

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 5

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

\$1



GETTING AN ARTIST'S ANSWERS

A Conversation with an Artist: this week, Sepi Alavi interviews Addison County-based artist Roger White. White has a matter-of-fact approach to his painting, capturing the specifics of his subject at a moment in time

PG. 2



CAN YOU HELP?

Pittsford's Louis Gaudreau is seeking a kidney donor. Read about his condition and how you might be able to help.

PG. 3

BEAUTIFYING BRANDON

Lyn Desmarais visits with some residents of Pearl Street to talk about gardens.

PG. 3

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Rep. Stephanie Jerome (Brandon) brings her constituents up to date on her work in Montpelier.

PG. 4



WHAT'S YOUR GUESS?

Laura Peterson continues to challenge our ability to connect the past and the present in "Guess the Street?"

PG. 15



Pittsford's Keith's Country Store in new hands

BY GEORGE FJELD

PITTSFORD—Keith's Country Store, an institution in Pittsford, changed hands last July 1st so seamlessly that it was hard to notice. Mostly that is due to the fact that it's still in the Keith family: Jon and Monica Keith sold it to Jon's nephew, Jesse Keith, and his partner, Kate LaRock (Brandon native). So the tradition continues. The other major tradition that hasn't changed is the Coffee Guys. Every morning from 7 to 8:30, a group of about a dozen locals drink coffee and settle the great affairs of the town, state, and country, but mostly just shoot the breeze. The Keiths have provided tables and chairs for decades to make it feel like home.

Jesse and Kate want to keep the tradition going. They continue to provide food all day. Jones's dough-

nuts in the morning for breakfast, soup and sandwiches for lunch, and home cooked dinners in the evening. Most Pittsford residents know that Friday is Prime Rib night but how many know that Monday is fish and chips, Wednesday is lasagna, and poutine comes out on Tuesday and Thursday. Pizza and calzones are always available. There is a full beverage case and lots of other snacks. They'd like to expand the deli and offer some sit-down eating as well.

Jon says that Jesse is a better cook than he was. Maybe that's because Jesse went to culinary school at Paul Smith's college in the Adirondacks whereas Jon sold Interstate Batteries for years! (Just kidding, Jon.) Kate's transitioning from a full time job as a graphic designer to spend more time on the ordering (See Keith's Country Store, Page 14)



(L TO R) Jon Keith, Kate LaRock, and Jesse Keith in the kitchen at Keith's Country Store in Pittsford. After decades serving the Pittsford community, Jon has turned over the operations to his nephew Jesse and his partner, Kate. Photos by George Fjeld



BRANDON IDOL

LAST YEAR'S WINNER Shannon Wright brought a personality as big as his voice to the role of Master of Ceremonies at the first installment of Brandon Idol's 2024 run. New and returning contestants sang their hearts out in genres ranging from country to metal to R & B. There was even an electric ukulele. Read all about it and see all the photos on pages 8 and 9.

Photo by Kevin White

Brandon SB ok's ballot for Town Meeting; hearing held on Town Plan

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In a brief special meeting on Monday evening, the Brandon Selectboard approved the ballot for Town Meeting in March. The vote to approve the ballot was 4 to 1, with Brian Coolidge the sole nay vote. The Board also approved the ballot question regarding the \$500,000 bond to cover the proposed town-owned solar array. The

(See Brandon SB, Page 23)

Pittsford SB approves budget and bond vote

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard convened on Wednesday, January 24 for its bi-monthly meeting. The meeting had been postponed a week in order to allow organizations seek-

(See Pittsford SB, Page 20)

Conversation with an Artist: Roger White

BY SEPIALAVI

Roger White works both as a painter and writer, and he is also the co-founder of the art journal Paper Monument. White's paintings are about the everyday and a sense of time and space that accompany daily experience. He suggests that the images in his paintings are components of a history of the present in which the mundane acts as a category of experience. In this sense, the mundane itself seems to be on the verge of historicization. (He's also a nice guy, who, full disclosure was one the first friend's I made in Vermont...)

1. What job would you have if you weren't a painter?

My grandfather and my father were both lettuce farmers, so I guess that would probably have to be it.

2. What conversation would you like to have with any dead artist?

It's funny, but I think I'd just like to sit quietly and watch Hans Memling (1430-1494) work on one of his portraits. Just to know what that kind of painting looked like in action.

3. If you could collaborate/work with any living artist

who would it be, and what sort of sort of project would you like to undertake?

It's too hard to decide! I've always hoped to be asked to illustrate someone's poems, because the painting-poetry nexus has such a wonderful history.

4. Describe the experience that led you to become a painter.

My grandmother was a quilt-maker and all-around crafter. She studied fine art and costume design at the Chouinard Institute in California and gave me my first oil painting lessons when I was about twelve—we painted a taxidermy duck.

5. Are there any painters that you wish had a wider audience?

There was just a book published on the work of Miyoko Ito (1918-1983) and I can't recommend it enough.

6. Why live in Vermont?

It's a good place to hear yourself think.

7. What's your favorite smell?

Rain on cement. Coffee is a close second. (Actually, no, it's coffee.)

8. What book(s) are you

reading right now?

Dr. No by Percival Everett.

9. What does your daily routine look like?

It involves a lot of dogwalking, email, kid transportation, and limited painting roughly between the hours of ten and three.

10. How you think about your work locally versus your national presence.

I haven't exhibited my work very much in Vermont, if at all. So my local presence trails my national presence (but only slightly!) For artists working outside the major world art centers, I think the internet is a good thing in terms of seeing art and having one's art seen—as long as you don't forget that you can't actually see a painting online.

11. 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?

The paintings are probably informed by whatever music I have on in the studio at the time, but maybe not in ways that would be noticeable (even to me). There's something very rhythmic about color, and col-



oristic about rhythm—painting and music are highly compatible roommates.

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

At some point after high school I threw out a lot of mix-

tapes, and I certainly wish I had those back.

13. What's your ideal dinner—food, company, & location?

Sushi, with my family, anywhere!

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Pittsford's Louis Gaudreau seeks kidney donor

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Louis Gaudreau has climbed the 48 tallest peaks in New Hampshire. Not bad for a 67-year-old. But his physical regimen has a purpose beyond the thrill of adventure: he's keeping himself in shape in order to remain eligible to receive a donated kidney. Mr. Gaudreau suffers from polycystic kidney disease (PKD) and has been undergoing dialysis 4 times per week for the last two years. PKD causes cysts to develop in the kidneys, eventually impairing function

to the point of organ failure.

A native Vermonter (born in Newport and raised in Derby), Mr. Gaudreau attended UVM and became a structural engineer, mostly for OMYA, a career that has taken him to Austria, Brazil, and Canada. But throughout their travels, he and his wife, Nancy, have maintained a home in Pittsford, where they raised their 4 children, Tom, Lynn, Mark, and Mary. He's been a full-time resident in Pittsford again since 2018 and has been retired since 2020.

In addition to the PKD, Mr.

Gaudreau learned in 2015 that he had chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a form of blood cancer in which white blood cells attack red blood cells. The condition led to autoimmune hemolytic anemia for Mr. Gaudreau. On top of this, the PDK causes the kidneys to stop producing erythropoietin, a hormone that spurs the growth of red blood cells (and one of the substances that Lance Armstrong was caught abusing). Essentially, the PDK was already hindering the production of red blood cells when the leukemia began attacking the limited supply Mr. Gaudreau had left.

"I'm a lifelong runner and I started realizing I just couldn't run like I used to," said Gaudreau, recalling how he first became aware that something was amiss.

Mr. Gaudreau has had 6 blood transfusions, spent a month in a Canadian hospital, and has undergone two rounds of chemo, one for 6 months in 2018 and one for 12 months in 2021-22. His white-blood cell levels are now

normal, but the PDK is irreversible.

He's been on the donor list at Mass General in Boston since June of 2021, but the average wait for a deceased donor is 7 years. A living donor would significantly cut the wait and allow Mr. Gaudreau to reclaim his life.

"Dialysis 4 times per week really limits what I can do," he said. Each dialysis treatment lasts 4.5 to 5 hours.

So far, 9 living people have been screened to donate to Mr. Gaudreau, though none has been deemed a match.

Anyone who would like to be

screened as a possible donor can contact Mr. Gaudreau directly at lg-gaudreau@gmail.com. The process initiates on Mass General's website and the online screening sometimes is enough to determine that someone would not be a suitable donor. There is no cost to the donor.

In the meantime, Mr. Gaudreau will continue to hike and keep himself fit. He also fills his time with work for the Pittsford Village Farm, where he is Treasurer and head of the events committee.

"Having someone volunteer as a living donor would open up my life again," he said.



LOUIS GAUDREAU AND his wife, Nancy, on top of Middle Tripyramid Mountain in October 2023. This was their final mountain of the forty-eight mountains in New Hampshire taller than 4,000 feet. Louis hikes to stay in shape in order to remain a good candidate for a donated kidney.

Spotlight On Business COMMUNITY HEALTH



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Community Health serves nearly 46,000 patients and provides a focus on primary care, wellness, dental, behavioral health, pediatrics, and offers two walk-in Express Care clinics. Our nine clinics employ more than 425 staff and are located throughout Rutland County and southern Addison County. We're consistently recognized for providing high-

quality care by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Community Health serves all patients regardless of their ability to pay. Community Health

Brandon is accepting new patients 802-247-6305.
www.CHCRR.org



Beautifying Brandon: A series

BY LYN DESMARAIS & PATRICIA WOOD

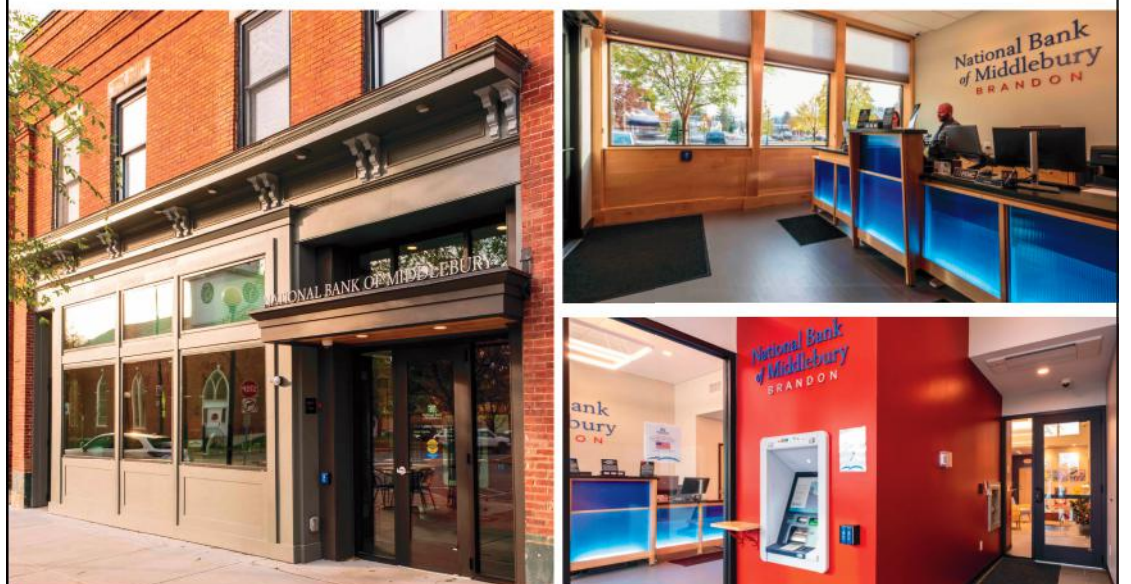
It takes a village, doesn't it? In my gardening column we have visited private gardens, farms, and commercial nurseries. This ongoing series celebrates our public spaces and those who provide the gardening magic for them. Pat Wood grew up here in Brandon. She worked in Boston for 15 years and returned to Brandon in 2017, coming home to help her mom, beloved Sally Wood. Pat works as the Steward at the Brandon (formerly Stephen

A. Douglas) Museum, is very active in the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, and drives canoe trips for Camp Keewaydin in the summer. In her 'spare' time, Pat can be found everywhere gardening is going on. She told me about the following gardens so that I could accurately show the kind of work that goes into creating new gardens for the townspeople to enjoy. Please forgive me (and tell me) if I've left anyone out. Here's Pat in her own words:

(See *Beautifying Brandon*, Page 15)

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Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Finalizing Budget Adjustment

The week started out with the Governor's budget address, followed by passing bills on poultry slaughter, municipal charters, and captive insurance. By Friday, we finalized voting on the annual Budget Adjustment Act. In addition to my typical Commerce Committee agenda, I attended meetings of the Council of State Governments, discrimination training, and Secretary of State elections. I finished up the week with my first press conference - where I spoke with the Attorney General about the importance of data privacy and bill H.121.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT ACT:

The House gave final approval to H.839, the FY24 Budget Adjustment Act. This is an annual bill, passed midway through the fiscal year, rebalancing accounts and ensuring that our state maintains a balanced budget. This budget adjustment bill meets the immediate needs of Vermonters across our state, houses those who lack shelter, helps communities devastated by flooding, and makes smart investments for the future. This bill takes care of communities and Vermonters in need of critical support. It passed on a 112-24 roll-call vote and now moves to the Senate. Here are some of the major areas of the bill:

\$63M for affordable housing
\$17.2M to help unhoused Vermonters

\$3.9M for housing stabilization

\$2M for food insecurity
\$51M for flood recovery

BOTTLE BILL VETO:

For all of us who clean the

roadsides on Green Up Day, we see the increasing number of littered bottles. The bottle bill failed to get the 2/3 vote in the Senate required to override the Governor's veto. Even though there have been many years of work to expand this 1970s law, it failed by three votes. Changes to this law will have to wait until another legislative session.

