

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, October 16, 2024

\$1



MARSH HOUSE

The second installment in our series on Brandon's historic buildings looks at the history behind this beautiful Pearl Street mansion.

PG. 2



CHILI COOK-OFF

Sara's Stories is sponsoring the 8th annual Pittsford Chili Cook-off to raise funds in support of children's literacy.

PG. 3

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Zeke Tweedie takes a closer look at the funding sources behind the race for Brandon's State House seat.

PG. 4

JACK-O'-LANTERN HIKE

Vermont Fish and Wildlife will host its annual Halloween Wildlife Festival and Jack-O'-Lantern Hike (with hundreds of carved pumpkins!) in Castleton on Wednesday, October 30.

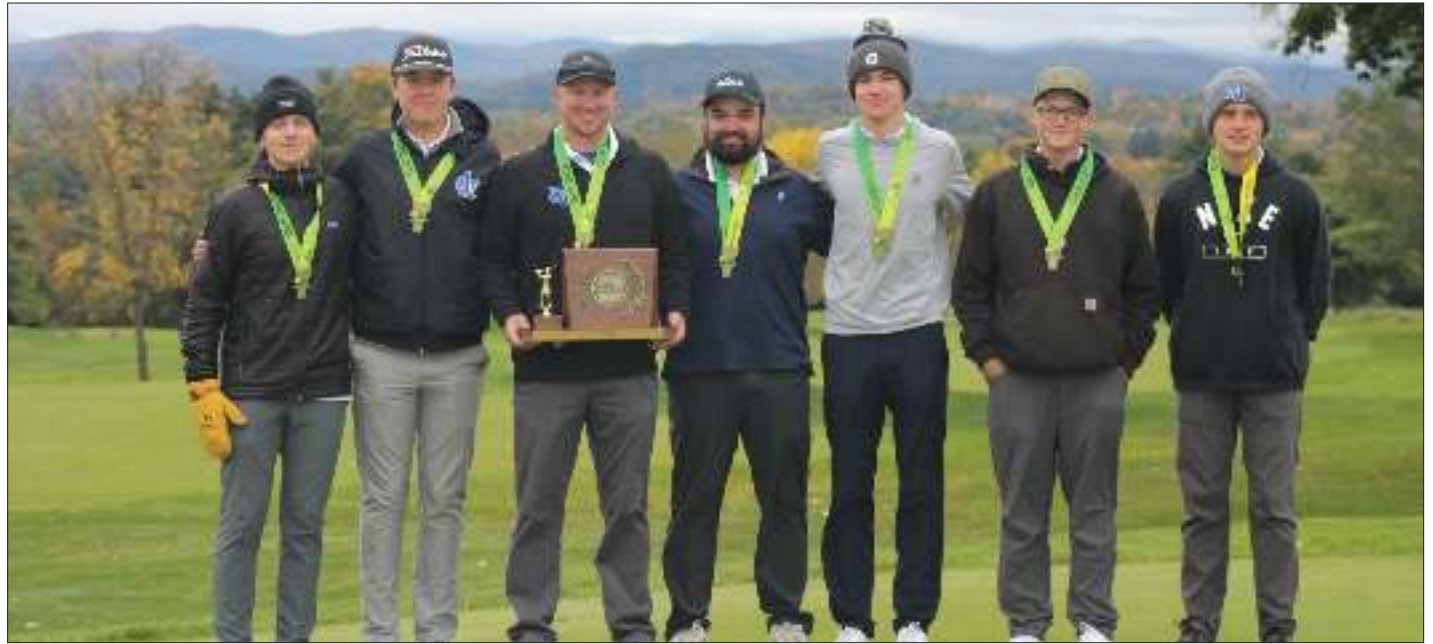
PG. 4



PROTO-CYCOLOGY

Author Angus Chaney's new book pokes fun at academic treatment of ancient mythology with its exploration of the myths of the "mountain bike clans of Central Vermont."

PG. 8



OV Boys' Golf wins Division II State Championship!

THE OTTER VALLEY boys' golf team prevailed at the Division II State Championship at the Burlington Country Club last Thursday, anchored by a powerhouse performance by Lucas Politano, who also won the Division II medalist honor. Congrats, boys! Go, Otters! Pictured l to r: Jacob Warrell, Jackson Howe, Head Coach Greg Hughes, Assistant Coach Thomas Kingsley, Lucas Politano, Jacob Tripp, and Connor Denis.

Photo courtesy of OV Athletics

From Vermont Tubbs to Pittsford Village Farm, Baird Morgan has left his mark

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—If you dig around in local barns, garages, or antique shops, you'll almost surely find a pair of vintage Vermont Tubbs snowshoes. Expertly crafted of bent wood and strips of rawhide, they're beautiful as well as functional—it's not uncommon to find a pair hanging as décor in local homes and camps.

Yet, when Baird Morgan bought the company in 1968, it was struggling to find a market for its products.

"The U.S. government had put out contracts for thousands of snowshoes during WWII," said Morgan at his home in Pittsford, where he's lived for 55 years. "There was an enormous surplus. The market was saturated."

Plus, in the post-war years, snowshoes were utilitarian, intended for hunters or power-company linemen who needed to access utility poles.

But Morgan had a different vision for the company.

"Snowshoeing wasn't a sport in the 1950s," said Morgan. "My contribution to the industry was making snowshoeing a sport."

Morgan had left a career as a math teacher in Pennsylvania in the early 1960s to help found a "3rd-level air carrier" in Burlington, Vermont. That company, Northern Airways, shuttled air passengers from larger airports to regional airfields—like today's Cape Air, which flies passengers from Rutland to Boston and Cape Cod.

But Morgan wanted to branch out into manufacturing and began to look around for an opportunity.

"My father was in manufacturing in Pennsylvania," he said. "Watching things being made was fascinating. I wanted to do something similar."

A college friend tipped him off to a small snowshoe company in Wallingford, Vermont that was looking for a buyer:

(See Baird Morgan, Page 9)



BAIRD MORGAN WITH a vintage VT Tubbs wood-and-rawhide snowshoe.

Brandon SB talks green energy, lawns, and traffic

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Monday evening.

After perfunctory business as the Board of Cannabis Control Commissioners and Liquor Control Commissioners, the Board undertook the main agenda for the evening, beginning with Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins' report, which is printed in full in this issue.

Highlights from the report included:

- Brandon's Highway Department, along with municipal road crews across Vermont, had been (See Brandon SB, Page 6)

Second in a series on Brandon's historic buildings

The Marsh House on Pearl Street: Mansion of Prominent Brandon Abolitionist

BY JAMES PECK

In 1976, when the Brandon Village Historic District was officially added to the National Historic Register (NHR), the Rodney Marsh House was cited as "one of the finest examples of Greek Revival domestic architecture in all of Vermont." This beautiful mansion is located at 11 Pearl Street, the largest of 25 historic houses on Pearl Street, most built in the mid-1800s, in the NHR.

Built in 1852-3 by Brandon attorney Rodney V. Marsh, the house features four "elaborately carved fluted Ionic columns under a portico modeled after the Erechtheum of Athens." There are 21 rooms, 7 staircases, 6 bathrooms, and 21 closets today (there were 50 closets when first built).

Mr. Marsh was an avid abolitionist and championed that cause from the 1840s up until his death in 1872. As Brandon's town representative to the Vermont Legislature in 1857-1859, he ensured passage of bills protecting the freedom of former slaves, including the famous "Personal Liberty Bill" that "sought to secure freedom to all persons within this State" in 1858, four years before Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation.

