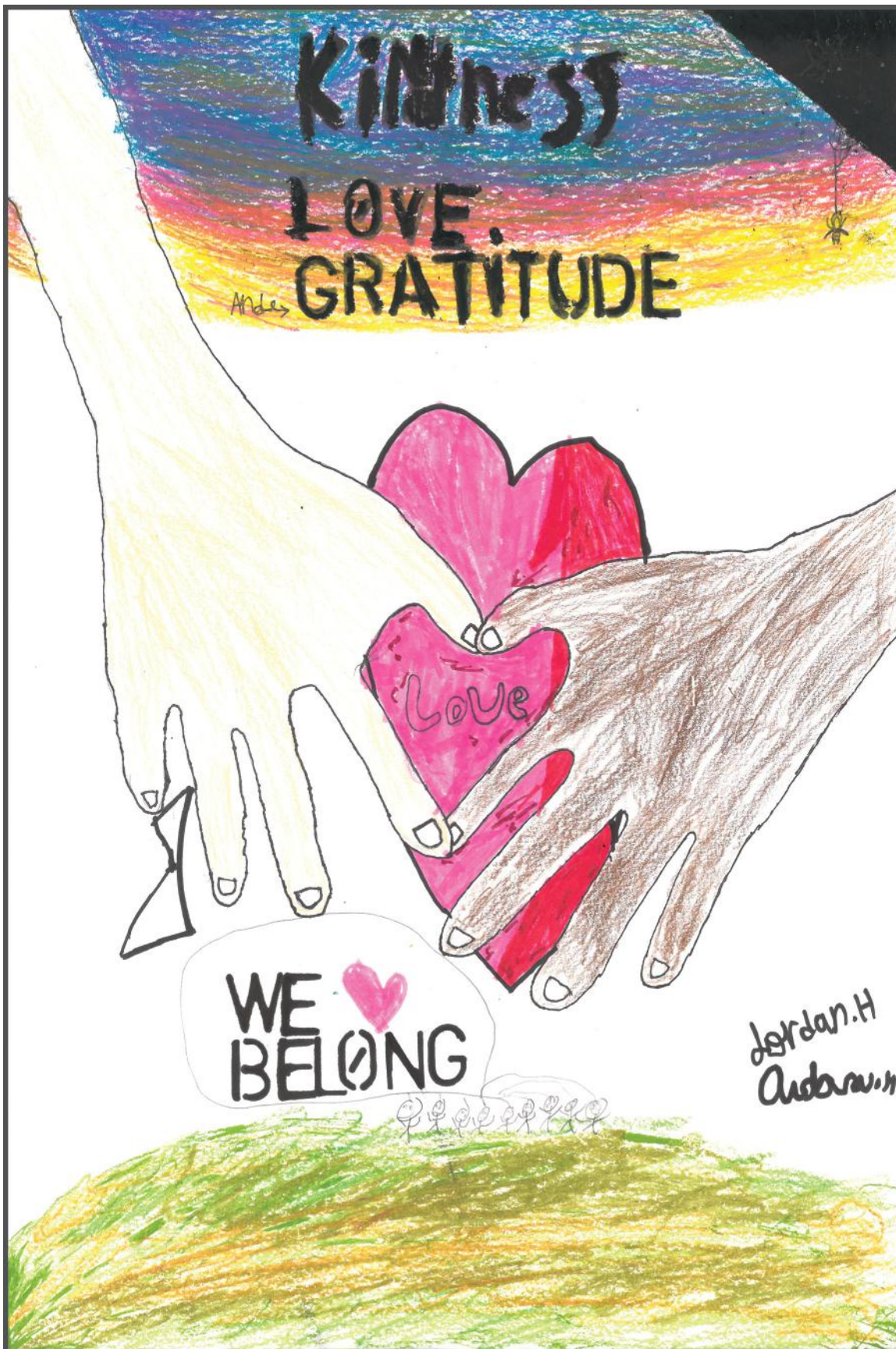
GRADE: 5

SCHOOL: Neshobe School

TITLE: Freedom on Earth

MEDIUM: Pencil, paper, oil pastel,
marker, sharpie

TEACHER: John Brodowski



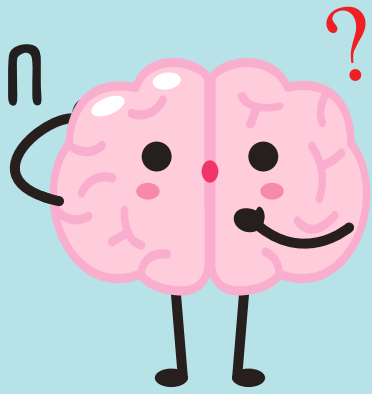
Statement from Aidan and Jordan:

Jordan: I felt that if you are going to make a kindness poster you should say in it that everyone is equal. Also, I think me and Aidan felt we were doing a good thing by making the poster. Aidan: I feel the same way. We meant for the poster to make people happy.

Statement from Mr. B:

Jordan and Aidan are both involved in our newly formed student council at Neshobe School. As part of the student council they (and many other students) volunteered their time after school to help make kindness themed posters to hang around the school. The poster you see here is now hanging in the hallway where students see it and are encouraged by it every day!

Brandon Brain Buster



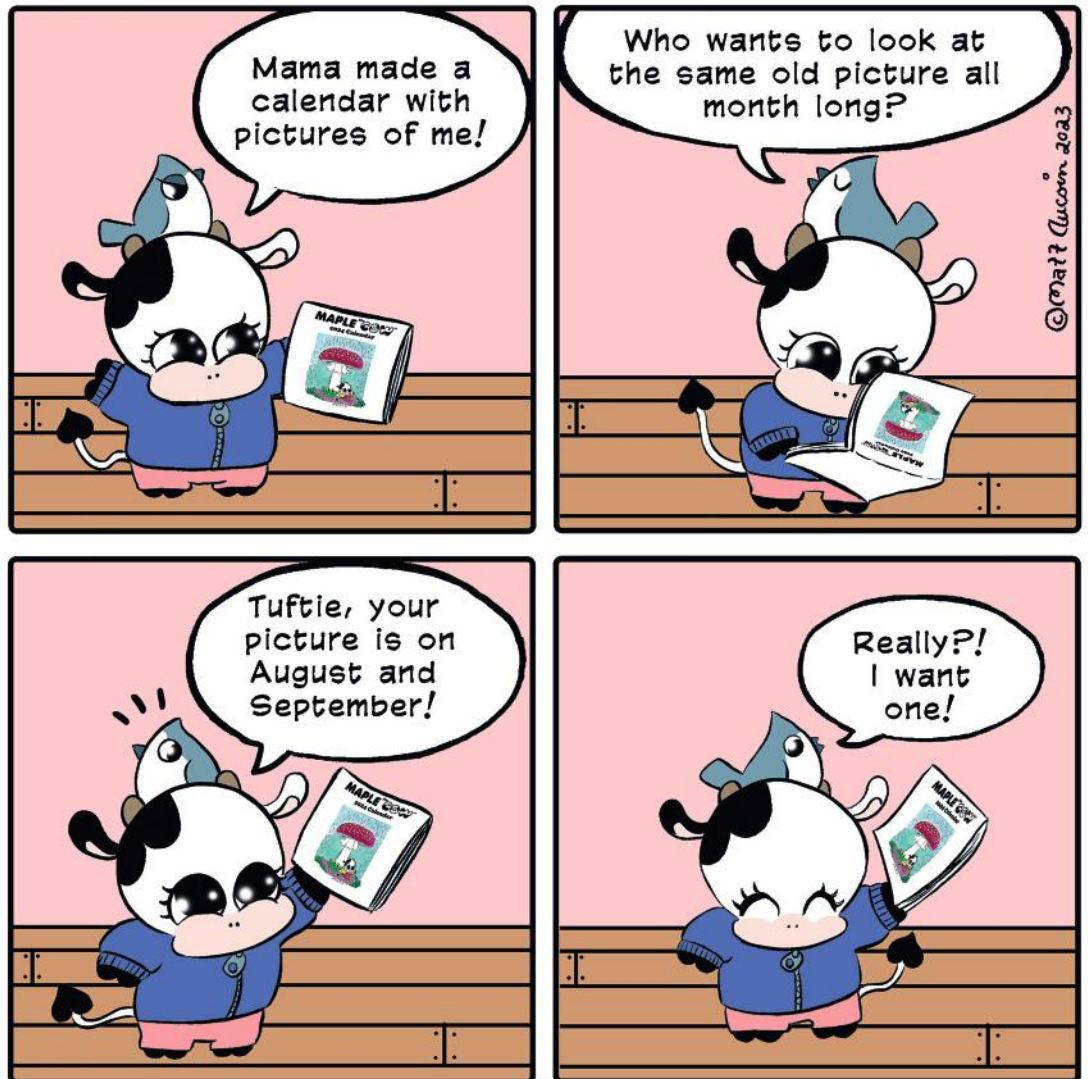
Norman buys a certain car at 10% off the sticker price. He drives it for a few years and sells it to Daisy for 60% of what he paid for it. Daisy keeps it for a few decades, by which time it has become a classic collectible. She sells it to Vincent for 50% more than she paid for it. If Vincent wants to sell the car for the original sticker price, which of the following represents the approximate adjustment he would have to make to his own purchase price?