COMMERCE UPDATES:

The House Commerce & Economic Development Committee had a busy week juggling testimony on multiple bills and topics. We took testimony pertaining to the Film and Creative Media Workforce Development Initiative database from Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Production Collective, filmmakers, and writers. All agreed that Vermont could benefit greatly from tapping into a database that would facilitate the film industry in accessing professionals, equipment, locations, jobs, internships, and apprenticeships. This would have a positive economic impact as demonstrated this summer with the filming of Beetlejuice 2 in East Corinth.

The Better Places Program reported on a pilot project that has assisted 38 projects across the state. This crowdfunding campaign leveraged private funds and grant funding. Grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$40,000.

S.30: An act related to creating a Sister-State Program. Vermont currently has one sister-state agreement with Tottori Prefecture, Japan, and the bill looks to expand this program by building on current interna-

(See Legislative report, Page 19)



Spoonful of Sugar

THIS ROSEATE SPOONBILL is one of Florida's oddest birds. This beauty is perched on a mangrove.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Fundraising underway for family of Judy Forrest. Help if you can

Several fundraising efforts are underway for the family of Judy Forrest. Ms. Forrest passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 22, leaving behind a young son.

Brandon House of Pizza is collecting donations.

There will be a basket raffle at the Brandon American Legion on Sunday, February 25 at 10 a.m. \$10 entry, \$3 for additional

tickets.

There is an online GoFundMe account under "Funeral Costs for Judy Forrest."

There is a donation account at Bar Harbor Bank.

The REPORTER

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

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

Postmaster, send address change to The Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753 • Phone: 802-388-4944 Email: news@brandonreporter.com, ads@brandonreporter.com

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55 The Reporter assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management immediately of any errors which may occur. SJ

'Writing Solar History' for The Reporter

Starting on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 1 pm to 2 pm, the Brandon Museum will host facilitated weekly gatherings at The Bookstore in Brandon, where telling

your story, or putting pen to paper, regarding local historic tales - past, present and future - will be the focal point of conversation. We are looking for people

with stories; novice or seasoned storytellers, published authors or people who just love to write. With your consent, the stories (See Solar History, Page 11)

Brandon's first-ever LEGO showcase!

We are going to use the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce's room next to the Post Office as a LEGO build display area! LEGO builders of all ages are invited to share their creations with the

world!

The display will start on 2/21/24 and will run until the Chamber needs the area for a new display. (Don't worry if you can't get the builds to me exactly on 2/21/2024

- I'm sure we'll be able to work something out!)

Each creation will have a display card with the creator's name, age, and build title (on the back of the (See LEGO showcase, Page 21)

Letters to the Editor

The reality is that police dogs often cause more problems than they solve for the community

I understand that has been a dispute over the Town Police having a police dog. The sad, and unpopular, truth is that police dogs (even very highly trained ones, which ours would certainly not be) are notoriously ineffective, dangerous to the community, racially highly offensive, and very expensive. I would ask anyone who has an interest in this issue to look up studies of effectiveness of dogs detecting illicit drugs. Con-

sistently about 50%. Might as well flip a coin.

As for search and rescue, there are many well-trained tracking dogs and handlers in Vermont who respond quickly and much more effectively in an emergency. And, yes, they like to put their dogs and hobby to use. Brandon fancies itself a tourist town. Why offend a large segment of the tourist population by reminding them of the "Police Dog" horrors

of the past? The use of these dogs to terrorize population groups has historically been their biggest success.

And those horrors continue. The myth that a Police Dog will always attack the intended person (didn't Rutland's dog kill a chained-up pet a few years ago?) and, even more frightening, stop the attack instantly upon command are truly myths. We have

(See Police dogs, Page 6)

A different view of Representative Democracy

Steven Jupiter defined representative democracy in his recent editorial in a manner I do not fully agree with. I bother to write about this difference as I believe the implications are substantial.

Steven holds that "in a representative democracy, the people elect officials that reflect the people's will." I consider this inaccurate. What is a more accurate statement to me is that we elect officials to enact policies for the good of the people they represent as the officials best see fit. In reference to the Selectboard, I do not expect them to take polls to determine the "will of the people." I expect these representatives to do their homework on issues before the town, to get educated on the issues, and use their best judgement to determine

what best serves the town.

Otherwise, under Steven's definition, I fear that what directs policy will be those with the loudest voices. Otherwise, I hold we the people all need to be far more fully educated about the issues so we can best determine what will serve our needs.

This is not to say we should not have avenues to express our concerns or opinions. I am relieved enough townspeople spoke up about the police dog concern that the matter got reconsidered. In my view such a program (with its good deal of up front financial and training investment) should only be undertaken under a 3-to-5-year commitment to test its usefulness. I do not regard Tracy's decision to rethink the issue as his choosing to

bow to the voices of probably well less than 1% of the townspeople who spoke to him. I think he rethought his decision as a result of their concerns.

So yes, we should seek to influence our decision makers based upon good information and perspectives. But even town votes only represent a minority view on town matters.

This raises another concern regarding the decision about the level of police staffing and the upcoming "straw poll" on the matter. I do not have the information I need to determine my "will" in the matter. I would need to know what level of crime are we experiencing: how it has changed under differing staffing conditions in the

(See Different view, Page 11)

Clearing up misconceptions about EV cars and the Brandon PD

Questions have come up at recent Select Board meetings around the lease-to-purchase of two police Electric vehicles (EVs). The following information will, hopefully, answer the questions that were raised. The sources we on the Brandon Energy Committee used come from an article recently published by Police1.com, the #1 online resource for law enforcement, a WCAX segment aired on January 17th, and additional research by the Energy Committee.

Q: Do EVs have enough range to cover Brandon?

Most municipal police cars drive less than 100 miles per shift. For the Brandon Police Department (BPD), the average daily shift covers 50 miles. Tesla and Ford police models exceed 250 miles between charges.

Q: Don't EVs take a long

time to charge?

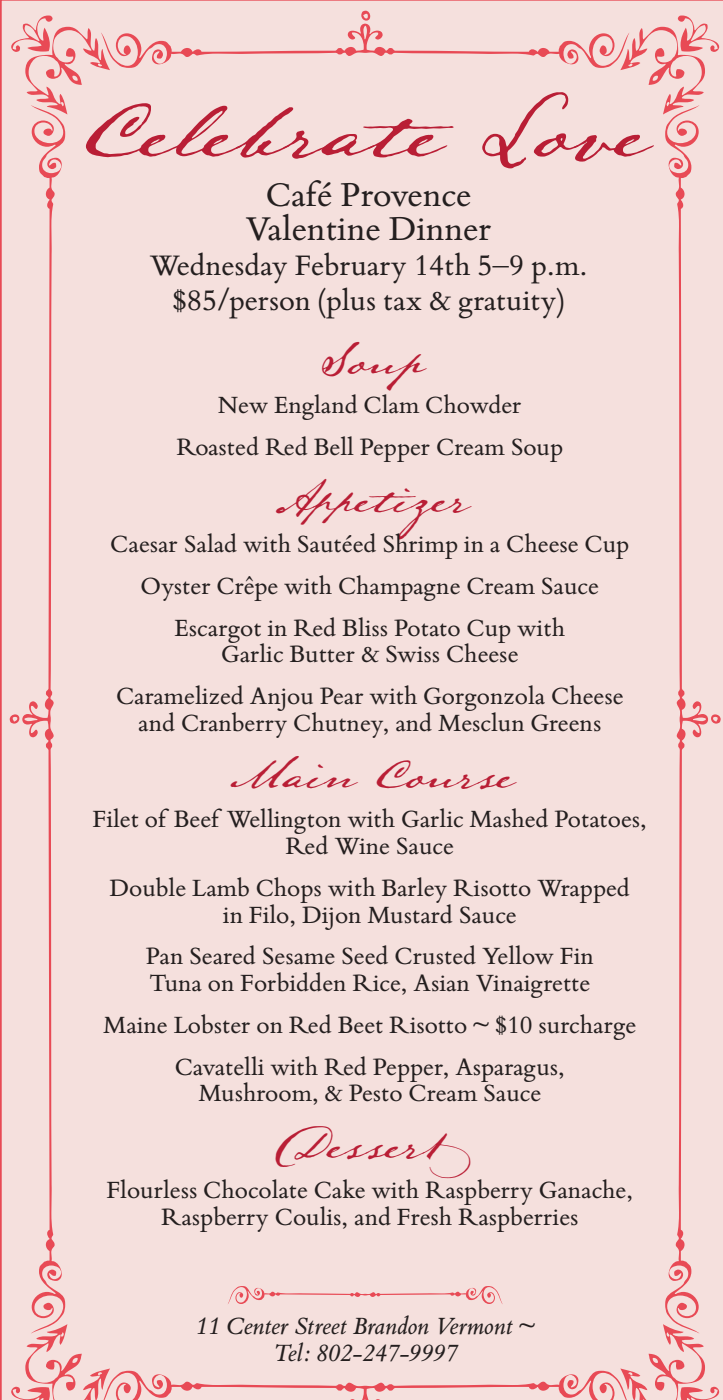
This depends on the level of charger being used. Most departments install "Level 2" charging, on a 240V circuit, which takes a few hours to charge the car in between shifts.

Q: Aren't EVs expensive?

With the help of a state \$2,500 state grant and \$7,500 in federal tax credits, the town of Brandon can replace aging gas vehicles with two "lease-to-own" EVs at a slightly lower cost per vehicle than new gas models.