Marsh's wife, Eliza Sprague Marsh, was also an abolitionist and wrote a personal memento filled with the autographs and statements of prominent abolitionists. She died in 1898 and, due to her poor invest-



THE MARSH HOUSE on Pearl Street is one of the most impressive homes in Brandon, if not in all of Vermont. Built in 1852-53 by attorney Rodney V. Marsh, the house has long been rumored to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad. Some prior owners claim to have found a hidden tunnel in the basement, though no proof of the tunnel or of the house's involvement in the Railroad has been documented.

Vintage photo provided by the author

continued to live there, then, in 1911, the house was sold back to Edward's wife, Isobel Marsh. After her death, Edward lived there until his death in 1939, then it was sold out of the Marsh family to two young women: Margaret McKinlay and Alice Hall.

For a while, the new owners advertised for overnight guests, and you could stay in an "historic, century-old house with a quiet, homelike atmosphere".

In 1956, the 14-acre property was sold to Redfield Proctor, a former Vermont governor and head of the Proctor Marble Company. He bought it for his son Robert and his family. Robert and his wife, Sara, and their four sons and two daughters would live there only until 1963, when they moved back to Proctor. Some in town may still remember the Proctor children: Anne, Redfield, Sara, Robert, Jr., George, and Fletcher. Believe it or not, the Proctors sold the house and 14.5 acres for only \$44,450 (about \$380,000 today).

The next owners, the Tracy family, lived there only until 1967, when they sold the property to Ginny and Tom Russell. The Russells were very active in the community and would live at 11 Pearl Street for 34 years. The seven Russell children—George, Sara, Edward, Dau, Charles, Michael and Kenneth—lived there for parts of their childhood. Five of them still live in Vermont and (See Marsh House, Page 7)

ments, the court ordered the house be given to her New York brokerage firm of Post and Flagg in 1901. Her son, Edward,

G Stone and Stone CDJR Present:

STONE OFF-ROADERFEST 🎃 TRUNK OR TREAT!

SUNDAY, Oct. 20th, 11 am-2 pm
at Stone CDJR 2149 Rt.7 South, Middlebury

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TAKE A RIDE ON THE OBSTACLE COURSE!

FOOD TRUCK ON SITE!
SHADY J'S BBQ

RAIN OR SHINE
bring your family and friends
COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!!!

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Sara's Stories sponsors Pittsford Chili Cook-off for literacy

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Fall means cider, pumpkins, and chili! At least in Pittsford, where the Sara's Stories children's literacy project is set to sponsor its 8th annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 19th at Pittsford Rec to raise funds for its book distribution program.

The program is affiliated with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), which distributes books to kids up to 5 years old in order to foster a love for reading at an early age. Sara's Stories runs its program in Pittsford, Florence, Proctor, West Rutland, Clarendon, Shrewsbury,

Castleton, and Poultney. Other sponsors unaffiliated with Sara's Stories cover Rutland City and Brandon for DPIL.

"We're hoping to eventually cover the rest of Rutland County," said Meghan Fox, one of the co-founders of Sara's Stories, which was named for Sara Gallipo, who passed away nine years ago and whose daughters

Jenelle Daly and Kayla Desabrais co-founded the project with Fox.

Last year, the project raised \$8,500 from the cook-off, which allowed Sara's Stories to distribute over 3,000 books to over 250 kids.

"This is our big fundraiser," said Fox. "It sets our budget for the year."

Sara's Stories also brings books to other events in each of the towns it serves, distributing roughly 150 books at each venue.

"Gardner's Trading Post in Rutland donated funds for us to buy a bookmobile," said Fox, who runs Pittsford Auto Center with her husband, Gordon. "We're in the process of fixing it up and should have it ready to go by spring of 2025."

There are currently 16 contestants officially signed up for the cook-off, though Fox said another handful will likely show up on the day of. Prizes are given for the top three chilis and for the spiciest, all as chosen by attendees. First prize is \$250, second is \$150, third is \$75, and spiciest is \$25.

If last year's cook-off is any guide, expect some tasty chili and some spice!

There will also be a cornhole tournament, with the winning team receiving \$100 and base-

ball caps.

Music will be provided by Logan Riesterer of Brandon and the Liambu Ale Company of Proctor will be on hand with their beloved local brews. Wonderfeet Kids' Museum of Rutland will entertain children with fun ac-

tivities throughout the event.

The fun begins at 11 a.m. at the Pittsford Rec Area. Winners are announced at 2.

So, come sample some amazing chili and support children's literacy!



BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED AWARDS waiting to be presented to the winners of the 8th annual Pittsford Chili Cook-off, sponsored by Sara's Stories. Revenue from the event will go toward providing free books to local children under age 5, as part of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. The event will be held at Pittsford Rec on Saturday, October 19 from 11 to 2.

Spotlight On Business THE LILAC INN



NEWTON HILL
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Brandon.org for more info



The Lilac Inn is a romantic Vermont country inn with nine guest rooms, each with a private bathroom. Every room has been lovingly decorated in its own style.

Since 1994, The Lilac Inn has been helping couples create their dream wedding.

Also baby and bridal showers as well as corporate events are all catered to your needs. We'll help you customize your entire day. We are always available to help you make your dream a reality.

Book Sale - B3GO

We need to clear out some space in our children's, young adult, and adult fiction sections!

Friday, Oct 18 through Sunday, Oct 20 B3GO:

THE BOOKSTORE

Buy three books (at full price), get one book* FREE!

Loyalty Members: Buy TWO books, get one book* FREE!

*of equal or lesser value, in the categories mentioned above (any kids books, plus YA, and adult paperback fiction/mystery/romance).



Cobble Knoll Orchard

Apples available on the stand and pick-your-own

Homemade Cider Donuts and Apple Pies. Fresh Pressed Cider, Maple Syrup, Honey, Vermont artisan cheese, Jams, Pickles, Apple Butter, Pumpkins and Squash

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1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743

Check availabilities at CobbleKnollOrchard.com, Facebook or Instagram.



BRANDON REPORTER

Commentary

A look at the finances of Brandon's State House race

BY ZEKE TWEEDIE

We are nearing the end of a campaign season that has pulled into its rhythm many more Brandonites than just Stephanie Jerome and Todd Nielsen. Some have gotten involved, and all have seen the yard signs and mailers that have fallen faster than the leaves lately.

Residents of all opinions can probably agree that the local process is more palatable than its national counterpart. This is in part because local races like this are run on a much smaller financial scale. The campaigns of Donald Trump and Kamala Harris will likely cost, all told, over a billion dollars each, with Harris crossing that threshold with almost a month still to go. Over a half of a billion of the dollars spent in that race will come from “independent-expenditure only,” explicitly unaffiliated political groups who raise and spend unlimited amounts of money as outside support for candidates—better known as SuperPACs.

Not quite the same attention has come to Brandon. But somebody is paying for those pamphlets and yard signs. By the most recent reports, submitted at the beginning of October, the combined campaigns have raised about \$10,400. Nielsen accounts for close to two-thirds of this, though his campaign has reported 11 donations to Jerome's 23. To better understand the dynamics of the race, we will consider the fundraising information provided by the candidates, compelled by the state's election laws. Per these rules, each campaign has, once

a month, been reporting on all of the money which they have accepted, information which is all available to the public on the website of the Secretary of State (campaignfinance.vermont.gov for anyone interested). The campaigns will continue to make reports straight through the election, and the final summary report is not due until December 15, but it is likely that most of the money which will influence this campaign has already been raised.