resents the approximate adjustment he would have to make to his own purchase price?

- A) No adjustment needed
- B) Increase by 9%
- C) Increase by 11%
- D) Increase by 19%
- E) Increase by 23%

Answer on pg.21

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

de Francis Varin,” who died 14 November 1852, age 53. A hypothesis in search of proof found that young widower Francis V. La Pitch married in Brandon “Mrs. Louisa Touchette” on 7 February 1850. [Varin and Lapistole were used interchangeably in the same family] The pieces fit together to prove the “Vorill” family of the 1850 census were Angeline’s

mother Louisa, stepfather Francis, and his children. Thus, the two broken stones in the Congregational Cemetery belong to Angeline’s parents! [Readers: in the spring we need to do something about resetting some of these gravestones before they are forever lost]. Francis “Pistol,” as F. X. Varin, married a third time to Marie Louise Leduc and died in Rutland on 31 May 1893.



LOUISE’S GRAVESTONE IN Brandon Cemetery (behind the Congregational Church). “Famme” is barely legible but is a misspelling of “femme,” which means “wife” in French.



SHORTSLEEVES HEADSTONE IN Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford.

Peter Shortsleeve wasted no time in becoming an American citizen in 1856. Usual for naturalization records in Rutland County, this one stated Peter’s specific birthplace as St. Tour [Ours], Canada. Continuing to track the Shortsleeves family in Brandon’s 1860 census yielded more surprises. In the previous decade, Peter’s parents—John Shortsleeves, 81, and wife Louisa, 75—also settled in Brandon and were listed as paupers in the census. Their household unit was preceded in the census

enumeration by another family born in Canada: Joseph Cole, 51, wife Mary, 42, and their children. Once again, probing proximity revealed another changed name and family relationship. Joseph Charbonneau [charbon, French for coal] married in 1840 Sophie Courtmanche [Mary in the census], Peter’s elder sister. Their transformation from Charbonneau to Cole was literally carved in stone as we can see from their monument in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Brandon.

For members of the Courtmanche family who remained Catholic, their French name, rather than its translation, Shortsleeve, was always faithfully recorded in sacramental records if the priest was French-speaking. As anxiety arose with the vast numbers of French-Canadians leaving Québec for New England, the French Catholic hierarchy feared if their flock lost their native language, they would lose their faith. In other instances of dual identities, Peter and Angeline’s daughter Aurilla married in 1865 Etienne Couture in 1865—a Civil War soldier, who soon adopted the American version of his first and last name, Steven Simes [couture French for seam]. Aurilla’s brother David Courtemanche/Shortsleeve married Malvina Ducharme, but her father’s surname was

recorded as Bluebeach—a one-of-a-kind surname that still leaves me befuddled!

Courtmanche families from Canada continued to migrate to our area at different times. Laurence Coutermarsh (1909–1998) came from Newport, New Hampshire, to Pittsford, maintaining a spelling and pronunciation that was closer to the original name. In 1879, Laurence’s grandfather, Marcel Martin Courtmanche moved to New Hampshire from Durham, Québec. The grandfather of Pittsford resident Rollin Shortsleeves, Joseph Courtman-

che, came from Mascouche, Québec.

Russell Shortsleeves (1921–2006) of Middlebury and Pittsford left many descendants who can trace their Courtmanche origins from immigrant ancestor Antoine Courtmanche of L’Acadie, Québec, who crossed to Essex County, New York, around 1849. His son Eugene Shortsleeves (1850–1927) eventually made his way to Vermont. Without knowing their original name, Courtmanche, the ancestry of these varied families would have stopped at the Vermont border.



TOUSCHETTE GRAVESTONE IN Brandon Cemetery. Many of these stones are in need of restoration.

Calendar of events

January

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@rpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.



Friends Zone

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

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

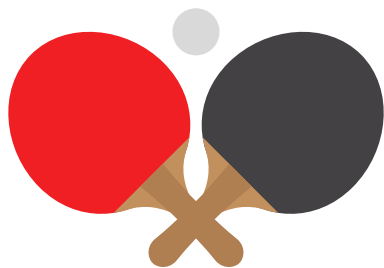
Drop in from 5:30–7:00 p.m., and bring your projects to work on.

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave.



in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

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

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

From 10:30–11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth 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 reap the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

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

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

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

Thursdays

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 Li-



brary. 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 whomever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

First Saturday of each month from 1 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 Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library Join us every Saturday at 10:30 for picture book storytime. All ages welcome.

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."

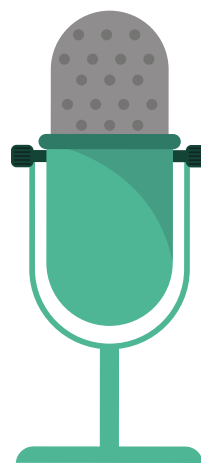
Wednesday 10th

NXT Rockumentary Film Series: Hype! (1996)

This rock documentary by director Doug Pray focuses on the explosion of grunge music that took place in the Pacific Northwest during the early 1990s.

While the film features the most popular bands of the movement -- namely Pearl Jam, Nirvana and Soundgarden -- it also presents lesser-known acts such as the Melvins, Mudhoney and Seaweed. Incorporating concert clips, interviews and behind-the-scenes footage, the movie paints a dynamic picture of this highly influential scene.

From 7:00– 8:30 pm at Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$10.00.



Friday 12th

Underground Listening Room, Cady Ternity w/ Kayla Silverman

Cady Ternity: Husband and wife duo from the great white north. Not much to do up here but use your imagination...

Kayla Silverman: Heavily influenced by the works of Weyes Blood, St. Vincent, ELO, and Franz Schubert, Kayla discovered the synergy between the electronic sounds found in art pop and classical

Aikido Classes th Brandon Re

Winter Registration is open on Rec website. www.brandonvt.myr Beginners and spectators are come.

Visit www.AikidoVermont.org formation.