Maintenance on an EV is much lower than a gas car (no oil changes, no transmission to replace, no exhaust to rust away) and the first service is usually done at 100,000 miles. Police departments across the country and here in Vermont have documented significant

(See EV cars, Page 11)



Celebrate Love

Café Provence
Valentine Dinner
 Wednesday February 14th 5-9 p.m.
 \$85/person (plus tax & gratuity)

Soup

New England Clam Chowder
 Roasted Red Bell Pepper Cream Soup

Appetizer

Caesar Salad with Sautéed Shrimp in a Cheese Cup
 Oyster Crêpe with Champagne Cream Sauce
 Escargot in Red Bliss Potato Cup with Garlic Butter & Swiss Cheese
 Caramelized Anjou Pear with Gorgonzola Cheese and Cranberry Chutney, and Mesclun Greens

Main Course

Filet of Beef Wellington with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Red Wine Sauce
 Double Lamb Chops with Barley Risotto Wrapped in Filo, Dijon Mustard Sauce
 Pan Seared Sesame Seed Crusted Yellow Fin Tuna on Forbidden Rice, Asian Vinaigrette
 Maine Lobster on Red Beet Risotto ~ \$10 surcharge
 Cavatelli with Red Pepper, Asparagus, Mushroom, & Pesto Cream Sauce

Dessert

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Obituaries

Kenneth E. Young, Jr., 78, Leicester

Kenneth E. Young, Jr., 78, of Leicester, passed away peacefully on January 16th at his home, surrounded by his family and an abundance of love. Born in Brattleboro, Vermont on August 5, 1945, he was the son of Kenneth E. Young, Sr. and Beverly Shepard Fisher. His childhood was spent living in the Middlebury area and while he was in his early teens, his family moved to Brandon. As a teen, Ken, or Sonny as family and friends called him, worked at Rivers' Store, pumped gas at Ken-ny Mohan's, milked cows at the Nickerson farm, and handled lumber at Dutton's Sawmill. He served his country in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany driving trucks, earned his GED and an honorable discharge. Once home, Ken was employed at Old Fox Chemical Company in Brandon, where he

worked his way up over seventeen years from laborer to plant manager in the commercial fertilizer industry. In the spring of 1983, while manager at Old Fox, he met Anne Ballentine, a recent implant (flatlander from Cape Cod) when she came looking for organic fertilizer. He looked at his secretary, rolled his eyes, and said under his breath: "Another organic freak..."

"Mr. Chemical" married "Miss Bonemeal" on April 14, 1984. In 1985, they purchased land in Leicester on which they built Foxcroft Farm and a life together. They drove school buses, opened their home to foster children, raised sheep, beef, and pigs, grew crops, milked cows, had Belgian draft horses, gave horse-drawn wagon and sleigh rides, built barns, and moved an old schoolhouse to establish a home for their family.



KENNETH E. YOUNG, JR.

Ken's commitment and contributions to the local community were demonstrated in a number of ways. As manager at Old Fox, he sponsored the Old Fox Little League Team and attended all of the games with his two oldest sons. He drove a school bus for twenty years, earning the name "Chief" from his passengers and providing them with consistent structure and a caring heart. Ken served on the Selectboard for the Town of Leicester for ten years, where he contributed a true Vermonter perspective, a conservative approach to spending, and support to the hardworking road crew. From 2000-2017, Ken worked with his wife, Anne, on their farm to support the Harvest Program, where he exhibited a strong male role

model and father figure to the hundreds of youth that participated in the farm and community-service program.

As a high-school student at the old Brandon High, Ken had no interest in learning U.S. History, and subsequently quit school when realizing that he needed to pass the class in order to graduate. His interest sparked though in his retirement, and he educated himself through watching documentaries and national news. Ken was a patriot and loved his country. He became a passionate conservative and was eager to share his perspective. In recent years, his love for his country in which he was raised and had served to support, continued to grow. He had empathy for Donald Trump, even though the two had very different backgrounds and lifestyles. Ken would state: "The only thing different between me and Donald Trump is billions of dollars." That being said, he fully supported, with a selfless hope, Make America Great Again and remained loyal to that cause.

Throughout his retirement, Ken worked to maintain the farm property, renovated the barns to include a seasonal rental space and storage rental units, and spent days on his tractors and bucket loader. In between his duties on the farm, he would spend time at Ken Mohan's Service Center, sharing news, stories, and perspectives with friends.

Ken loved his family and he cared deeply for his friends. He

was resilient, resourceful, hard-working, clever, strong, loyal, kind, and had a great deal of common sense. He loved family gatherings, to tell stories and to laugh, and family members loved to share in his joy. Ken leaves behind his wife, Anne, his four children: Brent (Sotheary) of Brandon; Troy of Pittsford; Amy (Mike) of Leicester; and Adam (Ebbie) of Pawcatuck CT, all of whom he was so very proud of, as well as eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is survived by two brothers: Herb (Nancy) Fisher of Brandon and Gary Fisher (Nancy) of Pittsford; two sisters: Kathy (Mark) Lancaster of Columbus, NJ and Cheryl Young of Browns Mills, NJ; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind two very special lifelong friends: Philip (Sonny) Carrara and Kenny (Burger) Mohan. He was predeceased by his mother, Beverly, his father, Kenneth (Bud), his stepfather, Herb Fisher, his sister, Sandi Sanderson, and Katherine Bertrand, who was like a second mom to him.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name can be made to Brandon Area Rescue Squad at 1338 Franklin Street, Brandon VT 05733 or Brandon Senior Citizens' Center Inc. at 1591 Forest Dale Road, Brandon, VT 05733.

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 18th at 1:00 pm at their home, Foxcroft Farm.

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Police dogs

(Continued from Page 5)

been taught these fallacies by cute movies, not by real life examples. Once again, do your own research and you'll see what a huge liability risk a Police Dog is. The insurance companies know. How much has our police liabil-

ity insurance increased for having the dog? (Not to mention high-speed chases resulting in a crash. For writing a bad check?) It's nice that Brandon is such a rich town that we can afford to buy our Police really fun toys, even if they have no practical value, are mas-

sively expensive in time and dollars (What? No Canine Unit sidecar for the Electric Motorcycle?), and put the general population at greater risk.

*Philip Frassica
Pearl Street*

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If you're planning on **improving the efficiency of your home or apartment** this year, take a look at Efficiency Vermont's residential offers, including:



Air Sealing and Insulation

- 75% off weatherization project costs, up to \$9,500 (completed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor)
- DIY weatherization: \$100 back on select do-it-yourself projects



Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

- Air-source heat pumps: discounts starting at \$350 + income bonus
- Ground source heat pump: up to \$2,100/ton + \$500 income bonus
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$300-\$600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces & boilers: \$6,000 rebate
- Wood and pellet stoves: \$400 discount at select retailers



Electric Vehicles

- Up to \$6,500 in local incentives and up to a \$7,500 federal tax credit



ENERGY STAR® Appliances

- \$25-\$40 for dehumidifiers
- \$200-\$400 rebate on heat pump clothes dryers
- \$400 for heat pump dryer/washer combination units



Lighting

- \$100 rebate for qualifying LED fixtures for indoor growing.



Income-based Assistance

- Free lighting, appliances, energy consultations, and more — visit [efficiencyvermont.com/free-products](https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/free-products) to see if you are eligible.

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility.



Not sure where to start?

Sign up for a **FREE** Virtual Home Energy Visit!
Call **888-921-5990** to learn more

All rebates are subject to availability and eligibility.
Visit www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates for the most up-to-date information.

**Efficiency
Vermont**

BRANDON IDOL IS BACK IN ACTION AT TOWN HALL

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Vermont winters can feel interminable. From Halloween through April Fools, folks often hunker down at home to ride out the cold. But Brandon Idol has reared its musical head on Friday night to brighten things up and give us a reason to get out of the house. A little musical blues to beat the winter blahs, if you will.

The evening was hosted by last year's winner, Shannon Wright. Mr. Wright looked resplendent in a tuxedo and kept the evening moving with youthful enthusiasm, suave banter, and some groovy dance moves.

The first contestant on stage was Miranda Snyder, who sang "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac. Her slightly husky voice was perfect for the Stevie Nicks-penned tune, rising easily into falsetto when needed. Thunder only happens when she's singing, folks.

Next up was Baker LaRock, a veteran of not only Brandon Idol but also of every other musical venue around. The multi-talented teen sang "Down to the River" by Canadian folk singer Ben Caplan. After his performance, LaRock stated the song was something random he'd stumbled upon, but the gritty, bluesy tune suited LaRock's all-in vocal style.

Peggy Sue Rozell, another Idol veteran, came out with "My Night to Howl" a 90s-era country tune by Lorrie Morgan. The song is about letting go and letting loose and Rozell let it fly as she glided with ease over the melody. It was definitely her night to howl.

Calvin Ladd, who thrilled audiences last fall as SpongeBob in *SpongeBob: The Musical* at Otter Valley, thrilled the audience at Town Hall with "I'll Be There for You" by The Rembrandts, aka "the theme song to Friends." The 90s sitcom appears to be experiencing a Gen Z revival at the moment and, for this Gen Xer who lived through Ross & Rachel back in the day, it was heartening to see the young'uns take an interest in the music of my youth. And the iconic hand-claps were an excellent touch.

Bethany White, returning for her third season of Brandon Idol, offered up "Alone Again" by the 80s hair band Dokken. In her black leather jacket and black headband, White looked every bit the rocker and soared through the power ballad with confidence. A hair toss was the cherry on this metal cake.

Matthew Graham channeled Elvis with voice and hair. Crowned with a pompadour, Graham performed "Trouble" by the King himself. It's no surprise



EMCEE SHANNON WRIGHT gathers the contestants on stage at the end of the night. (L to R) Shannon Wright, Peggy Sue Rozell, Baker LaRock, Calvin Ladd, Emily Doty, Hilary Collier, Matthew Graham, Maddox Bashaw, and Bethany White. (Not pictured: Miranda Snyder).

that Graham slid into the role so well: he fronts a 50s/60s rock & blues band called Flashback. All that experience was evident on stage. Smooth and attitudinal, he had no trouble with Trouble.

Hilary Collier, who often performs at the open mic at Brandon's Red Clover and has performed on the Idol stage as a guest, brought her electric ukulele as a contestant this year. She delivered a charming rendition of "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding. The classic tune sounded great on the di-

minutive instrument and the Idol audience will surely be treated to more sweetly inventive reinterpretations by Collier.

Emily Doty rose up with "Rise Up" by Andra Day. The inspirational ballad from 2015 gave Doty a chance to show off her agile, swooping head voice. Doty competed in Brandon Idol its first two years and came back for this round because it "seemed like a good stress reliever." No one's wishing any stress on Ms. Doty, but if she needs to sing to relieve it, we're all the beneficiaries.

The final contestant of the night was Maddox Bashaw, who came back after participating in the

season that COVID cut short in 2020. Mr. Bashaw performed "All Your'n" by neo-country artist Tyler Childers. Bashaw was definitely all our'n, as he won Fan Favorite with this strong, clear rendition. Maddox will be someone to keep an eye on in this competition for sure.

The performances wrapped up with Rec Director Bill Moore's slick noncompetitive croon of "Mack the Knife" by Bobby Darin. Moore sank his pearly teeth into the song while Mr. Wright contributed some awesome dance moves. The line forms on the right, dear, now that Idol's back in town.

Next month's theme will be Country, so dust off your hats and boots and get ready for some twang. See you in February!



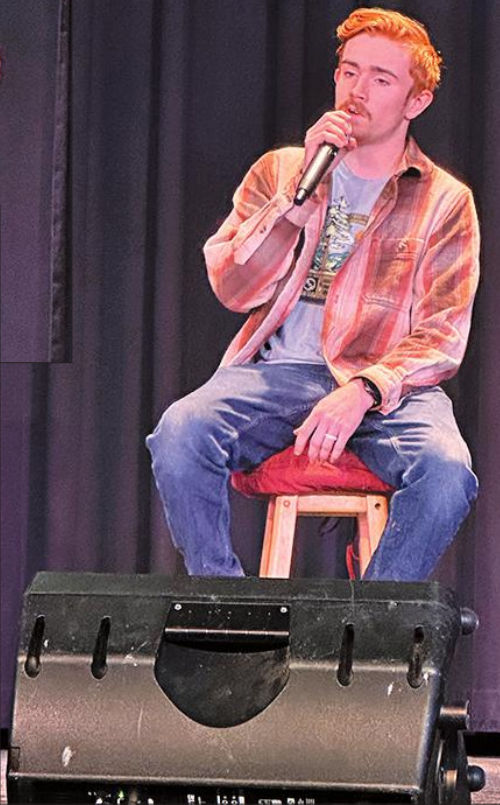
MADDOX BASHAW ("ALL Your'n" by Tyler Childers), Peggy Sue Rozell ("My Night to Howl" by Lorrie Morgan), and Matthew Graham ("Trouble" by Elvis). Mr. Bashaw would go on to win Fan Favorite for his performance.





CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT: Bill Moore ("Mack the Knife" by Bobby Darin), Hilary Collier ("Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding), Emily Doty ("Rise Up" by Andra Day), Bethany White ("Alone Again" by Dokken), Baker LaRock ("Down to the River" by Ben Caplan), Calvin Ladd ("I'll Be There for You" by The Rembrandts), and Miranda Snyder ("Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac).

Photos by
Steven Jupiter



OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Heath Johnson

GRADE: 6

SCHOOL: Lothrop Elementary

MEDIUM: Oil Pastel

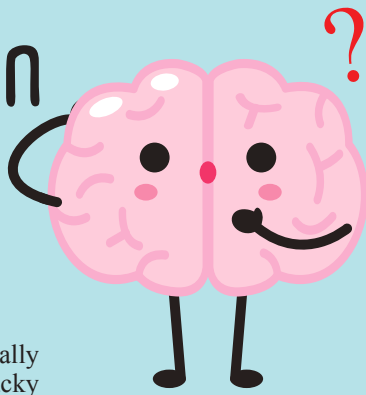
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



Statement from Matt Aucoin:

This is Heath's oil pastel landscape. We have learned about landscapes, which is a picture of natural scenery. Heath worked hard on his piece of this mountainous landscape. He utilized the heavy mixing and color blending to great effect.

Brandon Brain Buster



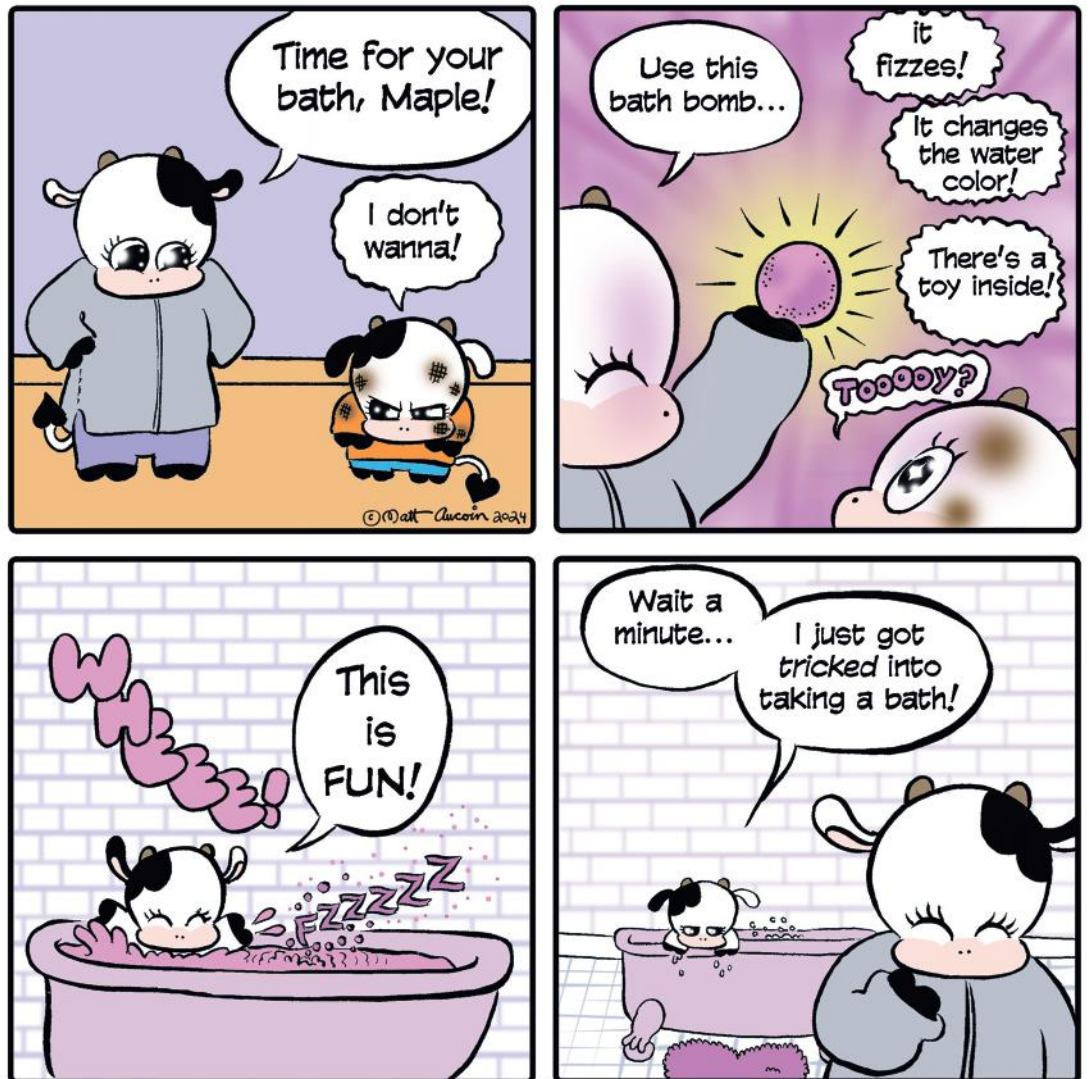
Ichabod accidentally dropped his rubber ducky into a rectangular tank that can hold 1,000 cubic feet of water. When Ichabod drops the ducky, the tank is already 1/5 full. All the sides of the tank measure 10 feet, and Ichabod cannot reach the ducky. There is a hose that's pumping water into the tank at the rate of 2 cubic feet per minute. Unbeknownst to Ichabod, however, the tank has a leak and loses water at the rate of 20 cubic feet

per hour. If Ichabod's reach is two feet, and if the ducky rises against the side of the tank, how long will it take for Ichabod to retrieve his ducky?

- A) 6 hours
- B) 6.5 hours
- C) 7 hours
- D) 8 hours
- E) 8.33 hours

Answer on pg. 21

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Different view

(Continued from Page 5)

past; how severe are the needs in Brandon relative to other communities; what level of coverage other communities determine is adequate; what level of staffing does the Vermont League of Cities and Towns recommend, and more along these lines; how much will it cost to increase coverage; is there a rationale for reducing coverage that makes sense and savings associated with that.

My hope is that we have elected officials who delve into these matters and come to intelligent decisions. My concern is that without such information, an uninformed or partially informed “will” of the people (including my own) will not afford the best perspective for Brandon. I do have my opinions

about this, but I also recognize I could not, in good conscience, make a helpful recommendation without a more educated perspective.

I bring this up in hopes that the town manager, the police chief, and/or the Selectboard members will offer us some fact-based perspectives that will help us make an informed “straw poll” recommendation about police staffing levels at our March meeting. I ask them to please do so in the coming weeks.

And let us trust the Selectboard members we have elected to use their wisdom in choosing what is best for our town!

Jim Emerson
Brandon

Solar History

(Continued from Page 4)

emerging from these gatherings will be featured in The Brandon Reporter leading up to the April 8th eclipse. The idea of a small publication of shared stories is also being considered. Finally, at the solar event weekend, you will be invited to read snippets from your creations, or have another reader share your story. The goal of this project is to foster a shared community project and to preserve a moment in time.

No writing or storytelling experience is necessary to partici-

pate. For those who like to tell, rather than write, we have audio recording, transcription and editing resources available. And for anyone who loves to assist in offering these “behind the scenes” tools, we welcome assistance in these areas. (Transportation to the event is available upon request - please contact Jennie Masterson at 802-779-5825.) For more information regarding “Writing Brandon’s Solar History” project, please reach out to Dorothea Langevin at 802-458-1847.

EV cars

(Continued from Page 5) operating expense savings. In Brandon, Chief Kachajian says the department is spending upwards of \$2,000 a month on repairing its current gas models and this cost to taxpayers would be greatly reduced with EV’s.

Q: Are EVs “pursuit-ready”?

EVs are quicker than gas models due to having 100% of their power available from a standing start allowing the officer to quickly catch up to a speeder.

Q: Are EVs safe and can they catch fire?

Electric vehicles must meet the same federal safety standards as internal combustion vehicles. An EV’s battery packs sit low in the car under the floorboards with the motors in line with the axles. This means the car’s mass is low, providing more stability and better handling.

The likelihood of an EV catching fire is 25 incidents per 100,000 vehicles compared to more than 1,500 gasoline-powered fires per 100,000 vehicles. We could find no incidents of

an electric police vehicle catching fire.

Q: Can EVs handle the amount and weight required for police equipment?

An EV’s design provides more storage space than gas vehicles because there is no engine in the front, no transmission running through the car, and no gas tank in the back. Ford, Tesla, and GM all offer special “police-prepped” models.

Q: Can our electric grid support more EVs?

GMP indicates the Town of Brandon has underutilized grid capacity, unlike many other towns in Vermont.

Q: Do EVs pollute the planet?

Lithium represents an environmental hazard which the industry is working to minimize and replace with alternative materials in coming years. Currently 95% of EV batteries can be recycled (Tesla recycles 100% of its batteries). Look for our next article on lithium battery production.

Recycling of the non-battery portion of an EV should be lower than gas models as there

are far fewer engine and exhaust parts to recycle.

Q: Don’t EVs perform less well in cold weather?

Extreme cold weather does reduce the range of EVs. According to the Norwegian Automobile Federation’s tests (it gets cold in Norway, too), EVs lose about 20% of their driving range and take longer to charge in cold temperatures. However, for a police vehicle that is kept properly charged, our winters would not affect its ability to complete multiple daily shifts.

We hope this discussion has allayed concerns around the economics, safety, performance, and environmental aspects of adding EVs to BPD’s fleet. In addition to the savings on maintenance, the research shows that an EV generates far lower levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) than gasoline cars which will help Brandon to meet its state-mandated goals.

Jack Schneider
The Brandon
Energy Committee

Calendar of events

February

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

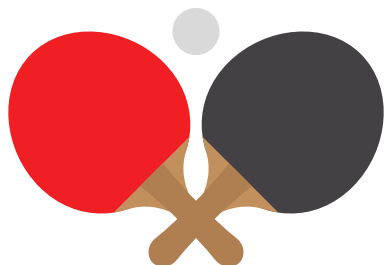
Drop in from 5:30–7:00 p.m., and bring your projects to work on.

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School



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

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

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

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

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

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

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily, making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and 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 Art Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3–5

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

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

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

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

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

Saturdays

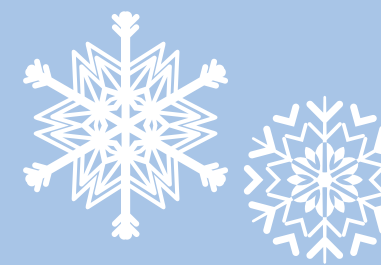
Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

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.

Brandon Town Hall

Friday Night at the Movies—popular movies will be on the big local groups in our community! The 9th grade class at OV, and is about the same day over and over again! Add

Kids Festival! Sat Feb 10th, 11 and families! EmmaJeanne Hoops by Marek Heitmann and a Cake Generator!



Join Aikido Vermont for events in Brandon,

All Events Held at Brandon's Historic Town Hall

Eric Schlichting-sensei will be visiting from Minnesota. He is the current Head Instructor at Kyobukan Dojo at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, where Wade-sensei first started studying Aikido in 1991. Eric-sensei is training for his Nidan (Second Degree Black Belt) test this summer. He has traveled here to work with Wade-sensei towards that goal.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024

8 a.m. Dan Clinic—Black Belt level students only
10 a.m. Youth Class (focused on testing techniques for students intending to test) Come watch a class to see if Aikido looks fun to your child.
12 p.m. Lunch at The River
3 p.m. Public Demonstration (all students welcome to participate or watch)

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

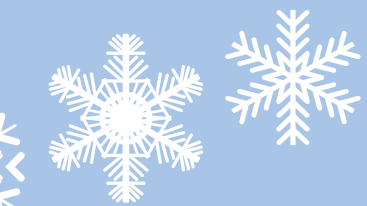
Sundays

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

all Winter Series

The first Friday of each month, screen! These will be put on by the first movie night is hosted by out a rodent who keeps living the mission by donation!