To best use this resource, I define several groups of contributors. The state lists nine categories, but they can be separated meaningfully into two. On one hand are donations made by individual citizens and businesses, people acting in their own private capacity, using their donations to advocate for causes or candidates that they believe will represent their interests. Then, there is the money from political parties and PACs, which, though different, operate in the same way in how they influence campaigns: by raising money from individual and organizational donors, and then spending that pooled money in support of political candidates (and sometimes other campaigns, like ballot initiatives). The important distinction is that the individual and business donations are made straight from the pocket to the candidate, whereas the political parties and PACs have been entrusted by others to spend their money; these donations are in this way indirect (and are in fact harder to trace). To be clear, there are

(See *Look at finances, Page 6*)



Dinner for ONE

THIS PEREGRINE FALCON made sure that I knew it wasn't sharing its lunch!

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums Halloween Festival & Jack-O'-Lantern Hike

Looking for a “wild” family adventure for Halloween this year?

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is inviting families to attend its annual Halloween Wildlife Festival and Jack-O'-Lantern Hike at the Kehoe Education Center on Point of Pines Road in Castleton on Wednesday, October 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The festival highlights Vermont species through educational stations, crafts and campfire activities led by Vermont State University Stu-

dents. Kids will learn about the creepy, crawly critters that reside in Vermont and have a chance to get decked out in their costumes before the traditional trick-or-treat night.

One of the other highlights of the evening is a jack-o-lantern lit nature walk. Families will embark on a self-guided walk through the Kehoe trail system while admiring hundreds of carved jack-o-lanterns.

“October is a perfect time to highlight the fun of Halloween while focusing on the critters that make it so special,” said

Education Specialist Corey Hart. “This event gives families a chance to enjoy the season in a fun way and to learn that these animals may not be so scary after all.”

Admission and activities are free and open to the public, and all ages are welcome. No registration is required. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

The Edward F. Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp is operated by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. (See *Halloween Festival, Page 11*)

Public meeting on the future of public ed in VT

Please join the membership of the Commission on the Future of Public Education for a community engagement session on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Randolph Union Middle High School Theater, 15 Forest Street, Randolph, VT 05060. To attend virtually please click here to join the meeting. This will be the first of many statewide input sessions over the course of the next year, and will be an opportunity to:

- Learn about the Commission, including its charge and timeline
- Learn about the current Vermont education context

- Provide input to the Commission as it begins its work

The Commission looks forward to this first of many opportunities it plans for public engagement. For more information, please visit the Commission's website:

- AGENDA**
- 5:00 p.m. Welcome & Overview of the Evening**
Purpose and Charge of the Commission
 - 5:20 p.m. Current Education Context in Vermont**
Statutory Responsibility and Current Context
Input Questions:
• What are the strengths of

- public education in Vermont?
- What are some of the challenges of our current system?
- What suggestions do you have for the Commission?
- 6:00 p.m. Current Education Finance System**
Overview
FY25 Budget Challenges and Cost Drivers
Input Questions:
What questions do you have about the finance system?
What suggestions do you have about the finance system?
- 6:45 p.m. What Else?**
- 6:55 p.m. Next Steps**
- 7:00 p.m. Adjourn**

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The REPORTER

A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a 501c3 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.

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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

Letters to the Editor

Say a prayer for the little hunting dog

On a recent rainy Monday, I had a bit of a strange encounter. I stopped at the Champlain store in Brandon to get gas for my truck. When I exited the truck, there was a silver Toyota or Nissan on the other side of the gas pump. In the box of this truck was a small dog crate in the very back. In the crate, which wasn't tethered, was a little hunting dog. He was soaking wet and shivering uncontrollably. There was no blanket

or bedding in the crate. I found this situation to be quite unsettling.

At this point, the owner of the truck came out of the store and began to fuel it up. I said the dog is freezing and should be in the cab where it's warm. I was told to mind my own business. I noted a Pennsylvania tag on the truck and asked if the poor creature had to ride back to Pennsylvania in the crate that had no cover and no

protection from the elements. The dog's owner again told me to mind my own business. I said, "I'm making it my business" and that someone should put him in the crate. He replied that he'd like to see me try it. I will admit I was a bit worried that I might get shot. As we all know, people in this country are shooting people more and more every day. I would say that a person that is willing to chase bears with a dog through

the forest and then keep a soaking wet little dog in a crate, in the back of a truck, on a forty-degree day, with no protection, is a person that would be most likely to shoot if they feel threatened. So, I had to be prepared for this scenario. Still, I had more to say to this man that was clearly mistreating this poor little creature.

He got into his truck and pulled around to put air in his tire. I berated him some more

as he pumped the air. I called him a few choice words and he called me a redneck. Well, that's the pot calling the kettle black. I don't hunt creatures. I don't mistreat animals and I don't kill. I have somewhat of a bleeding heart when it comes to the less fortunate beings of this world. This doesn't mean I didn't want to harm this guy, because I did want to. But that would've accomplished nothing.

(See *Hunting dog*, Page 11)

Stephanie Jerome will keep Brandon moving in a positive direction

As far as I can tell, the only thing we know about the Republican House candidate's position on the issues is his pledge to never vote to raise taxes or fees. But it's really not as simple as just saying no. For instance, would it be responsible to vote against a \$16 increase in car registration fees if it prevents the State Transportation Fund from becoming insolvent and risking losing federal highway funding? Even Ronald Reagan, the famous tax cutter, raised taxes several times during his presidency because it would have been irresponsible not to do so.

Stephanie Jerome understands that the recent property-tax increase is high. Some of the increase is due to sharp increases in education costs, such as a 16% increase in healthcare expenses. However, there are structural problems in the education funding system which need to be addressed. Stephanie understands the system and will work for change. Just saying no is not the

answer.

While we can't get many details from the Republican candidate, we can look at what his supporters are writing. They are relentlessly negative about how things are here in Brandon. Seniors can't afford to pay their property taxes and are leaving town or thinking about it. If those folks have limited income, they can pay their property taxes based on their income rather than the value of their property under the Vermont Property Tax Credit Program. A majority of Vermont taxpayers pay their property taxes in this manner.

The Republican candidate's supporters also contend that business owners are dissatisfied and struggling. However, downtown Brandon has never looked better. It gets crowded. Try finding a parking place downtown on the weekend. There are no vacant storefronts. Business seems to be good. At the recent Chamber of Commerce mixer, everyone seemed happy and

optimistic. The only complaint I have heard is finding enough workers. While business owners may not want to turn off customers by displaying political signs, the business owners I know are all strong supporters of Stephanie Jerome.

Finally, if things are so bad in Brandon, why do so many people want to live here? Brandon is even attracting young people. Brandon has things going on that are attractive to young people. Like in the rest of Vermont, housing affordability is an issue. But some people have found a way. Recently, while Stephanie and I were going door to door, we met a number of young people who bought inexpensive "fixer uppers" and were fixing them up. It's a great thing to see young people moving to town who seem to be putting down roots.

Let's keep Brandon moving forward by voting for Stephanie Jerome on November 5.

Bob Clark
Brandon

In response to "History Lessons" in last week's issue

In response to a letter from last week's edition—"History Lessons"—I would like to point out a fundamental error in the letter writer's premise, which read "No to more taxes is the platform this country was founded on."

That is patently incorrect. It is "No Taxation without Repre-

sentation," which was one of the battle cries that led to the American Revolution and our ultimate freedom from a foreign King that imposed his so-called divine right on the colonists.

Namaste.
Robert Cappio
Leicester

Stephanie Jerome's history of community involvement has earned my support

Volunteers are the backbone of many Brandon organizations, including the Fire Department, schools, library, civic clubs, and many more that rely on these dedicated folks to function.

Stephanie Jerome has stepped up to fill many roles, including Neshobe PTO, Four Winds Nature Program, Brandon Chamber of Commerce, Town Planning Commission, Friends of Otter Valley Music, Revolving Loan Fund, and Brandon Economic Development Committee, to

name just a few.

