

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 32

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

\$1



GARDENING CORNER

Lyn Desmarais visits Jan Sherman's lovely gardens in Leicester.

PG. 3

PRIMARY PRIMER

A rundown of the candidates on next Tuesday's primary ballots.

PG. 4



ART'S WELL IN ORWELL

Orwell Artists Group had its 2nd art fair on Saturday.

PG. 7



SUNSHINE VILLAGE CELEBRATES! Saturday's Pittsford Day was a huge success!

PGS. 12-13



OV HOSTS THEATER GROUP

"Lucky Stiff" will be the first community-theater production at OV in over 20 years.

PG. 18



PUNKSTOCK gave us THE YEAR OF THE CREATURE!

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Last Saturday, Estabrook Park was host to Punkstock 2024, a celebration of all things punk, especially music. The brainchild of Lennon Philo and sponsored by Pine Grove Organics, the one-day festival was non-stop music from 12:30 to 10 pm. Eight bands played to the great delight of the enthusiastic crowd. A wide variety of vendors braved the high temperatures and high humidity to sell wares and food as well as share the cutting-edge musical vibe. Unfortunately, no creatures were visualized. Philo said, "I don't know that we hit 300 attendees but I think it was a very

successful event!" When asked about returning next year, he stated, "We've got the date booked, we've got the headlining bands booked, and the NPO is being formed!"

Philo's attention to detail at the first Punkstock was impressive. The event was free and provided free water for hydration and a cooling mist tent next to the performance tent. Mike Mitrano handled the audio duties running the big board to dial in the sound. Parking was easy and well supervised. Staff were easily spotted in their lo-goe shirts.

Brandon's OOTSE was there, sharing their artsy focus (See Punkstock, Page 14)



BRANDON'S LENNON PHILO, one of the organizers of the Punkstock music fest, which romped and stomped at Estabrook Park on Saturday, August 3. Philo is already planning next year's event!
Photo by George Fjeld

Pittsford SB rejects VT Ed tax in symbolic vote

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—In a symbolic vote on Tuesday, July 30, the Pittsford Selectboard rejected the education tax rate set by Montpelier. The unanimous vote was intended to send a message and carries no legal weight. It does not relieve the town of its obligation to impose and collect the education tax from its taxpayers.

After a particularly contentious budget season that saw residents across the state reject many school districts' proposed budgets multiple times before ultimately voting yes, Montpelier was finally able to calculate the education tax rate that dictates the largest share of Vermonters' property-tax bills. The impact on Vermonters' FY25 tax liability was significant.

Pittsford's education homestead rate for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) is \$1.7195 and the education non-homestead rate is \$1.9152. The homestead rate applies to properties used as primary residences. The non-homestead rate applies to all other taxable real property. This means that for every \$100 of assessed value for a homestead, the owner will pay \$1.7195 in educa- (See Pittsford SB, Page 18)



A SAMPLING OF the strange and unique offerings at Brandon's Little Twisted Gallery on Carver Street. Run by Jamie Ruggerio, the space is a change from the pastoral art often found in Vermont art galleries.
Photos by Steven Jupiter

Brandon's Little Twisted Gallery reopens with twisted little art

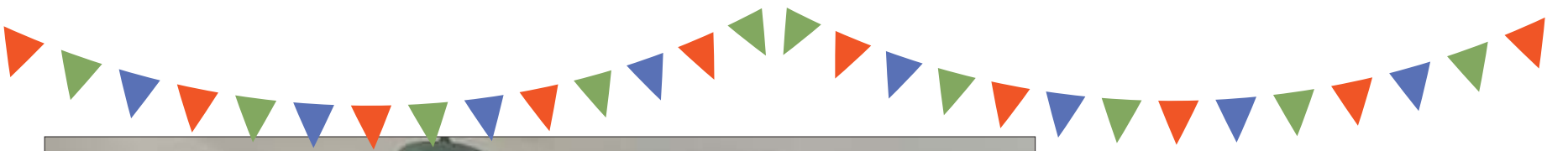
BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—It seems as if every Vermont town has an art gallery where you can buy paintings of Holsteins and haystacks. While lovely, however, the bucolic ain't

everyone's cup of tea. If you like your art with a darker edge, check out the superlatively weird offerings at A Little Twisted Gallery (ALTG) in downtown Brandon.

Founded on Carver Street by Ja-

mie Ruggerio 11 years ago, ALTG has recently undergone a major transformation and reopened in the carriage house of the property (the gallery was formerly in a section of) (See Little Twisted Gallery, Page 5)



Still Otter Proud!

BOB BAIRD SUBMITTED this photo and said, "The Otter Valley Class of 1969 celebrated 55 years since graduation with a reunion dinner on Saturday, August 3rd at the Lilac Inn in Brandon, followed by breakfast the next morning. The event was attended by 33 OV graduates from 1969 as well as 20 spouses, partners, and guests, including retired OV faculty members Chuck Memoe and Gene Childers. Darlene Trombley Kratavil traveled the longest distance, coming from Creston, California. Lee Wiley, who lives in Clam Gulch, Alaska, attended by FaceTime.

BRUCE GEE AND Bob Baird, organizers of the event, said all who attended were thrilled with the excellent food and service provided by the staff at the Lilac Inn. Many attendees said it was their best reunion ever."

See some of our newest inventory all week at Field Days



WWW.STONEMOTORS.COM



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

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





GARDENING CORNER

Jan Sherman's garden delights

BY LYN DESMARAIS

LEICESTER—Wow. I know when I am in the presence of a master gardener. I never get tired of visiting their gardens. Where do I start? It is midsummer and the last full week of July. I am lucky enough to be at Jan Sherman's gardens in Leicester again. I have seen them countless times as I drive by.

Jan's gardens, even her overflow gardens, are neat as a pin with nary a weed. She apologizes for not having all her flowers deadheaded. I am still struggling through my first full weeding of all my gardens, and she has far more gardens than I do. Her largest garden flows from south to north along the west side of her property on a slope. This allows you to see all her flowers and she has collections that flow up and down and sideways. It's just lovely. She uses a lot of repeat colors and shapes, and the gardens vary from full sun to applied shade to deep shade. She even has a true rock garden. It's a garden sprawled on top of and along an enormous boulder. Her other gardens are island gardens sprinkled around her property, often anchored by trees. These gardens add great interest to the property. The island gardens were formed where the soil was poor, there was competition from the trees and there were rocks. You'd never know it now. As we walked about, I saw hundreds of butterflies and hummingbirds.

Jan is the gardener who has used a pickaxe



on most of her property. Jan is also an indefatigable member of the Rutland chapter of UVM's master gardener certification program. UVM has also added a newish master compost certification course. I loved taking UVM's master gardener course last year and am excited to tell you all about it. It was fully online. Deb Heleba, State Outreach and Educational Coordinator, ran it flawlessly. There is a professor's lecture once a week. Each professor is an expert in their field and is often a farmer, arborist, or landscaper. Each student is allowed to ask a question of the professor. There is then a second live zoom class later in the week where the professors answer these questions and often give more details about the (See Gardening Corner, Page 6)



Spotlight On Business WHITTAKER REAL ESTATE, INC.



RUTLAND COUNTY
CHAMBER
of Commerce
Brandon.org for more info

We are a long time Real Estate Business that has been serving Rutland County and Addison County; particularly Lake Dunmore, Fern Lake, and the Brandon areas.

Let us assist you with your Real Estate Needs. We know the area. Ask us about the county, its people and why people enjoy living here.



Mt. Pleasant Acres
Tom & Carolyn

Reap the rewards of membership for just \$20 today!

Take Good Care of Yourself

- fresh local and organic produce
- hormone free dairy products
- no artificial colors or preservatives - ever!
- lots of great tasting food that's good for you

WASHINGTON STREET / MIDDLEBURY
OPEN DAILY 8-7
388-7276 / MIDDLEBURY.COOP

MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Vermont JEEP WEEKEND
August 10-11, 2024

Briley's STONE F.K. INC. OFF ROAD

at Pittsford Village Farm, Saturday, August 10, 2024 • 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Join us for a fun-filled Jeep weekend sponsored by Briley's Chrysler Jeep, Stone CDJR, and F.K. Inc Off-Road. Saturday afternoon enjoy beautiful Jeeps, live music, and more!

\$500 cash prize for a Show N' Shine.
Sunday will be an all-day group trail ride on a Vermont Class 4 Road.