1am-3pm. Fun activities for kids same at 2pm! Cake Game is \$5 to



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

Friday 2nd

BAG—RNESU Student Art Show

The show opens with a public reception February 2, 5-7 p.m., welcoming family and friends. The exhibition runs from February 2 through Sunday February 25.

The gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center Street, Brandon, VT

Chaffee Art Center: Relaxing with the Arts—

Starting an Art Journal

Instructor: Heather Wilson

Fee: \$35

Min 5 Adults

Designed with a focus on experiencing each arts session in a relaxed and mindful approach. Encouraging connection with others and with the arts in a way that allows attendees to explore what it means to them, while learning. The Zentangle and Art Journal classes will be pen & ink and marker. The Music-guided art can be either/or/both.

Fridays 1-3 p.m.

2/2—Starting an Art Journal

2/9 — Zentangle

2/16 — Music-guided art

a weekend of Aikido

Feb 3-5, 2024

8:30 p.m. Dinner at Center Street Bar

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024

9 a.m. Dan Clinic Black Belt level students only

10 a.m. Private Demonstration for current students

and families (participation welcome)

12 p.m. Lunch at Mae's

1:30 p.m. Open Class (spectators and beginners welcome)

(Come watch or participate to see if Aikido is for you)

5:30 p.m. Dan Clinic Black Belt level students only

(spectators welcome)

8:30 p.m. Morningside Bakery Pizza at Town Hall

Monday, Feb. 5, 2024

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Open Training: by appointment with

your visiting instructor

10:30 a.m. Youth Class — taught by Eric-sensei

12:30 p.m. Adult Class — taught by Eric-sensei

Rutland County Audubon Society Seed Sale

At Blue Seal in Brandon from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday 3rd

Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center —Josiah and the Bonnevilles

Josiah and the Bonnevilles is a musical project led by singer-songwriter Josiah Leming. Don't miss his special acoustic performance at Spruce Peak Arts.

Josiah and the Bonnevilles is a musical project led by singer-songwriter Josiah Leming. Josiah was born in Morristown, Tennessee and as a child, Josiah was fascinated by music and began playing the piano and guitar at a young age.

Josiah's musical talents became evident to his family and friends, and he began performing as a teenager catching the attention of music industry professionals. In 2010, he formed Josiah and the Bonnevilles, which presented a unique blend of Folk, Americana, and Country that draws from his roots as a true Appalachian artist, embracing honesty and putting life's realities into his songwriting.

In 2015, Josiah and the Bonnevilles released its debut album, "On Trial." The album was praised for its raw, vulnerable lyrics and its combination of acoustic and electric instruments that underpinned the storytelling. The band went on tour in support of the album with the artist LP, performing at various venues across the United States and Europe.

Since the release of "On Trial," Josiah and the Bonnevilles have continued to make music and tour, gaining a devoted fan base along the way. Josiah remains grounded and focused on his music. He has spoken openly about his struggles with mental health, addiction, and the music industry as a whole and uses his songwriting as a form of therapy. He continues to inspire his fans with his honesty and vulnerability, and his music has touched the hearts of people around the world.

7:00-9:00 p.m., \$75.00-\$125.00.

Saturday 3rd Sunday 4th

Winter Renaissance Faire

Come chase away the winter blues at the 7th Annual Winter Renaissance Faire, indoors at the Champlain Valley Exposition. The Faire is a family-friendly event for all ages, featuring performance troupes including singers, musicians, acrobats and dancers; as well as medieval fight demonstrations.

With artisans and craft vendors—both local and from across New England—as well as mead, wine and cider makers—patrons can find fascinating items and indulge their appetites with tasty treats from cultures around the world.

The Winter Renaissance Faire will be held for two days at the Champlain Valley Exposition where there is plenty of room and free parking for the attendees of this favorite annual event.

The Faire is a family-friendly event for all ages.

Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.



Maclure Library

FEBRUARY MOVIE MATINEE

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 8TH

12PM

840 Arch St. Pittsford, VT 05763

contact@maclurelibrary.org

call 483 2972 for movie title

Tickets are \$20 for one day or \$30 for two days.

Kids 6-12 are \$5.

Kids under 6 get in FREE.

Goings on around town

Sunday 4th

Knights of Columbus Free

Throw Championship for children age 9-14

Join us from 12:30-2:00 p.m. (Warmups start at noon) at Christ the King School Gymnasium, Killington Ave., Rutland.

All boys and girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship Christ at the King School Gymnasium. Winners at the local level are eligible to progress to district, state and international competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For entry forms or additional information contact:

David Perry dperry@cksrutland.org

Elijah LaChance kofcrutland@gmail.com

Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club Sweet-heart's Dance

Club dancers (Mainstream, Plus, etc) come join us for our Sweethearts Dance. Ken Ritucci is the caller. He will call Advanced from 1-2:30, followed by Basic (Class Level) Mainstream, and Plus dancing alternating. The cost is \$10 per dancer (+\$2 Adv). 50/50 raffle, door prizes, refreshments, and club level dancing! Champagne & Chocolate gift basket raffle!

From

1:00-4:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, 85 West Street, Rutland.



Brandon Artists Guild
presents the
2024 R NESU Student Art Show
February 2 - February 25
Join us for a Reception
Friday 2/2/24, 5-7 pm

Hours: Closed Mondays
Tues. - Sat. 10am - 5pm Sun. 10am - 4pm

7 Center St, Brandon, VT
(802) 247-4956
brandonartistsguild.org



Lani Heitmann



KEITH'S COUNTRY STORE has been serving the Pittsford community since the 1930s. Legend holds that Frank Keith opened the store on Christmas Day of 1938 in order to beat Kamuda's Market to the punch. (Kamuda's opened in January of 1939.)

Keith's Country Store

(Continued from Page 1)

and operations end of the business. There's always something to do at the store.

Rumor has it that great-grandfather Frank Keith opened the store on Christmas Day, 1938 to beat out the opening of Kamuda's Market which opened a week later on January 1, 1939. Frank had a large family. His oldest son, Pat, took over the store when it was time and turned it over to brother Joe in 1962. There have been a lot of associated businesses in the history of this country store. L. F. Carter got a contract to plow Route 73 from Brandon to Rochester over the gap. Pat built him a garage for his trucks to be housed in Pittsford. That garage

almost became home for a Packard dealership in the 1950's until the deal fell through. So Pat started selling the modern marvel of the day, the television. That lasted until the early 1960's. At that point Pat wanted to run a salvage yard behind the store but the state convinced him to trade that land for some state land on Plains Road.

Enter Joe Keith, famous now at Joe's 19th Hole summer snack bar, who returned home and took over the reins. Joe morphed the small gun-sale business that was in the front of the store into a sporting goods shop that occupied the south end of the store where the food shelf now resides. Local sports legend Wade Mitchell reportedly



worked there at one time. Having the Weatherby franchise for the state of Vermont meant that the shop was a big draw for sportsmen from all over the area. Sporting goods persisted until the 1980s and was followed by antiques and a golf shop. For most of those years there was a gas pump outside. Joe Jr. aka Mike, aka Chico, ran the store from the 80s until 1995. Jon and his wife, Monica, bought it then and ran it for 28 years until selling it to Jesse and Kate last summer.

Now, most of the time when you sell your store and retire, you go home to work on the honey-do list or pursue your favorite-but-ignored hobby. Not so with Jon Keith. He's still opening the store 2 days a week for Jesse and Kate, running the register, and, as I caught him, doing the dishes. He has the Keith work ethic and has a hard time keeping still. Plus, if he stays home he ends up making cookies, which is not part of the plan. He thinks he'll move away slowly but is happy to lend his nephew and partner a helping hand as they work to keep the tradition alive. In 15 short years, the store will turn 100. "That's what we're shooting for," said Jesse.



KATE LAROCK AND Jesse Keith hard at work in the kitchen at Keith's. The store has won a following for its delicious prepared foods and has been home for years to the "Coffee Guys," a group of local friends who gather at the store to chew the fat. (Upper right: Jesse's uncle Jon, who handed over the reins last year.)

INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

DIGITAL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD

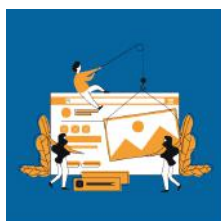
Here at the *Addy Indy* we have always seen it as our job to help connect your business with its clients.

As times change and technology evolves, pairing digital services with your print advertising campaigns is the best way to quickly & efficiently connect with the community.

Independent Digital Marketing can help you better reach our region with:



ONLINE ADVERTISING



DIGITAL DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT



WEB DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT US TODAY TO GET STARTED!

802-388-4944

digital@addisonindependent.com

addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing



Can you guess the street?

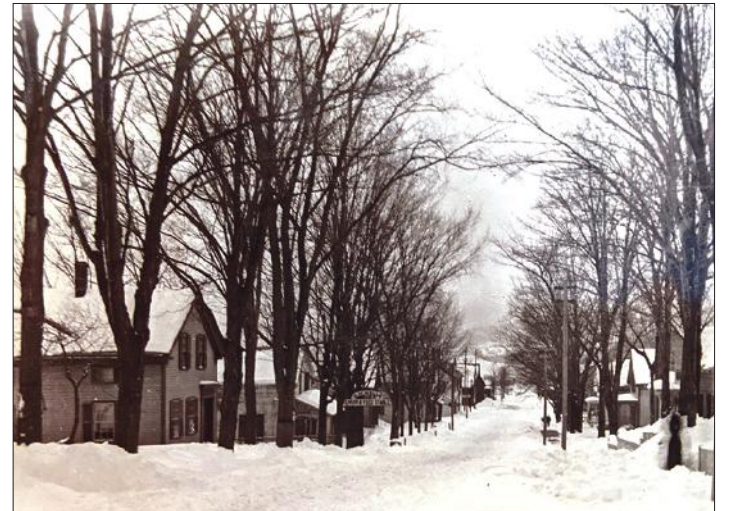
BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week's "Guess the Street" was a little tricky until you see that distinctive porch on 25 Carver Street. And then there is the hanging business sign for the Livery & Feed Stable (W. W. Wells?). Last week's photo was of Caver Street again, but this time facing North from the top of the little rise in front of 29 Carver.

As usual, the residents at 22 are the first to shovel their front sidewalk.



CARVER ST. NOW, and circa 1900.



Beautifying Brandon

(Continued from Page 3)

17 Franklin Street – Kirk Thomas took down a decrepit house and then asked the Chamber of Commerce what we need in Brandon that would be suitable in that location. The things that we listed were not appropriate for that residential spot, or the timing was wrong for them. So, the Chamber reached out to the Greenways committee of the Downtown Brandon Alliance (DBA). Greenways suggested that we make it into a little park, adding some green space to the

neighborhood. Robert Black, Joe and Melly Flynn, Tim Guiles, Lynn Wilson, Jack Schneider, and I picked up trash, dug out rubble and rocks and stacked them on pallets that Kirk supplied. The group brainstormed a design and worked with Kirk to refine it. Kirk took away the trash and rubble, then graded and seeded the area. The DBA volunteers marked out garden areas with stones and lined up some marble blocks along the front to define the property.

We put out a call for some specific type of plants that Ellen Walters and Beth Wimett helped us to select, and many people donated them. Kirk brought in soil which we put into the gardens and then planted and mulched with mulch that Kirk dropped off. Sandy Mayo had some shrubs

that she wanted out of her garden, so Joe, Melly, Robert, Jack, and I dug them up and transplanted them into this new park. I contacted Marion Gibson to ask for some specific plants to fill in gaps. Susan Stone donated hydrangeas, and Sally Wood donated daffodil bulbs.