As you can see, Stephanie Jerome has experience in a multitude of areas. That's what we need representing us in Montpelier: tried experience with a background as diverse as she has.

That's why I am supporting her this election year. She will continue with hard work for all people in Brandon.

Sue Wetmore
Brandon

Last week's 'History Lesson' did not accurately portray taxation before the Revolution

As a retired history teacher with over 40 years' experience, including being a museum educator, a public high-school teacher, and a college instructor, I was eager to read Vicki Disorda's "History Lessons." Sadly, I was very disappointed with the quality of her analysis. Just as her candidate of choice, Todd Nielsen, offers only a thin promise of voting "No" on taxes, Vicki's "lesson" lacked any in-depth analysis or critical thinking which is encouraged in students by historians. In addition, one of the main sources she enthusiastically cites is his-

tory.com, which is just about universally rejected as a reliable source by history teachers and historians. She picks and chooses bits of information from other sources such as britannica.com and Vermont Public without providing context or background. Her so-called lesson falls flat as history.

In order to actually understand the events that led up to the American Revolution, a good starting place would be the end of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), the American theater of a global conflict known as the Seven Years War. Britain

incurred a crushing debt fighting that war. The English in North America during the French and Indian War were largely concerned with securing the border of the colonies from long-time European rival France. The taxes being imposed upon the colonies were not to enrich an overseas overlord but to cover the cost of protecting the colonists and maintaining an economic system that tied the British colonies in North America to other British colonies around the world and to Britain herself. The Sugar Act of 1764 actually lowered the tax on sugar that had been in effect

since the Molasses Act of 1733. The difference was that Britain was now going to enforce the collection of duties which had been widely skirted by colonial smugglers for decades. As far as tea was concerned, the British East India Company did indeed seek a monopoly on the popular beverage. The wide-reaching British East India Company was said to be "too big to fail" (to use a recently coined phrase) and for better or worse, Parliament was determined to protect the company from catastrophic failure by subsidizing British tea. As with the Sugar Act, the revised Tea

Act actually reduced the price of tea. In America, smuggled Dutch tea on which duties had not been paid was undercutting British tea. The Dutch were economic rivals to Britain and, by extension, her colonies such as China is a rival of the United States today. One of the wealthiest American merchants doing a thriving business in that Dutch tea was John Hancock, Yes, the guy with the big signature. He had a warehouse full of illegally obtained Dutch tea and he stood to lose his shirt if the now cheaper British tea hit the Boston market. He

(See *Accurate portrayal*, Page 11)

Obituaries

Gloria A. Darmstadt, 89, Brandon

Gloria A. Darmstadt, 89, of Sayville, NY died on Saturday, October 5, 2024. A resident of Sayville for most of her life, Gloria passed peacefully in her sleep at the VNS Hospice House in East Northport, NY.

Gloria lived a full and rich life, pursuing her love of antiques, golfing, bowling, and playing a good game of progressive rummy while nursing a 7&7. She adored the many incarnations of her poodles, Bebe/Peppy, looking for old bottles in ramshackle barns, and spending time with her ever-growing family. Gloria was blessed with 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Gloria and her husband, Charley, were best friends and did everything together. During their 70 years of marriage, they re-



GLORIA A. DARMSTADT

sided on Long Island and in Vermont. Later in life, Gloria and Charley enjoyed many winters in Port Orange, Florida, where they remained active playing golf, socializing, and looking for sea shells on the beach.

Gloria is survived by her three

children, Sherry Simpson and her husband, Thomas, of Sayville; Linda O'Connell and her husband, Dennis, of Sayville; and Charles (Chip) and his wife, Alisa, of Burlington, Vermont; her grandchildren, Scott, Heather, Steven, Mark, Kevin, Brandon, Sam and Charlie; great-grandchildren, Brynn, Brooklyn, Mason, Rosie, Ben Peyton, Brayden, Navy, Mackenzie, Kayleigh and Ryan; and her sister, Joan. She was predeceased by her grandson, Christopher, in 2000, and by her husband, Charles, in 2023.

Services for Mrs. Darmstadt were entrusted to Raynor & D'Andrea Funeral Homes and were private. Donations to the VNS Hospice House in East Northport, NY, in Gloria's memory are appreciated.

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1) recognized by the state for its work during the summer floods of 2023 and 2024.

- The damage to Sanderson Covered Bridge on Pearl Street would cost \$25,000 to repair, according to two separate estimates received by the town. The town's insurer is pursuing the claim against the insurer of the trucking company whose driver caused the damage. In a separate incident last week, the guardrail leading to the bridge was also damaged by a driver suspected of DUI.

- The town has learned that it has the legal authority to place a stop sign at the intersection of Marble Street and Park Street in Brandon, turning the intersection from a three-way stop to a four-way. Residents have complained

that the three-way stop is unsafe and confusing. Mr. Hopkins advised the Board to undertake a complete review of the town's traffic ordinance, which has not been updated since the early 1990s. Mr. Hopkins suggested that the review be conducted by a working group consisting of 2 Selectboard members, the town manager, the Highway Department Chief, and the Police Chief.

- There is a vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission that needs to be filled in order for the Commission to have a quorum to run meetings. Currently, the Commission is unable to meet. Anyone interested in the position should contact Seth Hopkins at manager@brandonvermont.gov.

Board member Brian Coolidge asked Mr. Hopkins about the Po-

lice Department's budget overruns for the past 2 years. Last year, the Department was \$43K overbudget. The year before, it was \$30K overbudget. Mr. Hopkins replied that the overage would come out of the unrestricted portion of the town's general fund, though last year other departments finished the year underbudget and that unused budgeted money offset the Police Department's overage, thus reducing the amount needed from the general fund.

An attendee expressed concern that the Airstream Rally two weeks ago had damaged the lawn behind the Brandon Inn and that the rallygoers had improperly disposed of their graywater on the grass. He asked who would be responsible for repairing the damage.

Mr. Hopkins replied that he had already toured the site with the owner of the Inn, Sid Beccar Varela. Mr. Hopkins said that Mr. Beccar Varela had been happy with the event and took the damage in stride. He also said that the town would pay to restore the lawn. Mr. Hopkins also reminded the room that the various owners of the Inn have been generous with the public use of their private property over the years and that it was in the town's interest to maintain a good relationship with them. He also noted that the town benefited financially from the retail revenue generated by the event, which was estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$20,000, be-

Look at finances

(Continued from Page 4) many nuances to each contribution, neither form is necessarily more valid or virtuous than the other.

In direct donations, Nielsen holds a fundraising lead of \$2,697 to Jerome's \$1,717.80. These both include the small donations, contributions of less than \$100 which are reported anonymously, and are most likely all individual donors. Despite Nielsen's lead in direct donations, Jerome has collected 13 of these small, anonymous contributions, to Nielsen's three. Jerome has also collected more individual donations of more than \$100 from Brandonites.

Nielsen has his own financial supporters in town, but his largest direct donor is one Lenore Broughton, whose entry stands out in the records as the only direct contributor listed at an address outside of Brandon—Henry Street in Burlington. Ms. Broughton is an heiress, granddaughter to a Montgomery Ward

CEO, and over the past few decades has given several million dollars to various conservative campaigns and causes in Vermont. Her donation to Nielsen was the maximum allowed, \$1,000, nearly as much as all of the large individual donations to Jerome combined. The records are scattered, but it appears Ms. Broughton made this same donation to Republican candidates in all of Vermont's state races.

Nielsen's other advantage is with the Brandon business community; he lists as donors both Hayes Recycled Pallets and Neshobe Wood Products, who together gave over \$1,000. Jerome has not received any contributions from businesses.