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music, which she fuses into one beautiful identity. Her cutting edge aesthetic and visuals create an immersive universe for her songs. Kayla is most known for her single "Can't You Tell" which has gained over 78,000 streams on Spotify since its release in February of 2021. Kayla also has immense live performance experiences already under her belt, such as her 2019 headliner shows promoting her EP "I Believe," performing at popular venues The Cutting

MNFF Select Series Passes
Now SEVEN films for \$75

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

Chaffee Arts Center: "The Art of Life" Art Exhibit featuring artist Robert Arthur Black Opening Friday Jan. 19

Chaffee Art Center, Your Center for Creativity, invites the community to the opening of our new exhibit "The Art of Life" featuring artist Robert Arthur Black from January 19 to 21. Stop by to meet the artist, enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments while you explore the galleries full of art and history. Chaffee artist members' artwork will be on display and available throughout the foyer and second floors, as well as in the Gallery Shoppe that is filled with handmade treasures and

gift ideas for any occasion. Be sure to browse the rest of the mansion and take in the 1890's architecture. There is no charge to attend. A donation would be appreciated. This exhibit will be on display until March 1st.

Check out www.chaffeeartcenter.org and the Chaffee Art Center Instagram and Facebook pages for updates on events, classes and more. Call 802.775.0356, info@chaffeeartcenter.org, or stop by the Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, VT.

Room and The Bitter End in New York City. She is a two-time performer at the BBYO International Convention, in which she performed with international pop star Justin Jesso and her compositions have won many songwriting awards, including the "Global Music Award" and "Los Angeles Film Award." Her highly anticipated EP, Golden Frequencies was released in September 17th 2021.

Advance: \$14 // Day of show: \$17
Doors: 7:00 // Show: 7:30
BYOB

Sunday 14th

Maura Shawn Scanlin at Next Stage

Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present fiddler, singer, and songwriter Maura Shawn Scanlin and her band at Next Stage on Sunday, at 7:00 pm at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, VT. Tickets are \$20 Advance / \$24 At the Door / \$10 Livestream. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit nextstagearts.org.

Monday 15th

The Stones and Brian Jones presented by MNFF selects

Featuring revealing interviews with all the main players and incredible unseen archive footage released for the first time, The Stones and Brian Jones explores the creative musical genius of Jones, key to the success of The Rolling Stones, and uncovers how the founder of what became the greatest rock and roll band in the world was left behind in the shadows of history.

Directed by Nick Broomfield

7:00 PM

Individual Ticket:

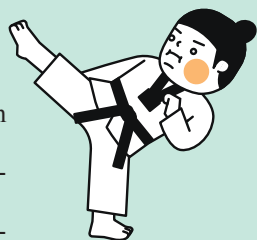
Advance \$14; Walk-up \$16

Includes \$2 fee

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the Brandon
ec.com
always wel-

for more in-



Tuesday 16th

Otter Valley Unified Union School Board Mtg.

Otter Valley Unified Union School Board Mtg from 6:00-8:00 pm at the OVUHS Library. Board documents and details for virtual participation can be found at www.rnesu.org.

Friday 19th

BarnArts Community Contra Dance

BarnArts Community Contra Dances return this winter! The first dance will be Friday, January 19th at Barnard Town Hall (115 North Rd., Barnard) with music by Justin Park & Beth Telford with calling by Kevin Donohue. A potluck will begin at 6pm and the dancing goes from 6:30-9pm. No partners needed and all ages and experience levels are welcome! Dancers - please bring indoor shoes. This is a free event but we gladly accept donations to cover our costs. Reserve your spot at <https://barnarts.ludus.com/200447293>

Become a Hospice Volunteer, VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, Rutland

VNAHSR Hospice Volunteer Training will be held from 8 am-4 pm in the Casella Conference Room at the Rutland office, located at 7 Albert Cree Drive. Free and open to the public.

Training is free and open to individuals 16 years of age and older. Volunteers need to pass a background check. No previous hospice and health care experience is required. Pre-registration and proof of COVID-19 vaccination are required.

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

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

Training Topics include

- Understanding the Hospice philosophy of care
- Knowing boundaries when interacting with patients and families
- Communicating with patients and families
- Understanding basic health and safety precautions
- Understanding patient confidentiality

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

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

Goings on around town



Saturday 20th

Hocus Pocus Magic Show with Master Magician Blaine Goad

Master Magician Blaine Goad brings his energetic, fun, and funny magic show to the historic Vergennes Opera House for an afternoon of family fun.

The perfect antidote for cabin fever or the winter blues, Master Magician Blaine Goad has just what the doctor ordered. His fun, funny and energetic style of magic will surely amaze and delight audience members of all ages.

The Vergennes Opera House
120 Main Street, Vergennes, \$10.00.

Sunday 21st

2024 VWA Rutland Regional Bridal Show at The Brandon Inn

37th Annual Rutland Regional Bridal Show is at The Brandon Inn, 20 Park Street Brandon, VT 05733

Doors open at 11:30 am
Grand Prizes at 2:30 pm.

Come raise your glasses to Celebrate your Engagement and meet the Wedding Professionals who can help make your day magical!

Tour The Brandon Inn and

see why this would be the place for your dream wedding! Dance to music, taste amazing apps and sign up to win Great Grand Prizes including Overnight Stay in the Bridal Suite at The Brandon Inn, \$250 Wedding DJ Certificate from Sound Wave Entertainment, Wedding Photography Package Certificate from M&M Photography \$300 value, and EVERY BRIDE receives a \$200 Wedding Dress Voucher from Veilmonte Bridal Showroom. We add more Grand Prizes as we receive them so visit Wedding Association facebook page and Rutlandbridalshow.com for more Grand Prizes!

Enjoy the modern comforts paired with the historic charm of a full-service hotel located in the center of the welcoming community of Brandon, Vermont.

A true walking town with shopping, dining and galleries, Brandon in any season offers all you could want for the wedding of your dreams!

The Brandon Inn steeped in rich history has been greeting guests for nearly 250 years. The Brandon Inn is on the Registry of Historic Places, is a National Landmark and is considered to be one of Vermont's oldest continuously operating hotels. The doors opened in 1786 as a one-story tavern and under the guise of dedicated owners and Inn Keepers with notable visions for expansion the Inn maintains 39 well-appointed guest rooms, a restaurant, café, garden room, the very social front porch and a ballroom where you can almost feel the heartbeat of those who have danced there at joyous events!

This grand old hotel continues on its quest to welcome historians, world travelers and locals with a sense of pride and community shared by all who live in Brandon!

The Vermont Wedding Association has been presenting Bridal Shows since 2001. This will be their 167th Bridal Show! The VWA Bridal Shows have been voted the top Bridal Shows in the industry by Brides, Grooms and Wedding Professionals! Generations of families continue to come to the VWA shows to raise their glasses and have some fun celebrating their engagements!

WINTER'S CALL

SNOWY SCENES FROM the area, after this weekend's snow.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



2023 was Burlington's warmest year on record, capping a year of 'wild' weather

BY ERIN PETENKO/
VTDIGGER

The Burlington area is on track to have its hottest average annual temperature in at least 127 years, according to National Weather Service data — a stark sign of rising global temperatures brought on by climate change.

This past year has not only been the warmest on record, but it also has been rife with different forms of extreme weather throughout the state. Heat waves, cold snaps, flooding and wildfire-related air pollution have been among 2023's notable weather events.

"It's just been extremely wild in a number of different ways," said Gabriel Langbauer, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. "It's not just been, 'Oh, it's warmer.' It's not just been, 'Oh, we've had more thunderstorms.' It's all the different variables interacting. It's all kinds of wonky stuff."

Vermont is not alone. This year didn't just break global temperature records — it blew past them, according to a New York Times analysis of federal weather data. Europe and the Southwestern United States were among the regions that experienced extreme heat waves in 2023.

Some climate scientists have suggested that the El Niño weather pattern is responsible for the particularly high temperatures this year. But Langbauer pointed out that at least in Vermont, 2023 is part of a broader swell of rising temperatures.

