

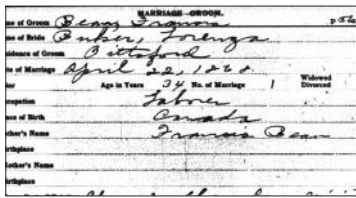
The Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland • Lake Dunmore • Leicester • Whiting • Sudbury • Goshen REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 6

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

\$1



NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Genealogist Michael Dwyer shares the history of the Bean, Beayon, and Pelkey families.

PG. 2



NOT JUST CANNABIS SUPPLIES

Green Mountain Smoke Shop in Brandon expands its offerings under new ownership.

PG. 3



MOTHER & DAUGHTER ACT

Maclure Library in Pittsford to exhibit artwork by Hilda and Martha Belcher, who lived and worked in the town in the early 20th century.

PG. 5



NO REALLY, IT'S THAT BIG!

Record fish caught in 2023.

PG. 20



Rochester's Maple Soul restaurant in Top 100 in USA

BY GEORGE FJELD

ROCHESTER—Rochester's Maple Soul restaurant was ranked among the top 100 restaurants in the country for 2024 by national reviewer YELP. According to owners Jim and Jen Huntington, they are actually in the top 50 at #46! That's quite impressive, considering that Boston alone has hundreds of restaurants and Rochester itself has only 1,099 residents at the last census. Plus, Maple Soul's only advertising is social media and word of mouth.

Chef Jim Huntington and manager Jen Huntington partner to provide a charming venue and delicious food. Set in an old house on Rt 100, in the heart of the village, the restaurant is a series of linked dining rooms with a central and open kitchen. In the first room, a small bar is fronted by 10 taps of

curated draft beer and cider focusing on small local breweries. A rare beer cellar has many unusual bottles fit for a special occasion. There is a varied wine cellar as well. The middle dining room is open to the kitchen where one can watch the food magic happen. The back room is quieter and excellent for a cozy romantic meal. In summer, the porch is open and can be a delightful space.

Jim Huntington is a self-trained chef, after a high-school culinary curriculum. He enjoyed a long stint in the kitchen at Vermont Technical College before venturing into cooking in his own restaurant. He's now been cooking for nearly 3 decades.

A member of the Vermont Fresh Network, Maple Soul sources food from local farms; last week the food on the menu was 85% locally produced. (See Maple Soul, Page 11)



JIM AND JEN Huntington (left and right, respectively) at their restaurant Maple Soul in Rochester. Mr. Huntington is the chef and Ms. Huntington the manager. Maple Soul was recently placed among the top 100 restaurants nationwide by YELP, as determined by the number of positive reviews.

Photos by George Fjeld



Student art gets top marks at the Brandon Artists Guild

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union school district will have artwork on display at the Brandon Artists Guild until February 25. Here, Caroline Lucas, age 7, charmed viewers with a ceramic head that was made in art teacher Jennifer Hogan's art class. See more photos on pages 8 and 9.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Brandon Energy Committee is working toward a greener future

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Despite some very vocal opposition to several “green” initiatives recently, the Brandon Energy Committee (BEC) remains determined to propel Brandon into a greener future. Four of the seven current members of BEC, and one of the group's volunteers, met with The Reporter recently to discuss the committee's work and long-term objectives.

BEC is a town committee whose core-but-not-exclusive mission is to help Brandon achieve the energy goals set out by the state: 1) meet 90% of Vermont's energy needs from renewable sources by 2050 and 2) reduce Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from their 1990 level by 2028 and by 75% from their 1990 level by 2050.

BEC was established by the Brandon Selectboard in 2019. Its 7 members are appointed by the Board. In addition to these appointed members, there are 12 or so volunteers who assist the committee with its various projects. (See Brandon Energy, Page 14)

Names lost in Vermont, Part 17: Bean, Beayon, and Pelkey

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Alexander Bean's (1826–1911) dignified gravestone in Pittsford's St. Alphonsus Cemetery has long beckoned me to explore further the life and Civil War service of this man born in Canada. The easy part was unmasking his name, LeFebvre, from the French word for

Alick Bean, age 20, and Francis Bean, age 35, are listed as farmhands in the household of prosperous farmer Marshall Wood. Certainly, these two men were brothers, yet their stated ages would fluctuate significantly in later records. After Alex Bean's nine-month term of enlistment in Company G, 12th Vt.

baptized as Marie Adeline Pelletier. She and Alex had only three children, one of whom survived his father. Adelaide's siblings, however, were more prolific—two of them marrying their first cousins, thus creating a tangled tree for their descendants.

Having moved after marriage to Georgia, Vermont, Alex accepted a bounty of \$100 and reenlisted for a year's service in Company B, 7th Vt. Cavalry on March 22, 1865. He mustered out in March 1866. According to the reams of depositions in his later Civil War pension file, he returned home to Pittsford with throat and chest congestion. Beginning in 1882, stating his age as 45, Alex initiated the arduous process of qualifying for a disability pension. It took him eight years to win his case, and perhaps to accentuate his infirmity, he kept adding years to his true age so that by the time of his death, he was fifteen years older than he appeared to be in 1860.

I often wondered why his wife, Adelaide, who died on 6 May 1883, age 37, was buried with her parents in the Pelkey plot in St. Alphonsus. The simple answer may well be that her death coincided with the onset of Alex's health struggles; consequently, Adelaide's family paid for her burial. A decade later, on Janu-

ary 20, 1894, in a Catholic ceremony, Alexander [Bean] Lefebvre, age 64, married forty-year-old widow/divorcée Kate (Hagan) (Manning) Parker. During their marriage, Alex applied twice for an increase in his pension, the last coming in the months before his death from tuberculosis on September 20, 1911. Reading the reports of his physical and mental decline was heart-wrenching. Given Alex's penury at the time of his death, I think it likely his comrades from E. J. Ormsbee Post, G.A.R. of Brandon erected his gravestone.

Widow Kate Bean soon moved to Schenectady, New York, where she collected a widow's pension until her death in 1923. That's not the end of the pension file—her daughter-in-law billed the War Department for Kate's

care, and Alex's son, Fred Bean, living in a rooming house in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1930, (See Name lost, Page 14)

MARRIAGE-GROOM.			
Name of Groom	Francis Bean		p 565
Name of Bride	Buker, Lorenza		
Residence of Groom	Pittsford		
Date of Marriage	April 22, 1868		
Color	Age in Years	No. of Marriage	Widowed Divorced
Occupation	Labourer		
Place of Birth	Canada		
Father's Name	Francis Bean		
Birthplace			
Mother's Name			
Birthplace			
Name Party Officiating	Chas. Walker - Cong. Minister		
Town	Pittsford		S. St. Kellogg Town Clerk.

COPY OF THE card file of the marriage of Francis Bean and Lorenza Buker, 1868.

“bean”: fève. Placing him in a wider context of extended family proved more difficult.

A problematic starting point for documenting his life begins with Pittsford's 1860 census wherein

Infantry, on February 5, 1864, he wed seventeen-year-old Adelaide Pelkey, their union officiated by a Protestant minister. Adelaide, one of Julius and Matilda (Belisle) Pelkey's twelve children, had been



ALFRED BEHAM'S GRAVE in St. Paul's Cemetery in Orwell. Photos provided by Michael Dwyer

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RICHARD RENFREW (LEFT) and his son, Evan, stand in their smoke shop/convenience store, Green Mountain Smoke Shop, on Route 7 at the intersection with Country Club Road. The Renfrews have expanded the shop's offerings to include milk, eggs, syrup, honey, and snacks since taking over in October. They will have a 'grand opening' in the spring. Photo by Steven Jupiter

Green Mountain Smoke Shop expands under new ownership

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Rick Renfrew and his son, Evan, are shaking things up at Brandon's only smoke shop. Green Mountain Smoke Shop is located on Route 7, at the intersection with Country Club Road, in the same shopping plaza as Black Cat Tattoo. Like many smoke shops, it's unassuming from the outside. On the inside, however, it's a riot of colorful smoking accessories: everything and anything that a smoker might need, except for the cannabis itself. They even have an ever-growing selection of snacks for the inevitable midnight munchies.

The Renfrews purchased the shop last fall, when its previous owners decided to pursue an opportunity in the food industry. Rick is a painter and power-washer, but wanted something he and his son could grow together.

"Winter is a quiet time in my work," said Rick. "I can help Evan build up the business."

"We'll have a big 'grand opening' in the spring, when there's warmer weather," added Evan. "We'll have cookouts...I make an amazing maple-barbecue smash burger with cara-

melized onions."

In the meantime, the pair have been busy expanding the shop and diversifying the offerings. Epona Farms Dispensary used to rent space in the rear of the store but recently moved to downtown Brandon, giving the Renfrews an opportunity to enlarge their retail space. A number of refrigerated cases line one wall, filled with milk and eggs.

"The eggs are from our own chickens in Forest Dale," noted Rick. "Cheaper than at the supermarket."

Other local products include maple syrup and honey. When all the permits are in place, they'll also offer beer.

But the focus is on smoking accessories: pipes, bongs, papers, one-hitters, dugouts... if you can smoke out of it,

they've got it. Some of the paraphernalia is simple and utilitarian. But for those who like to partake with pizzazz, they also offer a range of higher-end artisanal glass accessories, some made by local artists, such as the wildly colored pipes by local glassblower Tall Tom.

If cannabis isn't your jam, the store also carries a wide range of vapes.

And if you don't smoke at all, you can always just stop in to pick up milk, eggs, and chips.

The store does not carry cannabis or cannabis products.

Green Mountain Smoke Shop is located at the intersection of Route 7 and Country Club Road in Brandon. Open Sunday through Wednesday from 10 to 5 and Thursday through Sunday 10 to 7.

On the inside, however, it's a riot of colorful smoking accessories: everything and anything that a smoker might need, except for the cannabis itself. They even have an ever-growing selection of snacks for the inevitable midnight munchies.

Spotlight On Business FRIDAY HARVEST BAKERY AND GOODS

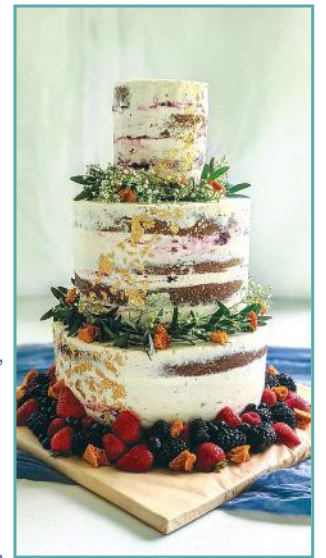


BRANDON AREA
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Brandon.org for more info

Friday Harvest Bakery and Goods is a licensed home bakery based in Brandon. Owner and baker Claire Sinozich has been living in Brandon for four years and providing pastries, cakes, wedding desserts, and more for various businesses and individuals since 2021. Gluten-free and vegan options are available. Grab custom-made goodies for your next event or celebration by reaching out today!

See beautiful pictures of her homemade decadent delights at fridayharvestbakery.com



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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

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Ganache, Raspberry Coulis, and Fresh Raspberries

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After sheriffs' lobbying push, qualifications proposal loses momentum

BY TIFFANY TAN/
VTDIGGER

In the past week, members of the Vermont Senate had twice expected to vote on a proposed state constitutional amendment. But the anticipated floor vote on Proposal 1—which would enable the Legislature to set qualifications for elected county officials—never took place.

Instead, on Wednesday, one of the proposal's sponsors asked that the Senate suspend its rules and send Prop. 1 to another committee for further review. It had passed the scrutiny of the Senate Government Operations Committee.