Nifty Thrifty donated some money, with which we bought trees from Miller Hill and from Virgil & Constance (both of whom pitched in with discounts). Tim Guiles donated a picnic table. Joe and Melly got a second table from a friend. We also got 3 benches from downtown that were in bad shape and were being replaced by Nifty Thrifty. Joe, Melly, and I bought materials to fix them up, and Joe and Melly did the work. Joe and Melly then built a little library and installed it, complete with books. They also built a chalk box and filled it with sidewalk chalk to be used on the paved section of the park. Neighbors across the street donated a bike rack. The park was then ready for use! A subset of the volunteers above, plus Wyatt Waterman and the next-door neighbor Michael (not sure of his last name) keep the park weeded and watered. Kirk keeps it mown and stores the furniture for the winter.

Library- Kathy Clark got wildflower seeds and worked with Robert Black to plant them along the sidewalk in front of the library, 17 Franklin Street, and in front of Town Hall. Others may have helped dig up and plant the library plot, I am not sure. Amanda Berry keeps it watered and weeded.

Bob Reed's Hill- Joe and Melly Flynn, Sarah and Louie Patis, Lyn Des Marais, and Pat Wood planted some plants there in the spring this year. Bob Reed kept them watered until the rains started. Many of them survived!

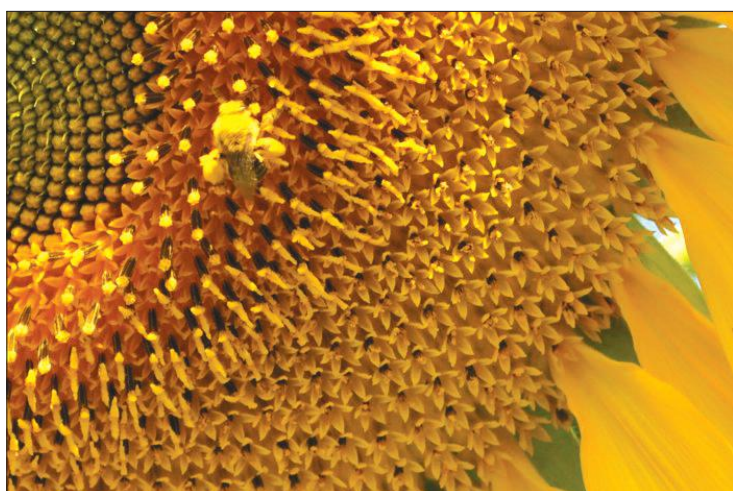


We have another one for you. Can you guess this street?

Since then, Louie and I have built a lot of terraces, and all of us have planted flowers that Lyn, me, and others donated. Mitch Pearl gave us a box of daffodil bulbs which should look great next spring. Lucas Montgomery answered an ad to adopt a garden (and has done a lot of work on Kennedy Park) and came to help lug dirt and plant large numbers of flowers. He also cut brush and dug up sumac that was overtak-

ing the top of the hill.

Note from Lyn: Pat asked me to give a shout out to every single person in this article. And I, in turn, want to acknowledge all the incredibly hard work Pat has put into every single garden she touches in Brandon. I have seen her spend forty or fifty hours on Bob Reed's hill alone. Thank you, Pat.



REAL ESTATE



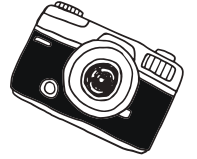
Brandon Village home with surprising privacy and a country feel! Entry through the oversized and well-lit carport. The cozy living room has a pellet stove and plenty of natural light. The newer side porch looks out to the landscaped and terraced yard, enclosed by a wooden picket fence. Lots of room for pets, kids, and gardening! The finished basement has full sized windows, a 3/4 bathroom, a private entrance, and could be converted to a nice rental. A great combination of comfort and convenience. **\$395,000**



802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
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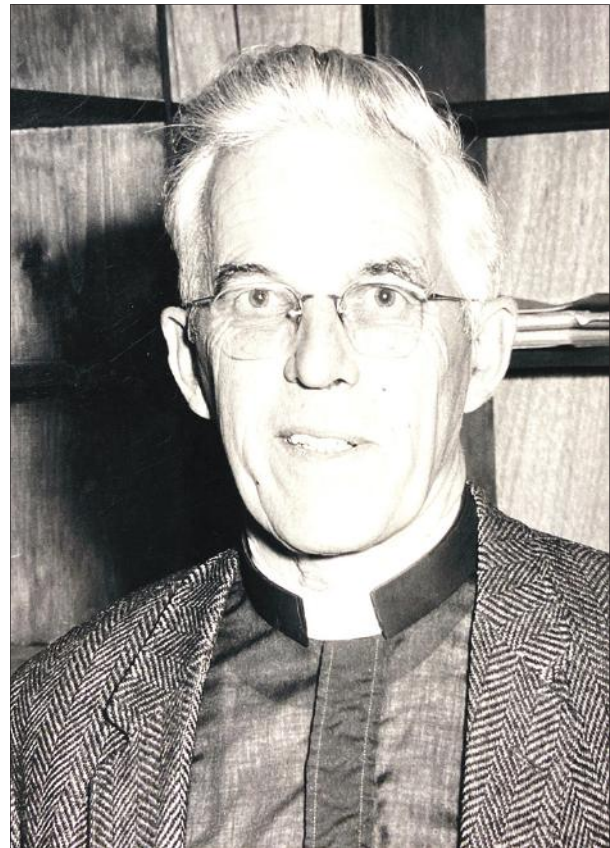
Mim's Photos



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

Or call us at 247-8080

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



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Become less intense
6. Variety of pear
10. Religion native to China
14. Type of tooth
15. Fitted out
17. Make every effort
19. Autonomic nervous system
20. Complete
21. Alternate name
22. River in France and Belgium
23. Miami's mascot is one
24. Turfs
26. Most cognizant of reality
29. Broad volcanic crater
31. Canadian surname
32. Satisfaction
34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
35. Collide
37. Immune response
38. Feline
39. High opinion of one's own appearance
40. Thin strip to align parts
41. Containers
43. Convicted American spy
45. Breathe noisily
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. I.M. ___, architect
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Dutch and German surname
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river
2. Blessing
3. Substitutes (abbr.)
4. Principle underlying the universe
5. Work unit
6. Yellow edible fruits
7. Gemstone
8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
9. Evergreen tropical tree
10. Reality TV star Richards
11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
12. Stakes
13. Antidiuretic hormone
16. Make warm again
18. Light beams
22. Lethal dose
23. Terrorist group
24. Kids love him
25. Naturally occurring solid
27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
28. Popular cuisine
29. Partner to cheese
30. Type of horse
31. ___ Diego
33. Defensive nuclear weapon
35. Most shrewd
36. It may be for shopping
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. A stock of foods
42. The bindings of books
43. Swiss river
44. Megabyte
46. Sammy ___, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Popular type of bread
51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
52. Association of engineering professionals
53. Young women's association
54. City
55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
56. Pointed end of a pen

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			

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.

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

Level: Advanced

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

How To Keep Dogs And Cats Busy Inside In The Cold Weather

Are you looking for things to do with your pets during these cold winter days? RCHS has several tips to keep your dogs and cats busy! You can start with the basics by teaching your dog tricks like sit, down, shaking, paw, roll over, or dance. Try freezing kongs or feeding toys to keep them busy. Studies have shown they enjoy their food more when they have to work for it! Puzzle toys or hide-and-seek are good options as well. If you have a long hallway or stairs (as long as they're safe) try throwing a ball down them so they have some distance to run. Use a slinky down the stairs for your dog to chase. If you are using extra treats or Kongs, be sure to watch their weight! With their activity being decreased with the colder weather, they can easily gain unwanted pounds. Cats can be entertained by a ping pong ball or other toys in the bathtub so they can bat it around and it won't end up under the fridge! You can also have a treasure hunt around the house with treats or toys. If your cat likes to sit by the window, invest in a bird feeder. You can also play a DVD with birds, squirrels, and other animals for them to watch. If you have a tablet there are apps you can download that your cats can play! Another way you can entertain your dog or cat is to expand the family and add a furry friend for them to play with. It will help make those long winter days pass quickly for you and them!

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



MEET PITA - 3 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK/WHITE.

Pita is such a handsome boy! With some time and patience, he will blossom! He just needs someone to show him some love. You will need to go slow with Pita because fast movements tend to scare him. Pita may need to go to a quieter home because he does get spooked if a ton of stuff is happening at once. He really does have lots of love to give. Pita came to us on December 23rd as a stray from Chittenden. Therefore, we have no known history on how he will do with children, dogs, or other cats! He is currently decompressing in the hallway and so far, he is doing good! Again, this lovable boy just needs some time, patience, and love! Pita has made many friends here, but he is ready to move on to his next adventure! If this goofball sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him.

MEET RAVEN *IN FOSTER - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. MIXED BREED. BLACK/TAN.

This sweet girl is looking for an active family who also loves to curl up on the couch and snuggle. Raven is smart, sweet, and bashful. She can be shy with new people or environments, but once she warms up to you, she will be on your lap soaking up all the love you can give. She needs someone who will help her gain her confidence. She is a velcro dog and loves to be your shadow. She would do best in a quiet home where she can be around her people most of the time. She has lovely manners and is very gentle, and she loves her treats! She is currently in foster so we can learn more about her in a home environment.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



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

OFF THE SHELF



The following large-print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

Dead Mountain by Preston & Child, donated in memory of Maxine Sawyer

In 2008, nine mountaineers failed to return from a winter backpacking trip in the New Mexico mountains. At their last campsite, searchers found a bizarre scene: something had appeared at the door of their tent so terrifying that it impelled them to slash their way out and flee barefoot to certain death in a blizzard. Only six bodies were found, two violently crushed and inexplicably missing body parts. Now, two more bodies from the lost expedition are unexpectedly discovered in a cave. FBI Agent Corrie Swanson teams up with archaeologist Nora Kelly to investigate what happened on that trip fifteen years ago—and to find the ninth victim. But their search awakens a long-slumbering evil, which pursues Corrie and Nora with a vengeance.

Happiness by Daniel Steel, donated in memory of Marion C. Sawyer

Unlike the fictional characters

in her gripping thrillers, author Sabrina Brooks lives a quiet life in the Berkshire Mountains with her two beloved dogs. Then the arrival of a mysterious letter disrupts it all, declaring that she is the only living relative of her recently deceased uncle, and is heir to his title and estate outside London. This shocking news forces her to cross the Atlantic and see the manor for herself, stirring up her father's past and the secrets he kept. Thinking she'd sell quickly and return home, Sabrina finds she loves roaming the gardens and exploring the historic manor. She can't help but admire her surroundings, especially with handsome attorney Grayson Abbot acting as her tour guide. As she learns more about the family history, Sabrina begins to wonder what life would be like as "Lady Brooks," and if she could upend the stability she has worked so hard for.

Adult fiction

The Sanctuary by Andrew Hunter Murray

When Ben's fiancée decides to leave him to stay on the remote island where she's been working for a millionaire philanthropist, he decides to travel there to win her back. After an arduous journey, he finds himself compelled to stay.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have standard tax forms available and can also help you find and print any other forms you might need!

But as Ben begins to traverse the remote kingdom, he begins to uncover the truth of the perfect society that is being built. Is Sanctuary Rock truly a second Eden or a previously undiscovered level of hell?

Of Hoaxes and Homicide by Anastasia Hastings

Violet Manville and her half-sister Sephora are absolutely bored, thank you very much. They're missing the thrill of playing detective. So, when Violet receives a letter from A Heartbroken Mother sent to her alter-ego known as Miss Hermione, her pulse can't help but quicken. The daughter in question has gotten caught up in a cult. Rumors of human sacrifices, mystical doings, and a ghost in the ruined Alburn Abbey, where the Children pray, have gripped the public consciousness. Miss Hermione's investigation soon collides with very real life when Violet discovers a surprising connection to the cult. With the dashing-but-frustrating Eli Marsh turning up and a member of the Children poisoned, Violet and Sephora may have more intrigue than they can manage.