"If you look at the full list of the warmest years on record,

they're all in the last 10 years," he said. "This is the trend we're having, and it's going to continue to be that way moving forward."

Month-by-month data from the weather service reveals that Vermont started the year warm, with the fifth-hottest January ever recorded.

But February experienced the opposite extreme. Feb. 3 marked Vermont's coldest day in 20 years, with wind chills causing a low of about -40 degrees, Langbauer said. Service organizations across the state scrambled to make sure Vermonters experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable people were prepared for the extreme cold.

Cold temperatures on May 18 also led to an unusually late frost after farmers had prepared for an early start to the growing season. Some farmers estimated a loss of 95% of their crop, leading Gov. Phil Scott to seek a disaster declaration from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The state then went through a record-breaking heat wave in early June, followed by several days of haze and air quality advisories from smoke blowing south from wildfires in Canada. Advocates expressed concern about the lack of cooling shelters for people living outside after some Vermonters were evicted from motels in early June. The northern regions of the state began reporting moderate drought conditions.

Then came July. On July 9-11, record-breaking rainfall of 5 to 9 inches swept through Vermont. From Ludlow in the

south to Johnson in the north, the state experienced catastrophic flooding that inundated homes, businesses and local infrastructure. Montpelier's North Branch River reported one of its highest-ever water levels of more than 526 feet.

In the weeks after the storm, the ground was so saturated that relatively minor rainfall forecasts set off flood warnings. Several communities, particularly Barre, experienced landslides that continued after the storms had passed.

And on August 3, another round of rain hit Addison and Rutland counties, causing flooding in downtown Middlebury and Rutland, mudslides, and the closure of the Amtrak line.

Climate experts called the flooding a classic hallmark of the extreme weather patterns that climate change can cause. In total, the central Vermont region reported more than 20 inches of rain over the summer, the most it has received in 75 years.

"It's been a very, very wet year all over the state," Langbauer said.

The state then experienced another heat wave in early September, followed by a warmer-than-average October, according to weather service data.

The early days of winter saw cooler temperatures and several days of snowfall. Langbauer said higher elevations such as Mount Mansfield had greater-than-average snowpack in early December, allowing ski resorts to open on the early side.

But in mid-December, tem-

(See Warmest year, Page 23)

Boy Scout

(Continued from Page 3)

the materials he needed and good tools as well.

All the planning and efforts came together for the installation of two locations on December 30th. Now, the steeper trail areas near Beaver Pond feature hiking assistance. The footwear slips over your shoes and grips the ice. The boxes can be found at each end of the Mountain Trail. Trail maps can be found at each of the 3 trailheads. During the warmer months, the Mountain Trail is popular because it offers the best view at the pond, but the number of visitors has been drastically reduced when the steep slopes became more difficult. So, this

project should help people access the vista there and encourage much needed exercise during the cold weather.

Mitchell has learned skills and gained valuable experience from this program. His family and troop leader Nick Flanders are proud of him. In addition to the cleats available at the pond, six pairs will also be given to the Proctor Free Library for residents to borrow.

This may not be the end of the story though. If the installations are popular enough, Mitchell hopes to create more stations at other local trails, such as the Carriage Trail near the Proctor High School.

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Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 9)

relayed to the Selectboard that the District will begin quarterly invoicing this year. Up to now, the District received monies from the towns only once per year, forcing the District to borrow money to finance its operations until the funds were received. With quarterly billing, the District will be able to finance its work throughout the season without having to seek out loans.

Mr. Schumann also conveyed to the Selectboard that the Vermont Agency of Agriculture was demanding specific changes to the District's equipment to mon-

itor more precisely how much insecticide is being sprayed, changes which would cost the District \$70k.

"We'd be out of business," he said. Mr. Schumann also said the District was in discussions with the state to modify these mandates.

After the District finished its presentation, a former employee of the Town asked the Board to remedy a payroll situation in which he claimed that he and another employee had not been paid his accrued unused vacation time for 2023 despite the requests he'd made directly to the town manager. The men's jobs

had been terminated but they were still entitled to be paid for the vacation time they had accrued. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to pay the men what they had accrued.

The Board's final public business of the evening was to approve orders in the amounts of \$66,551.82 and \$7,990.91.

The Board has changed the date of its next meeting to Wednesday, January 24 from Wednesday, January 17 in order to accommodate the schedule for those needing to submit petitions for special appropriations, which are due on the 18th.



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

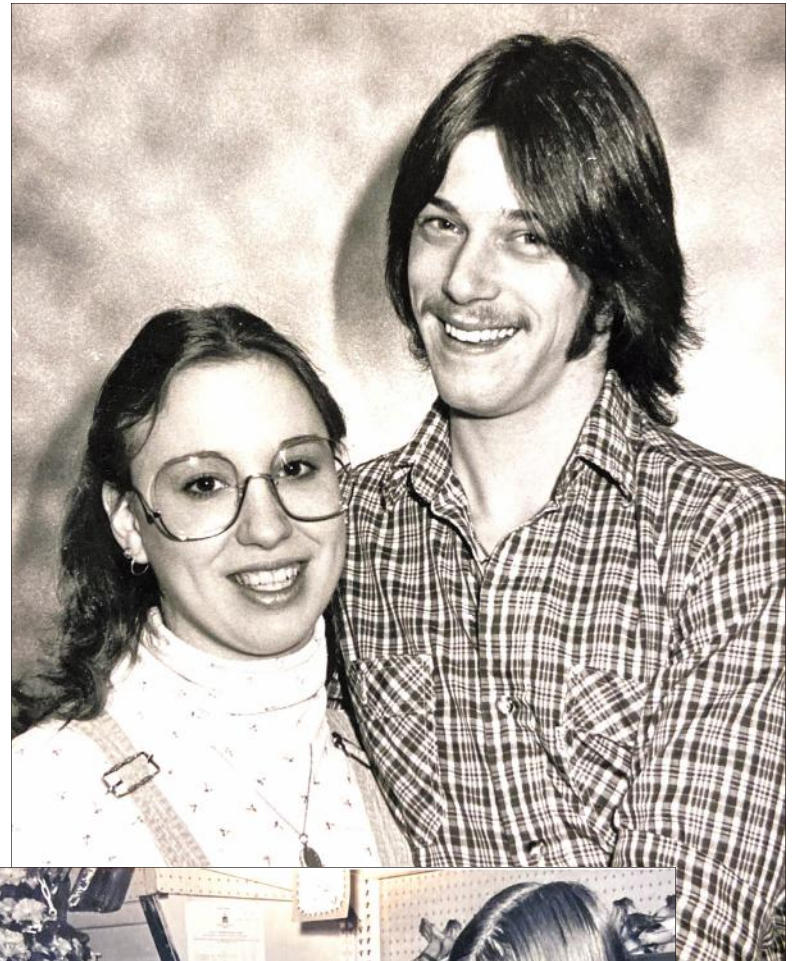


802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com



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

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Defensive nuclear weapon
4. Moved back and forth
9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
14. Last letter
15. Cause to become less intense
16. Genus of tree bugs
17. Body art
18. Romance novelist
20. Be filled with love for
22. City
23. Make vivid
24. Horses
28. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
29. Atomic #18
30. Shortly
31. A type of prejudice
33. Whirls
37. Six
38. Old world, new
39. ___ Hess, oil company
41. Talk
42. Not off
43. Begets
44. Cars need them
46. Computing architecture (abbr.)
49. Of I
50. Journalist, activist Wells
51. Takes apart
55. Lists
58. Positively charged electrode
59. Hard, colorless compound
60. Inflammation of the peritoneum
64. Trent Reznor's band
65. Simply dry fruit
66. "Ivanhoe" author
67. Google certification
68. French commune
69. Medieval circuit courts
70. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Indigenous people of Mexico
2. Dietary supplement
3. Having a particular sheen or luster
4. Views
5. Academic Bill of Rights
6. Automobile
7. When you anticipate arriving
8. Beef or chicken intestine
9. Conspiracy
10. Blood disorder
11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
12. Time zone
13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
19. Upton Sinclair novel
21. What a cow does
24. Cavalry-sword
25. Ancient Greek war galley
26. Stars
27. Rebukes
31. Billion year periods
32. Some are in a bottle
34. Tears down
35. Lethal dose
36. Humorists
40. Midwestern US state (abbr.)
41. Frameworks
45. Rocker Billy
47. More thin
48. Dog
52. Habitual repetitions
53. State of fuss
54. Uneasy
56. Chemical compounds
57. More cognizant of reality
59. A place to build
60. Exclamation that denotes disgust
61. Supplement with difficulty
62. Very slick
63. Hill or rocky peak