42 Elm St. • Pittsford, VT

PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG

Primary Elections

Tuesday August 13th, 2024

Primary Election Summary

BRANDON ONLY

Vt. State Representative
Democratic Party: Stephanie Jerome (incumbent)
No other candidates on any party's ballot

Republican Party: Joshua Bechhoefer

Vt. Secretary of State
Democratic Party: Sarah Copeland Hanzas (incumbent)
Republican Party: H. Brooke Paige

PITTSFORD-PROCTOR ONLY

Vt. State Representative
Republican Party: Alicia Malay
No other candidates on any party's ballot

Vt. Auditor of Accounts
Democratic Party: Doug Hoffer (incumbent)
Progressive Party: Linda Gravell
Republican Party: H. Brooke Paige

COUNTY AND STATEWIDE OFFICES

U.S. Senator
Democratic Party: Bernie Sanders (incumbent)
Republican Party: Gerald Malloy

Vt. Attorney General
Democratic Party: Charity R. Clark (incumbent)
Progressive Party: Elijah Bergman
Republican Party: H. Brooke Paige

U.S. Rep to Congress
Democratic Party: Becca Balint (incumbent)
Republican Party: Mark Coester

Vt. State Senator from Rutland County (3 seats available)
Democratic Party: Marsha Cassel, Robert J. Richards
Republican Party: Brian Colamore, David Weeks, Terry K. Williams (all incumbents)

Vermont Governor
Democratic Party: Esther Charlestin, Peter K. Duval
Progressive Party: Marielle Blais
Republican Party: Phil Scott (incumbent)

High Bailiff for Rutland County
No candidate listed for any party

Vt. Lieut. Governor
Democratic Party: Thomas Renner, David Zuckerman (incumbent)
Progressive Party: Zoraya Hightower
Republican Party: John S. Rodgers, Gregory M. Thayer

Voting in **Brandon** at the American Legion from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Vt. State Treasurer
Democratic Party: Mike Pieciak (incumbent)
Progressive Party: Tim Maciel

Voting in **Pittsford** at the Pittsford Town Office from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voting in **Proctor** at the Proctor High School Gym from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Nothing to see here...

THIS EASTERN SCREECH Owl was enjoying the warm sun. This species of owl comes in two color morphs: red and gray.
Photo by Sue Wetmore

The REPORTER
A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary; Mitchell Pearl; Shelly Williams.

Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator

Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

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

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

The Art of The Pig

SILENT AUCTION

Brandon Town Hall
August 16-18

AUGUST 16TH & 17TH:
10AM-5PM

AUGUST 18TH:
10AM-4PM

Little Twisted Gallery

(Continued from Page 1) the main house). The space is chock full of bizarre, unusual, unexpected, and just plain freaky art, objects, and cards. Nothing graphic or obscene, just work that deviates from the mainstream you'll find in other Vermont galleries.

"I wanted it to be the kind of place where you can come in and spend hours looking at everything," said Ruggerio in a recent conversation at the gallery. Ruggerio shows original artwork, unique vintage objects culled from estate sales, material related to the holy trinity of nerd genres (sci-fi, fantasy, and horror), and glass artwork that he produces himself in the studio attached to the retail space.

Ruggerio has been working with glass for 25 years or so, having learned the craft down in Maryland, where he'd drive 1.5 hours each way to be able to spend a few hours in a glass studio. But he caught the glass bug, despite the many challenges glass artists face: it's expensive, it requires a lot of equipment, and it can be physically painful.

"You have to enjoy hurting," he laughed, recounting a time when he was working with such intense heat that a brass necklace he was wearing burned his chest. Over the years, he's moved away from furnace work to the more manageable demands of lampwork, where the glass is manipulated with handheld torches at a workbench. The quality of the work is not diminished, however.

"I strive for mastery of the medium," he said. "People often think my work is done in a furnace."

Because of the type of market

ALTG serves, Ruggerio makes a lot of small glass objects, such as colorful Christmas ornaments or flawless clear orbs with colored patterns suspended in the solid glass, that folks feel comfortable snapping up on a whim. But even those, he says, take a surprising amount of skill to produce well. Glass is finicky and it takes years of practice to learn how to bend it to one's will.

Ruggerio's glass studio is adjacent to the retail space and large windows allow customers to watch him at work. He's even willing to give one-on-one lessons to anyone interested in learning the basics of the craft.

But the majority of the gallery is given over to the brazenly bizarre art and objects that prompted Ruggerio to call the place "twisted."

There are fantastic 3-D sculptures based on molds of animal carcasses, painted to look like exposed muscle and veins. There's artwork based on beloved genre movies and characters. He once had a large painting of Winona Ryder's character in Beetlejuice that he ended up missing after someone bought it. The display cases are filled with all sorts of

unique knick-knacks, priced so that chances are someone looking for something strange won't have to leave emptyhanded. Even if all you need is a greeting card, ALTG has an edgy selection you're not likely to find anywhere else.

In the early days of the gallery, Ruggerio says folks were a little apprehensive about coming in, unsure whether it was a store or a museum of oddities. But over the years, he's developed a reputation in the area.

"No one around here has anywhere to go for just weirdness," he said. Or for conversation about alternative spirituality, sci-fi movies, fantasy novels, or a slew of other arcane topics that Ruggerio is fluent in.

So, if you're into the "twisted" and unexpected, drop in and have a look. Jamie is happy to talk to you about his work and his wares.

The gallery is open Thursday 1:30 to 5 p.m., Friday 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday 1 to 5 p.m., and by appointment. You can contact the gallery at alittlewistedgallery@gmail.com or (802) 465-1661.



ABOVE: JAMIE RUGGERIO in his gallery. Over his right shoulder is visible one of the wall sculptures of flayed animals made by taxidermist Robert Kennedy. Left: Examples of Ruggerio's own glasswork. He offers small glass objects that demonstrate his mastery of the medium but won't break the bank. He produces the work in the gallery itself.



Restaurant guide

Robert's
Café Provence

From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

Wednesday - Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Want a reservation? Please book through the website <https://cafeprovencet.com> or call (802) 247-9997

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

Franklin's
FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

Full Menu 7 days a week
Eat In or Take Out
Available for Parties

Prime Rib Every Friday & Saturday from 4-9 p.m.

25 North Street, Proctor 📞 **802-459-3320**

Ad design included in pricing
Call 802 236-4662, or email george@brandonreporter.com for more information

Tuesdays
Summer Concert Series
JUNE 18 - AUG. 13, 2024
TUESDAYS @ 6PM
42 Elm St., Pittsford, VT
across from Kamuda's

Concerts are outside on the Village Farm grounds. For extreme weather, concert is canceled. Check PittsfordVillageFarm.org. This event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

August 13 — Mr. Moose and Friends

Saxophonist Zak Hampton is a career musician and teacher. Along with the talented musicians he surrounds himself with, Zak is committed to the study, performance, and education of jazz.

FOOD BY SUSTAINABLE EATS

PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG

Gardening Corner

(Continued from Page 3)

subject from their personal experience. There is a textbook with readings that also becomes a great resource. The class has weekly quizzes and one test. It was very, very helpful and informative. The classes' goal is to help home gardeners know the latest science about plants, to become teaching resources themselves, and to know where to go to get more information. Now I am an intern. Part of the course is 40 hours of volunteer work with other master gardeners at approved projects and this has been great fun. I'll now turn this over to Jan to tell you more about what is happening at the Rutland Chapter projects and also about the master compost program.

Jan: The Rutland EMG Chapter is very active in many corners of Rutland County. Our goal is to train volunteers to use science-based gardening information to help all Vermonters improve their gardening, leadership and environmental stewardship skills. We are involved in several projects including maintaining the trailhead at

Pine Hill Park, designing, planting and maintaining 10 display gardens at the Vermont State Fairgrounds, and manning the EMG educational and compost booths throughout the duration of the fair, the Rutland Town School Education Program, The Boy with the Boot garden in Wallingford in collaboration with the Wallingford Library and Town of Wallingford, and our annual plant sale where we sell over 1000 perennials to help fund our projects. The Vermont Master Composter Program runs for 8 weeks each year. The course provides training to volunteers who'd like to help Vermonters learn how to become better composters. The program is supported by and offered in collaboration with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation.

So just jump on line at UVM:
www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/extension-extension-master-gardener-program.
www.uvm.edu.master-composter-program.



NINE & DINE
GOLF & DINNER

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH
JULY 27TH
AUGUST 3RD
AUGUST 24TH

5:30PM SHOTGUN
\$60/2-SOME
CARTS ARE \$20/PLAYER

Call the Golf Shop
or Email Mandy to Sign up!
(802) 247-3611
milnegolf.mandy@gmail.com

Brandon Voters...
Please vote in our Primary on August 13th.
It has been an honor to serve my community in Montpelier.
Together we can create a Vermont that works for all of us!

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us | www.stephaniejeromevt.com
(802) 683-8209

Visit our website

Vermont Camera Works

www.vermontcamera.com

Hours
Thu - Sat 10-5

If you love classic film cameras you need to pay us a visit.
Leica, Zeiss, Rolleiflex, Nikon, Voigtlander and many others.