"We have lingering questions from senators about the proposition," Sen. Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, said in his request to move Prop. 1 to the Senate Judiciary Committee. "Folks wanted to be reassured, for instance, that there weren't other constitutional avenues besides amending the Constitution."

Some of Prop. 1's proponents believe the sheriffs' opposition has eroded support for it.

"I think the fact that sheriffs are actively lobbying us senators has made advancing a vote on Proposal 1 more difficult and has delayed the vote," said Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee and a lead sponsor of the proposal.

The sheriffs' advocacy, she said, has also introduced "elements of skepticism among some senators."

"It's concerning to me that the sheriffs are doing everything possible to avoid accountability and oversight of their positions, especially given the recent history with misconduct of sheriffs," Hardy said in an interview.

Sending Prop. 1 to the Senate Judiciary Committee was an unexpected twist in Senate Democrat leaders' efforts since last session to create more accountability and oversight of sheriffs, following the scandals that emerged from sheriffs' departments around the state.

Sheriffs, as elected officials, can be removed from office only through impeachment. It's a process that House lawmakers have been pursuing since May against Franklin County Sheriff John Grismore, who is charged with assaulting a detained man while he was a deputy. He is also being investigated on allegations of financial crimes.

Grismore remains a sheriff though the Vermont Criminal Justice Council has revoked his police certification. The Vermont Sheriffs' Association, which represents the sheriffs in each of the state's 14 counties, has called on him to step down. Grismore maintains he has committed no wrongdoing and said he is being targeted for political reasons.

Prop. 1's proponents believe that only a constitutional amendment would allow state lawmakers to set qualifications for sheriffs, as well as state's attorneys and assistant judges. Doing so would also create a mechanism for the removal of these officeholders, including probate judges, if they fail to meet those qualifications.

The Vermont Constitution is currently silent on qualifications for these positions.

The Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs supports Prop. 1 on behalf of the state's attorneys. Department director John Campbell said it's better to have clear enforcement mechanisms. (See *Sheriffs' lobbying*, Page 15)



It doesn't hurt to dream

SPRING SEEMS FAR off but when it arrives so will Yellow warblers.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum, Feb. 15th

On Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall Main Floor.

Please enter from the lower level and use the stairs or lift if needed.

The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a forum for the candidates running for the con-

tested seats on the Brandon Selectboard.

3-year term, one open seat
Candidates: Doug Bailey, David Snow

1-year terms, two open seats
Candidates: David Atherton, Ralph Ethier, Ray Marcoux, Heather Nelson, Aida Nielsen

Candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves, share their ideas, and answer questions from the public.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or email info@brandon.org

DUI checkpoints in Addison County

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement Agencies will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in Addison County during the week of February 11-17, 2024.

These checkpoints are focused on people who drink and drive and are under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics and

people who have car seats incorrectly installed.

People are reminded not to drink alcohol and drive and wear their seat belt. All occupants of your vehicle need to be in the proper restraints.

Please make the roadways safe for everyone. If you are drinking alcohol, please designate a sober

driver for your night's activities. Also please put the cell phones away.

Plan Ahead.
Be Prepared.
Prevent a DUI.

Lieutenant Kevin E. Geno
Rutland County Sheriff's
Department

Community Square Dance co-sponsored by Brandon Recreation

Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club is excited to be hosting their second annual Community Dance, on Friday, March 8, from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Brandon Town Hall. This fun eve-

ning, co-sponsored by Brandon Rec, will allow people of all ages to get out of the house and off the couch to dance together in a variety of easy forms. Participants do not need to know

anything about dance to show up, laugh, and have a great time. All dances will be taught. Peter Tobin is an experienced caller. He regularly leads and teaches (See *Square Dance*, Page 5)

The REPORTER

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Thanks for informing us, looking forward to more

There has been a lot of buzz in town on this issue, so I appreciated Jack Schneider's information regarding proposed electric vehicles for our police department. It made me much more informed.

I also read the letter regard-

ing police dogs with much interest, another hot issue. I would love to see our Chief of Police explain why we got a dog and exactly how the PD finds it useful, so voters like myself can get a better understanding. It is not clear to me

how many times Guinness has contributed to our collective safety.

Respectfully,
Jessica Doos
Brandon

Pittsford artists Hilda and Martha Belcher featured at Maclure Library

The Maclure Library in Pittsford is hosting an exhibit of paintings by Hilda Belcher (1881-1963) and her mother Martha Wood Belcher (1844-1930). Martha taught art at Ripley Female College in Poultney (before and later the Troy Seminary of the Methodist Church) and moved to Pittsford in the 1870s. She built a house there in 1880, in part as a home for her mother and sisters (her brother died in the Civil War, and the father died soon after.) 1880 was also the year she married Stephen Belcher.

Hilda was born in 1881. She studied art in New York in the early 1900s; she achieved recognition in 1907 ('The Checkered Dress') and much success in later years. The exhibit covers their collective work from 1872 (Martha: 'View from Killington') to the 1940s (Hilda: 'Sam'). The focus is on paintings with a connection to Pittsford.

Library hours are 10-5 M-Th; 10-2 F-S. The exhibit will run to the end of March.



The changing world needs better

I just want to go back in time for a little while. When I wrote my first two books, The Days of Yesteryear and The Little Red Schoolhouse, the stories I wrote were all about Vermont. You could pull up a chair and have a fireside chat.

The world has changed diametrically since the days I wrote about. It's a troubled world. There are guns in school

rooms. There are drugs around. These things should not happen in America. Now more than ever, let's work together.

Our grandchildren should be future leaders of our country. Let's do better for them immediately—right now!

Sincerely,
Sanford Rouse
Brandon

Square Dance

(Continued from Page 4)

the Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club of Rutland County (regular classes at Lothrop School in Pittsford) and is well versed in teaching beginners! Throw in a contra dance and line dance or two and a fun time will be easy to have! No special clothes are needed; wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. We are excited

to dance on the NEW floor at the Town Hall. It is beautiful! Children are welcome if they can follow directions. All dancers are just \$5.00, and refreshments and door prizes will add to the fun.

For more information:
Lauren Norford
Lauren.castoff8s@gmail.com
Website: CastOff8s.com

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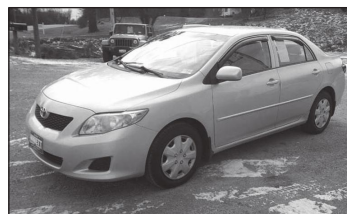
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Obituaries

Joan Elizabeth Alger, 87, Proctor

Joan Elizabeth Alger, age 87, passed away on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center with her loving family by her side.

Joan was born in Bellows Falls on November 2, 1936. She was the daughter of Clarence and Elizabeth (Hayes) Wilson. She grew up in Bellows Falls, where she received her education. She had been a resident of Florence for over 40 years and had recently moved to Proctor. She began her working career as a waitress at the Midway Diner and afterwards worked as a seamstress at the glove factory in Rutland. She later worked as an aide for Rutland Area Visiting Nurses & Hospice for over 10 years, retiring in 2008. She enjoyed bingo, dancing, gardening, the Fiddlers, fishing, and yard sales. She loved country music, especially George Jones. Most of all, she loved time spent with family.



JOAN ELIZABETH ALGER

She is survived by 2 sons, Mark (Cindy) Flagg of North Clarendon and Robert (Ann) Flagg of Stewartstown, NH; 3 daughters, Diana (Steve) Lambert of Proctor, Elizabeth "Libby" (Bobby) Dunbar of Proctor, and Donna (Keith) Wood of Brandon; a sister, Kerry Smith of

Florida; and 1 uncle, Alan (Madeline) Hayes of Cabot. 25 grandchildren, 46 great-grand-

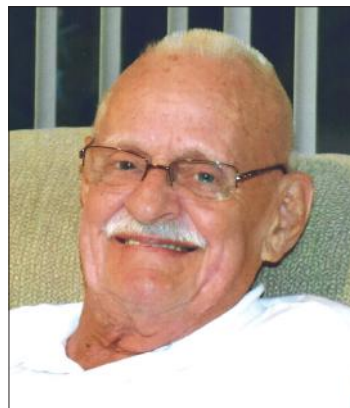
children, 4 great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her husbands. Her first, Robert Flagg, in 1964 and her second husband, Calvin Alger, in 1981; 2 brothers, Kenneth Gordon and Michael Wilson; and a sister, Carley Wilson.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Cheney Hill Cemetery.

A gathering "In Celebration of Her Life" will be held on May 11, 2024 from 12 until 2 PM, at Brandon American Legion Post #55. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to; Regional Ambulance Service, 275 Stratton Road, Rutland, VT 05701.

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

Robert Edward Thomas, 92, Brandon



ROBERT EDWARD THOMAS

Robert "Bob" Edward Thomas, age 92, passed peacefully, surrounded by family, on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at his home in Brandon.

Bob was born in Rutland on June 12, 1931. He was the son of Raymond and Ethel (Kelsey) Thomas. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1949. Following graduation, he joined the United States Air Force. He served in Morocco and San Antonio, Texas during the Korean War. After his Honorable Discharge, he returned home and joined his father at R.J. Thomas & Sons in the building trade. Bob had worked as a carpenter and builder all his life, retiring in 1992. In 1961, Bob and Joan started Thomas Answering Service in their home, 24/7, retiring in 1999. Bob was a civic-minded man who was instrumental in forming the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, where he served for over 10 years. He was also a member of the Brandon Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He belonged

to St. Paul's Masonic Lodge #25 F. & A.M. He enjoyed time with family and in his earlier days he enjoyed boating, water skiing, snowmobiling, gardening, and making maple syrup.

He is survived by his wife, Joan (Keith) Thomas of Brandon, whom he married in Brandon on June 24, 1955; one daughter, Linda Hunt-Balch & her husband Mike of Brandon; a son, Robert E. Thomas II & his wife Deborah of Del City, Oklahoma; three grandchildren, Bettina, Robert III & Kelsey; great-grandchildren Ruby and Naomi; and great-great-grandchild Benjamin. Several nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Kenneth Thomas.

The memorial service "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on February 17, 2024, at 11 AM, at the Brandon Congregational Church. Rev. Sara Rossigg, pastor will officiate. Following the ceremony, the family will receive friends in the church parish hall for a time of remembrance.

The graveside committal service and burial with Military Honors will take place at a later date in the family lot at Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Brandon Area Rescue Squad, or Brandon Volunteer Fire Department, or Brandon Congregational Church.

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

Kenneth Hager Willard, 76, Leicester

Kenneth Hager Willard, age 76, passed peacefully, surrounded by family, on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Ken was born in Rutland on January 24, 1948. He was the son of Clifford and Roberta (Thayer) Willard. He grew up in Wallingford, where he received his early education and graduated from Wallingford High School, class of 1966. He began his working career as a farmer and later established his own trucking company, Willard Trucking. He has driven trucks for over 45 years. He had been formerly employed by Cummings & Sons for several years and most recently still working for Casella's. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, and animals, and was considered a home-grown farmer.

Surviving are his wife, Joyce (Johnson) Willard of Leicester; his children, Rebecca (Tom)



KENNETH HAGER WILLARD

Cleland of Pittsburgh, PA, Craig (Penny) Willard of Manchester, NH, Philip Baldwin Jr. of Brandon, and Brandy (Todd) Baldwin-Stanley of Pittsford; his grandchildren, Brian Little Jr., Chalyn Baldwin-Costa, Corey Willard, Brooke Willard, Dillin Baldwin-Costa, Julie Jackson, Sierra (Jake) Michelle, Jordon Jackson, and Sophie Baldwin; his great grandchildren, Greyson Little,

Brayden Michelle, Everett Michelle, Albert Willard, and James Jackson; his sisters, Frankie (Frank) Burnham of Ira, Linda Davidson of Danby; and his brother, Paul (Virginia) Willard of Pensacola, FL. Several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and two sisters, Louise Stratton and Patricia Morton.