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Make Your Pet a Part of Your 2024 New Year's Resolutions

The new year is the perfect time for setting goals and starting fresh, and that includes your pets! It is a great time to prioritize their health and happiness. The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to offer some ideas on how to make it the best year yet for your pet! It's very easy for your pet's weight to gradually increase over time, so make sure you measure their food daily and choose an age-appropriate diet. Incorporate more play time into your routine or try a new activity to keep your pets active and help maintain a healthy weight. Don't forget to schedule regular check-ups with your veterinarian to stay up to date on vaccines and help to detect any concerns early on. Your vet can also offer tips on practicing good oral hygiene and grooming habits with your pet as well! Teaching new tricks or replacing old toys with new ones can help with your pet's mental stimulation. Lastly, make sure to update your pet's identification information. Whether it's new contact information or their tag is just worn down and can't be read, make sure they are updated in case of an emergency. For more information and tips, please get in touch with the Adoption Center at 802.483.6700.

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



MEET WINNIE - 6-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. MIXED BREED.

Winnie is the cutest little mix who is so sweet and gentle. We think she has some herding breed (perhaps Border Collie) in her, so she is very loyal, loves to be around her people, and is always on the go! She loves treats and going for walks; she already knows "sit" and "lay down" so we know she's one smart cookie! You'll never have to guess what's on her mind, those ears tell it all! It will be important for her to have someone who can keep her brain busy and give her plenty of exercise. She has a very easygoing, go-with-the-flow personality making her the best travel partner who's up for any adventures! This cutie is ready to fill your household full of fun, laughs, and snuggles who can't wait to find her new family!

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 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.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



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

OFF THE SHELF



DVDs

Oppenheimer (Rated R):
The story of American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb.

Weird, The Al Yankovic Story (Rated TV-14)

Daniel Radcliffe is "Weird" Al Yankovic in the unexaggerated true story about the greatest musician of our time. From a conventional upbringing where playing the accordion was a sin, Al rebelled and made his dream of changing the words to world-renowned songs come true. An instant success and sex symbol, Al lives an excessive lifestyle and pursues an infamous romance that nearly destroys him.

A Haunting in Venice (Rated PG-13)

In post-World War II Venice, Poirot (Kenneth Branagh), now retired and living in his own exile, reluctantly attends a seance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to uncover the killer once again.

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (Rated PG-13)

The famous archaeologist returns to find the mysterious Dial of Destiny, rumored to send its user back in time, before the Nazis can use it to change the outcome of World War II.

The Crown: Season 5

The Monarchy enters the 1990s. Charles and Diana's marriage falls apart. The Queen struggles with public perception, and a rapidly changing culture that thinks the monarchy is out of touch and a waste of money.

Fiction

Blackout by Justin Torres

A dying man seeks to bequeath to his caretaker a project of enormous magnitude on gay history and its attempted erasure.

Prophet Song by Paul Lynch

On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother of four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police on her step. They have arrived to interrogate her husband, a trade unionist. Ireland is falling apart, caught in the grip of a government turning towards tyranny. As the life she knows and the ones she loves disappear before her eyes, Eilish must contend with the dystopian logic of her new, unraveling country. How far will she go to save her family? And what—or who—is she willing to leave behind?

Beautyland by Marie-Helene Bertino

At the moment when Voyager 1 is launched into space carrying its famous golden

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a new campaign starting for Dungeons & Dragons for ages 18 & up on Saturdays from 2-4 starting January 20th. Email eric@brandonpubliclibrary.org to sign up

record, an unusual child is born to a single mother in Philadelphia. Adina Giorno is tiny and jaundiced. As a child, she recognizes that she is different: She possesses knowledge of a faraway planet. The arrival of a fax machine enables her to contact her extraterrestrial relatives, beings who have sent her to report on the oddities of Earthlings. For years, she dispatches transmissions on the terrors and surprising joys of humanity. Then, at a precarious moment, a beloved friend urges Adina to share her messages with the world. Is there a chance she is not alone?

On the Plus Side by Jenny L. Howe

Everly Winters thinks she's perfectly happy as a wallflower, hiding as a receptionist instead of pursuing an art career, and lurking on the message boards of her favorite reality show, On the Plus Side. But when she's nominated and chosen to be on the show, she just might find a new, extroverted life she's always wanted.

It's not the Panama Canal, but a truck can still get stuck on Pearl St.

December 25

- Served a final abuse prevention order at the Brandon Police Department (BPD) for the Shelburne Police Department. Order was later served in-hand.

- Assisted Brandon Rescue for a medical emergency on Forest Dale Road. Subject was transported to Porter Hospital.

- Vehicle stop for a cell phone violation. Ticket issued.

- BPD and the Brandon Fire Department responded to a fire incident on Indian Springs Road. Response was ultimately cancelled.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a defective equipment violation. Officers determined that the operator had an active arrest warrant and issued a citation.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for cell phone use while driving. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Nickerson Road for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a moving violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for tailgating with no rear lights on. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a moving violation. Warning issued.

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

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for a stop sign violation. Operator had a criminally suspended driver's license and was arrested. A citation was issued to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 4/1/24 at 10:00 a.m.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for a moving violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street and Valley View Drive for failure to maintain travel lane. BPD K-9 Unit subsequently assisted in the investigation of suspected drug activity. Illegal drugs were indeed discovered. Investigation is ongoing.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for defective equipment. Officers determined that the operator had a criminally suspended driver's license. A citation was issued to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 4/1/24 at 10:00 a.m.

Brandon Police Report

December 26

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

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for a defective equipment violation. Warning issued.

- Conducted another vehicle stop on Conant Square for a defective equipment violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for defective equipment. Ticket issued for a related violation.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a moving violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on North Street. Ticket issued.

December 27

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street on a commercial motor vehicle for using portable electronic device while in operation. Ticket issued.

- Directed patrol on Forest Dale Road and Ray Forrester Road.

- Received a complaint of a suspicious vehicle near the Brandon Senior Center.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.

- Conducted another vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.

December 28

- Assisted the operator of a tractor trailer back out of Pearl Street after getting stuck in the roadway. The operator had made an incorrect turn and called the police for assistance.

- Investigated a larceny at Champlain Farms on Grove Street.

- Conducted a search warrant on a vehicle on Forest Dale Road.

- Conducted a directed patrol on Franklin Street. One vehicle stop was conducted and a VCVC was issued.

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

December 29

- Received a call about a woman on Grove Street who had been left on the side of the roadway in the cold weather by her boyfriend who had driven
(See Police report, Page 19)

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

off.

- Responded to the River Pub on Center Street for a report of a man who had engaged in violent and threatening behavior toward bar staff. The man, who had left prior to police arrival, was arrested in Burlington on an unrelated matter. He was issued a citation by the Burlington Police Department on behalf of the BPD for disorderly conduct and was cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 4/8/24.