(802) 483-9357 3200 US RT 7, Pittsford
vew@vermontcamera.com Jim & Liz McRae

Art's well in Orwell: the Orwell Art Festival



THE ORWELL ARTISTS Group had its 2nd annual art fair on the green in Orwell this past Saturday. Artists working in a multitude of mediums showed off their work.



Photos by Steven Jupiter

Calendar of events

August

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Youth Class at 4:30 and Adult Class at 5:30. Beginners and spectators welcome. Classes at Neshobe School Gym until mid-July, then returning to Town Hall. Visit www.AikidoVermont.org for more info.

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2–5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open. All are welcome in.

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

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

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

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

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

2024 Live at Kennedy Park line-up

August 10

Electrostatic Cats, small band, big sound

August 24

Jim Shaw, Folk, old-time, blues, pop oldies

September 14

Melissa Moorehouse, Singer/Songwriter

September 28

Bird Boombox, Alt. Folk/Rock Trio

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

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

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

Looking forward to seeing you in class!

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

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

Upcoming activities at Maclure Library



BAG “Art of the Pig” tour ending in silent auction

August 16–18

Brandon's Art of the Pig, the 25th anniversary event of the Brandon Artists Guild, is wrapping up their tour of the town shop windows & restaurants. Beginning August 16 & 17th from 10-5 pm and Sunday August 18th from 10-4 pm, the unique pig creations will be found at the Brandon Town Hall for a Silent Auction. On Sunday the 18th from 2-4pm there will be "Bites & Bidding" refreshments and an opportunity to meet the pig creators.

All bidding ends at 4 pm. These wonderful creations can make excellent gifts to family & friends or just wonderful new art for YOUR walls. Join us.

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

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

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

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

have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

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

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

From 10:30–11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland, Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati)

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.

2024 Music at the Riverbend lineup

Aug 7

Breanna & the Boys
Local folk rock power trio

Aug 14

Tom Caswell Blues Band
Providing authentic blues sounds in the Chicago, Texas, Delta and West Coast styles.

Aug 21

Extra Stout
Vermont's Premier Irish Band

Aug 28

Red Hot Juba
Soul, swing, rock n roll, blues and country music

Rokeby Museum Pie and Ice Cream Social August 11

Ferrisburgh, Vermont: Having a great day is as easy as pie at Rokeby Museum's annual Pie & Ice Cream Social. Come hungry, and plan to enjoy music and games on Sunday, August 11, from 1 to 4 pm.

This special day includes yards and yards of homemade pies, ice cream donated by Ben & Jerry's, live music from Vermont Folk Life Sugar in the Pan Trad Band, raffle baskets, croquet, and badminton on the lawns. Let's Grow Kids will have table with games for kids! The historic house and museum exhibitions will also be

open to the public.

Admission to Pie Day music, games, and museum exhibitions is free. Pie and ice cream are \$8 per serving, \$2 for ice cream, and \$1 for beverages. At the end of the event, if any pies are still available, they will be sold for \$20. Raffle tickets are 1 ticket for \$5 and 5 tickets for \$20.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the newest Underground Railroad, this is an excellent opportunity to support the museum! Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of an Abolitionist

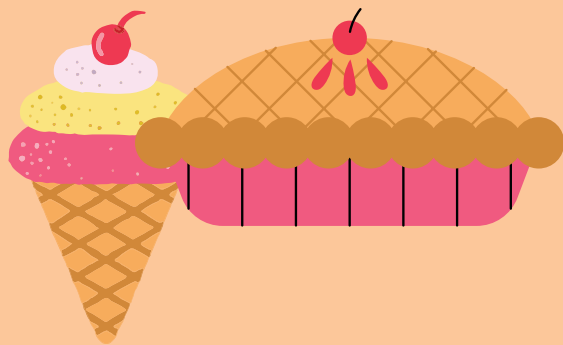
Family is a groundbreaking exhibition that explores the Robinson family's complexities and the Underground Railroad's history.

road's history.

Marble Trail Financial and Gaines Insurance sponsor this event. Thanks to dozens of pie bakers and to City Market, King Arthur Baking Company, Oriental Trading, Poorhouse Pies, and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream for making the Pie Social possible!

About Rokeby Museum

Rokeby Museum is a 90-acre historic site and National Historic Landmark designated for its exceptional Underground Railroad history. From 1793 to 1961, Rokeby was home to four generations of the Robinson family, who were farmers, abolitionists, artists, and writers. The Museum is located on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh. Open daily until October 13. Guided tours are available Wednesday through Monday at 11 AM and 2 PM or by appointment. www.rokeby.org



Brandon Senior Center Game Day

Come join us every Friday at 2:00 p.m. Cards, darts, puzzles, board games, coloring.

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 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a

good time. A great way to pass a 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

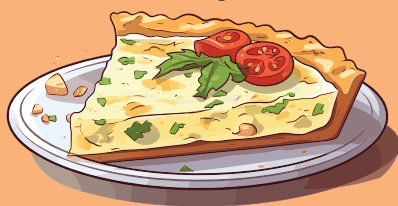
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

Quiche Luncheon at Shoreham Congregational Church August 17

Come to a Quiche Luncheon on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at the Shoreham Congregational Church. For only \$10, you can enjoy a slice of our famous meat, vegetable, or cheese quiche along with salad, beverage, and angel cake with Vermont strawberries for dessert! It is a great time and place to relax with friends after the activities of early August. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help those in need.



Friday 9th

Bandwagon Summer Series: Slavic Soul Party!

Fiery Balkan brass, irresistible beats, Roma (Gypsy) accordion wizardry, and virtuoso jazz chops make Slavic Soul Party! NYC's official #1 brass band for BalkanSoul GypsyFunk. These nine musicians pump the sounds of New York life through a Balkan brass filter, making new music out of immigration, integration, and ingenuity. The band's Tuesday night residency in Brooklyn has become a destination for music fans from around the world, and is famous for "delivering a great time." (New York Times)

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold onsite. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts. This performance is co-presented with The Stone Church and Secret Planet Western Mass. From 6 pm-8 pm at The Putney Inn Field, 57 Putney Landing Road, Putney. \$20-25.

Saturday 10th

Children's Living History Day! — The Fort at No. 4 Book Signing with Sarah Masters Buckey. Sarah Masters Buckey, author of "Enemy in the Fort," published by American Girl, will be at the Fort at No. 4 at 11 am to speak with children and their caregivers about writing historical novels and how real events at the Fort at No. 4 inspired her book! "Enemy in the Fort" is an exciting historical mystery for children, and it's set right here at the Fort at No. 4. Copies of "Enemy in the Fort" will be available for purchase and signing! Hands-on living history activities will be happening throughout the day, including historical dress up, corn husk doll making, butter churning, spinning and weaving, 18th century games, food preservation, a visit with the school master, and so much more! Make it- take it opportunities to share!

Regular entry fee applies, tickets available at <https://www.fortat4.org>. From 10 am-4 pm at the Fort at No. 4, 267 Springfield Road, Charlestown, NH. \$0-12.

Lost Nation Encore Screening — Town Hall Theater & Kingdom Count Productions

Lost Nation captures a Revolutionary War era action-drama set in the early upstart Republic of Vermont. Rebel instigator, Ethan Allen, leads resistance to New Yorker land claims against local settlers and plays a leading role in regional politics on the northern frontier of the American Revolution. Pioneering poet, Lucy Terry Prince, settles with her family on a Guilford, Vermont homestead and faces off against local antagonist, aspiring politician John Noyes.

Lost Nation is written and directed by Vermont filmmaker Jay Craven (Where the Rivers Flow North, A Stranger in the Kingdom, Northern Borders, Jack London's Martin Eden). Actors include Kevin Ryan (Coper, Harry Wild), Eva Ndachi (Beautifully Broken) and Rob Campbell (The Unforgiven, Ethan Frome, The Crucible). Also, Vermont actors Rusty DeWees and Ariel Zevon. Jay Craven will introduce the film and lead a short post discussion. 7 pm, \$15.

Thursday 15th Friday 16th

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead — THT's Young Company Classical

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead is an absurdist, existential tragicomedy by Tom Stoppard. The play expands upon the exploits of two minor characters from Shakespeare's Hamlet, the courtiers Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and the main setting is Denmark. The action of Stoppard's play takes place mainly "in the wings" of Shakespeare's Hamlet, with brief appearances of major characters from Hamlet who enact fragments of the original's scenes. Between these episodes, the two protagonists voice their confusion at the progress of events occurring onstage without them in Hamlet, of which they have no direct knowledge. The characters pass time by playing Questions, impersonating other characters, and interrupting each other or remaining silent for long periods of time.