A gathering "In Celebration of His Life" will be held at a later date, time and location to be announced.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to the Addison County Humane Society, 235 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.

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

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

The Reporter has needs.
We're sure you do too!

Wanted: Someone to take pictures at OVUHS basketball games or wrestling matches for Winter 2024 season, so we can include more pictures of local high school students in the paper. If you're attending the games in any case to watch your own kid or you love high school sports, take a few pics for us and help the team gain recognition for their hard work! Give us a call if you're interested; we'd love to be able to publish more high school sports photos! Call George at 802 236-4662 or email george@brandonreporter.com

Join a great group of folks who are chronicling our lives here in Vermont. A few hours of your time each week is what we'd like. Let's make our paper the BEST in the state.

Join The Reporter's sales team part time!
We're all about supporting local businesses and keeping the paper strong. Spend 2-4 hours per week calling on the local businesses in the area that you know best, and let's help those businesses connect with all of our readers! We'll do the training, and provide the camaraderie to keep it fun! You don't have to do it all, just your little bit of it. Call George at 802 236-4662 or email george@brandonreporter.com

SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com



Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

Pittsford-Proctor-Rutland-8

Five weeks in, we've settled into a routine of hearings and floor sessions

Five weeks into the second half of the 2023-2024 legislative biennium, the members of the Vermont House and Senate have settled into the daily routine of extensive committee hearings and very short floor sessions. This schedule is the norm for this time in the session. As a member of the House, I am assigned to one committee while our Rutland County Senators are assigned to two committees: a morning committee and a different afternoon committee. However, the workloads for the Senate and the House are equal.

With only one committee, House members drill down and take copious amounts of testimony on a bill they are working on while the Senators, due to time constraints, will review bills at a very high level, leaving the detailed work to the House! I often say the Senate paints with a broad brush while the House paints with a very fine brush to finish our work and create the best leg-

islation we can. For your information, the members of the House have introduced 845 bills while the Senate members have chipped in with 302 bills and five proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Vermont. How many of the initiatives will make it into law is best answered at the end of the 2024 session in May!

As citizen legislators, we serve a two-year term and meet annually for 18 weeks. Given some of the complicated and complex issues we face, this is not enough time to gather all of the information needed to make informed decisions on the proposed legislation at hand. Often legislation is passed requiring the various agencies of state government to report back to the legislature with further information concerning certain legislative issues affecting their operation. Sometimes more information is needed by the committees of jurisdiction working on legislation to further their work and

create meaningful legislation. What this leads to is the setting up of "off-session" summer study committees, joint committees of the House and Senate, or working groups usually made up of citizens, subject-matter experts, and members of the administration to provide pertinent information to the committees so members of the Assembly can make informed decisions on their work at hand.

For example, the Committee on Transportation, of which I am a member, asked for and received 16 "off-session" reports, some consisting of 80 to 90 pages of very helpful information which we will use in our deliberations while preparing the State of Vermont's \$866 million transportation budget.

I mentioned earlier floor action on bills at this point of the session is very limited, but one bill I have been tracking is: H.839...The Budget Adjustment Act. This bill proposes to adjust the fiscal year FY24 omnibus appropriations act.

The adjustment bill is usually passed with little fanfare, but this year's bill spends an additional \$56 million over the FY24 budget and extends the homeless hotel program from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, adding an additional \$13.2 million to the budget. I could not support this increase in spending and the extension of the homeless hotel program and voted no on the bill. H .839 is on its way to the Senate for their approval or adjustment to the language and spending patterns of the House passed bill. I'm hoping the Senate will reduce the spending and send the House back a revised bill with reduced spending more in line with the original FY24 as passed budget.

Questions, comments or conversations? I can be reached by e-mail at bshaw.leg.state.vt.us, by phone 802-483-2398 or by mail at PO Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763. I'm available to have a conversation concerning our legislative district of Proctor and Pittsford or your Vermont state government.

*Representative Butch Shaw
Vice Chair-House
Committee on Transportation
Pittsford-Proctor
Rutland-8*

Brandon Energy Committee

Solar Project to save Brandon over \$1,000,000



What bond can Brandon voters approve that will save the taxpayers over \$1,000,000 in taxes and pay for itself???

The proposed solar project should pay off the loan needed to build it in 10 years with a positive cash flow and save taxpayers substantially for another 30-plus years.

Here is some background...

The Brandon Energy Committee, with the support of Aegis Solar, studied the GMP bills for the calendar year of 2022 to determine the size of a solar system that would meet the needs of the town. We concluded

that there were \$30,000 in charges available for offset by solar credits from a new system after taking into account the town's existing Green Lantern contract which provides a 12% discount on a large portion of the town's electric accounts.

The town will benefit from a solar system that generates \$30,000 in solar credits as of last year and the town's use is increasing with the recent addition of heat pumps at the town hall and police station and as electric vehicles may be purchased to replace current internal-combustion-powered vehicles.

A 150kW system generating \$35,500 in annual solar credits is the most cost-effective approach to meeting this need. The Fire District has agreed to accept an allocation of any solar credits generated in excess of what the town needs in exchange for a 10% discount on the actual credits allocated.

The bond request is for

\$500,000, though the actual need for borrowing is far less.

The low bidder (at \$468,500) indicates that the construction costs are fixed and that the permitting should be fairly straightforward at this site, as it was at the adjacent Green Lantern project site. The construction can be accomplished this year.

This project qualifies for the new federal Inflation Reduction Act cash rebate for nonprofits and municipalities that will reduce funding needs by 30% or \$148,500. The Selectboard allocated \$60,000 of ARPA funds for this project, and needs up to \$10,000 for non-construction costs. Thus, borrowing should be under \$280,000. The Vermont Bond Bank has just set up a new program offering 2% 10-year loans for such projects that Brandon qualifies for. This will result in payments of under \$31,000 a year for ten years.

The \$35,500 in savings from (See Solar savings, Page 21)



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Jim & Liz McRae

Student Art Show at the Brandon Artists Guild gets an A+

Students from K through 12 in the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union school district (RNEU) had an opportunity this past Friday to have their artwork hung at the Brandon Artists Guild. Art teachers from Neshobe, Lothrop, Barstow, OV Middle and High Schools shared some of their students' work. There were paintings,

drawings, sculptures, and even a computer program!

The show was delightful, with loads of talent on display. You don't need to have a child in school to enjoy seeing these impressive efforts. The show runs through February 25. Check it out while you can!

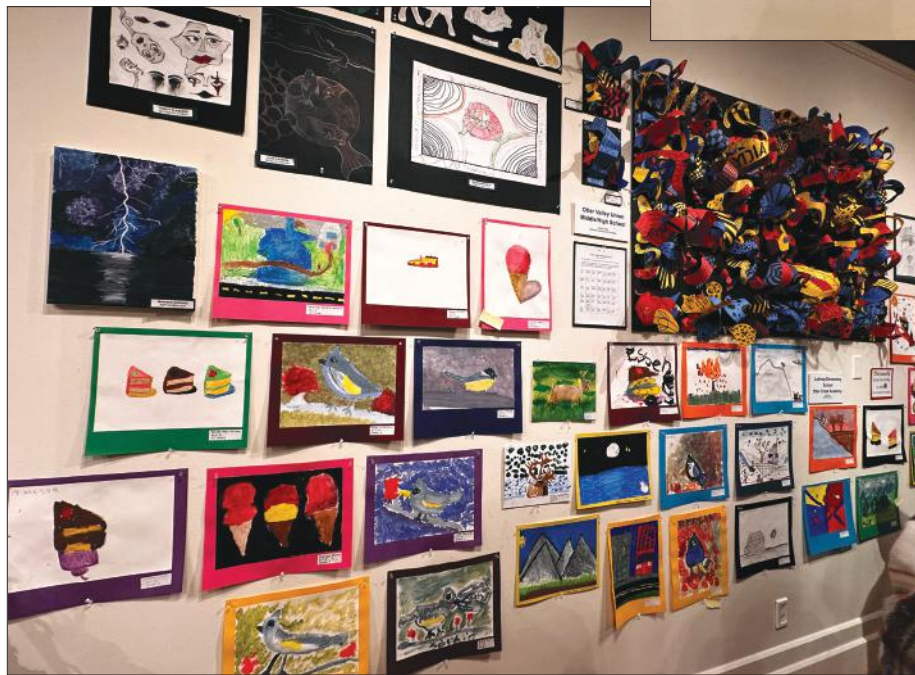
A SELECTION OF some of the work on display at the guild. Highlights included Neshobe student Corbin Giles's "Paint Away" computer program (facing page, bottom right), Neshobe student Jacob Krans's impressive ceramic sea creature (below middle), and Otter Creek Academy student Syzygy Marr-Hilliard's cakes, based on the work of famed pop artist Wayne Thiebaud (below bottom), and Lothrop student Macie Hill's majestic deer (facing page, middle right).



**Photos by
Steven Jupiter**



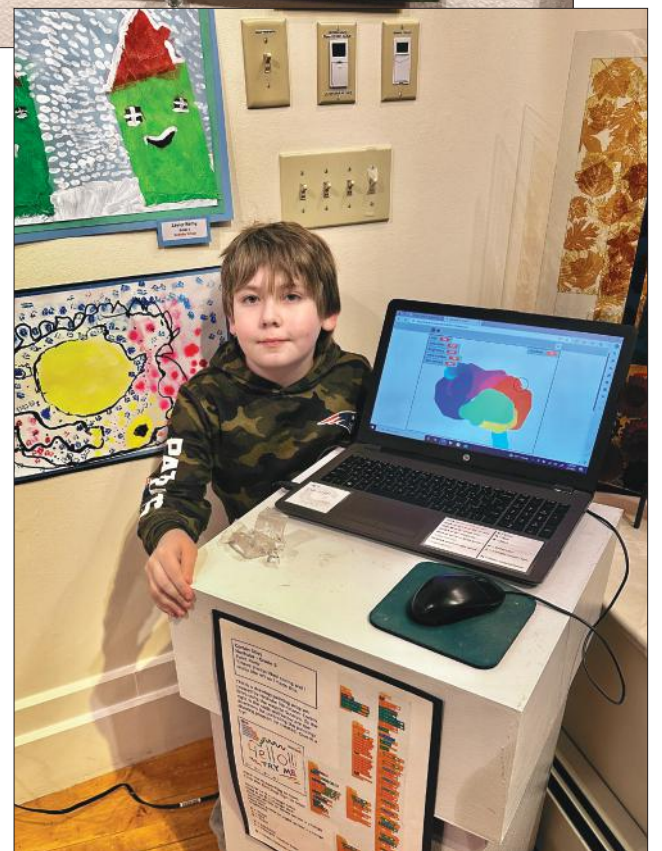
Emery Hummel 7
Barstow Memorial



Macie Hill
Lothrop
Grade 5



Ian Rappeno 7
Barstow Memorial



Rare bird sparked excitement and concern, died of natural causes

BY VT. FISH & WILDLIFE DEPT.

A rare marbled godwit sparked excitement in the birding community this fall when the bird was discovered in Vermont, far from its normal range. That excitement became concern, when the godwit was found dead a little over a week after it was first spotted. New lab results show the bird died from natural causes, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Marbled godwits are about the size of a crow, with stilt-like legs and a long bill used for finding food at the edges of rivers and ponds. They breed in the Great Plains and northern Ontario and migrate to the Gulf and Atlantic Coast for the winter. Although their population is stable in their normal range, godwits do not usually migrate through Vermont. In the past 10 years, there has only been one other marbled godwit reported in Vermont, according to the community science

website eBird.