The other category, then, would be the indirect contributions, money given to the campaigns by political parties and political action committees, which collect their money from their own donors. This makes tracing the direct source of this (See Look at finances, Page 23)

cause the town taxes an extra 1% on sales in Brandon.

"Your taxes won't go down, but they also won't go up as much as they might have" without the additional revenue, he said.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Board unanimously appointed Natalie Steen to be Acting Zoning Administrator (AZA). The AZA steps in when the town's Zoning Administrator, currently Larry Stevens, is unable to perform their duties, as when there is a conflict of interest. For example, if Mr. Stevens sought a construction permit for his own property, the AZA would step in to evaluate the application. The AZA is an uncompensated position.

Mr. Hopkins and Board member Heather Nelson both gave Ms. Steen their enthusiastic endorsement, noting that she has been a member of the Planning Commission for a long time, in addition to other volunteer positions she's held in town.

YEARLY 'GREEN FLEET' REVIEW

Board member Tim Guiles presented the annual "Green Fleet" policy review to the Board. The Green Fleet policy was designed to bring Brandon in line with Vermont's carbon-reduction goals:

- 25% reduction by 2025
- 40% reduction by 2030
- 80% reduction by 2050

Mr. Guiles's report monitored

the town's use of gas, diesel, #2 heating oil, and propane for the past year, to determine whether the town is on track to meet these goals.

- According to the report, "while we are doing good things to reduce our energy usage, the 7-year trend shows that Brandon's carbon footprint is essentially flat." The report goes on to list several ways in which Brandon can get back on track to meet the 2025 goal. These include:

- Shifting to heat pumps as a primary heating source and providing better insulation at the wastewater plant
- Building a new garage for the Highway Department
- Replacing gas-fueled vehicles with electric vehicles

The report also indicates that while there are feasible alternatives to propane, gas, and heating oil, there are currently no practical alternatives to diesel for the heavy machinery that requires it. However, the report urges Brandon to continue looking for alternatives for long-term reductions.

The entire report is available for review in the Selectboard packet for 10/14/24 on the town website.

In response to the report, an attendee presented the Board with an article from The Guardian newspaper that outlined some of the purported dangers and pitfalls of lithium as a major component of batteries for electric vehicles. The article stated that

(See Brandon SB, Page 23)

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Jim & Liz McRae

Marsh House

(Continued from Page 2)

visit Brandon often.

In 2001, Ginny Russell subdivided the property and sold the house and 2.7 acres on Pearl Street to Hoyt and Christy Gahagan, who still own it. Ginny Russell passed away in 2018, a great loss to the Brandon community.

Did you ever visit this magnificent old house? Did you know the

Proctors or the Russells?

Do you believe the town lore that the house was a stop on the Underground Railroad back in the years leading up to the Civil War? Hidden closets, stairways, and underground passageways in the basement? Depends on who you talk to. The current owners are skeptical, as are local historians who looked into it, including Kevin Thornton and

Blaine Cliver.

But, others, including some of the Russells and the Proctors, believe it must be true. They remember seeing the passageway in the basement and discovering the hidden staircases and closets.

Back in 1995-7, the house was even part of a Chamber of Commerce tour of seven houses in Brandon purported to be part of the Underground Railroad. The tour was conducted by longtime resident Joan Thomas, who said she saw the

tunnel when she babysat for Proctor family. In a 2017 VPR piece on the Underground Railroad, Joan was quoted as follows:

“Down cellar, there was a big hole,” Joan recalls. She says that one day, “the oldest boy was coming home from school, and going

passageway.

Historians Thornton and Cliver are doubters about the passageway, as is Ted Russell. Ted says: “Why would a tunnel be needed? An escaped slave could simply walk in the dark from the house to the railroad tracks. Brandon, Vermont is



OIL PORTRAITS OF Eliza Sprague Marsh and Rodney V. Marsh, now on display at the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace. The Marshes were committed abolitionists. Rodney Marsh was also Brandon’s Representative to the VT House of Representatives in the late 1850s.



THE MARSH HOUSE today retains its original grandeur. The current owner, Hoyt Gahagan, has maintained the property at a very high standard.

down there with his friends, and playing. Well, I went down one day because it was pretty quiet down there, and they had gone through this hole and they were in this tunnel. And that tunnel went down to the railroad tracks.”

Christy Gahagan has confirmed there were hidden staircases and closets, but she doubts there was a passageway. Hoyt Gahagan says they haven’t found the tunnel. Some of the Russells remember hidden stairways and even the basement

pretty far from the South, so there wouldn’t have been bounty hunters all over the place.”

Blaine Cliver adds “You’d have to dig a pretty good tunnel, and it’d be easier just to run across the street.”

Whatever you believe, there’s no doubt this beautiful old mansion and the families that have lived here over its 170 years are an iconic part of Brandon’s history. It would be a great AirBnB rental!

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‘Proto-Cycology’: Angus Chaney’s second book continues a bike ride into the absurd

BY STEVEN JUPITER

WEST GOSHEN—The mountains and valleys between Goshen and Rochester are crisscrossed with what we understand today to be bike paths. We understand that these paths were created by human beings for their own pleasure and recreation. But if we were to travel into the future—perhaps a future in which bicycles are the only remaining means of transport but all knowledge of their origins has been lost—what myths would we create to explain the network of trails that make up the entirety of our known world?

This is the pressing question behind the books in Angus Chaney’s “Proto-Cycology” series, the sec-

ond volume of which was just published this year. Mr. Chaney and the books’ illustrator, Ethan Nelson,



AN ILLUSTRATION BY Ethan Nelson meant to evoke ancient cave drawings.

will be presenting the works at the Rutland Public Library on Wednesday, October 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Mr. Chaney has spent the last few years collecting for publication the myths of the “mountain bike clans of Central Vermont,” an ethnographic endeavor that has required the concerted efforts of professors and graduate students at West Goshen University (WGU), arguably the most important institution of higher learning that never existed and whose academic press

published these books.

Some of these tales had to be translated into American (Mr. Chaney is careful to distinguish this from English) from the original “Chiac” dialect of archaic French, an undertaking in which he was aided by his graduate students.

“I was quite pleased with the translation,” said Mr. Chaney, adjunct professor of Classical Studies, in his office at WGU, which is nestled in the now-autumnal hills of the Goshen Blueberry Management Area. He’d invited me for a conversation about his work and perched on a winged bicycle as we discussed it. Hikers walked by, unaware that they were witnessing one of the most significant literary conversations ever to occur on those russet slopes.

The first volume is entitled “Creation Myths for the Apocalypse” and captures the history of three men (Eben, Raymond, and Warner) who, as the oral histories tell us, lived among and rode the trails of Central Vermont. Their mountain bikes are their steeds, their survival in a world that could either predate our own or be the last remnants thereof.

“Think of Proto-Cycology as a double helix of sacred truths and sacred untruths,” said Chaney with a spiral flourish of his hands. “This is the sacred text of the Northern Appalachian mountain bike clans! (See Angus Chaney, Page 21)



LEFT TO RIGHT: SENATOR WEEKS, GOVERNOR SCOTT, SENATOR COLLAMORE, AND SENATOR WILLIAMS.

RE-ELECT RUTLAND COUNTY'S WINNING TEAM

SENATOR BRIAN COLLAMORE
 SENATOR DAVE WEEKS
 SENATOR TERRY WILLIAMS

VOTE BY NOV. 5TH

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- ★ MAKE VERMONT MORE AFFORDABLE
- ★ PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE

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Baird Morgan

(Continued from Page 1)

Vermont Tubbs. The owner at the time, Harold Underwood, was “a bit rough” but he and Morgan hit it off.