*For our Young Company Musical Production in July we introduced a \$25 Generous Ticket. The proceeds of this ticket purchase go directly to funding scholarships for those who may otherwise not be able to participate in our educational programs. 7 pm, \$10, \$15 or \$25.

Proctor Town Green, 7 pm



August 7
Whisper Band

STUDENT: Lovisa Ford

GRADE: 3

SCHOOL: Neshobe

MEDIUM: Colored pencil, Sharpie marker,
paper

TEACHER: John Brodowski



Statement from Lovisa:

This is a drawing I made trying to represent myself. I drew four of my pets: my two cats, one dog, and my Leopard Gecko. I decided to put a Blue Jay in it because Blue Jay is my middle name.

Statement from Mr. B:

Lovisa is very creative and turns every project we do in art class into something special. This self-portrait is no exception!



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Processing this last session

Over the summer and fall, I will provide updates on many of the bills that were passed in this year's legislative session. It was one of the most challenging sessions I have experienced over my three terms. As always, there is more work to do, and I am looking forward to tackling some of the problems that are still on the table.

HOUSING

Vermont's housing crisis is mirrored across every state in the country. With high costs of construction, alongside a shrinking workforce, the cost of building has increased dramatically. The legislature can't control inflation or the price of real estate, but we can make investments to make housing more affordable for low and moderate-income Vermonters. From March 2020 - June 2023, Vermont has invested over \$1 billion into expanding our affordable-housing supply and providing emergency housing. This year, with federal pandemic funding ending, state dollars were invested to help communities still reeling from 2023's floods. Money has been set aside for the construction and renovation of affordable units, shelter, and services for un-housed Vermonters, grants for first-generation homebuyers, financial support for "missing middle" units,

eviction diversions, mobile home repair, and recovery housing.

ACT 250

Since 1970, Act 250 has preserved Vermont's rural character, supporting compact development in downtowns and village centers, while protecting forests and open lands. H.687 continues this approach, making it easier to build housing in strategic locations and protect critical natural resources. Notably, over time it will change the triggers that determine whether a project needs an Act 250 permit, shifting to a multi-tiered system. Projects in Tiers 1a and 1b will be exempt from Act 250 review, making it easier to build in our developed downtowns and neighborhoods. Projects in Tier 3 can still be approved but will have stringent criteria. The Act 250 process will remain largely unchanged in Tier 2. Priority housing projects are exempt from Act 250 in many places through 2026.

CLIMATE ACTION

The global economy is shifting, faster and faster, to renewable energy. Vermonters who can afford it are making the switch, saving money on gas by buying electric vehicles, and on heating fuel by weatherizing their homes or installing heat pumps. Low-income, moderate-

MAPLE COW™ by Matt Aucoin



income, and rural Vermonters are being left behind. We need policies that aid the transition away from price-volatile fossil fuels to cleaner, more sustainable, and affordable al-

ternatives.

As the climate changes, Vermont will experience more severe storms and flooding, like Tropical Storm Irene and the devastating 2023 and

2024 floods. These storms cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Flood Safety Act (S.213) (See Legislative Report, Page 23)

DAWG DAYS OF SUMMER SALE!



2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
Limited, V6, Auto, 4x4, Leather, 108k miles
\$17,995



2022 NISSAN FRONTIER
S, V6, Auto, 4x4, Like New Truck! 60k miles
\$27,995



2019 SUBARU FORESTER
Sport, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, Loaded!! 124k miles
\$18,995



2019 KIA SORENTO
LX, V6, Auto, AWD, 3rd Row, Nice. 95k miles
\$18,995



2003 FORD MUSTANG
GT Convertible. V8, Auto, Loaded, 66k miles
\$12,995

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS

We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company

at the Big White Barn in Leicester
Michael Jackman, 52 Years Experience
David Wimett, 39 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 11 Years Experience
Rick Curtis, 40 Years Experience

802-465-4688

2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com



Friday, August 9
Salisbury Meeting House
853 Maple St. Salisbury

Thursday, August 22
Salisbury Meeting House

Saturday, August 31
CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

Chamber Ensemble Concerts featuring the Point CounterPoint Summer Faculty

Each faculty concert differs in repertoire, instrumentation, and performers.
All concerts start at 7:30 p.m. • Admission is FREE. All are welcome!
Goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

POINTCP.COM

Pittsford Day brought the town out to cele



PITTSFORD RESIDENTS CAME out to celebrate their town on Saturday, August 3 at the Pittsford Rec Area. There was mini golf, a bouncy castle, music (the Aaron Audet Band is pictured here), food, a 5K run, and even a helicopter!



Celebrate the Sunshine Village at Pittsford Rec!



Photos by Steven Jupiter

Punkstock

(Continued from Page 1)
and delicious teas. OOTSE, for the uninitiated, is short for The Order of The Spectral Ermine, named for a winter visitor to The Ruth Stone House in Goshen.. It is a loose collective of local artisans and art appreciators whose focus is to “throw fun/spooky/seasonal parties around memes of Art, Culture, and mischief- and who are definitely, assuredly, 100% NOT A

CULT!”
Tor Keyes was displaying their wares in the Dragon Tower Arts & Armory booth. The handmade art and jewelry featuring aluminum and steel chainmail was very impressive. The band, Kennedy Park had a boothright next to the The Turning Point center from Rutland. All in all, a great first time event!



Photos by George Fjeld

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Hopefully this mystery history photo was not too hard for anyone to identify. It is quite clearly the Brandon Town Hall. Looking at this lovely, vibrant building today you wouldn't know that its origins were so contentious.

In 1861, the citizens of Brandon voted to spend \$8,000 (\$300,000 today) on their new Town Hall. They chose a committee of well-respected, well-connected gentlemen to plan and oversee the building of the new Town Hall: R.V. Marsh, John A. Conant, and his brother-

in-law John Jackson.

By the time the dust settled the Town Hall cost the taxpayers \$11,150; a 40% overrun. In the 1862 Town Report, R.V. Marsh wrote a scathing account of the irresponsible, self-serving, spendthrift, and just plain sneaky handling of the Town Hall project by the other two committee members:

Conant and Jackson.

I wrote a fun article about the whole fiasco for the Brandon Bugle back in 2002, but for this synopsis I will focus on the brick used in the building, since

I mentioned last week that the Conants owned a brick yard. After exhaustive deliberation over the plans, it was decided by the town that "fluted doric columns of wood" would be the best way to go since, "in other places where brick pillars have been erected, they have afterwards been condemned as unseemly, taken down, and their places supplied with handsome fluted columns." There was also a consensus by the three committee members to put the construction of the town hall out for bid for several sound reasons, not the least of which

was that Conant owned a brickyard and might be tempted to profit from the construction of a large brick building.

March wrote that after the committee had agreed that the construction should go out for bid, "the very next day, I believe... I saw teamsters drawing brick from Conant's yard and unloading them near the site of the new town hall." And to add to his consternation the columns were not fluted wood but built of brick—Conant's bricks!



BRANDON TOWN HALL today, and at the turn of the last century.



Your mystery for next week!

REAL ESTATE



IN-TOWN BUSINESS!

Impressive 2-story commercial building with 6,614 sq. ft. This meticulously maintained building was entirely renovated in 2007. Features a spacious commercial kitchen, office space, conference room, and a yoga/pilates room. All rooms are large and bright with ample lighting and natural light. The building is well insulated, with a state-of-the-art heating system with radiant heat and 3 separate Buderus Logamax furnaces. ADA compliant with a lift/elevator, 4 restrooms, ample paved parking, 3-bay garage and a spacious back yard. There are a multitude of potential uses for this building. Located in Historic Brandon Village. A great investment opportunity offered at \$425,000



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

Visit our Brandon Office

Friendly, local service at 6 Park Street, Brandon



nbrmvt.com - 877-508-8455

Member FDIC EOE Equal Housing Lender

CHECKING | SAVINGS | MORTGAGES | BUSINESS SERVICES



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



Deb Miner recognized the young man in uniform to be Gary Ford, OV Class of 1973, currently living in Alabama. She believes the woman on the right is his wife but is unsure.



Kurt Kimball recognized Sherry (Ford) Trudeau in this photo, who used to live on Forest Dale.



Chris Bretana recognized Francis Bretana (center) in this photo from our June 26 issue. He notes that Ms. Bretana lived in Brandon in the 70s and 80s on Van Cortland Road. Mr. Bretana also recognized Shirley Ford (left), "who owned the ceramics workshop on 73 almost across from Bradleys." (On the right is Bonnie Johnson, previously identified in our July 3 issue.)



Sanford Rouse, of Brandon, recognized Sid Rosen, a former Brandon selectman.