This marbled godwit was first spotted in North Hero on September 19, 2023. Birders quickly shared the news, and many traveled from around the state to see it.

“The godwit in North Hero was a rare and exciting find, the kind of ‘vagrant’—or bird outside of its usual range—that gives local birders a chance to see a new species close to home,” said Jill Kilborn, bird biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. “That said, it isn’t entirely unusual to see vagrant birds like this godwit in Vermont. Migrating birds can be pushed off course by storms, like the dovekie found in the Northeast Kingdom this past December.”

A little over a week after the godwit was first discovered, birders became worried when it vanished from the stretch of lakeshore habitat it had been frequenting. Some birders worried the godwit could have been harmed by the large numbers

of people who had come to see it. Three days later, a local landowner found the godwit dead and reported it to the department.

Because godwits are rare in Vermont and because this one showed no clear cause of death, Kilborn sent the godwit to the University of New Hampshire Diagnostics Lab for a full disease panel and necropsy. Knowing the attention this godwit had received, Kilborn hoped the results could address some questions and concerns raised by birders.

Although some tests were inconclusive, lab results showed that the godwit had no injuries and a high parasite load. The bird was extremely malnourished and had contracted bacterial and blood infections.

“Oftentimes birds found outside of their normal range are very stressed, and if they can’t find the proper food or cover this can combine with other stressors like poor nutrition and sickness,” said Kilborn. “All evidence suggests

this is what happened to the godwit.”

Although this godwit died from natural stressors, Kilborn hopes to amplify the message already shared by birders who were concerned that viewing pressure could add to the challenges the bird faced.

“If a bird is changing their behavior because you are watching them, then you are too close,” said Kilborn. “This is especially important for nesting birds or rare birds like this godwit, that



may draw a large number of excited viewers.”

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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



MAPLE^{the} COWTM by Matt Aucoin



Maple Soul

(Continued from Page 1)
 duced. Jim and Jen have curated a group of 33 farms that supply their ingredients. They know their farmers on a first-name basis and continue to add farms. They don't haggle with the farmers, don't buy by price, and are happy to take "ugly"

vegetables at full price. One of their criteria is that the farm must allow them to visit. That is dedication to knowing your ingredients. In fact, many evenings, one can find local farmers at the bar for a beer and a burger.

One example of the connection they have with their farmers is Uphill Farm in Rochester. Jim approached the farmers with

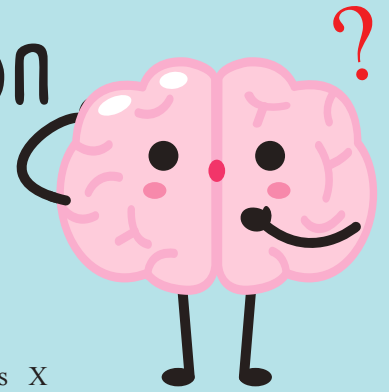
a proposal to have them grow all the restaurant's microgreens year round with a guarantee of buying a certain amount each and every week.. They were a summer farm before but now grow for Maple Soul and the local grocery year round. All the proteins on the menu are sourced in Vermont. The Huntingtons buy 2 or 3 whole cows per year and have them custom cut locally. They also buy locally raised Wagyu beef for



CHEF JIM HUNTINGTON in the kitchen at Maple Soul (above). The restaurant is located right on Route 100 as it passes through the heart of Rochester village, just steps from the town green.



Brandon Brain Buster



A certain town has X residents. 3/4 of these residents own a cell phone. 1/3 of the residents who own a cell phone also own a laptop computer. If 2/5 of those residents who do NOT own a cell phone also do NOT own a laptop, what percentage of the town's total population

does NOT own a cell phone but DOES own a laptop?

- A) 1/10
- B) 3/20
- C) 1/5
- D) 1/4
- E) 3/10

Answer on pg. 21

Happy 90th Birthday February 25, 2024



Card Shower
Barbara Ketcham
 483 Barnard Road
 Pittsford, Vermont 05763

their bacon-wrapped meatloaf, a standard on the menu.

Maple Soul opened 5 years ago and remained open throughout the Covid pandemic. In fact, during this time, they increased meal sales mainly through takeout, kept all their staff employed, ran fundraisers for the food shelf, and sponsored the Warm-A-Soul fund for heating assistance. They employ a staff of 13, including 4 of the original waitstaff who have been there since the first month.

The restaurant has 40 seats and six bar stools, serves 120 meals a

night Wednesday through Saturday via a well thought-out process. Reservations are sequenced to ensure that diners get the full attention of their server. All 3 of Jim and Jen's children have worked in the restaurant, with son Elijah currently working the grill each night.

The Huntingtons initial dream was to have a restaurant that is a hub for local farmers and provides "elegant comfort food" in a mid-upscale environment. YELP followers think Maple Soul has realized its dream.

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

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

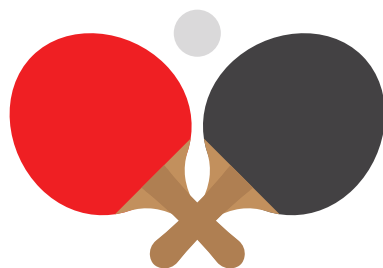
Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

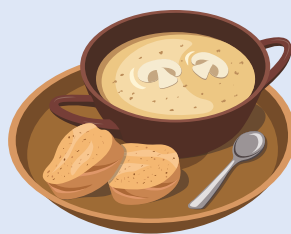
The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!



Sandy's Soup Bowl at Noon Thursday, February 8th

Free Meal for all, provided by the community

Enjoy a homemade bowl of soup with warm bread from 12–1:30 p.m. at the Brandon United Methodist Church.
1 Franklin Street
Brandon, VT



All Welcome

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.

Craft Swap at the Brandon Free Public Library Saturday, February 17, 12–3 p.m.

Have leftover or unused crafting items?
Looking to add to your crafting stash?

Join us at the library for a free craft supply swap! Drop items to donate off during library hours Feb. 10-15, come browse Sat. Feb. 17th noon-3pm.



More info at brandonpubliclibrary.org

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 ex-

perience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

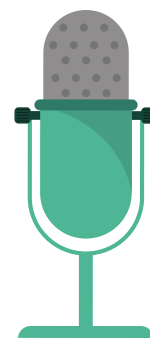
To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on our email list.
\$15/class

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Art 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.

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

Brandon Town

Loud and Proud Sundays, Ladd oversees future musical bands!

Friday Night at the Movies lar movies will be on the big groups in our community! The grade class at OV, and is about over and over again! Admission

Kids Festival! Sat Feb 10th, families! EmmaJeanne Hoops a Heitmann and a Cake Game at



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

Friday 9th

VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region—Become a Hospice Volunteer

Consider sharing your unique talents for a great cause. As a Hospice volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to brighten the lives of patients and their families at a time when they need it the most.

VNAHSR provides training for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Training will be held from 8 a.m.–4

p.m. in the Casella Conference Room at the Rutland office, located at 7 Albert Cree Drive. Training is free and open to individuals 16 years of age and older. Volunteers need to pass a background check. No previous hospice and health care experience is required. Pre-registration and proof of COVID-19 vaccination are required.

At the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR), volunteers play a critical role in enhancing the end-of-life experiences of people facing serious illness and their families. Volunteers represent all life experiences

and families

- Communicating with patients and families
- Understanding basic health and safety precautions
- Understanding patient confidentiality

The Benefit of Becoming a Hospice Volunteer

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

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

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

The Vermont Theatre Lab Presents: Local Voices Sing Songs of Love... A Family-Friendly Evening of Live Music ~ 28 Entertainers from Rutland County ~ ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

\$20 General admission, all ages, B.Y.O.B., with sweets & treats included!

Please purchase tickets online as seating is limited.

LoveSongs.BrownPaperTickets.com (without the www.)

The Entertainers: Josh Bowen • Marit Frink • Richie Litter • Shania Reed • Ashlee White • McKenzie Davis • Dominic Gorruso • James Lorentz • Liz Reedy • Aria Woods • Myles Donohue • Gabriella Gorruso • Heather Munch • Martin Schreine • Cara Woods • Bry Edmondson • Ruby Knudsen • Tess Shook • Jeremy Woods • Josie Fox • Amy Littler • MJ Perkins • Sam Walker • Kasey W. Franzoni • Isabelle Littler • Paige Prouty • Heather Watrous

Coordinated and Accompanied by Jacob W. Patorti

For more information call Merchants Hall 802-855-8081.

For more information or to set up an interview w/ our team, please contact Jacob W. Patorti (802) 558-9397, jpatorti@gmail.com.

The Underground - Listening Room — Jaded Ravins w/ Bow Thayer & Krishna Guthrie

Advance: \$14 // Day of show: \$17

Doors: 7:00 // Show: 7:30

BYOB

Jaded Ravins: Jaded Ravins members Kelly Ravin and Halle Jade began performing together in 2017 after Halle joined Kelly in the recording of his 5th highly acclaimed album "Engine".

Ravin, former lead singer and guitarist of Waylon Speed now performs his soulful americana, and country rock originals with Halle Jade. Halle's tasty harmonies and Kelly's powerful voice along with their engaging entertainment style make them a dynamic and expressive duo*.

Kelly and Halle, who have been called a modern day Johnny and June, perform in large and small venues from New England to Nashville. Whether they're playing at home in backcountry bars, or in big city clubs, Jaded Ravins are always ready to pour their hearts out on stage.

*They will be joined by their drummer for this show!

Bow Thayer: As Seven Days puts it, "Bow Thayer has been kicking up a beautiful racket in Vermont for many years now." Indeed, Bow has been making a racket for as long as he can remember. Making music is who he is. Bow made a name for himself in Boston with 7 League Boots, a rock/reggae band that shared the stage with the likes of Fugazi, The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, and Pearl Jam. 25 years ago he made a life-altering decision to leave the city for the Green Mountains of Vermont. It was there that he explored the Delta blues playing slide guitar for the original Elbow (<http://music.bowthayer.com/album/hog-the-bed>) and began a relationship with the banjo - both in the bluegrass group, The Benders ([https://bow-](https://bow-thayer.bandcamp.com/album/mountain-radio)

[thayer.bandcamp.com/album/mountain-radio](http://bow-thayer.bandcamp.com/album/mountain-radio)), and on his own — that continues to this day. Bow combined these instruments into the Bojotar, a hybrid he designed that incorporates elements of the banjo, resonator guitar, and conventional guitar and was sold in a limited run by Eastwood/Airline Guitar Company. As No Depression put it, "You want inventiveness....I offer Bow Thayer."

Bow's music is always evolving and unpredictable. After recording his classic Americana album, Spend it All, with Levon Helm on drums, Bow forged a daring music path that has explored folk, prog, blues, world music, improv and psychedelia on his journey to bring backwoods music into the present. His new album, The Book of Moss, was born from an acoustic weekly gig that Bow played with his bassist, Alex "Al" Abraham, and they were soon joined by local percussionist, Steve Ferraris. But after recording a demo, everything changed. Al took his own life. Once Bow could listen to what they had from that session, he realized he could finish the album. But it was not an easy album to make. Unable to use the conventional approach, this album had to be built from Al's upright bass lines. Bow brought on his longtime musical partners, Jeff Berlin, to add drums, and three-time Grammy winning engineer, Justin Guip (Levon Helm), to do his magic.

As for the songs themselves, Bow acknowledges "they are about as 'Vermont' as I can get. They sound to me like they literally grew up out of the rocky soil of the Green Mountains. They contain all the trials and tribulations you find living here, as well as some global perspective from our little weird bubble of a state." The Book of Moss, just like A Better Version of the

Truth that was also released after Al's death, is a testament to a talented and kind artist who suffered silently, and showcases the extraordinary bass tracks he left behind.