“I was young and naïve and spent too much money on it,” laughed Morgan. But Morgan would eventually expand Vermont Tubbs from a struggling snowshoe maker with 3 employees in Wallingford to a successful furniture manufacturer that employed scores of people in Brandon.

“When I took over, we were selling to hardware stores, not sporting goods shops,” he said.

Part of Morgan’s retail strategy involved demonstrating the handicraft that went into the shoes at trade shows.

“In 1970 or 71, we had a little 10’ x 10’ booth at the National Sporting Good trade show in Chicago,” Morgan recalled. “We knew we’d be surrounded by huge companies with attractive women demonstrating their products. So, we had a woman demonstrate how to string a snowshoe with the rawhide strips. We soaked the rawhide in the hotel bathtub overnight to make it supple and had the lady string shoes all day at the show. People were mesmerized. That was the beginning of the snowshoe craze.”

Morgan had sales reps clamoring to work with Tubbs and the company was able to get its products into high-profile retailers like L.L. Bean.

Soon, the company’s space in Wallingford was insufficient. Some operations were moved to Middletown Springs, but eventually the company bought several buildings in Forest Dale over the years, including the old Newton Thompson toy company’s compound on New-

ton Road and the building that would eventually house New England Woodcraft before it burned down in the late 70s (NE Woodcraft rebuilt and remains in that location).

Vermont Tubbs became a fixture in Brandon for the next few decades.

“A lot of people in the area used to work for us,” said Morgan.

Wanting to diversify beyond winter sports, Morgan tried manufacturing canoes in order to tap into the summer market. The canoes’ seats had woven rawhide just like the snowshoes.

“Our canoe handled well but we didn’t manage that business very well,” he noted. “We never really made any money at that.”

He sold the canoe company, but the idea of making “snowshoe” furniture stuck with him. He eventually made a “snowshoe” chair that he offered to sporting goods stores for people trying on shoes. The chairs caught on and people started buying them for their vacation homes. The furniture is now considered highly collectible.

“I saw one of our rockers on eBay recently for \$2,500,” he laughed. He and his wife, Betsy, still have a bunch of the furniture in their summer home, with one of the aforementioned rockers in their home in Pittsford.

Morgan was still determined, however, to put the company’s manufacturing techniques, particularly their skill at bending hardwood, to use in other products.

“I was getting nervous depending on snow for our revenue,” he said. Tubbs started manufacturing a range of

housewares for a company in New Jersey, but the demands of that kind of production were intense.

“We were making too many things,” Morgan said. “I was naïve.”

He hired a designer named Ed Whiting to conceive two chairs out of caning and bent ash (“ash stays supple when bent; oak gets brittle and snaps”). The chairs caught the eye of a major player in interior design at the time: Sir Terence Conran.

Conran had a chain of design shops called “Habitat” in the U.K. and “The Conran Shop” in the U.S. From the mid-70s to the late 80s, Conran’s sleek aesthetic was extremely influential and his stores were extremely popular. He asked Morgan to design a bentwood bed for his shop.

Conran liked the sample that Tubbs came up with and ordered 50.

“That’s a lot of beds!” laughed Morgan. “We were set up to make snowshoes, not beds!”

The order was placed in March with August delivery, but in July one of Conran’s buyers, Joyce Haley, called and expanded the order to 500. The bed was placed on the front of the company’s catalog.

“It was the hottest-selling bed in the country for a while,” said Morgan. “We were in the



BAIRD MORGAN (RIGHT) with Reginald Barnard (left) and one of the canoes that VT Tubbs made in an attempt to diversify beyond snowshoes. The canoe division wasn’t as successful as other products and was eventually sold off.

right place at the right time.”

Vermont Tubbs started making other designs. Morgan traveled regularly to Europe to study trends and find inspira-

tion. He even won some design awards. Soon Tubbs was selling furniture to other retailers.

A small housewares store *(See Baird Morgan, Page 20)*



THE BED CREATED by VT Tubbs for Conran’s in the early 80s. This bed put VT Tubbs on the map as a furniture maker and was one of the most popular designs of its time.

Re-elect

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JEROME

State
Representative
Brandon

★ VOTE BY ★
NOVEMBER 5th

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OUR CREATIVE KIDS

STUDENTS: Dennis Tardiff and Bentley Lowell

GRADE: 6

SCHOOL: Neshobe

TITLE: Untitled

MEDIUM: Paper, pencil, paint, marker, and collage

TEACHER: John Brodowski



STATEMENT FROM DENNIS AND BENTLEY:

Lightning struck the ocean and all the water turned into coffee. Then a donut rose from the Mariana Trench and now it is floating in an ocean of coffee and it rules the world.

STATEMENT FROM MR. B:

Dennis and Bentley let their creativity run wild with this picture. It presents us, the viewers, with more questions than answers. This is one of the things that good art can do.

Hunting dog

(Continued from Page 5)

ing whatsoever. In fact, as I think about it, I wish I handled it a little more diplomatically. Perhaps introduced myself and made small talk and then casually mentioned the dog and how it is actually illegal to have a dog ride in the box of a pickup. Instead, I lost my temper and called him a few choice words. That tactic didn't work very well as he got in his truck and drove away with the little hunting dog still in the unprotected crate that wasn't even anchored. I was disappointed in myself. If I had kissed some behind and did some sucking up, perhaps I could've saved

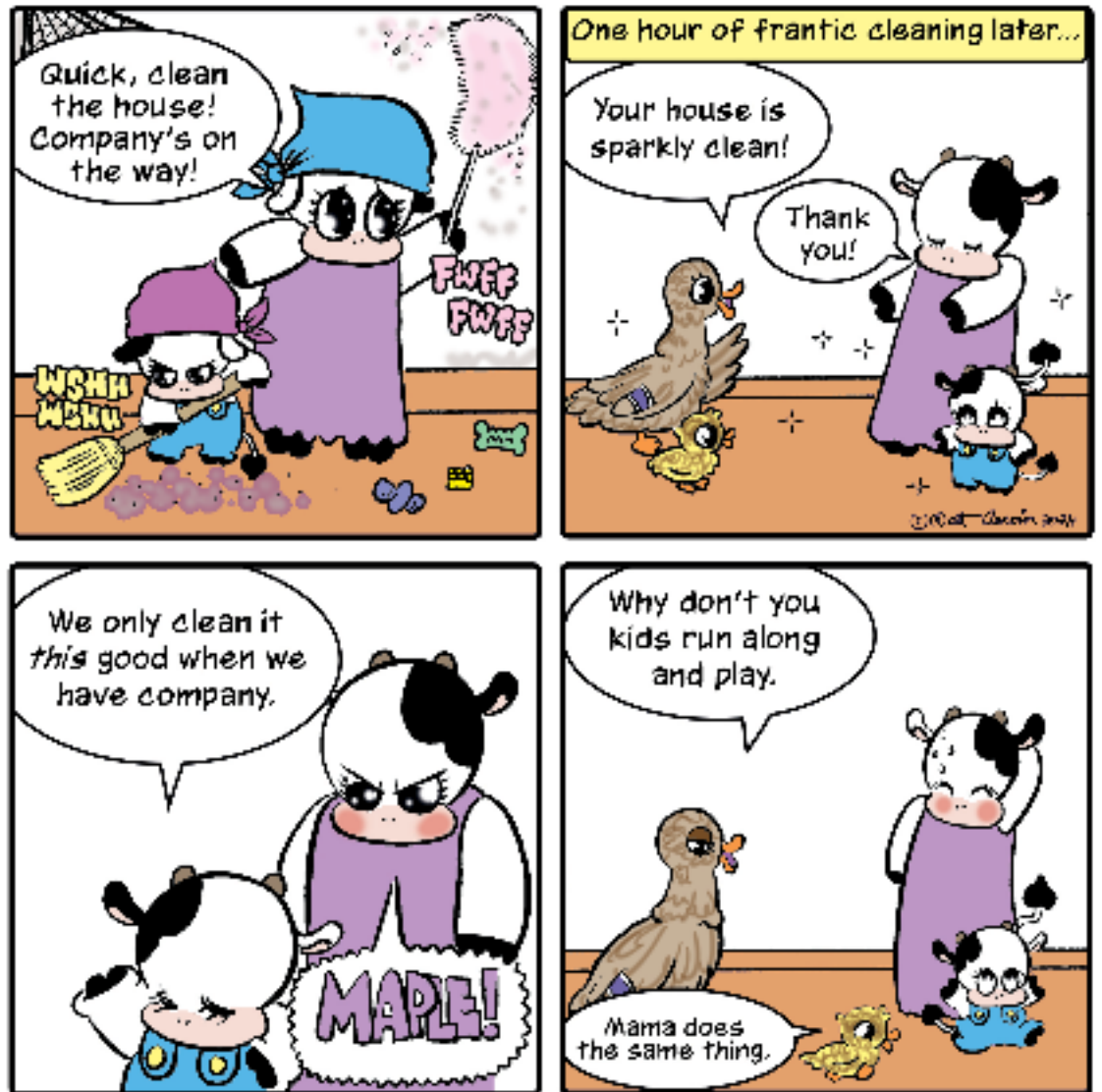
this little dog from his miserable plight.