- Conducted a directed patrol on Route 7. Several traffic stops were made, which resulted in the arrest of an operator.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Rd for failure to use a turn signal.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street. VCVC issued for operating a vehicle that was not inspected.

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

- Vehicle stop on Mulcahy Drive for obstructed windows. Officers determined that the operator had a criminally suspended driver's license. A citation was issued to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 4/8/24 at 10:00 a.m.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for operation with defective equipment. Ticket issued for a related violation.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.

- Conducted another vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.

- Assisted the Addison County Sheriff's Department in attempting to locate a vehicle that had failed to yield on a traffic stop.

December 30

- Responded to the area of Route 7 in Brandon in attempt to intercept a vehicle that was allegedly being operated by an intoxicated man with his young child in the car. The vehicle was not located.

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

- Conducted a directed patrol on Grove Street. Vehicle stop was conducted, and a warning was issued.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square. Warning issued for a headlight out.

- Responded to an untimely death at a residence on Steinberg Road. Investigation is ongoing.

December 31

- Assisted a disabled citizen in locating and returning his runaway husky on Route 7.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street to assure the wellbeing of the operator due to inconsistent driving speed. Operator was found to be okay.

- Vehicle stop for a moving violation. Warning issued.

- Served a citation and release warrant on an individual who became belligerent at Jiffy Mart on Franklin Street. The suspect was cited for an outstanding arrest warrant out of Addison for failure to appear. A citation was issued to appear before the Addison County court.

- BPD and the Vermont State Police in New Haven are investigating a theft of firearms from a resident of Brandon. Investigation is ongoing.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for driving on the shoulder of the roadway. Officers determined that the operator had a criminally suspended driver's license. A citation was issued to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 4/8/24 at 10:00 a.m.
- Traffic stop on the vehicle of an operator who was found to be operating in a negligent manner as well as operating a vehicle with a criminally suspended license. Citation issued.

- Received a call from a resident of Fox Road regarding marital difficulties that he has been having with his wife and wanted to speak with an officer about the matter.

- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road and Mulcahy Drive for defective equipment. Warning issued.

- Received a call about a missing juvenile from Fair Haven who was allegedly on her way to a residence in Brandon. Complainant was advised to contact the Fair Haven Police Department to report the juvenile as missing.

January 1

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Country Club Road. Ticket issued for not having liability insurance.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street and Wood Lane for following too closely. Warning issued.

- Received a report of a stolen snowmobile on Town Farm

Road.

- Received a 911 hang up call from a residence on Morning Dove Lane. It was determined that no emergency existed and that a child had been playing with the phone.

- Received a report of a late reported crash that occurred on High Pond Road. Incident documented for insurance purposes.

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

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for littering. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for failure to use turn signal. Warning issued.

- Assisted an individual on Church Street in obtaining a Relief From Abuse Order on a family member.

- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road and Grove Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.

- Conducted a littering investigation after a passing driver flicked a cigarette at an officer on a vehicle stop being conducted on Arnold District Road and Grove Street.

January 2

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

- Vehicle stop on Champlain

Street for speeding. Ticket issued.

January 3

- Received a complaint from a resident of Birch Hill Road regarding fraudulent charges made on her Amazon account. Investigation is ongoing.

- Vehicle stop on a vehicle that was driving back and forth over the center line on Park Street. It was determined that the operator was not impaired. Warning issued.

- Received a residential burglary alarm activation at a residence on Paint Works Road. It was determined that the alarm had been accidentally set off by the homeowner.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for failure to use turn signal and for not stopping at the red traffic arrow light. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for driving without lights. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Franklin Street and McConnell Road for failure to display registration plates. Warning issued.

January 4

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

- Vehicle stop on North Street for an uninspected vehicle. Warning issued.

- Conducted another vehicle stop on North Street for an uninspected vehicle. Warning issued.

- Responded to a residence on Franklin Street for a patient lift assist requested by Brandon Area Rescue.

- Responded to the area of Furnace Road for a report of a single-car crash with no reported injuries.

- Performed a background check on a contractor requesting to do service work for the Brandon Police Department (BPD).

- Received a complaint of a restraining order violation and criminal threatening from a resident of River Street. Investigation is ongoing and criminal charges will likely be sought against the suspect, who lives out-of-state.


- Took fingerprints for a nursing license.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective license plate lights. Warning issued.

- Requested assistance from the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office in New York State in serving a restraining order for an individual that was formerly residing on River Street in Brandon. The order was served in-hand to the defendant.

- Conducted directed traffic enforcement on Grove Street.

(See Police report, Page 21)



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23–Aug. 23
Leo, you may think you're being humble and putting others' needs before your own this week. But if you look a little deeper, you may discover you have room to improve.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22
Virgo, if you commit to something, follow through this week. Others are counting on you for your portion of the work and letting them down now is not an option.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23
Health issues may have you taking inventory of your habits, Libra. It's a new year and the perfect time to start to make changes for the better. Ask for help if you need guidance.

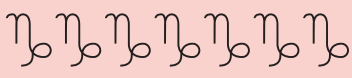
SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22
You're not one for being bashful about things, Scorpio. But something could occur this week that leaves you a little red in the face and perhaps wanting to hide in the shadows.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21
Someone new in your life is causing all types of changes to your schedule, Sagittarius. You're not quite sure if you enjoy it or not right now. Stay the course and wait to see.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20
Capricorn, you will not make inroads with family or friends if you continue to play the victim. You must own up to any mistakes you've made and start making amends this week.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18
Sometimes the best defense is remaining quiet and letting others dig themselves into a deeper hole, Aquarius. Others will see your positive efforts for all they are.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20
Think about planning a getaway in the next month or so, Pisces. It doesn't have to be a grand voyage. Even a weekend retreat can be a way to rest and recharge right now.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 12 Haruki Murakami, writer (74)	Jan. 13 Julia Louis-Dreyfus, actor (52)
Jan. 14 Berthe Morisot, painter (d)	Jan. 15 Moliere, playwright (d)
Jan. 16 Lin-Manuel Miranda, actor and singer-songwriter (43)	Jan. 17 Michelle Obama, lawyer, First Lady (78)
Jan. 18 Pep Guardiola, soccer player and coach (52)	

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)
that the costs of the program had not been clear to him when it was first implemented.

“I didn’t do my research,” said Mr. Wyman.

Board member Cecil Reniche-Smith, who had voted to eliminate the program as a separate line item in December, stated that she had believed, albeit erroneously, that Chief Kachajian would still be able to keep the program as long as he was able to fit it within the \$900k budget

that was allotted for BPD overall.

Brandon resident Vicki Disorda also questioned Board member Heather Nelson’s decision to abstain from the K-9 vote in December.

“You’re an elected official,” said Ms. Disorda. “If you’re not going to vote, why are you on the Board?”

Ms. Nelson defended her decision to abstain.

“I didn’t feel I had enough information,” she said. “And it

still would’ve been 4 to 1” to eliminate the K-9 program.

Ms. Reniche-Smith ultimately moved to restore the K-9 program to the budget, on the condition that BPD cover the cost within the \$900k budgeted for the department overall. The motion failed on a 2-3 vote, with Ms. Reniche-Smith and Ms. Nelson voting yes and Mr. Guiles, Mr. Wyman, and Brian Coolidge voting no.

There was also significant criticism of the Board’s decision not to specifically prohibit BPD from purchasing electric vehicles for its fleet. Several attendees stated that electric vehicles are still unproven, too expensive, prone to overheating and fire, and bad for the environment.

Ms. Stearns had written an email to the Board before the meeting to express her opposition to EVs, an email to which Town Manager Seth Hopkins had written his considered rebuttals in favor of them as less expensive to operate and maintain than gas-powered vehicles. During the meeting, Mr. Guiles, a longtime owner of an EV and a committed proponent of green energy, refuted the claims as well.