Baked Potato Bar dinner in Pittsford Saturday, February 10 4:00–5:30 p.m.

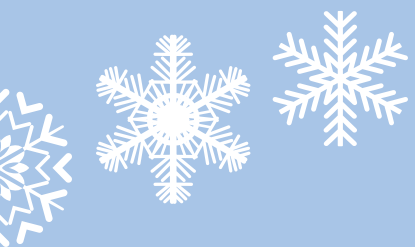
Join us at Pittsford Congregational Church, Village Green, Pittsford. Eat in or take out, includes toppings, desserts, and beverages. Freewill offering. Proceeds to benefit the Pittsford Congregational Church community outreach.

Hall Winter Series

1-3, Brandon Town Hall. Band Dad Jeff stars as they try instruments and form

—The first Friday of each month, pop-up-screen! These will be put on by local the first movie night is hosted by the 9th a rodent who keeps living the same day n by donation!

11am-3pm. Fun activities for kids and at 11, Try It Drum Kit at 12:30 by Marek 2pm! Cake Game is \$5 to enter.!



Homeward Bound Lunch 'N Learn: Animal Reiki

February 15, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Hosted by Maria Farnsworth and Judy Holmes. Location: Homeward Bound, 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury. RSVPs required as there is limited seating. Please register by contacting Hannah Manley at hmanley@homewardboundanimals.org or 802-388-1100 ext. 101. This is a free event. Bring your own lunch, beverages provided! Animal Reiki is a noninvasive and stress-free energy exchange between human and animal. Much like humans, when animals are stressed, sick or injured they can become "imbalanced". When Reiki is shared by a practitioner, the practitioner is offering a



support system for the animal to become more relaxed which can lead to self-healing and thus the animal can "rebalance" itself.

and are drawn to hospice for a variety of reasons, but the defining characteristics that unite them are compassion and the desire to help others. Their many skills are matched to important tasks within our mission.

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

Training Topics include:

- Understanding the Hospice philosophy of care
- Knowing boundaries when interacting with patients



SOME OF THE members and volunteers of the Brandon Energy Committee (from l to r): Erin Ballantine, David Martin, Jim Emerson (Chair), Jack Schneider, and Jeff Haylon. The group is seated in front of the exhibit on inventor Thomas Davenport at the Brandon Museum. Davenport invented the electric motor in Brandon in the 1830s.
Photo by Steven Jupiter

Brandon Energy

(Continued from Page 1)

ects. BEC also receives its own budget, the only town committee so endowed.

Even though the committee ultimately answers to the Selectboard, it has wide leeway to pursue its mission independently.

“We’re one of the most active town energy committees in Vermont,” said Jim Emerson, BEC Chair. “We have a broad goal with no limitations.”

“We can and do act under our own initiative,” added member Jeff Haylon.

“Part of what we do is educate the town, the town manager, and the Selectboard,” said Jack Schneider.

But some of that “education” is failing to persuade recently. The proposal to replace two of the Brandon Police Department’s gas-powered cruisers with electric vehicles met with fierce resistance from some Brandon citizens. And one of BEC’s most significant proposals—a town-owned solar array—is encountering similar hostility.

Both proposals are being criticized for their cost (a \$500K bond for the solar array is on the March ballot) and for the perceived difficulty of recycling what are supposed to be renewable sources of energy. At recent Selectboard meetings, on online forums, and in letters to this newspaper, Brandon residents have expressed skepticism about both initiatives.

“We need to get buy-in from the town,” said Haylon. “It’s gotten wrapped up in politics. We need to say, ‘Regardless of the media, here are some tangible benefits for you.’”

“The debate about the electric

vehicles is good,” added member Erin Ballantine. “Just having the debate is a huge step forward.”

In light of these critiques, BEC is undertaking an educational campaign in the weeks before Town Meeting, posting to Front Porch Forum and publishing letters and columns in *The Reporter* (see BEC’s column on the solar array in this issue, for example.) BEC hopes to convince enough voters to forge ahead with the proposals.

But the members know there are no guarantees. It’s a tough year to be asking for large sums, with property taxes anticipated to rise sharply and another six-figure bond on the ballot for a water tank. However, BEC sees money as a winning basis for the proposals.

“People understand money,” said BEC volunteer David Martin.

“I saved \$3,000 in fuel costs by installing heat pumps,” added Haylon, as a concrete example.

“The solar array will save the town \$1,000,000,” claimed Emerson. “The bond will pay for itself.”

“It’s not just about the environment,” said Ballantine. “The money is persuasive. The cost to charge an electric Ford F150 is less than half the cost to fill the tank of a gas-powered F150.”

Haylon and Emerson pointed out that the resource costs of oil extraction are enormous, but people seem to be fixated on the problems posed by lithium mining and recycling. Those issues, they claim, are rapidly diminishing as the technology improves.

“Lithium isn’t ideal,” said Ballantine. “But it’s better than gas.”

In an ideal world, we would

not even be reliant on cars, the group said. Public transportation, bicycles, shared cars, more accessible walking paths...all of it would aid the environment by lessening the need for individual vehicles.

“Public transportation is lacking, so no one uses it,” said Haylon. “We need to improve public transit. We need to break that cycle.”

There is a sense of urgency to these members’ aspirations. Climate change—heat, drought, floods, storms—weighs on their minds.

“People are already suffering the effects of climate change,” said Schneider.

“Some places will be under water,” said Ballantine.

In addition to the larger, more controversial proposals, BEC also advocates for smaller changes: switching to LED bulbs, weatherizing your home, using heat pumps rather than oil furnaces.

“My mother was appalled by plastic bags in the 1950s,” said Emerson, recalling how his sense of environmentalism was sparked by this small detail at a young age. “She said, ‘We ought not be wasteful.’”

Anyone who’d like to work with the committee is welcome to attend BEC’s meetings (first Monday of the month from 4:30 to 6 at the Town Hall).

“We have an open door for people to join and participate,” said Emerson.

“Even if it’s just to ask questions,” added Ballantine. “We’ve seen the flooding and the outages. We’ve seen the effects. Community is the thing that will get us through this.”

Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

wrote to the pension office asking if he was entitled to any part of his father’s pension. Their curt reply, since Fred was well over 16 [by 18 years!] at the time of his father’s death, was no.

Alex’s brother, Francis Bean, has some enigmatic episodes in his story. According to the Vermont State copy of his Pittsford marriage record, April 22, 1868, he married “Lorenza Buker.” I knew this had to be a bad transcription: the original record in Pittsford’s town office reads “Louisa Buchee” [Boucher]. Their child Alfred was born in February 1869, but mother and child disappeared from history—their fate unknown. By 1870, Francis married a second wife, Philomene Lamoureux, as evidenced by their presence in the census of Wendell, Franklin County, Massachusetts. They moved back to Rutland, Vermont, in 1880 with four children. Francis and family made one last move to Leominster, Massachusetts, where he lived in a French-Canadian enclave, going by the name of Francis Lafave. He died in 1902 and was buried in Leominster’s St. Cecilia’s Cemetery.

Following one more trail of Beans led me to Alfred Bean, 51, day laborer, born in Canada, wife Ann, 41, and eight children as listed in Brandon’s 1880 census. This was of great interest to me because I had already discovered him as the ancestor of students named Beayon whom I once taught at Mount St. Joseph Academy and Otter Valley. Alfred’s grave monument in St. Paul’s cemetery in Orwell inscribes the name as Beham, which is how his name was recorded on his Civil War enlistment. Stymied

momentarily in linking Alfred to a record in Canada, I eventually discovered Alfred’s second marriage at St. Paul’s Church in Orwell which listed his surname as Billion. Nothing numerical about this name Billion which would have been pronounced with two-syllables “Bee Yon.” Now looking for a spelling that resembled Bion, as recorded in Québec parish registers, I discovered the baptismal record of René Alfred Bion, born 7 May 1829, at St. Benoit, Québec, a town absorbed into today’s city of Mirabel. The present spelling of Beayon, after all, correctly replicates the original pronunciation of the name. And one last note to history, Alfred’s father, Claude Bion, immigrated to Montréal from Jouvençon, Saone et Loire, France, sometime before 1821, perhaps leaving behind him the carnage of the Napoleonic Wars.



ADELAIDE PELKEY BEAN'S inscription on the Pelkey monument in St. Alphonsus cemetery in Pittsford (top). Alexander Bean's grave, taken this spring in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week's historic streetscape is the view looking north from the Town Office toward Conant Square and the Baptist Church.

Linda Schmidt called to say she recognizes it as Route 7 going North, with Frank Buntings office & the Episcopal Church on the right.

There is no mistaking the Episcopal Church, and the distant spire of the Baptist Church. The buildings housing the Bookstore and the thrift shop look almost the same. I think Prospect Street was just a driveway at this point. Does anyone know?

This week's photo is a bit more challenging. I hope the photo is large enough for you to see the few clues that are visible. If the leaves weren't on the trees it would be easier to identify.



NORTH ON RT.7 now, and circa 1900.



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

Sheriffs' lobbying

(Continued from Page 4)

nisms — such as suspension or removal — if an officeholder commits wrongdoing.

The Vermont Association of County Judges, which represents assistant judges, has not taken a position on Prop. 1. Nor has the state judiciary, which represents probate judges in the Statehouse.

The Vermont Sheriffs' Association, on the other hand, has vocally opposed the current version of the proposal. Windham County Sheriff Mark Anderson, the association president, said one of the group's concerns is that an officeholder could be removed without due process, since people don't know

Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a lead sponsor of Prop. 1, said the proposal doesn't intend to create a substitute for the voice of voters but rather to uphold the idea of checks and balances in a democratic government.

what qualifications a future Legislature would set down.

"I'm concerned that a political actor, upset with a person for political reasons, could cause a removal of an elected office, not because of any wrongdoing, but because a political person felt that way," Anderson said in an interview. "It basically is a re-

quest to walk blindly into the future and just trust that things will work out. And we are asking, first, for certainty."

He also said the sheriffs' association believes legislators can create qualifications without the need for a constitutional amendment by simply crafting new laws, citing the testimony of a law professor who spoke before the Senate Government Operations Committee last year.

Prop. 1, Anderson said, "could offer an opportunity for good results, but it could also offer opportunity for really bad, unintended results."

Anderson, one of four sheriffs' association lobbyists registered with the state, acknowledged his group has been vocal with senators about its issues with Prop. 1. "We've had open, honest conversations with senators to say these are concerns," he said.

Prop. 1 was originally scheduled for a Senate floor vote last Friday, then again on Wednes-

day. The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to begin hearing testimony on it next week.

Any state constitutional amendment must first be approved by the Senate and House in two successive biennia, meaning a general election is held in between, before the proposed amendment goes before voters.

When asked if recent events are a sign that Prop. 1 won't succeed in the Legislature, Baruth, the president pro tempore and one of its sponsors, disagreed.

"This is our way of checking our work, dotting the I's and crossing the T's," he said.

Baruth said the Senate Judiciary Committee is well respected on its take regarding how state laws interlock with the Vermont Constitution. The committee's work, Baruth said, would address some senators' questions about whether a constitutional amendment was truly necessary in their quest for accountability and oversight of elected county officials.

Nevertheless, Baruth didn't want to make promises about Prop. 1's fate.

"What I can promise you is, we believe we're engaged in protecting the public here, and we're not going to stop trying to get that written into the Consti-

tution," he said in an interview. "My hope is that it will pass."

Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a lead sponsor of Prop. 1, said the proposal doesn't intend to create a substitute for the voice of voters but rather to uphold the idea of checks and balances in a democratic government.

Sears said his committee

plans to call back the witnesses who've appeared in the government operations committee and potentially solicit new testimony. His committee, he said, could add to or subtract from the previous committee's work.

To pass in the Senate, Prop. 1 needs the support of two-thirds of the chamber, or 20 votes.

"I've heard that we're close but not there," Sears said.

REAL ESTATE



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



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WITH US



Mim's Photos

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



Recognized



Terry Ferson of Brandon recognized this photo of Gerry Leffler. She was married to Frank Leffler. They lived in Leicester and owned the *Leffler Store* near Leicester 4 corners on Route 7 for a number of years. Terry believes she went into real estate.

Kurt Kimball also recognized Gerry Leffler. He confirmed that she and her husband Frank owned *Leffler's Store* store in Leicester for many years.



Kurt came through for us this week, and was also able to identify the man on the left with a trophy (striped shirt) as Donald Fillion. Kurt told us that the event was an arm wrestling tournament and Donald was the champion.

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

Or call us at 247-8080

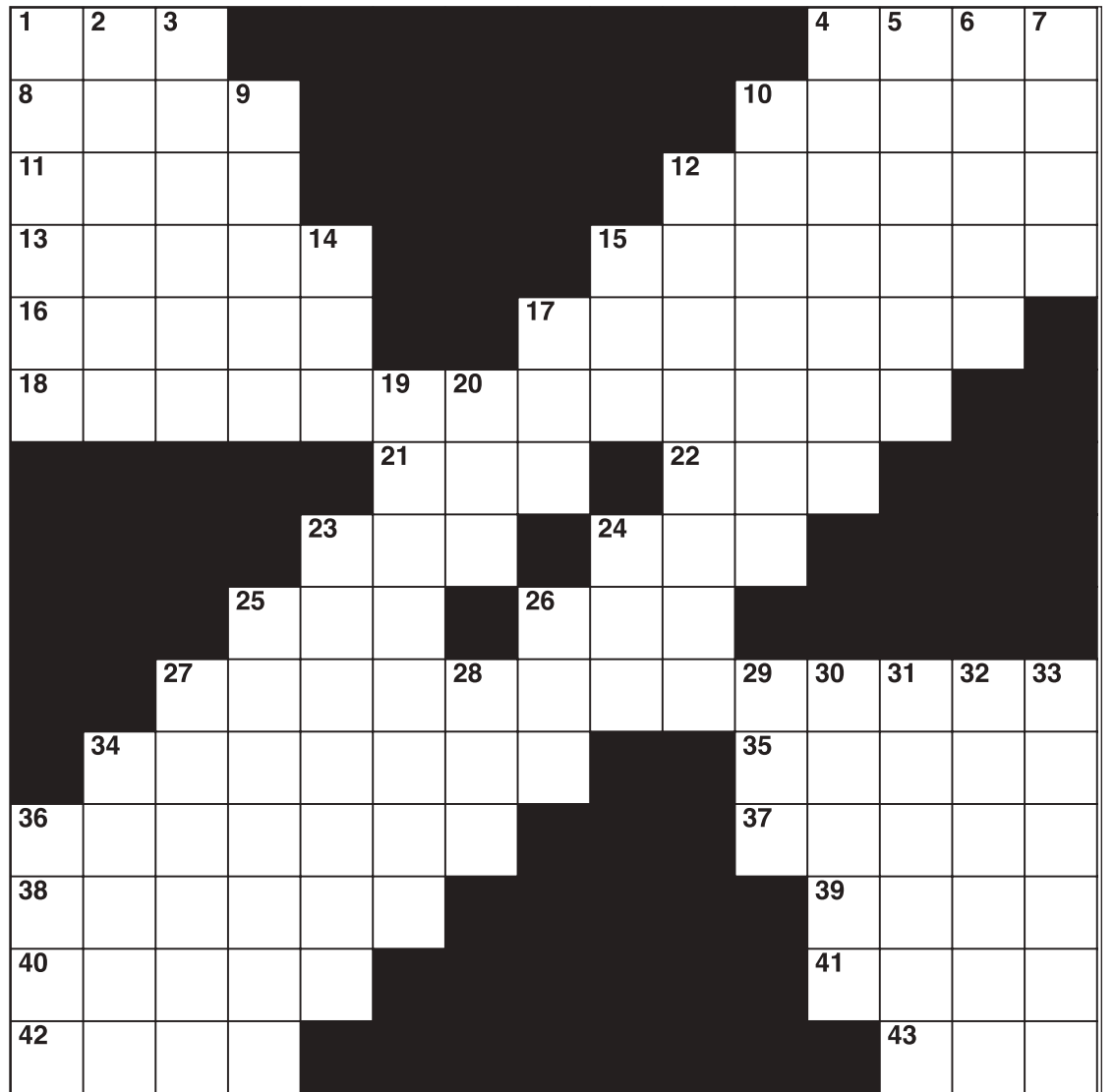
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. One point south of due east
4. Coagulated blood
8. Fortifying ditch
10. Devotee of Hinduism
11. Trunk of a tree
12. Bank note
13. Capital of Guam
15. Study again
16. Covered with hoarfrost
17. Opening
18. Legendary Rolling Stone
21. Stray
22. Computer storing system
23. Signal
24. Pitching statistic
25. Human being
26. Malaysian isthmus
27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
34. A gland
35. Bluish greens
36. Endangered
37. Three-dimensional
38. In a way, precipitated
39. God associated with dissolution
40. Blemished
41. Flow or leak slowly
42. Disco legends The Bee ___
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

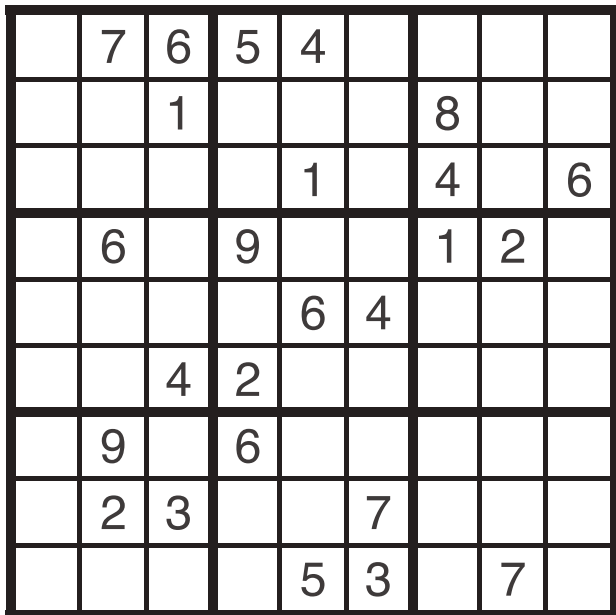
1. A way to board
2. Get down
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. First day of month
5. Eurasian shrubs
6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
7. Small lake
9. Belief
10. Sunrooms
12. Metric weight unit
14. Vasopressin
15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
17. One-time family room staple
19. Got back together
20. Anger
23. Sang merrily
24. Sea eagle
25. Military men
26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
27. Found in the sea
28. Protects from weather
29. Type of medicine
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Lack of disunity
36. One-time European Commission officer



Sudoku

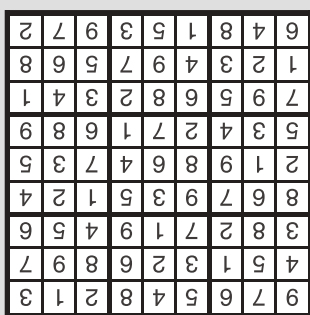
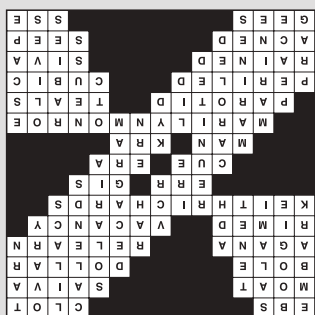
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

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



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Find a new love at the Rutland County Humane Society!

This February, fall in love with a new pet! We know we have the puurrfect match for you! Dogs, cats, and small animals too - we have them all! And they'll all provide great companionship and a lifetime of love. Our adoptable animals will be sure to snuggle with you and cuddle up to keep you warm. To learn more about our adoptable animals, visit our website at www.rchsvt.org or call the Adoption Center at 802.483.6700.

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



MEET GIZMO - 1 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. WIREHAIR TERRIER. BLACK.

Gizmo is here and looking for her people! Gizmo was brought to us in December, and sure is a lot of dog in a small package. She's loving, energetic, and enjoys playing with her human and canine friends. Puppy bows and belly rubs are a favorite for Gizmo, but potential adopters should expect a slow reception and possibly multiple visits to win her over. Gizmo needs her boundaries respected and enforced with visitors and will do best in a quieter home, perhaps with another dog or older child. If you want to meet her, the Adoption Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-4 pm.

MEET HAM - 2 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. GREY TIGER/WHITE.

Who does not love a cat named Ham? He is a very handsome boy! He does love attention but, can very easily get overstimulated. He will let you know when he has had enough love! That is just his way of communicating. It is perfectly normal cat behavior! He is a goofball who loves to be the center of attention! Ham came to us on January 21st because his previous owner could no longer care for him. We did discover that he is not a fan of his feline friends. Therefore, he should be the only cat in the household! We have no known history on how he will do with dogs or children. He will make a great sidekick! Ham has made lots of friends here but, he is ready for his next adventure! If this lovable goofball sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with him! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.



**RUTLAND COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY**

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



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

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



The following large print book was donated by Brenda Whittaker:

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, donated in memory of Charles H. Whittaker

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African-Americans lived side by side. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking to institutionalize a deaf boy, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial Black community leader, who worked together to keep the boy safe. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times,

love and community sustain us.

New in DVDs

Four Daughters (NR- documentary)

Intimate interviews and artful re-enactments of a Tunisian woman's life with her four daughters, two of whom become radicalized and go missing, and are portrayed by actresses for the reenactments.

The Eight Mountains (NR)

Set in the Italian Alps, The Eight Mountains tells the story of two men, their friendship, and their journeys of self-discovery, over a forty-year period.

Godland (NR)

Set in Iceland near the end of the 19th century, a young Danish priest travels into the depths of Iceland where he clashes with locals with his intent to build a church and photograph its people.

The Royal Hotel (rated R)

Two women backpacking in the Australian outback run out of cash and take a live-in job at a remote pub for quick money. But they soon find themselves in increasingly unnerving situations, including human trafficking, cannibalism, a serial killer with a crush, and a ghostly presence.

DID YOU KNOW?

We're planning another craft swap! Watch our website or Facebook page for details.

Thanksgiving (rated R)

After a Black Friday riot ends in tragedy, a mysterious Thanksgiving-inspired killer terrorizes Plymouth, Massachusetts - the birthplace of the holiday.

Mudbound (rated R)

In the aftermath of WWII, in the muddy Mississippi Delta, two families--one black (the Jacksons,) and the other white, (the McAllans)--are forced to share the same patch of land, keeping a frail race-based peace with each other.

Butcher's Crossing (rated R)

In 1874, a young man drops out of Harvard to go west to Butcher's Crossing to hunt buffalo but falls in with a mysterious guide.

The Sandman: Season One (TV-MA)

After escaping from decades of captivity, Morpheus, the personification of the dream realm, sets out to find his lost objects of power and discovers a larger plot devised by his siblings, The Endless, to destroy his realm.

A proposed constitutional amendment looks to shore up equal rights protections

More than two-thirds of the Vermont Senate has signed on to legislation that would add an equal protection clause to the state's constitution. In calling for the change, the bill's proponents have cited attacks on marginalized communities nationwide and U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have whittled away key federal protections.