Dolores Furnari, Bob Reed, Terry Ferson, Deb Miner, Sally Cook, Kurt Kimball, and Sue Wetmore also recognized Mr. Rosen. Ms. Wetmore noted that Mr. Rosen was also a landlord and 5 & 10 store owner.



Sally Cook and Deb Miner recognized Scott Benware, left, and Dr. Arden Hayden, right. Ms. Cook noted that Dr. Hayden was a dentist in Brandon for over 25 years.

Sue Wetmore, Terry Ferson, Kurt Kimball, and Bob Reed also recognized Mr. Benware.



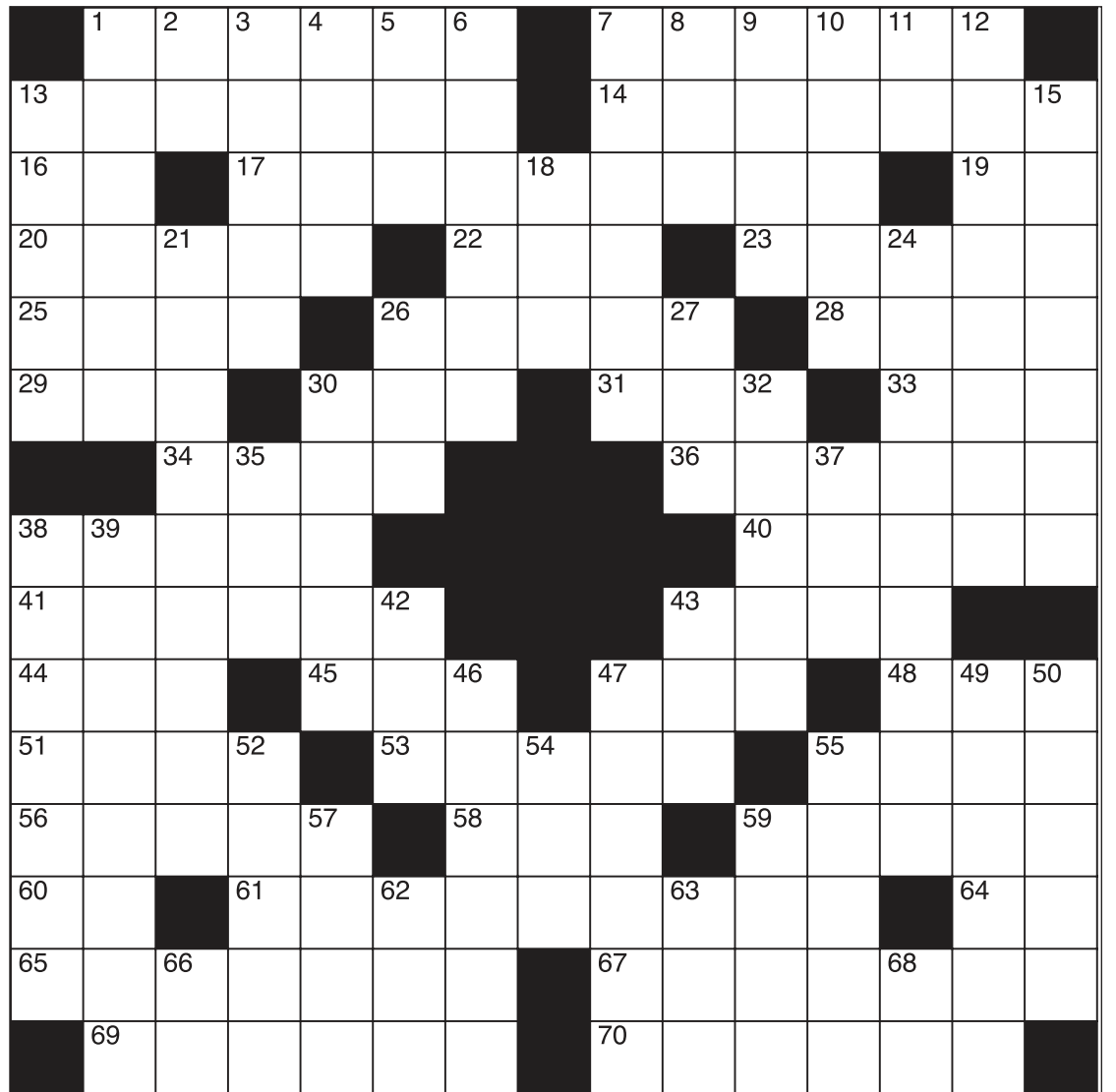
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. A solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood group
17. A way to compare
19. Gov't lawyer
20. Actor Ciaran
22. Calendar month
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex Machina
26. Satisfies
28. Type of berry
29. Distinctive practice
30. Popular pickup truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. A situation you can be in
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
48. Belgian composer Walter
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Musical or vocal sound
56. Yankees' great Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

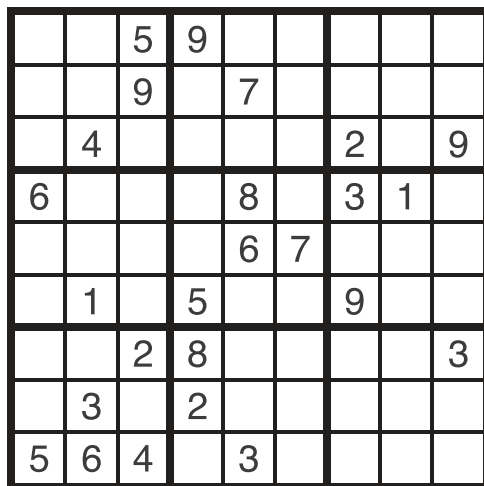
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Arts and crafts supplies
4. Containers
5. Investment vehicle
6. A way to greet in a friendly way
7. Bulged downward
8. "A Day Without" singer
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Negative
12. Caused to be loved
13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
15. Sincere
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Bill Murray chased one
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Wild white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. Central Japanese city
59. Garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Top government lawyer



Sudoku

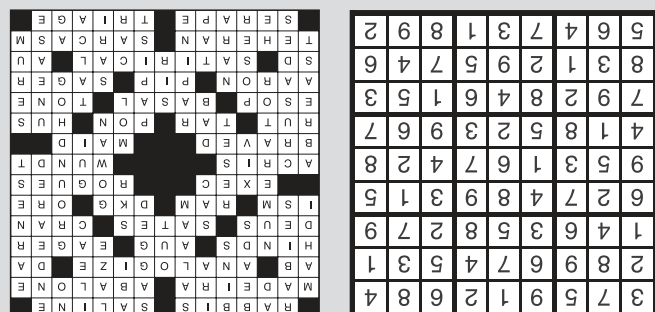
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

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



"Pop Up" Yard Sale to Benefit RCHS on August 17th!

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) is holding a yard sale to raise essential funds for the homeless animals in Rutland County. Join us on Saturday, August 17th from 9 am–2 pm at RCHS, 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford. In case of rain, our backup date is Sunday, August 18th at the same time. We will not be looking for donations for this yard sale as we have received donations over the past year. Many new and slightly used items will be for sale, ranging from items for your pet to beautiful things for your home and some antiques. Please get in touch with us at 802.483.6700 with any questions. We will see you then and kindly ask that no early birds arrive before the start time.

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



MEET PLUTO - 4 YEARS. SPAYED FEMALE. FEIST MIX. BLACK/WHITE.

Say hello to our favorite girl Pluto! She came to us as a surrender, but she's ready for her forever home! She's a spunky little girl, who at first can be shy and timid but a few treats and some time spent with her will open her right up! She's very curious, brave, and happy to be around her people and will look to you for pets and love all the time. She's a very active young girl and will need to go on hikes and walks regularly. She will do better in a home with older kids but shouldn't go to a home with cats or other dogs. Pluto is also on medication to treat her Anaplasmosis, so she will be a foster to adopt through 8/23. Her adoption fee will be \$275. If you're interested in our little girl Pluto, please call (802-483-6700) or stop in anytime Tuesday–Saturday 11–4.

MEET TINKERBELL - 5-6 YEARS OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN TIGER/WHITE.

Meet Tinkerbell! This cutie is unique in the sense that she only has three legs! She came to us on June 8th as a stray from Brandon. She came to us with a severe leg injury and the only thing that could be done was to amputate it. However, this does not deter her in the slightest. She still loves to play with toys and will still get the zoomies! She has been through a lot in her life, and she is ready to finally settle down and relax in her forever home. She is the sweetest girl who loves attention and only wants to be with her people! We have no known history on how she will do with dogs or children. However, she may do best with a laid-back chill feline friend. If this beautiful couch potato sounds like the right fit for you, please stop by and visit with her! Tinkerbell's adoption fee is \$110. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



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

'Lucky Stiff' featuring adult actors and singers to comes to the Otter Valley Stage

BY MITCHELL PEARL

It has been 22 years since there has been a theatrical production on the Otter Valley stage featuring adult actors and singers. All that is about to change, as "Lucky Stiff" takes the stage for performances on September 13, 14 and 15.