In a separate discussion, Doug Bailey, a former member of the Selectboard and a member of this season’s Budget Committee, suggested to the Board that it reduce from \$300k to \$200k the money that it had proposed for paving in order to make the overall percentage increase more palatable to voters. The other \$100k could be made up with funds from the 1% Local Option Tax, he said.

Mr. Wyman immediately rejected the suggestion, stating that he would fight “to the end” to keep the \$300k paving allotment in the budget. Citizens must know exactly how much they’re voting to spend, he said. Using the 1% fund or appropriations to raise the money was “smoke and mirrors,” leading people to believe the budget was less than it actually was.

In the end, the Board voted 4-1 to adopt the proposed budget as it was, with Brian Coolidge the lone nay. The budget will now be put before Brandon voters in March.

Stormwater mitigation

Susan Benedict and Annie Stratton, residents of River Street and Carver Street, respectively, asked the Board to form a town committee to study the effects of stormwater runoff on residential properties around Brandon.

Both Ms. Benedict and Ms. Stratton stated that they were experiencing serious issues with stormwater at their homes, due in large part, they claimed, to the town’s failure to adequately drain the public roadways.

The Board declined to take action on the issue, stating that private citizens were free to form their own organization to study the problem. If evidence were found that public property was in fact causing damaging to private property, the Board could take action.

Mr. Hopkins recommended that any such committee work with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Vermont Department of Natural Resources to learn more about what mitigations may be possible.

Park Street Closure for April Eclipse

The Board voted unanimously to close Park Street from 1 to 2:30 on April 7 for festivities that the Brandon Chamber of Commerce was planning with regard to the total eclipse on April 8.

The Chamber will have a “zombie walk” up Park Street and will distribute over 1,000 special eclipse-viewing glasses for the big event on April 8. The Brandon-Middlebury area is expected to attract scores of out-of-towners eager to see the eclipse.

Town Hall Roof & Boiler Repairs

The Board voted to allocate the remaining available ARPA funds to the replacement of the Town Hall Roof. In a 3-2 vote, with Messrs. Wyman and Coolidge voting no, the Board allocated \$261,712 to the project, which will likely cost approximately \$300k. The roof has experienced leaks for years and was damaged in last summer’s tornado.

The town is currently seeking funding from Vermont Historic Preservation to close the gap between available funds and total actual cost.

The Board also voted 3-2, with Mr. Guiles and Ms. Reniche-Smith voting no, to replace the Town Hall’s oil boiler with a

propane-fueled boiler instead. The current boiler has required significant maintenance this year and the chimney that serves it also needs significant, expensive work. A propane boiler will use a direct outside vent and the existing chimney can be maintained for historic appearances. Mr. Guiles had suggested an electric water heater instead, but was outvoted 2-3, with only Mr. Guiles and Ms. Reniche-Smith voting yes.

The money for the boiler will come from an insurance settlement for the damage suffered in the tornado. The cost of the propane boiler will be less than the settlement, netting the town roughly \$6k.

Town Plan Draft Approved & New Planning Member Appointed

The Planning Commission has submitted the draft of the new Town Plan to the Selectboard after several years working to update it. The Town Plan is a statutory requirement that Brandon must fulfill in order to be eligible for funding from the state. It must be updated every 8 years and, for Brandon, the new version must be in place in the next few months.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed town plan and to set a public hearing for it on Monday, January 24 at 7:00. The plan is available at the Town Offices and the Brandon Library for examination before the hearing. Residents will be free to make comments and suggestions at the hearing.

Town Report

The Board voted unanimously to dedicate this year’s Town Report to Dennis Marden, president of the Friends of Town Hall, in recognition of all his contributions to Brandon over the years.

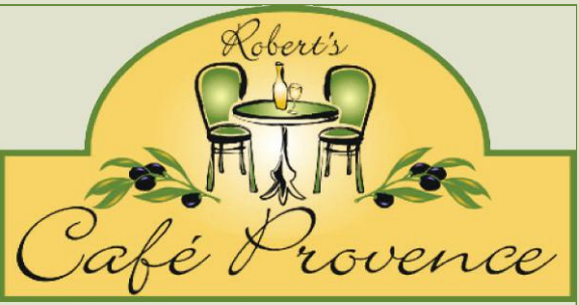
The Selectboard’s message to the community will be drafted by Ms. Reniche-Smith and will be ready for approval by the next Selectboard meeting.

Warrants

The Board approved a warrant in the amount of \$500,826.88 to cover the town’s expenses and obligations.

The Town Manager’s and Recreation Department’s reports are available in the Selectboard packet for 1/8/24 on the town’s website.

Restaurant guide



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See page 17

Police report

(Continued from Page 19)

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Arnold District Road for speeding. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a headlight out. Tickets were issued for defective equipment and uninsured vehicle.
- Conducted directed traffic enforcement at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street. One vehicle stop was conducted and a ticket was issued.
- Vehicle stop for failing to use a turn signal. Ticket issued for a related violation.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Warning issued.

January 5

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Ticket issued.
- Responded to an intoxicated man on Long Swamp Road. Officers coordinated a ride home for the man.
- Responded to a dispute on Franklin Street. The dispute was found to be civil and the involved party left without further issue.
- Attempted to serve a restraining order to an individual believed to reside on Maple

Street. The individual was found to not reside at that address.

- Responded to the area of Grove Street for a dog that had been struck by a vehicle. The dog was found to be deceased. Officers provided traffic control and removed the animal from the roadway.
- Investigated a call about a suspicious person who was reported to have abruptly left the parking lot adjacent to the Junction Store and Deli on Forest Dale Road. A consensual encounter was made with the individual and no crime was found to have been committed.
- Received a 911 call from a residence on Park Street. It was later determined that the caller accidentally dialed 911. A welfare check was conducted and the caller was found to be ok.
- Received a 911 hang-up call from an area located on Wheeler Rd. Officers conducted a search and did not locate anybody in the area.

January 6

- Responded to North Street for a report of gunshots. Upon patrol of the area and foot patrol of the nearby VAST trail entrance, no suspicious activity was found.

• Responded to a domestic disturbance. Upon investigating the incident, no crime was found to have been committed; however, multiple firearms were seized, with the owner's consent, for safekeeping. The firearms will be released to the owner.

• Responded to a residence on Newton Road for a physical domestic disturbance between two women. Upon investigation by the responding officers, one of the involved parties was placed under arrest for assaulting her girlfriend. The suspect was brought to the BPD for processing and later released on a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 1/8/2024 at 12:30 p.m. on the charges of Domestic Assault and Interference with Access to Emergency Services.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street at Supermarket Drive for expired registration. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for driving while using a cell phone. Ticket issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane and for following too closely. Tickets issued for operating without liability in-

urance and for following too closely.

• Responded to a residence on Franklin Street for a report of a family fight in which the woman involved was attempting to leave the residence with her children. Upon investigation, the woman was arrested and processed at the BPD where she was released. She was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 1/8/2024 at 12:30 p.m. on the charge of Domestic Assault.

- Received a late reported complaint of a vehicle that had been hit in the parking lot of Hannafords Supermarket.
- VIN verification requested by a local business on Alta Woods.

January 7

• Responded to Champlain Street to an unoccupied car off the road. The vehicle was towed and the owner was contacted.

An officer on patrol assisted a woman whom he had observed fall on Richmond Road. The woman advised she was okay and did not need medical assistance.

- Assisted a disabled tow truck that was creating a traffic hazard on VT-73 by Churchill Road. The truck was cleared and no additional hazards were created.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a medical incident on Maple Street.