Proposal 4, sponsored by 23 senators, seeks to amend Article 7 in Chapter 1 of the Vermont Constitution to say that "the government must not deny equal treatment and respect under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin."

The amendment would ex-

pand upon existing language within Chapter 1 that describes all people as being "born equally free and independent." The new addition would further establish the principles of equality and liberty "by ensuring that the government does not create or perpetuate the legal, social, or economic inferiority of any class of people," according to the Proposal 4 statement of purpose.

The U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment already contains an equal protection clause, but Rev. Mark Hughes, executive director of the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, told the Senate Judiciary Committee last week that Proposal 4 is "urgently needed" to advance protections to every resident in Ver-

mont given "emerging federal challenges." Pointing to recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings overturning *Roe v. Wade* and affirmative action in education, Hughes said policies that protect marginalized groups are at risk across the United States.

Amending the Vermont Constitution is an arduous process — first the Legislature must pass a proposal in two successive biennia before sending it to voters. And so far another proposed constitutional amendment, Proposal 1 — which would allow the legislature to establish qualifications for sheriffs and other county officials — has attracted more attention in the Statehouse.

But in an interview last (See *Rights protections*, Page 23)

Brandon Police Report

January 29

- Received a call from a homeowner who was away from home saying that he believed the pipes may have burst inside his residence and requested that someone check on it. The Brandon Fire Department (BFD) was called to respond.

- Conducted a VIN verification on a snowmobile.

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

- Assisted the Pittsford Police with traffic control when a tractor trailer slid off the roadway on the Florence Truck Route on Kendall Hill Road.

- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road at Paint Works Road for a defective taillight. Warning issued.

- Conducted a patrol on West Seminary Street due to concerns by area residents of an individual displaying erratic behavior in the neighborhood recently. No activity observed.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Park Street for a red light violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at High Street for speeding and defective equipment. Warning issued.

- Responded to a residence regarding a custody dispute between two women over a minor child. The child was returned to the mother and the other party was advised of her options regarding seeking visitation rights through the court system.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for failure to yield at flashing lights. Warning issued.

January 30

- Assisted the Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a medical call involving an individual who was having a diabetic emergency. The patient was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center for treatment.

- Received a 911 hang-up call from an apartment building on Mulcahy Drive. It was determined that there was no emergency and that the 911 alert was activated by an individual who had pressed the wrong button in the building's elevator.

- Responded to Green Mountain Smoke and Vape on Franklin Street for a burglary alarm activation. The responding of-

ficer determined that the alarm was false and that the motion detector had been set off by a banner moving inside the business.

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license.

- Received birth certificates that were found in a parking lot.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Wood Lane for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Town Farm Road at Forest Dale Road for speeding. The officer determined that the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Brandon Police Department (BPD). She was released on a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 2/20/24 at 12:30 p.m.

- Conducted a community policing detail at Otter Valley Union High School during the Varsity Boys Basketball game. A foot patrol was conducted, and the officers interacted with staff and students.

- Conducted a patrol along West Seminary Street and Conant Square due to ongoing complaints by area residents of and individual displaying concerning behavior. No activity observed.

- Attempted to stop a vehicle on Franklin Street that was exceeding the posted speed limit, traveling over 80 miles per hour and crossing back and forth over the center traffic lines and fog lines. A brief pursuit occurred, which led into Pittsford. The vehicle, which continued at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour, then turned its lights off and was operating without headlights. The Rutland County Sheriff's Department assisted with the pursuit, which was terminated after the officers lost sight of the car near West Creek Road. BPD believes that this is the same vehicle/operator that recently fled from the Addison County Sheriff's Department several weeks prior, which led to a pursuit coming into the Town of Brandon.

January 31

- Received a complaint regarding several threats between minor children via Snap Chat. Investigation is ongoing.

(See *Police report*, Page 19)

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

- Vehicle stop on Center Street at Union Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Opened an ongoing investigation into a parking lot hit and run that occurred on January 30 at the Hannaford's Supermarket.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Stopped by the Otter Valley Union High School to attend the dual wrestling match, as part of the department's community policing initiative.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for a red light violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on High Street for failure to display license plate(s). Warning issued.

February 1

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road and North Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Conducted a civil standby on Mulcahy Drive regarding individuals from out-of-state who were requesting assistance in retrieving an elderly family member's cat from another resident at the apartment complex who had been temporarily taking care of it, but now refused to return it. The animal was subsequently returned to the family without issue.
- Vehicle stop at Nickerson Road for failure to yield. Warning issued.
- Took fingerprints for a substitute teacher.
- Took fingerprints for a student teacher.
- Took fingerprints for foster parents.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for display of registration plates. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol on North Street in the area of New England Woodcraft. No activity observed.
- Conducted traffic enforcement on Forest Dale Road. No violations observed.
- Checked the welfare of an elderly man after receiving a complaint that the individual had stuck multiple curbs in downtown Brandon while driving.

February 2

- Received a call about a motorcycle crash that occurred in 1997. No record of a crash occurring involving the individual who called was found.
- Vehicle stop on Country Club Road at Severy Farm Road for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road and Stone Mill Dam Road for an unsafe lane change and speeding. Two tickets issued.
- Received a late report of a sexual assault on a minor child by another juvenile. Investigation is ongoing.
- Took fingerprints for employment purposes.
- Responded to a residence for a report of a woman climbing into the window of a residence on Stanton Road. Officers determined that the woman had been staying at the residence as a house guest and that the homeowner wanted her to leave. The homeowners were advised that formal eviction proceedings would need to be conducted to have the individual legally removed from the home.
- Conducted traffic enforcement at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street. Traffic control was provided after several pieces of lumber came loose from a pickup truck, causing a roadway hazard. No violations were observed.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road at Paint Works Road for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Cattails Restaurant for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street. One vehicle stop was made for speeding. No tickets issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.

issued.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for failure to stop for a flashing red light. Warning issued.
- Received a call of a suspicious vehicle stopped on Quenneville Drive. The caller ultimately advised police not to respond as it was a misunderstanding and that the individuals were just looking for a neighbor's residence.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity in the Conway Terrace trailer park involving lights that were allegedly on in an abandoned trailer. Officers checked the trailer in question and spoke with area residents. No suspicious activity was found or observed by the neighbors.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street at High Street for failure to stop for a flashing red light. Warning issued.

February 3


- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for registration not showing. Vehicle was found to be a new purchase had in fact been registered.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Van Ness Drive for multiple infractions. Ticket issued for being an unlicensed operator.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Nickerson Road for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

February 4

- Responded to a residence on Country Club Road for a man with dementia who was lost. The man was returned to his family safe and uninjured.
- Conducted a patrol of Conant Square. Vehicle stop for a stop sign violation.
- Vehicle stop on East Seminary Street. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road and McConnell Road for a speeding. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for speeding. Ticket issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Wood Lane. Warning issued.
- Investigated a forgery complaint stemming from a previous police call where a woman had been taken into custody for multiple charges.

- after it rolled over. The juvenile was transported to the hospital for his injuries.
- Vehicle stop on Marble Street for failure to yield at an intersection. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Arnold District Road for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for driving at unreasonable and imprudent speed when a special hazard exits. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Country Club Road for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Conducted a welfare check on an elderly man who went to the complainant's residence asking for someone unfamiliar to them and appeared confused. The man was found to be fine and did not need assistance.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for driving on the median. The officer observed that the driver showed signs of impairment. The driver was subsequently arrested and charged with DUI – Second Offense. The driver was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 2/20/24 at 12:30 p.m.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



cares for you will not notice your insecurities. Take every concern individually and give it thought.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
The more challenging path may prove the best one to take as your work on a certain task, Leo. Dig in and start figuring a way out to the other side.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Information coming to you could have you feeling nervous about your financial security, Capricorn. If this is outside your area of expertise, you may want to sit down with a planner.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, there is so much to do around the house that you may not know where to start. Spring cleaning comes a month or two early. Ask for help if you're feeling frazzled.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Confusing messages from work may find you reconsidering plans that you already put into motion, Aquarius. Get more information before modifying your plans.

ARIES March 21-April 20
Creativity may prove elusive this week, Aries. You want to get into a crafty project but you simply can't find traction just yet. Don't give up too soon.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Pisces, your mind is all over the place right now, so it could be difficult to focus on mundane things like chores or other activities right now. However, don't push them off.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
Taurus, a distracted friend or loved one may not be good company over the next few days. Reach out and offer to be a sounding board to help this person re-center their focus.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You may be in the mood to expand your knowledge on one or more subjects, Libra. Visit the library or a bookstore and pick up something that piques your interest.

GEMINI May 22-June 21
Are you feeling preoccupied, Gemini? You can't seem to focus on one thing or another and friends will start to notice when you are in their company.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Scorpio, you may pick up on some vibes when hanging out with others that just don't fit in with your line of thinking. Give it some time before you cut any ties. You may be misinterpreting.