A collaboration between Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theatre and the Brandon Recreation department, the show is a hilarious musical farce featuring a cast of fourteen. The cast includes some recent—and not-so-recent—Otter Valley graduates, but also features other members of the larger community, including one school-board member. Rehearsals have recently started, with Otter Valley's theater director Jeffrey Hull directing the show. Kenny Cifone will be the music director, there will be a small band of musicians, and Mike Mitrano will handle the technical direction.

"Lucky Stiff" was performed off-Broadway in 1988 in New York, where it won the Richard Rodgers Award that year. It was the first collaboration for the team of Lynn Ahrens (book and lyrics) and Stephen Flaherty (music). The show is based on the 1983 novel "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte



THE CAST OF "Lucky Stiff." The production marks the first time in over 20 years that OV will host community-theater.

Photo by Mitchell Pear

Carlo" by Michael Butterworth. The musical was also performed in London's West End in 1997.

Otter Valley's theater director Jeffrey Hull hopes that this will be the first of many offerings, providing an opportunity for both adults and younger students in the Brandon area to participate in a community theater production. For many years, such opportunities were lacking—at least right in Brandon. The goal

over time is to form a company that would fill that gap for both adults and kids moving forward.

Those who have been around long enough may remember the last non-student production on the Otter Valley stage. Back in 2002, Jeffrey Hull directed "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" to rave reviews. Then-assistant principal Jim Avery played Charlie Brown. Time flies. Good grief.

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

tion tax. Similarly, the owner of a non-homestead property will pay \$1.9152 per \$100 of assessed property value. So, a homestead that is assessed at \$100,000 will pay \$100,000/\$100 = \$1,000 x \$1.7195 = \$1,719.50 in education tax for FY25. A homestead assessed at \$400,000 would pay \$1,719.50 x 4 = \$6,878.00 in education tax alone.

The rates for FY24 were \$1.4194 and \$1.6372, respectively. Accordingly, a homestead assessed at \$100,000 for FY24 paid \$1,419.40 in education tax. The education portion of this homeowner's tax liability thus increased by \$1,719.50 - \$1,419.40 = \$300.10 from FY24 to FY25, an increase of approximately 21%. For an owner of a non-homestead property, the increase is approximately 17%. Though the percentage increase was less for non-homestead properties, non-homestead rates remain higher than for homestead properties.

The municipal portion of the tax bill is added to the education tax to arrive at the total tax liability for a property. Pittsford's municipal rate for FY25 is \$0.6744 for those who live outside the central village and \$0.7043 for those who live within the central village, an increase of approximately \$0.01 (or approximately 1.5%) over FY24. A

Pittsford homeowner outside the village whose house is assessed at \$100,000 will pay \$674.40 in municipal taxes for FY25, for example.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the town's municipal rate, noting that the municipal rate was responsible for only \$1.00 of the \$307.60 per \$100K increase. Pittsford's budget for FY25 is only 3% higher than its budget for FY24, thus yielding only a modest increase in the municipal tax rate.

Pittsford Town Manager David Atherton stated in a later phone conversation that a 3% increase in a municipal budget is merely keeping pace with inflation.

Pittsford's total homestead tax rate is \$2.3939 for non-village and \$2.4238 for village. The non-homestead rate is \$2.5896 for non-village and \$2.6195 for village. Ultimately, homeowners' total tax liability will also be determined by their income. Vermont gives significant tax discounts to homeowners whose total household income is below \$128,000.

Though the board voted unanimously to adopt the municipal rate, it initially could not find a member willing to move to adopt the education rate. Board members David Mills and Tom Hooker stated flatly that they would not move to adopt the education rate. Mr. Mills called

the state, which sets the education rate, "irresponsible and despicable" and stated that the legislature should have found a way to minimize the increase in Vermonters' tax liabilities.

State Representative Butch Shaw, who represents Pittsford and Proctor in Montpelier, was at the meeting and stated that Montpelier has commissioned 31 studies to reform education tax but has not acted on any one of them.

Board member Dan Adams stated that the tax increases "seem unfair at a time when people can't afford to buy their groceries." He also stated that the tax increases would keep many prospective home buyers out of the local market.

Board Chair Alicia Malay suggested that the board could vote to reject the education tax rate, even though the gesture would be strictly symbolic. Mr. Atherton added that other towns had done so.

In the end, the board voted 5-0 to reject the education tax rate.

Mr. Atherton expressed concern that Pittsford residents would blame the board and town management for the increases in their bills, even though the municipal rate increased by only 1.5%.

"We've done our fiscal responsibility to spend the town's money in a responsible way," he said.

Brandon Police Report

July 28

- Conducted a foot patrol and business checks on Center Street.
- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for driving while using a cell phone. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Responded to the area of Grove Street for a report of a one-car crash with no reported injuries. It was later determined that the crash was due to another vehicle passing on the opposite side of the street.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for Operating at Unreasonable Speeds given Special Hazards Exist. Ticket issued.

• Vehicle stop near the intersection of Union Street and North Railroad Avenue for making a right turn on a red light where prohibited. Warning issued.

• Located an individual walking along the roadway on Grove Street at Steinberg Road in Brandon with an active cite-and-release arrest warrant. The individual was served a citation in hand to appear at the Rutland County Superior Court.

• Received a complaint regarding harassment and threats being made by the complainant's co-worker. Matter under investigation.

• Received a report of a truck and trailer that had jackknifed, creating a traffic hazard along North Street in Brandon. Upon officers' arrival, the vehicle was not located.

• Conducted a patrol in the area of River Street, East Prospect Street, and West Seminary Street due to an increase in speeding vehicle complaints. No vehicle stops conducted.

• Responded to a call on Railroad Avenue for a report of a woman in the roadway who was yelling and screaming. The woman was ultimately transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center for further evaluation and treatment due to her high level of intoxication.

July 29

• Responded to a residence on Forest Dale Road for a loose dog that had broken into a chicken coop, killing several chickens. The dog was returned to the owner and the Brandon Animal Control Officer will be investigating the incident.

• Contacted by an individual regarding a fraud complaint in which someone took out a fraudulent Economic/Injury/Disaster Loan in her father's name in 2022.

• Requested assistance from the Vermont State Police—New Haven in serving a Stalking Order against an individual residing in Weybridge in Addison County involving an ongoing case in Brandon.

• Received a complaint regarding

littering on Syndicate Road in the area of Carver Street. The owner of the trash was identified and subsequently issued a ticket for \$800 for littering.

July 30

• Assisted the Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) with a lift assist on Maple Street.

• Responded to a two-car crash on River Street with no reported injuries. One vehicle was towed from the scene due to disabling damage.

• Responded to a walk-in complaint regarding an ongoing child custody dispute. The complainant was advised to seek legal counsel regarding the matter.

• Dispatched to a report of debris in the roadway on Grove Street. When the officer arrived, there was no debris to be found.

• Took fingerprints.

• Completed a VIN verification.

• Received a report of a juvenile sending another juvenile family member sexually explicit images. The incident is under investigation and the Vermont Department of Children and Families was notified.

• Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road at Grove Street for an expired registration. Warning issued.

• Received a report of a citizen dispute on Church Street.

• Dispatched to a burglary alarm activation on Town Farm Road at the Neshobe Golf Club.

• Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding and following too closely. Further investigation showed evidence of illegal drug activity and the vehicle was seized while an application for a search warrant was sought. Cocaine and stolen merchandise were found.

July 31

• Received a report from a resident on Conant Square that her car had been vandalized. Incident is under investigation.

• Completed a background check for ride-a-long candidate.

• Took fingerprints for school employment.

• Assisted BARS with a suicidal man on Mulcahy Drive. Prior to the responding officers' arrival on-scene, Dispatch advised both police and BARS that they had been contacted by Rutland Mental Health.

• Received a Restraining Order for service by the Rutland County Court. It was later determined that the person of interest did not reside in Brandon and the order was subsequently forwarded to the Vergennes Police.

• Vehicle complaint on Pearl Street regarding a tractor-trailer unit
(See Police report, Page 19)

Police report

(Continued from Page 18) under the Sanderson Bridge that was attempting to back up the road, obstructing traffic. The responding officer assisted the driver in safely turning his truck around.

- Conducted a search warrant at the BPS on a vehicle that was seized on suspicion that it contained drugs as a result of a vehicle stop. Illegal narcotics were found in the car. Investigation ongoing.