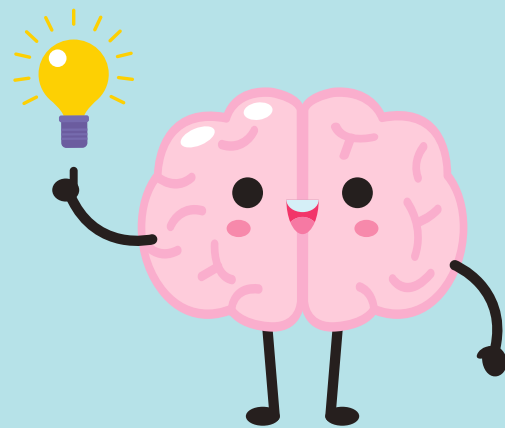
Brandon Brain Buster Answered

Answer: E

The easiest way to approach this is to pick a number for the original sticker price. Since we're working with percentages, the best number to start with would be 100.

So, if Norman gets 10% off the sticker price of \$100, he paid \$90 for the car. He sells it to Daisy for 60% of 90, which is \$54. Daisy then sells it to Vincent for 50% more than she paid for it. So, if she paid \$54, then she sold it for \$54 + half of \$54 = \$54 + \$27 = \$81.

Now, if Vincent wants to sell the car for the original sticker price (not the price that Norman originally paid), he needs to increase the price he paid by \$19 to get back to the original \$100. But the question asks for the approximate adjustment he'd have to make to his own purchase price to get back to the original sticker price. So, we need



to figure out the percentage of \$81 that \$19 represents.

$19/81 = .234 =$ approximately 23% (it's necessary for most people to use a calculator for this). So, Vincent would need to increase his purchase price by approximately 23% to get back to \$100. The answer is E.

We can also look at this mathematically. If we call the original sticker price "x," then Norman paid $.9x$ for the car. Daisy then paid $(.6)(.9x) = .54x$. Vincent then paid $(1.5)(.54x) = .81x$.

We need to increase $.81x$ by $.19x$ to get back to x , and we need to determine the percentage of $.81x$ that $.19x$ represents: $.19x/.81x = .234$ or approximately 23%. Again, the answer is E.

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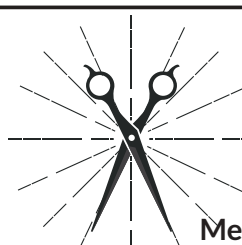
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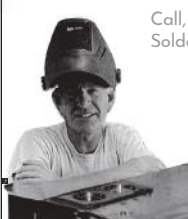


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Address crime

(Continued from Page 4) years by a persistent backlog of pending cases. Lawmakers have said that addressing the backlog will be a major priority for them this year.

Scott's office also wants to eliminate an existing \$200 cap on the amount of bail a judge can impose in certain misdemeanor cases, Lueders-Dumont said. Scott signed legislation creating that cap and made other bail reforms part of state law in 2018.

The administration has since changed its mind about that cap, Johnson said in an interview, adding that it has had "unintended consequences."

On the other end of the spectrum, one committee member — Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky, P/D-Chittenden-Central — has introduced legislation that would eliminate cash bail entirely. Johnson said in an interview that her team op-

poses such a proposal.

Tucker Jones, an attorney for the state's Department of Public Safety, said the administration also wants to see Vermont's laws on drug use updated more broadly to "maximize the deterrent effect," especially if a drug sale leads to someone dying.

Jennifer Morrison, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, said in an interview that the need for more deterrents is critical. Based on police interviews with people accused of drug-related crimes and feedback from law enforcement, she said, the admission believes that "the narrative in the field right now is that Vermont's open for business for drug traffickers, and that there's very little accountability."

Sears said his committee plans to take up for the first time S.58, a bill he filed last year that mirrors several of

the administration's public safety priorities for 2024.

One proposal around which lawmakers and the administration are set to be at loggerheads this year — with Johnson reiterating the governor's opposition during an interview — would provide about \$2 million in funding to establish up to two overdose prevention sites in the state.

Falko Schilling, a lobbyist for the ACLU of Vermont, said after Wednesday's hearing that his organization already has "serious concerns" about Scott's proposals.

"We agree that we need to be providing more support and services to people to help them so they don't become involved in the criminal legal system in the first place," he said. "But we can't be relying on our carceral system to provide people the treatment."

Rev. White

(Continued from Page 6) Olivia White and Hannah LaBonte, his sister, Mary Knapp, and two grandsons, Sawyer White Williams and Quinn Robert LaBonte. Also surviving is his special friend, Travis Getty. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy White, on April 30, 2010, and by his son, Benjamin S. White, on May 6, 2007.

The graveside committal service and interment will take place on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the family lot in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Brandon. The Rev. Sarah Ann Rossig, Pastor of the Brandon

Congregational Church, will officiate.

A memorial service in celebration of his life will take place on Sunday Jan. 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM at the United Church of Bakersfield & Fairfield, the Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. James Thomas will officiate.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the United Church of Bakersfield & Fairfield Steeple Fund, P.O. Box 215, Bakersfield, VT 05441. Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon.

CLASSIFIEDS



Long-Term Spanish Teacher Needed!

Neshobe Elementary School, Brandon, VT, is seeking an enthusiastic, innovative, and collaborative long-term teacher to fill an anticipated Spanish vacancy. This position works with students in grades 3 - 6 and is part of a larger Integrated Arts Team. Applicants must hold or be eligible for a Vermont Teaching License with appropriate endorsement.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

Notice of Public Hearing - Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

On WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM; both in-person at Town Hall, 1 Conant Square (ground floor) Meeting Area and via Zoom remote conferencing; the Brandon DRB will hold a Public Hearing to review the following Application:

Application #6290: This is a request from Janet & Joel Mondlack (applicants) and Smith Block LLC (owner) for sign variances for their business at 10-12 Center Street (Parcel #22-51-28).

A partial copy of these applications are posted at www.TownofBrandon.com. A complete copy is available for review at Town Office, 49 Center St. Brandon.

Remote Meeting & Hearing participation is available by Zoom audio & visual programs; and remote access instructions are posted on Town website, Post Offices, and Town Office.

Interested Parties are to be registered and present testimony, or have submitted written testimony to the Town, by 7:10 pm of the Hearing date or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).

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Adoption of Town of Pittsford Speed Limit Ordinance

This ordinance includes the Town of Pittsford enactment, definition, prohibition, 15 MPH limits, 25 MPH limits, 30 MPH limits, 35 MPH limits, Specifications for Kendall Hill Road, West Creek Road, and Whipple Hollow Road, incorporation of US Route 7 into Speed Limit Ordinance, bridge speed limits, signs, police and fire vehicle speed limitations, enforcement, effective date, and the repeal process. A full copy of the ordinance is posted on the town website. Please reach out to the Town Manager with questions at PO Box 10 Pittsford, VT 05763 or by telephone at (802) 483-6500 ext. 200. Citizens have a right to petition pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973 for a vote on the Ordinance.

Warmest year

(Continued from Page 15)

peratures rose once again. A storm on Dec. 18 combined both rain and snowmelt to cause flooding across Vermont. More-town was inundated with water from the rising Mad River. The flooding caused less damage in places like Montpelier and Barre partly because locals had rearranged their basements after July's flood.

Burlington only received 3 inches of snow in December, making it the eighth least snowy December on record, Langbauer said.

It caps an unusual year for the weather service's forecast office, which is based in Burlington and covers parts of New York in addition to Vermont. The experience has made them think differently about how to communicate forecasts to the public, especially with the weather becoming more variable and difficult to predict.

"We were joking in the office about how we weren't gonna have any severe weather, and then a week later the July floods hit," Langbauer said. "From that point on, it's just been extremely wild in a number of different ways."

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 JEFF MCENERY AND ALLIE PEARSE
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LEE BRICE
 ME & MY GUITAR
 FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | 7:30 PM

DEAD INSIDE
 WORLD COMEDY TOUR
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 - 2023 -
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