Brandon Police Report

January 22

- Served a subpoena in-hand on Country Club Road for the Rutland County State's Attorney's Office.

- Responded with the Brandon Fire Department (BFD) and Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) to a single-car crash on Forest Dale Road with entrapment reported. The operator was extricated from the car and transported to the hospital for treatment. It was determined that the driver had failed to maintain his travel lane, thus causing his vehicle to leave the roadway and flip. Speed is not believed to have been a factor.

- Responded to a report of a possible overdose at a residence on Pearl Street. The individual later passed away at the Rutland Regional Medical Center after being transported by BARS. Investigation by the Brandon Police Department (BPD) and the Vermont Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is ongoing.

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license.

- Received a report of a vehicle hitting a sign on Newton Road because of slippery conditions.

- Received a missing person report from Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) regarding a juvenile who was last seen in Brandon and had missed her Family Court hearing in Rutland. The juvenile was entered into NCIC as a missing person. Investigation is ongoing.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

- Responded to a call about a suspicious person at Hannaford who approached a customer, asking her for money. The individual was described as a large man with a beard, wearing a black woolen hat. BPD checked the area, but the individual had already left.

- Addressed an ongoing parking complaint on Conant Square. The owner of the illegally parked car was given a warning not to park in that location.

- Conducted a community policing detail during a middle school basketball game at Otter Valley Union High School.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

January 23

- Arrested a woman at a residence on Newton Road who had violated the conditions of her re-

lease.

- Received a report of an issue between students at Otter Valley Union High School in which inappropriate photographs were sent over the internet. The DCF and the parents of the children were notified of the incident.

- Attempted to locate a wanted person on Maple Street who had violated court ordered conditions of release. The individual was located and taken into custody.

- Assisted a motorist who appeared at the station to report that she had struck a mailbox on Forest Dale Road. She had been unable to contact the homeowner and wanted to have the incident documented for insurance and informational purposes.

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

- Located a vehicle on Mulcahy Drive with a reported stolen VT registration plate out of Rutland.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for operating with a suspended driver's license. Ticket issued.

January 24

- Received a report of a vehicle slide off the roadway on Franklin Street and that the vehicle may have caused damage to a guard rail. BPD did not locate any damage.

- Received a report by town staff of a man suffering a mental health breakdown at the Brandon Town Offices on Center Street. The incident was referred to Rutland Mental Health services.

- Received a report of a suspicious person on West Seminary Street. Officers contacted the individual. No criminal actions had taken place.

- Responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Union Street.

- Assisted a woman who appeared at the station to report non-criminal domestic issues at her residence. She was provided the contact information for several agencies that were better suited to address her needs.

- Opened an on-going investigation into a report of Obstruction of Justice by means of witness intimidation.

- Vehicle stop on Church Street for no front license plate. Officers determined that the operator had a criminally suspended driver's license. The individual was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 5/6/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

(See Police report, Page 19)



End of an Era!

FRIENDS AND FANS threw Brandon House of Pizza owner Sheila Gearwar a surprise party at her restaurant to celebrate her time at BHOP now that the restaurant will change hands later this year. L to R: Sheila's husband Greg Gearwar, Sheila Gearwar, Sheila's son Jacob Gearwar, and Jacob's husband, Tyler.

Photo by Kate McKay

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

- Responded with BFD and BARS to the intersection of Grove Street and Champlain Street for a report of a single-car accident involving a pedestrian who was struck and injured. The pedestrian was transported to the hospital. Investigation is ongoing.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street. Warning issued.
- Provided backup coverage to an officer with the Vermont Department of Liquor Control because a man was behaving aggressively at the Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road. Liquor Control issued a ticket and cleared the scene.

- Vehicle stop on Mulcahy Drive for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

- Conducted a property watch at Union Street Grocery.

January 25

- Received a 911 hang-up call from North Street. The call was due to an issue with a landline.

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license.

- Conducted a directed patrol on West Seminary Street.

- Vehicle stop for failing to yield to pedestrians at an intersection in downtown Brandon. The driver stated that he was unable to see the pedestrians due to the heavy fog. He was issued a warning and instructed to pay greater attention to pedestrian traffic.

January 26

- Received a report of an incident in which a young child allegedly pointed a gun at another child's head. Investigation determined that no crime had occurred and that the gun was a toy.

- Assisted a disabled vehicle on Center Street.

- Arrested a woman at a residence on Furnace Road after probable cause was found that she had violated conditions of release. The woman was arrested and transported to the BPD for processing. She was released on a flash citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 1/29/2024 at 12:30 p.m.

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street. Warning issued.

January 27

- Received a 911 hang-up call from Midway Oil in Conant Square. The company is out of business and false 911 calls from the premises are an ongoing issue.

- Responded to a residence on Rossiter Street to assist EMS with a medical call. EMS left the

residence upon officers' arrival and no police assistance was necessary.

- Vehicle stop on Marble Street for a stop sign violation. Ticket issued.

- Responded to a 911 hang-up call in Conant Square at a business identified as "Midway Oil." It was found that the call came from a business that no longer existed. The cause of the call was not determined.

- Received a call from an individual having a mental health breakdown while she was driving. The caller disconnected, at which point the officer contacted the law enforcement agency in the area of the caller's last known address to see if they could locate her to check her wellbeing.

- Observed an individual on West Seminary Street operating a motor vehicle, whom the patrolling officer knew to have a criminally suspended driver's license. The subject was arrested for driving with a suspended license and failing to operate a vehicle with an ignition interlock device. The individual was later released on a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 4/22/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for an expired registration. Ticket issued.

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

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for an uninspected motor vehicle. One ticket and one warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for following too close and driving on the shoulder. Two tickets issued.

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

- Attempted to locate a man with an active arrest warrant on Old Basin Road. The individual was not located.

- Returned a lost dog found on North Street.

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

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective taillight. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for driving without taillights. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for failure to maintain travel lane. It was determined that the operator was impaired and was placed under arrest. She was brought to the BPD where she was processed and released on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 3/25/2024 at 12:30 p.m.

- Assisted the BFD with an illegal burn on Triangle Court.

- Received a request from the Rutland City Police Department to follow up regarding a case out of Rutland involving stolen property.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for a possible expired license plate. It was determined that the car was in-fact registered. No action taken.

- Vehicle stop on River Street for misuse of license plates. Tickets issued for having an uninspected vehicle and for misusing license plates.

January 28

- Received information of an animal struck by a vehicle. The call was found to be outside of Brandon.

- Returned a lost dog to its owner.

- Observed a vehicle off the road on Union Street. The operator had called 911 to report the accident prior to police arrival. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

- Received a call from an individual stating that they had received an "SOS" message on their phone from a friend somewhere in Brandon. The subject was reportedly driving a U-Haul to South Burlington. A search for the vehicle was conducted, but it was not located.

Legeslative report

(Continued from Page 4)

tional agreements for cultural, business, educational and tourism exchanges.

H.707: An Act revising the delivery and governance of the Vermont workforce system. We heard testimony regarding the restructuring of the workforce system in the state. The recommendations have been brought to us by the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development (SOCWED) report for structural changes on the state's workforce system at the Department of Labor.

H.666: An act relating to escrow deposit bonds. This would allow construction firms to use deposits for building projects as long as they are backed by surety bonds.

H.769: An Act relating to establishing a baby-bond trust program to fund education, home purchase, or business startup for babies born into Medicaid, disbursed when they reach ages 18-30. The program would use unclaimed property funds.

ANIMAL WELFARE:

Over the past few years,

there has been much about animal welfare in our town. H.626 is a bill that sets up a comprehensive animal-welfare system. The goals are to create a Division of Animal Welfare within the Department of Public Safety, create licensing and oversight guidelines for animal rescue operations, and clarify which departments and agencies are responsible for guidance, investigation, and enforcement regarding animal welfare and animal cruelty cases.

CONSTITUENT COFFEE HOUR:

Thanks to all those that attended my meeting on Saturday. We had a lively discussion about increased taxes, disability rights, ARPA grants, education, opioid use disorder, childcare regulations, and car inspections. Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you at sjerome@leg.state.vt.us.

*Take care,
Rep. Stephanie Jerome
(Brandon)
House Commerce and
Economic Development
Committee (Vice-Chair)*

SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY,
OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



ARIES March 21-April 20

There is a new person in your life who may become a source of inspiration, Aries. It's a new year and you are ready for all the novel experiences you can encounter.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, you could be feeling more grounded in your personal life than you have in some time. The people you surround yourself with accept and love you unconditionally.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, if a suggestion goes against your instincts this week, give it careful consideration nonetheless. This person may have some good ideas that you may not have thought of.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, you tend to be good about not letting work life bleed into your personal affairs. However, this week you may need to

have some carryover to accomplish all that lies ahead.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Some good news may arrive this week that will put you on cloud nine, Leo. Just don't let this enthusiasm distract you from getting all of your business wrapped up on time.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

A charming person may come into your life this week, Virgo. At first he or she may be a whirlwind and confuse you for some time. Eventually, you may catch on and go with the flow.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, use whatever opportunities you have to speak to older family members and jot down the memories they have. Time is fleeting and you want to learn all you can.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Surround yourself with people who bring positivity into your life, Scorpio. It is alright to take inventory and distance yourself from others who do not generate positive vibes.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

People who believe they have a lot of power are going to be all around you this week, Sagittarius. Don't fall prey to any intimidation tactics. Continue to do your own thing.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Dreams have been entertaining and awfully vivid lately, Capricorn. But you can't put too much stock in them. They may simply be your subconscious mind trying to work through things.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Express gratitude when you are gifted something both thoughtful and expensive, Aquarius. This is something you have had your eye on for some time but never purchased yourself.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

You're likely to be very busy soon enough, Pisces. Some loud and busy people may come into your life in the next few days. It may prove hard to find a quiet moment afterwards.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

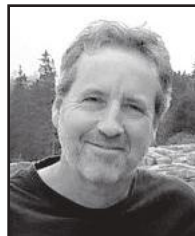
Feb. 2 James Joyce, writer (d)
Feb. 3 Simone Weil, philosopher and activist (d)
Feb. 4 Rosa Parks, activist (d)
Feb. 5 Errol Morris, filmmaker (76)
Feb. 6 François Truffaut, filmmaker (d)
Feb. 7 John Deere, inventor (d)
Feb. 8 Elizabeth Bishop, poet (d)



Like all things vintage?

Mim's Photos

are on page 16!



Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

How Artificial Intelligence is plotting our Eventual Stupidity

Call me old fashioned, but up until recently “AI” meant nothing more to me than the sound you make at the end of the day when you lay on the couch. After learning about present-day “Artificial Intelligence” - and what it’s capable of - I’ve been exhaling a more existential “AAYEE!”

For cave-dwellers like myself who may not have been paying attention, OpenAI, a leading artificial intelligence startup, unveiled its “ChatGPT” last year. Its most recent version can effortlessly mimic human communication and create everything from world-class academic essays to Elizabethan sonnets in the voice of Winnie the Pooh. It can make (attempted) medical diagnoses, write (pretty) funny jokes, plan your next trip to Iceland, and even suggest diplomatic ways to back out of dinner invitations to your mother-in-law’s (yes, I tried.) And as charming as a Shakespearean-sonnet-spouting Pooh Bear might seem to you now, apparently “Un-governed AI” is also now ranked by Time Magazine as item #4 in the “Top Risks of 2024.” All of which brings us to the very quotable words of Dorothy: “Toto, I have a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore!”

Now I can imagine that there are some clever linguists on the planet who will be quick to point out that this is merely the natural progression of language and that us naysayers should just all be quiet. Sure, in mastering artificial human communication we may have accidentally turned on an all-powerful, possibly sentient, hopefully-not-too-malevolent Hal 9000. But haven’t we been enlisting machines to do our work since the dawn of time? Isn’t this really just the logical conclusion of that first wheelbarrow? And speaking of Shakespearean sonnets,

wasn’t he also writing these for hire already back in the 1500s? In fact, that last greeting card you bought with all sincerity – whose voice was that in? Might we all just get down from our Luddite high horses and make peace with the probably-peaceful AI of day? (Let me just discreetly ask here that no one download this essay with ChatGPT – at least not with my name on it.)