As I drove back home, I thought about my three rescue dogs at home sitting on the couch and chewing on their soup bones, all warm and cozy. I have to admit I shed a tear for all the sad little creatures that are living in a certain kind of hell.

So, say a little prayer for the little dog in the crate. Because if he had to ride back to Pennsylvania in this weather, then I would guess he wouldn't survive the trip.

Steve Bryant
Forest Dale

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Accurate portayal

(Continued from Page 5)

was a prime behind-the-scenes instigator for the event that came to be known as the Boston Tea Party and his motivation for manipulating events was blatantly financial, not political or philosophical.

On the other hand, John Adams, also of Boston, was philosophically motivated when he defended the seven soldiers and one officer who fired into a crowd of angry Bostonians on a wintry March night: the "Boston Massacre." Adams successfully brought about the acquittal of six of them because he wanted to make sure that they all enjoyed the long traditional right of Englishmen to a fair trial. Vicki Disorda's lesson would have you believe that the angry mob of Bostonians with bricks, snowballs, and clubs of wood who confronted a single soldier later reinforced by six more soldiers and their officer valiantly stood up against "the most formidable army in the world." It was a charged and ugly street brawl where tempers were hot and reasonable men were few. And I won't even go into her mistaken (but typical) misunderstanding of the Quartering Act. It required that the colonies pay for the room and board of soldiers stationed in the colonies, primarily in empty barns and warehouses. (Resistance to the Quartering Act sounds more like "Defunding the Police.") It never ejected families from their beds and homes.

The Boston Massacre had little if anything to do with taxes, but this is the narrative that Vicki Disorda would push in her "les-

son." Just as fifteen years ago the reactionary conservative "Tea Party Movement" co-opted the patriotic trappings and popular mythology of the events leading up to the American Revolution without really understanding the nuance and complexity of those events, Vicki Disorda's "lesson" plays fast and loose with hand-picked facts and relies more on emotion and tale than actual critical thinking. While it might be easy and convenient to just say, "No" to taxes, as she seems to imply our founding fathers did, the reality is taxes are part of the social contract and it would be irresponsible and dangerous to dismiss them out of hand. Ironically the patriots of the American Revolution found the new United States handicapped by their Articles of Confederation government that did not provide for a central taxing authority. This precipitated a national emergency that threatened to undo the Revolution. After much debate, much of it led by Alexander Hamilton, a new constitution that acknowledged the need for such a power was born.

As the founding fathers learned, governance requires thoughtful decision making and compromise not oversimplified explanations and snap judgments. I am glad we have a candidate, Stephanie Jerome, who understands the many sides to complex issues and has the experience, compassion, foresight, and will to make well-thought-out decisions.

John Peterson
Brandon

Halloween Festival

(Continued from Page 4)

This event is sponsored by the department and students from Vermont State University Castleton campus.

For more information about the event, contact Corey Hart at corey.hart@vermont.gov or 802-565-5562. Organizers are seeking donations of pumpkins for the event, so anyone with spare pumpkins is asked to please get in touch with Hart. Pumpkin donations will be accepted until October 25.

For directions to the Edward F. Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp, visit <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>.

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Lasagna Dinner
This
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5 – 7 PM
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Brandon
Lasagna, Garden Salad & Bread
Ghirardelli Brownies with Ice Cream for Dessert
Adults \$10
Children \$6

Calendar of events

October

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Aikido with Brandon Rec -- Aikido classes for Youth (4:30) and Adults (5:30) at Brandon's Town Hall main floor. Beginners and Spectators always welcome! For more information, visit www.AikidoVermont.org

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

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



Friends Zone

Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the Friends Zone. Open Tuesdays 12-3 pm at the Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, Brandon.

Meet with old friends and make new ones. Play cards, cribbage, or Yahtzee. Put a puzzle together or bring your arts, crafts, and hobbies to work on. Snacks and beverages provided. All are welcome to attend.

For more information contact pastor Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

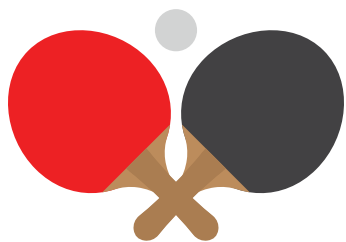
Ping Pong

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

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

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

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



great game of "Pong!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free drop-in homework help wth Dan for grades K-12!

Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 pm at the Brandon Free Public Library.

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.

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."

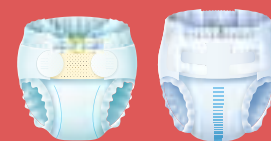
Thursday 17th

Adult Pour Painting — Chaffee Art Center

Learn the pour painting technique. Follow along with an instructor and leave with a finished painting. Instructor: Lorrie Amerio Maniery. Thursday, Oct. 17, 6-8 pm. \$40 per person includes all supplies. Min: 5, Max: 12.

MUST PRE-REGISTER at <http://chaffeeartcenter.square.site>

The Brandon Area Tuesdays 12-3 pm to anyone who ne Walk-ins are welco



Brandon For Club Dia

To make up for the cut in s diaper bank from \$320,000 be a diaper drive at Brand Donations accepted during Tuesdays 12-3 pm Sundays 12:30-2 pm 1 Franklin Street

each other thrive. This is a space just for you ladies, to relate and learn, and maybe even to do some fun projects together towards building a more connected community. Co-Hosted by Bee Well Coaching!

** Snacks and beverages will be provided. This is a recovery friendly group.**

Located at 251 West St. in Rutland at the Vermont Farmers Food Center campus in the white building from 5:30–7 pm.

For more information: info@socialtinkering.org 802-342-5811

On Instagram @socialtinkering

Friday 18th

Arun Ramamurthy Trio — Next Stage Arts

“a beautiful, exotic, ear-opening listening experience.” (All About Jazz)

Arun Ramamurthy Trio (ART) brings together South Indian classical Carnatic music and contemporary American jazz. Boundaries are blurred in this organic and seamless integration of styles as the group ex-

ancient discoveries and the vision of the future beholder.

The gallery is open Monday–Saturday 10 am–5 pm, and Sunday 10 am–4 pm. 7 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733. (802) 247-4956 .