August 1

- Attempted to stop a vehicle for numerous vehicle violations, including failing to stop for multiple stop signs and speeding in the area of Pearl Street and Conant Square. The operator fled and a pursuit ensued.

- Served a Temporary Relief From Abuse Order on Birch Hill Road.

- K-9 Unit assisted Brandon officers with an exterior search of a vehicle suspected to contain illegal drugs. K9 Guinness alerted on the vehicle, which had been seized pending a search warrant.

- Received a complaint of a stolen vehicle on Furnace Road by a complainant whose family member stole a truck from the residence as well as a large sum of money. The vehicle was later located in Rutland.

- Dispatched to the Brandon Historical Society building on Grove Street for a burglary alarm activation. It was later determined that the wrong code had been put into one of the alarms, which was then accidentally set off.

- Responded to the Rutland Regional Medical Center to conduct an untimely death investigation on a subject that had been transported from a residence in Brandon to the hospital earlier in the week for having an altered mental state.

- Pursued a vehicle throughout Brandon for reckless operation. The fleeing car crashed after the pursuing officer lost sight of it on Pearl Street. The car was located shortly thereafter.

- Received a complaint of ATVs speeding up and down North Street.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for no inspection sticker. Further investigation revealed reasonable suspicion that the vehicle may contain illegal drugs. A search warrant was sought. Investigation ongoing.

August 2

- Responded to a residence on Wood Lane regarding a complaint about a resident who had sold another individual's vehicle for scrap metal without permission.

- Vehicle stop on Nickerson Road for a vehicle spinning its tires as it entered the public roadway. Warning issued.

- Conducted quarterly Sex Offender Registry checks at multiple

residences in Brandon. Checks completed and no violations documented.

- Responded to a residence on Champlain Street for a welfare check request made by a Meals On Wheels driver who was concerned about one of his clients. The officer located the elderly individual and determined that she was not feeling well.

- Responded to a minor two-vehicle crash on Franklin Street. The cause of the crash was determined to be due to driver inattention and following too closely.

- Responded to the area of Newton Road and Town Farm Road for a report of a person, in a vehicle without license plates, smoking crack cocaine by the bridge. The vehicle was located and stopped by the responding officers.

- Dispatched to a car fire at the intersection of Grove Street and Lovers Lane.

- Assisted a motorist on Grove Street who had broken a ball joint, which disabled their vehicle. The officer stood by with the operator until a tow truck could respond.

- Conducted a directed patrol on River Street.

August 3

- Responded to a residence on Mount Pleasant Drive for a welfare check after the caller received a social media message from a friend who was texting suicidal comments.

- Received a complaint of a car getting hit with eggs on Mulcahy Drive. Matter under investigation.

- Vehicle stop after the caller observed a vehicle spinning in circles and spinning tires. Two weapons were seized from the vehicle as they were found to be loaded, a violation of Vermont law.

- Removed an abandoned vehicle from a business after suspicious activity was reported.

- Located and returned a dog on Wood Lane after it had been running in and out of traffic, nearly being struck. The owners were told they had to secure the dog on the property or keep it on a leash when outside.

- Received a report of a possible conditions of release violation that occurred on McConnell Road. The complaint was investigated and determined to be unfounded.

- Received a request from the owner of a vehicle to document a non-reportable accident the vehicle was involved in on High Pond Road.

- Assisted BARS and the Brandon Fire Department (BFD) with a medical call on Old Ice House Lane.

- Provided a family assistance at a residence on Pearl Street for a child with behavioral issues. Rutland County Crisis was contacted and

assured the family that extended assistance would be provided.

- Dispatched to a report of vandalism on Furnace Road.

- Received a noise complaint at Estabrook Park. It was determined that the noise was due to the concert being held at the park, authorized by the Town of Brandon.

- Conducted a patrol at the Punk Stock Festival at Estabrook Field on Grove Street. No incidents or suspicious activity observed.

- Responded to Neshobe Golf Club on Town Farm Road for an alarm activation. No suspicious activity was observed and the keyholder of the business was contacted.

August 4

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

- Received a complaint of property damage by newly evicted tenants at a rental at a residence on

Forest Dale Road. Incident was determined to be civil in-nature and documented for informational purposes.

- Vehicle stop near the intersection of McConnell Road and Smalley Road for an obstructed windshield. Warning issued.

- Assisted a person who walked into the BPS reporting that her vehicle was rendered disabled on an unmaintained road in Chittenden.

(See Police report, Page 23)



This little piggie tiptoes through the tulips

"PRETTY IN PINK" by Karen Deets is one of the dozens of decorated wooden piglets on display in downtown Brandon in anticipation of the silent auction at the Brandon Town Hall on Aug. 16, 17, and 18. The project "Art of the Pig" marks the 25th anniversary of the Brandon Artists Guild.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, don't worry if you can't see the path forward too clearly right now. Things will be revealed in due time and you'll have all the information you need to proceed.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, when a difficulty arises, your first response is to get right in the middle of it and try to work things out or force it to go away. That isn't always the most effective approach.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, when it comes to your personal passions, you are full speed ahead and very regimented in the path you take. Put those skills to the test this week with a new venture.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, if anyone assembled a crack team of experts to get through tough times, you certainly would be included. You'll help a loved one with a last-minute problem soon enough.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

You have a natural curiosity and zeal for life, Sagittarius. These traits may cascade over others and inspire them to try new things this week. Join along in the fun.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

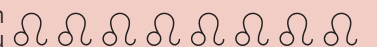
Someone from the past could come back into your life, Capricorn. He or she could provide some answers you have been looking for. Stay tuned and be a good listener.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You soon get the opportunity to hang out with someone you haven't seen in awhile, Aquarius. You may stay up late catching up on all of the moments you have missed lately.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

A mistake that someone else made will be a learning experience for you, Pisces. This experience could serve as a cautionary tale of how to approach life or similar situations.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 9 Dan Levy, actor (41)
- Aug. 10 Suzanne Collins, writer (62)
- Aug. 11 Viola Davis, actor (59)
- Aug. 12 Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, Nobel Laureate (d)
- Aug. 13 Samuel de Champlain, explorer (d)
- Aug. 14 Steve Martin, actor (79)
- Aug. 15 Anthony Anderson, actor (54)

Brandon Yard SALE Day



WHETHER THEY WERE hunting for bargains or antiques, folks came out in droves on Saturday, Aug. 3 to scour Brandon's Town-wide Yard Sale!



Photos by Steven Jupiter

Business & Service Directory

Ad design included in price.

Accounting

LAURIE L. BERTRAND
Certified Public Accountant

*Bookkeeping & Payroll Services
Individual & Corporate Tax Preparation*
Experience You Can Count On
4 Carver Street, Brandon • By Appt. Only
465-8362 • fax 465-8438



Accounting

Sharon L. Stearns, CPA, PLLC
Accounting, Tax & Consulting Services

Individuals, Small Business & Non Profits | Bookkeeping Accounting Quickbooks | Tax Planning & Tax Return Preparation

P. O. Box 22, 900 Pearl Street, Brandon, VT 05733
sharon@stearns CPA.com • www.stearns CPA.com
(802) 247-8300 • By Appt. Only

Auto Body Shop

Certified Collision Experts



All Makes and Models
Working with all
Insurance companies

(802) 388-9961
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
2196 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury
stonecdjr.com



Auto Repair

**Hometown Service from
Your Hometown Dealers!**



Factory-Trained Technicians
Servicing all makes and models



G Stone Motors
36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury
(802) 388-6718
gstonemotors.com

Stone
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury
(802) 388-9961
stonecdjr.com

Auto Sales and Leasing

STONE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS



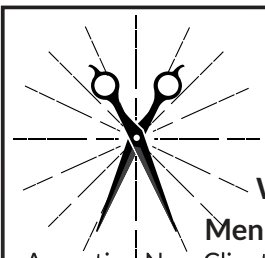
Skylar Silloway
Sales & Leasing Consultant

We will take anything in trade!

Bus: 802-388-9961
Fax: 802-388-6708
ssilloway@stonecdjr.com
www.stonecdjr.com

2149 ROUTE 7 SOUTH | P.O. Box 748 MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753-0748

Hair Salon



SHEILA'S
HAIR STYLING
Cuts • Colors
Wash & Sets • Perms

Men • Women • Children

Accepting New Clients • Walk-Ins Welcome
Wednesday-Saturday • Evenings by appointment

3 Franklin St. | Brandon, VT | 802-247-6829

Excavating

1963 — Celebrating 60 Years — 2023

Markowski
Excavating, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
Dozers. Excavators. Heavy Hauling.
Top Soil. Gravel. Sand.