CANCER June 22-July 22
Romantic matters are going very well right now, Cancer, even if you may not feel entirely confident. The person who

~~~~~

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 9 – Carmen Miranda, singer (d)  
Feb. 10 – Bertolt Brecht, playwright (d)  
Feb. 11 – Damien Lewis, Actor (53)  
Feb. 12 – Bill Russell, basketball player (d)  
Feb. 13 – Stockard Channing, actor (80)  
Feb. 14 – Renée Fleming, soprano (65)  
Feb. 15 – Sir Ernest Shackleton, explorer (d)

## Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 17



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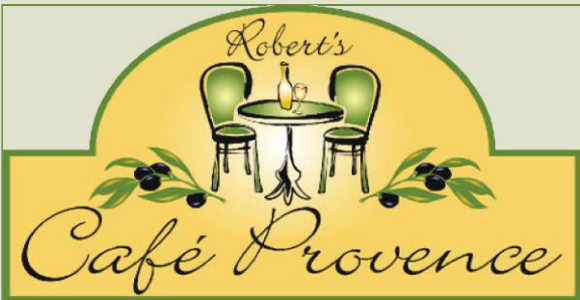


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# New fish record established in Vermont in 2023 for Longnose Gar

**BY VT. FISH & WILDLIFE DEPT.**

RUTLAND—Vermont Fish and Wildlife today announced that a Longnose Gar taken by a bowfishing angler in 2023 has been certified as a new state record.

In May of 2023, Pennsylvania angler Jeremy Bicking was out bowfishing in the evening on Lake Champlain and took a gar that weighed 18.6 pounds. This big fish measured 54 ¾ inches in length, a ¼ inch longer but 3 ounces lighter than the current record Longnose Gar taken by rod and reel in 2007. State records are kept separately for four species of fish that can be taken both by hook-and-line and bowfishing.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department fisheries biologist Shawn Good, who administers the state's Record Fish Program, says in recent years, anglers have expanded their species preferences to include many of the state's underappreciated but equally challenging native sport-fish species.

“While fishing remains excellent for more traditional sport-fish species such as bass, trout, walleye, and pike, there are so many other fish out there



**ANGLERS CONTINUE TO reap the benefits of successful long-term sea lamprey control and an improved walleye stocking program on Lake Champlain, with many fish over 10 pounds being caught in recent years. This fish, taken in 2023 by Grand Isle, VT angler Nausori Osasa was just under 12 pounds.**

records, two other notable fish were entered in the State Record Fish Program in 2023 – an 11.86-pound Walleye from Lake Champlain and a

sleepers for big fish,” said Good.

“In fact, if you’re talking exclusively about trophy sized Lake Trout, the Northeast Kingdom is where you want to be,” said department fisheries biologist Jud Kratzer. All 69 Lake Trout exceeding 20 pounds that have been entered in the Record Fish Program over the years have come from Kingdom waters. And 530-acre Echo Lake has produced four of them, with the largest being just shy of 30 pounds. That’s remarkable for a lake of that size.”



**JEREMY BICKING TOOK this 18.6-pound Longnose Gar while bowfishing last May on Lake Champlain. It beat the existing bowfishing record set in 1996 by just under a pound.**

that can provide amazing action with real trophy potential. Fish like bowfin, gar, freshwater drum, suckers, and even fallfish – Vermont’s largest native minnow species -- the opportunities are endless,” said Good.

Although not new state re-

25.6-pound Lake Trout from Echo Lake in Charleston.

“While Lake Champlain gets most of the attention for Lake Trout fishing opportunities and action in Vermont, many of the inland lakes in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom are real

While several Kingdom lakes do offer the best possibility of a Vermont lake trout over 20 pounds, Good says the average size tends to be smaller overall than what anglers will find in Lake Champlain.

On Lake Champlain, Good says that the 11.86-pound wall- (See Longnose Gar, Page 21)

# Longnose Gar

(Continued from Page 20)  
eye entry is a testament to the ongoing successes of fisheries management efforts on the lake.

Good says the department's cutting-edge walleye hatchery on Grand Isle, and the continued success of long-term sea lamprey control by the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative (comprised of Vermont Fish & Wildlife, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) has only helped bolster walleye and other sport-fish species in the lake.

"It's been amazing to see what anglers are catching lately on Champlain for big walleye. The population has really been booming in the last few years, with lots of 10-pound-plus fish being caught. As one of the fisheries biologists on the lake, it's really heartening to see our hard work and long-term man-

agement efforts paying off for anglers."

For more information on Vermont's fishing opportuni-

ties, Record Fish Program and more, visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Fish page at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/fish>.



**THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM** region of Vermont hosts several lakes that support abundant, naturally reproducing lake trout populations with the occasional trophy, such as this 25.6-pound fish taken in Echo Lake last year by Roger Stoddard of Morgan, VT.

# Solar savings

(Continued from Page 7)  
the solar credits will be reduced by operating expenses starting at about \$4,650 and growing from there, (including the discount for allocations to the Fire District). The solar credit savings have gone up at least 2% a year on average over the last decade, and costs will likely increase faster. In addition, when productivity degradation is factored in, the cash flow from the project will grow over the life of the project.

Over the 40-year life of the project, the system is projected to save taxpayers over \$1,000,000, (optimistically \$1,300,000) after paying off the loan.

Two of the contractors bidding on the project consider decommissioning costs to be an irrelevant consideration, as the panels are expected to be producing at over 80% of their capacity in 40 years. The panels are far stronger than glass and have a very long life. The system will still be producing

a strong positive cash flow beyond the 40-year projection we have made.

A third contractor suggested decommissioning costs "may be required" and determined that \$25,000 would be the likely cost in 40 years. This number is consistent with the New York standards for estimating decommissioning costs. Extending the lease contract for a year will very likely cover this cost, though the system more likely could be sold just like a used vehicle, as it will have additional productive useful life.

We encourage your support in one of several ways. Please ask questions, raise concerns, and let's get to what's best for the town.

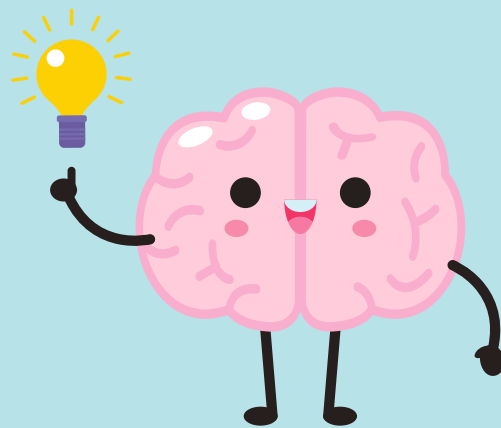
We see this as a great opportunity to save tax dollars...a result rarely achievable!!

Jim Emerson  
Brandon Energy Committee  
[brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com)

## Brandon Brain Buster Answered

Answer: B

The simplest way to approach this is to choose a number to represent X. Let's say that X = 1000. In that case, 3/4 or 750 own a cell phone, which means that 250 do not. We also know that 1/3 of the 750 who own a cell phone also own a laptop. 1/3 of 750 = 250. So, 250 people own both a cell phone and a laptop, which means that 500 people own a cell phone but do not own a laptop (since the total number who own cell phones is 750). We know that 250 do not own a cell phone, so 2/5 of those residents, or 100 people, also do not own a laptop. If 100 people own neither a laptop nor a cell phone, then 150 do NOT own a cell phone but do own a laptop (since the total that don't own cellphones is 250.) It is these 150 residents that we were asked to find (i.e., those who do not own cell phones but do own laptops.) 150 out of 1000 = 150/1000 = 15/100 = 3/20.



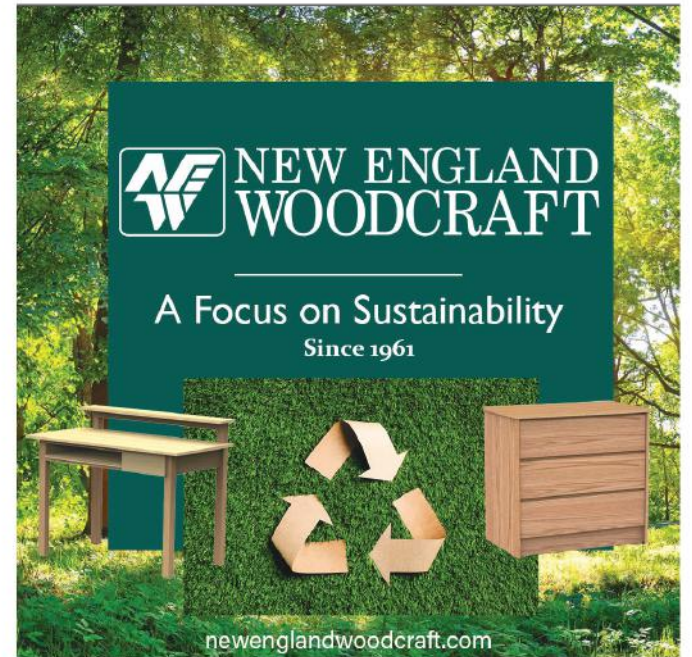
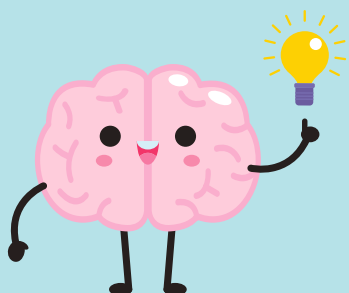
We can present this in a chart, where C+ = has a cell phone, C- = does not have a cellphone, L+ = has a laptop, and L- = does not have a laptop.

|       | C+  | C-  | Total |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| L+    | 250 | 150 | 400   |
| L-    | 500 | 100 | 600   |
| Total | 750 | 250 | 1,000 |

If we want to present it mathematically, the chart would look like this:

|       | C+   | C-    | Total |
|-------|------|-------|-------|
| L+    | 1/4x | 3/20x | 4/10x |
| L-    | 1/2x | 1/10x | 6/10x |
| Total | 3/4x | 1/4x  | x     |

We are looking for the folks who do NOT own a cell phone but DO own a laptop. They're represented by C-/L+, which is 3/20X.



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Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

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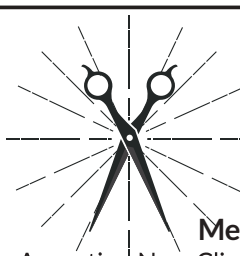
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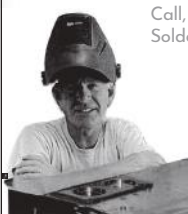


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## Preserving the past: Pittsford Historical Society elects new officers

**THE RECENTLY ELECTED** officers and trustees of the Pittsford Historical Society (PHS) met at Eaton Hall to plan activities for the coming year. Seated: Bill Powers, Past President; Tom Browe, President; Standing: Anne Pelkey, Museum Curator; Michael Dwyer, Trustee; Tammy Hitchcock, Vice President; Ivy Dixon, Events Coordinator; Alicia Malay, Trustee; Elizabeth Simpson, Re-

cording Secretary; Barbara Willis, Trustee; Terri Davis, Treasurer. A team from the society will share digitized images from their glass negatives collection on PEG TV's "Historically Speaking" next month. Photo by Steve Belcher, PHS Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor.

## Rights protections

*(Continued from Page 18)*

Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, the Senate Judiciary Committee chair, said Proposal 4 ranks high among the committee's priorities and seems to have "a great deal of support" among his colleagues.

"In light of United States Supreme Court rulings regarding the 14th Amendment, I think it would be important to try to get a statement of equal rights into the Vermont Constitution," he said.

Vermont Law and Graduate School Professor Peter Teachout, who specializes in constitutional law, told the committee in testimony that adding an equal protection clause is important "for the simple reason that there isn't one in the Vermont Constitution right now."

Article 7 is "not an adequate substitute," Teachout wrote in a memo submitted to lawmakers, noting that it was never intended to serve as an equal protection clause. Adding such a clause would provide stronger constitutional backing for the

Legislature to pursue "policies and programs aimed at countering the effects of 'systemic racism' at the state and local level," he wrote, particularly in the current political context "where we can no longer count on the federal government to do that work under the 14th Amendment."

However, in his testimony to lawmakers, Teachout took issue with the language of the clause and recommended creating a separate article for the equal protection language, rather than weaving it into Article 7 as currently proposed, in order to underscore its independent significance.

Jay Greene, a policy and research analyst in the state Office of Racial Equity, and Big Hartman, executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, also offered comments in support of the new addition.

"Our office supports Proposal 4 because it creates an explicit commitment in the state constitution to the work of dismantling systemic racism," said Greene who urged legislators to

consider protections "based on equitable treatment and not just equal treatment."

Greene shared an example of a program giving free bicycles to everyone who shows up. But if it only offers adult-sized, foot-powered bicycles, it leaves out, and consequently discriminates against, children and wheelchair users. "So equity is when you give people (the kind of) bicycles they need," Greene said, noting that this may cost more or take more effort.

One of the bill's primary sponsors, Sen. Ginny Lyons, D-Chittenden Southeast, told the judiciary committee the amendment was especially needed now in light of a "radical change" in public attitude towards certain people and groups since the 2016 presidential election. "We know how quickly the culture can change, we've seen that," she said.

Lyons first began discussing an equal rights resolution with Senate colleagues in 2017 and put forward an amendment with the support of several groups in

2019, but it did not advance, she said.

"I think you have an opportunity really to help move this

along," she told the judiciary committee last week, "and I sincerely hope that you will take it up."

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

#### Notice to Property Taxpayers— 3rd Qtr Payment Due

Notice is hereby given that payment for the property taxes assessed upon the grand list of the Town of Brandon for the **3rd quarter of the fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 is due February 15, 2024.** Please furnish the remittance slip with your payment. Payments may be made by mail or by dropping in either of the two drop boxes located in front of the Town Office and at the Neshobe School or electronically through our online payment service which can be found on our website. Thank you.

Susan Gage,  
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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | 8:00 PM**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | 7:30 PM**

**MONDAY, MARCH 4 | 7:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 8 | 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9 | 7:00 PM**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14 | 7:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | 7:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29 | 7:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30 | 7:00 PM**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31 | 6:00 PM**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5 | 7:00 PM**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11 | 7:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12 | 7:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19 | 7:00 PM**

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