But if there are any foremost canary warnings really worth listening to, I will humbly submit that perhaps it is high-school teachers. And if what we are talking about is the creation of a “Great Homework Completer in the Sky” then maybe it is the English teachers in particular whose experienced squawking needs to be heard in the cyber realm’s thinning air of reason.

As an English teacher shaped by the writing elders of the past, I think it’s the ghost of George Orwell who might first be summoned (which I’m sure ChapGPT can do quite ably). Orwell sagely reminds us that “If we cannot write well, we cannot think well. And if we cannot think well, others will do our thinking for us.” And before any smart-aleck techie adds “then perhaps ChapGPT can pitch in!” consider also the words of Flannery O’Connor: “I write because I don’t know what I think until I read what I say.” Or perhaps the words of Harper Lee: “It’s a self-exploratory operation that is endless. An exorcism of not necessarily his demon, but of his divine discontent.” In fact if there is a common chorus coming from the voices of the past it is that writing gives us something few other things can: self-awareness—and isn’t this ironically what we hope we don’t see in the evolution of modern AI?

If there is something the pen-pushers of old understood well, it

is that slow-cooked, hard-fought, messy communication is really at the heart of our humanity. Sure, AI might be a little nimbler at finding exactly the right wording for that date proposal you just emailed Suzy. But just what kind of Faustian bargain are we entering when we trade our very words for the soulless applesauce of an algorithm? And can you be sure that heart-warming response from Suzy wasn’t also generated by a heartless chatbot? (All of which given new meaning to the phrase “I’ll have my people call your people.”)

And herein perhaps lies the true doomsday scenario – less about sentient machines surpassing us in the evolutionary timeline, but more about an atrophied humanity. One that doesn’t only need canned Valentine’s cards but must sadly also use AI to even fill in the blanks! Maybe the true danger is not that the “deep learning” of AI’s growth is outpacing us, but that a “deep superficiality” results from outsourcing our very communication.

Of course, I may just be overreacting. The most recent display of AI’s prowess to go viral, I’ve learned, involved writing instructions on how to remove a peanut butter sandwich from a VCR in the voice of the King James Bible. (“And it came to pass that a man was troubled by his Peanut Butter sandwich for it had been placed within his VCR and he knew not how to remove it...”) So maybe we get lucky and the worst of AI is nothing more than literary parlor tricks and tech headaches for English teachers.

Or just maybe AI uses that wheelbarrow to cart off our righteous minds.

For my part I’m not surrendering my pen without a fight.

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Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

ing appropriations at this year’s Town Meeting to submit petitions in time for inclusion on the ballot.

The Board gave the final approval for the FY25 budget that will be put before Pittsford voters at Town Meeting. The proposed budget is \$1,822,999, of which \$1,385,264 is to be raised by taxes and \$437,735 is to be supplied by non-tax revenues.

The final dollar amount reflects a reduction of \$100k in the paving allocation. Even with appropriations, the total budget will remain flat or even decrease, according to the town manager’s office.

The Board also approved the warning for Town Meeting, which will contain a hearing on the proposed \$400,000 for the watermain replacement in the Bridge 108 project. The actual

vote on the bond will be by Australian ballot. Bridge 108 is on Route 7 right before the Mobil station.

The ballot also contains the candidates for Pittsford Select-board. Those running include Tom Hooker (incumbent, 3-year seat) and Dan Adams (running for a 2-year seat). Mr. Hooker is also running for a 3-year seat as a Trustee of Public Funds (a position he currently holds). And Judi Tompkins is running for a 3-year seat as a Trustee of the Maclure

(See Pittsford SB, Page 21)



Just married

Christopher Keyes, of Brandon, Vermont, and Rebecca Walls, of Griffin, Georgia, were married in a ceremony attended by family, friends, and colleagues at the Forrest Hills resort in Dahlonega, Georgia on January 13, 2024.

The Bride was attended by seven bridesmaids. She wore an ivory ball

gown with a satin drop waist corset bodice, a full 10 layer tulle skirt, off the shoulder sleeves with floral accents and a matching veil with florals.

The Groom was attended by four groomsmen. He wore a brown wool suit featuring wide peak lapels, with a chocolate brown silk grenadine tie.

Rebecca, daughter of Lisa Duda and

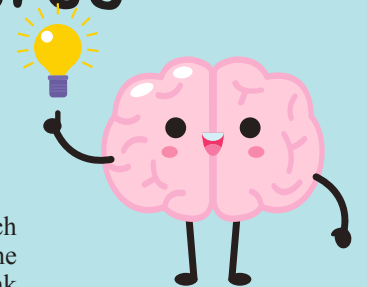
James Walls, is founder and CEO of Southern Belle Princess Parties of mid-Georgia.

Christopher, son of Laura King and Philip Keyes of Brandon, Vermont, recently achieved his PhD in Mathematics from Emory University in

Decatur, Georgia.

The couple will be living in the London suburb of Blackheath, during Christopher's Post-Doctoral fellowship at King's College in London.

Brandon Brain Buster Answered



Answer: A

If Ichabod can reach down two feet, then he needs to fill the tank until the surface of the water is 8 feet from the bottom of the tank (since the sides of the tank are 10 feet high). So, the volume of water that he needs in the tank is $8 \times 10 \times 10 = 800$ cubic feet. The tank is already $\frac{1}{5}$ full, so it already contains 200 cubic feet of water. Ichabod must then wait until the tank gains an additional 600 cubic feet of water.

If the hose delivers water at the rate of 2 cubic feet per minute, then in one hour the hose delivers $2 \times 60 = 120$ cubic feet. But the tank leaks at the rate of 20 cubic feet per hour, which means that the tank is really gaining $120 - 20 = 100$ cubic feet of water per hour.

If the tank gains a net of 100 cubic feet of water per hour, and if 600 additional cubic feet are needed to allow Ichabod to reach his ducky, then it will take 6 hours for the tank to hold enough water for Ichabod to reach his ducky.

LEGO showcase

(Continued from Page 4)
name, age, and build title (on the back of the card we'll put contact information for LEGO return).

Anything made of LEGO counts. If your kids use Duplos, those are great, too!

Adults and kids are welcome to submit builds for display. Creations can be originals or from LEGO kits - just as long as the builder is proud of their work and wants to display it. Group submissions are fine, too!

Email me if you'd like to

submit a creation for display so that we can arrange for drop-off.

Thanks,
Heather (Fjeld) Nelson
802-922-4427
hfjeld@gmail.com

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 20)
Library.

The Board appointed Brett Mullin and Greg Hiltz as Pittsford's representatives to the Otter Creek Communications Union District (OCCUD). OCCUD is an organization representing 18 towns in Rutland County whose mission is to bring high-speed in-

ternet to underserved, rural areas.

The Board approved the disbursement of \$20k from the Burditt Fund toward the \$250k project to install lights on Markowski Field at Otter Valley Union High School. The project is being spearheaded by the Otter Valley Football Club. The Club has already raised \$64k, with an addi-

tional \$77k in pledges.

The Board's final public business of the evening was the approval of two orders, one in the amount of \$82,284.83 for the town's expenses and obligations, and one in the amount of \$2,106,833, as a payment to the school district.

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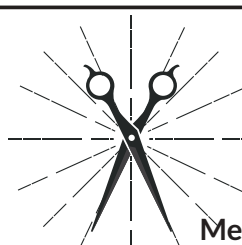
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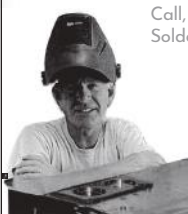


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Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

vote on the bond question was 3 to 2, with Tracy Wyman and Brian Coolidge voting against it.

The ballot includes the candidates for the Selectboard seats in contention this year. Board Chair Tracy Wyman is completing his 3-year term and has chosen not to seek re-election. Seeking his seat are Doug Bailey and David Snow.

The one-year seats now occupied by Cecil-Reniche Smith and Heather Nelson (who was appointed to replace Seth Hopkins earlier this year) are also on the ballot. Ms. Reniche-Smith has chosen not to run for re-election, while Ms. Nelson will appear on the ballot to retain her seat. Also running for those 2 one-year seats are David Atherton, Ralph Ethier, Ray Marcoux, and Aida Nielsen.

The Board also approved a new blanket payroll authorization to reflect the promotion of Jeremy Disorda to Highway Foreman upon the retirement of Shawn Erickson, who steps down this week. Mr. Disorda's hourly compensation will rise from \$30 to \$33.

And the Board approved a purchase order in the amount of \$15,895 to cover the cost of new guardrails on Wood Lane, Marshall Phillips Road, Carver Street, and Wheeler Road. The new guardrails are being installed by Lafayette Highway Specialties of Essex Junction. The cost of the guardrails will be partially offset by an insurance settlement for damage sustained to the bridge on Carver Street when a truck smashed into

the guardrail. Work is anticipated to be completed by June 30.

After the Selectboard finished its work for the evening, the Board adjourned and Cecil Reniche-Smith opened a hearing on the draft of the Town Plan, which has been under revision by the Planning Commission for the last 16 months. Ms. Reniche-Smith is Chair of that committee in addition to her position on the Selectboard.

The Planning Commission has held other public meetings and hearing in order to collect feedback on its draft. By statute, the Town Plan must be updated every 8 years. Without a statutorily current Town Plan, Brandon could be ineligible for certain grants and programs at the state level.

The Town Plan is not binding. Instead, it sets forth an aspirational series of long- and short-term goals for the town in various categories (e.g., housing, childcare, recreation, etc.) The full text of the Plan is available on the town website, at the Town Office, and at the Brandon Library.

Some of the feedback received from attendees involved small factual corrections that did not impact the larger picture. However, some attendees critiqued the Plan on substantive grounds.

Vicki Disorda, for example, took issue with the Plan's treatment of disabled and low-income members of the community. Ms. Disorda felt that the Plan did not address the needs of these community members strongly enough. An ongoing issue in Brandon is the

lack of a laundromat, after the only such facility closed a few years ago.

"Mahatma Ghandi said, 'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated,'" said Ms. Disorda. "I say the greatness of a town can be judged by how its poorest citizens are treated."

Another attendee, Annie Stratton, voiced concern that the town was not doing enough to plan for the effects of climate change. A professional hydrogeologist, Ms. Stratton advised that much of the flood-risk data that towns like Brandon rely on is outdated. She suggested that the Commission include in the Plan a citizen-based committee that would collaborate with the town to assess Brandon's specific flood risks.

Karen Rhodes directed to the Commission and the Selectboard a critique of the town's borrowing practices, which Ms. Rhodes felt were excessive. Instead of borrowing, she suggested that the town find ways to save money.

According to Ms. Reniche-Smith, the Planning Commission does not foresee the need for additional hearings, as there will not likely be any "substantive" changes to the Plan based on the feedback received at Monday's hearing. The next step will be to incorporate the edits from the hearing and submit the plan for the Selectboard's approval at the Board's next meeting, which will take place on Monday, February 12.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Pittsford received a \$60,000 grant from the State of Vermont under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at the Pittsford Town Office, 426 Plain Road, Pittsford, VT on 2/21/24 at 6:30 pm to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of these funds. The VCDP Funds received have been used to accomplish the following activities: Completion of a feasibility study on the Pittsford Village Farmhouse at 42 Elm St., exploring design, costs, and environmental impact of expanding, renovating, and adapting the building to create a childcare center, affordable housing, a community center space, and a café space. Work products included an architectural feasibility study, historic and archeological review, environmental assessment work, cost estimates, grant application preparation, and financing plan. Information on this project may be obtained from and viewed during the hours of Monday-Wednesday 8:00 – 4:30, Thursday 8:00-6:00, Friday 8:00-3:00 at the Town Office, 426 Plain Road, Pittsford, VT. Should you require any special accommodations please contact David Atherton at 802-483-6500 ext. 200 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) #1-800-253-0191.

Town of Pittsford Selectboard

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