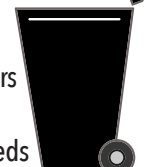
P.O. Box 69 Florence, VT 05744
Phone: (802) 483-6469 Fax: (802) 483-6978

Garbage & Recycling



DENTON & SON

- Weekly and bi-weekly pickup of Garbage and Recycling
- Residential and Commercial Dumpsters
- Containers available for Cleanouts, Construction waste and all other needs



64 Paintworks Rd. | Brandon | 802-247-8340

Massage

Charlotte Bishop
MASSAGE THERAPY



Certified Massage Therapist Since 1993
Therapeutic Massage: Swedish/Esalen
Soft Tissue Release • Cupping •
VT Registered
(802) 247-8106

Residential Care Homes

Wintergreen

Residential Care Home
Level III • ERC Care • State Licensed
Keep Your Loved Ones Close to Home

Please call for info 802-247-5987
3 Union Street
and 360 New Road
Brandon, VT

Owners, Mary and Mike Jensen

- 24 Hour Personal Care
- Home Cooked Meals
- Private Rooms
- RN Overviewed
- Exceptional Staff
- Medication Management
- Daily Activities
- Transportation & Hospice Care Provided

Restoration

Disaster Recovery, Inc.

24/7 Emergency Services Covering Vermont
www.DisasterRecoveryInc.com



- Water Damage Drying/Clean Up
- Mold Remediation
- Carpet Cleaning & Deodorization
- Smoke and Sewage Cleaning Service

877-765-6340
Fully insured & certified

Storage Containers

STORAGE CONTAINERS
Rentals & Sales

Delivered To Your Location
Safe & Secure • Water Tight
Great for Seasonal Storage,
Renovation Projects
or Job Sites



483-9900 • Pittsford, VT



Welding

Call, Text or Email with all your Welding,
Soldering, Fabrication and Repair needs!



TOM'S

Welding, LLC

Tom Bouchard
131 Leicester-Whiting RD Whiting, VT 05778
Phone: 802 989-1271
Email: tomweldingllc@gmail.com

Years of
Experience!

Call The Reporter today at
802-247-8080
or email
ads@brandonreporter.com

Legislative Report

(Continued from Page 11)
 implements statewide regulation of high-hazard river corridors, allowing space for our rivers to better store and slow down floodwaters. It also expands wetlands protection, which helps to prevent floods, and invests in dam inspection, safety, removal, and repair.

Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard, an energy policy passed in 2015, put electric utilities on the path to renewable sources like hydro, solar, and wind. H.289 was an unprecedented agreement among electric utilities, environmental groups, and legislators to bring more renewable energy into our grid faster.

The Climate Superfund Act (S.259) holds the world's largest fossil fuel companies accountable, requiring them to pay their fair share for the cost of climate-related damage to our state. The bill is based on the "polluter pays" principle, well established in state and federal law.

S.25 bans PFAS, toxic "forever chemicals," in clothing, make-up, menstrual products, diapers and nonstick frying pans in 2025, and in artificial turf in 2028.

H.705 bans seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoids, a pesticide that's toxic to pollinators. Ontario, Quebec, and the European Union have already banned these coated seeds, and New York State will phase them out by 2029. H.705 follows the New York timeline.

REMINDER: August 13th is Primary Day. Voting takes place at the American Legion from 10am - 7pm. Go to townofbrandon.com for all the information you need on registering to vote and elections in Brandon. Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you or if you have questions about recent legislation.

Police report

(Continued from Page 19)
 A tow truck was contacted for the operator.

- Received a call about a communications line on Hollow Road that was on fire. The BPD and BFD responded to the area, and the BFD took control of the scene.

- Conducted a patrol on River Street.

- Responded to OVUHS for a report of a man lying in the grass and who appeared unresponsive. BARS responded to the scene and evaluated the man. He exhibited signs of drug impairment.

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF GOSHEN TOWN TREASURER

The Town of Goshen is seeking an organized and motivated candidate for its **Town Treasurer**.

The 10-15 hour per week position offers the flexibility to set their regular office house and work in a community of approximately 160 people located in Addison County, Vermont.

The **Town Treasurer** is responsible for keeping records of all the Town's funds, including receipt, investment, and disbursement of funds; keeping a record of taxes voted, billed, and collected; collecting other funds received by the Town; and paying orders drawn on Town accounts. The Treasurer manages payroll; works closely with auditors to annually reconcile Town accounts; adheres to internal controls; and provides support to the Listers, Town Clerk, Delinquent Tax Collector and Select Board in budgeting, capital budgeting, grants management, and reporting.

A detailed job description is available from the Goshen Select Board Chairperson. Salary commensurate with experience.

The position is advertised until filled.

To apply, please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and three references to selectboard@goshenvt.org with Goshen Town Treasurer in the subject line.

The Town of Goshen is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender, or familial status.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT OF ABANDONED MOBILE HOME

Park Owner: Eugene Bisson, President, Brookdale Manor LLC, 101 Tremont St., Barre, VT 05641

Name of Mobile Home Park: Brookdale Manor LLC, Brandon (Rt 73) Mobile Home Owner: Josh Garrow Mercedi Pelkey.

Last Mobile Home Residents: Josh Garrow Mercedi Pelkey 84 Brookdale St., Brandon, VT 05733 Mobile Home Description: 1984 Skyline mobile home, 14 80 Serial 14160369U, located at 84 Brookdale St., Brandon, VT. No security deposit is held by the park owner.

Creditors:

- 1) Brookdale Manor LLC for back rent and Current rents, in the amount of \$700.00.
- 2) Town of Brandon for past due, and current taxes, in the amount of 2017.63 per Luanne Merkel, Assistant Town Clerk

3) Town of Brandon for past due, and current water/sewer bills, in the amount of \$2914.28. The above information is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Dated at Barre, Vermont this 31st of July 2024.

Eugene Bisson

Eugene Bisson President Brookdale Manor LLC

STATE OF VERMONT COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
 Before me, personally appeared Eugene Bisson, known to me, and he did swear and subscribe to the truth of the foregoing.

[Signature]

Notary Public
 My Commission Expires 1/31/25

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take Notice that the attached Verified Complaint and Motion for Hearing of Abandoned Mobile Home will be heard before Rutland Superior Court on August 26 2024, at 2:15 PM

Interested parties are invited to attend and show cause, if any, why the transfer of the mobile home to the park owner, without public sale, should not be granted.

Dated at Rutland, Vermont this 31 dayof July 2024.

Michael McKelghan

Neigh
 Clerk of the Court

Classifieds

FOR RENT

DOWNTOWN BRANDON, - 2 bedroom apartment. 1500 sq. ft., completely renovated apartment. \$2000/mo includes utilities (heat/electric). Gorgeous hardwood floors, original 10 ft tin ceilings and brick accent walls. Large bedrooms, each with ample closet space. Brand new washer/dryer. Dedicated parking spot. No pets/no smoking. Can come furnished. Call Mark at 908-391-6608 for tour.

Seeking an individual who would be willing to provide respite support/care in your own home. This is a per diem flexible position for an elderly lady. Flexible employer and excellent pay. For more information 802-398-5657 or respite2022@yahoo.com.

SERVICES

RESPITE AND ACTIVITY - Service. Beginning August 16th at the Godnick Adult Center in Rutland. Seating is limited. For more information, call Lindy Tedesco 802-770-0505.

HELP WANTED

RESPITE CARE - BRANDON -

Gagnon Lumber



Native Vermont Lumber

Bark Mulch - Delivery Available

**Hemlock Framing Stock • Pine Shiplap Siding
 Pine Tongue & Groove • Custom Cut Timbers**

89 Stevens Road Pittsford, VT | 802-483-6550
 Mon-Fri: 7AM-4PM & Sat: 8AM-12PM | www.gagnonlumber.com

We do Trees!

**Planting • Pruning • Removing • Repairing
 Stump Removal • Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing • Firewood**

Educated, Experienced and Fully Insured Professionals



**Black Bear
 Tree, Land & Forest**

Thad Poremksi
 (802)
 345-2815

BRISTOL CORE BRINGS YOU

POCOCK ROCKS

12TH ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL & STREET FAIR



SATURDAY
17 AUGUST
3-8PM



MAIN
STREET,
BRISTOL

THE BARNCASTERS | BODENBENDER
ORGANIZED DEAD | TOM BISSON & THE
RUSTICS | SOULSTICE | JEREMY MENDICINO

specialty foods, microbrews, spirits, wine, craft vendors, activities for the kids and much more!

PRESENTED BY



VERMONT FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION

SUPPORTED BY



EmeraldRose Grows | Bristol Suites Bristol Park
Dental | Smith & McClain Builders | National Bank of
Middlebury | Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom
| Addison Co. Solid Waste Management District