Saturday 19th

Lasagna Dinner — Brandon United Methodist Church

Lasagna, garden salad, Ghiradelli brownies and ice cream. Adults \$10; Children \$6. 5–7 pm. 1 Franklin St., Brandon.

Friday 18th Sunday 20th

Champlain Valley Craft Show and Antique Expo

A beloved seasonal Vermont tradition continues . . . It's two great shows for the price of

one! Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the Champlain Valley Craft Show & Antique Expo! Join us at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in picturesque Essex Junction, Vermont, on October 18, 19 & 20, 2024.

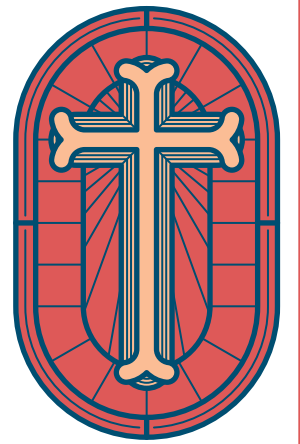
Immerse yourself in a world of creativity as you explore over 150 booths showcasing exceptional American-made arts, crafts, and specialty foods. Discover unique treasures, from handcrafted jewelry and exquisite pottery to charming home decor and delectable

Brandon Baptist Church Free Reformation Conference on Rediscovering the Church

October 25th–October 26th 2024
Friday 6:30–9:00pm & Saturday 9:00 am–3:15pm

Features 6 Pastors from various churches in Vermont preaching on Analogies, Attributes, Adoration, Authority, Association and Advancement of the church.

Call the church for more info at 802-247-3339
13 Champlain St. Brandon, VT



treats. This is your chance to support talented artisans and find one-of-a-kind pieces that reflect your style and passion.

But that's not all! Don't miss the Antique Expo at the Blue Ribbon Pavilion, where you can step back in time and browse through a collection of authentic antiques. Discover hidden gems, vintage treasures, and timeless pieces that tell stories of the past. It's like getting two incredible shows for the price of one!

Rain or shine, the Champlain Valley Craft Show & Antique Expo will captivate you indoors. And don't worry about parking—we've got you covered with ample free parking for your convenience.

Adult admission is \$10.00, and children under age 14 can enter for free! What's even better? Your admission ticket grants you access to both events and all three days of the show. Plus, you can save \$2 with a coupon at the gate or purchase tickets online. It's an incredible value you won't want to miss.

Festival Hours: Friday from 10 am–5 pm, Saturday from 10 am–5 pm, and Sunday from 10 am–4 pm. For more information and to access a discount admission coupon, visit us at castleberryfairs.com.

Brandon Area Food Shelf

Food Shelf is open on Sundays 12:30–2 pm, and provides assistance. Come.

We are located at Brandon United Methodist Church, 1 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT

For more information, please call Kathy Mathis (802-247-3121) or Pastor Vicki Disorda (802-345-4125).



Goings on around town

expands on traditional forms in explosive, improvisational flights of fancy. ART explores the kindred spirit of raga music and jazz, resulting in a deeply invigorating and spiritual experience. Their sound is driven by the dynamic rhythm section of drummer Sameer Gupta & and electric bassist Damon Banks. ART will release their latest album “New Moon” on Greenleaf Music this September 20, 2024. New Moon

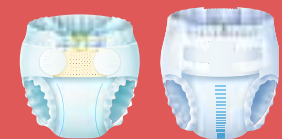


reflects on the inspiration of ancestors, family and tradition, while embracing a spirit of creation and freedom.

From 7:30–9:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney, 05346. \$10–\$25.

Meet the Artist — BAG

The Brandon Artists Guild presents Artist Talk: Featured Jeweler, Wenda Curtis from 7–8:30 pm. Refreshments will be served. Wenda Curtis creates sculpture of silver, gold and other precious minerals from the earth. Her imagery reflects the collaboration with



Westdale Lions Per Drive

state funding to the VT \$100,000/yr, there will be a drive on United Methodist Church. Food Shelf Hours:

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

focus on your health and tailor routines to that end. Find time to reflect on your goals and ambitions.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

It's a great time to express yourself through art, hobbies, or social activities. Leo. Romance also could be in the cards, so make space for some fun and connection in your personal life.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

This week could be focused on family matters and your home life, Virgo. It's an excellent time to organize your space and strengthen family bonds. You also can work on personal goals.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Social interactions this week are bound to be lively and stimulating, Libra. It can be easy to get carried away, so balance your social life with some quiet time to recharge.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Financial matters might be in focus this week, Scorpio. Make a plan to review your budget and figure out how to save more. You may want to consider new investments.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

You might experience a boost in energy and optimism this week, Sagittarius. It's always a good idea to focus on personal goals and

any ambitions that you might have.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Capricorn, an exercise in reflection and introspection might be a good idea this week. It is time for some personal growth, including figuring out ways to be more receptive to feedback.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, your innovative ideas may receive some positive attention, so don't be afraid to share with others. Social interactions rev up, but be sure to balance social life with downtime.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

This is a good week to reassess your professional aspirations and take practical steps toward achieving them, Pisces. Put out some feelers to your employment network.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 18 Wynton Marsalis, trumpeter (63)
- Oct. 19 John Lithgow, actor (79)
- Oct. 20 Kamala Harris, Vice President (60)
- Oct. 21 Celia Cruz, singer (d)
- Oct. 22 Gabriel Fauré, composer (d)
- Oct. 23 Pele, soccer player (d)
- Oct. 24 Kevin Kline, actor (77)

Pittsford Sheep Fair was wet and woolly!



Photos by
Steven Jupiter



PITTSFORD'S ANNUAL SHEEP Fair was held at Pittsford Rec this past Sunday. Though the weather was a tad wet at times, folks came out to see shearing demonstrations, dog herding, and to sample various products made from sheep wool (and angora rabbit, as held by Marilyn Brandner of Mount Nickwackett Sheep Farm in Chittenden).

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week's photo was not hard to identify: it is Center Street, a view from the Leary's building up to the Congregational Church. The interesting feature in this photo is the building on the right is NOT the Smith Block, home of Brandon House of Pizza, it is the Simonds Block. It is a completely different building.

The Simonds Block was built in 1868 by William Columbus Simonds with \$25,000 he inherited from his father. He ran his dry-goods business from a storefront on the first floor until 1883. On March 18, 1889, there was a spectacular fire that gutted the whole building in four hours, and they had to knock down the remaining brick walls to preempt them from collapsing.

Prior to the fire, the building was busy

and bustling. It was occupied by a dry goods, carpets, crockery, and glassware business, a druggist, a jeweler, the telegraph office, a clothing store, and a store that carried boots and shoes, clothing, and groceries. There was a feed store in the basement, and a dentist and a lawyer on the second floor, along with "Miss Hattie Estabrook's studio" (?). The Knights of Labor, Farmers Grange, Democratic Club, and Masons used rooms on the third floor.

The source of the "most destructive conflagration ever experienced in Brandon" is a mystery, but once the night watchman discovered the flames around 2:00 in the morning he sounded the scale shop whistle and rang the bell of the Methodist church. "Firemen and citizens rallied as promptly as possible and addressed themselves to the task

of staying the flames," is the way The Brandon Union described it in the news the next day. There was also a telegram sent to the fire department in Rutland asking for assistance. Seventy-five firemen, ladders, hose carts and engines were loaded on a special train that arrived at the Brandon station a little after 4 a.m., making the 15-mile trip in 22 minutes.

"About 5:30 o'clock a tremendous explosion was heard... Timbers and ashes were thrown high into the air and a portion of the back wall was thrown into the river, a distance of several hundred feet to the west."

A can of benzine was suspected.

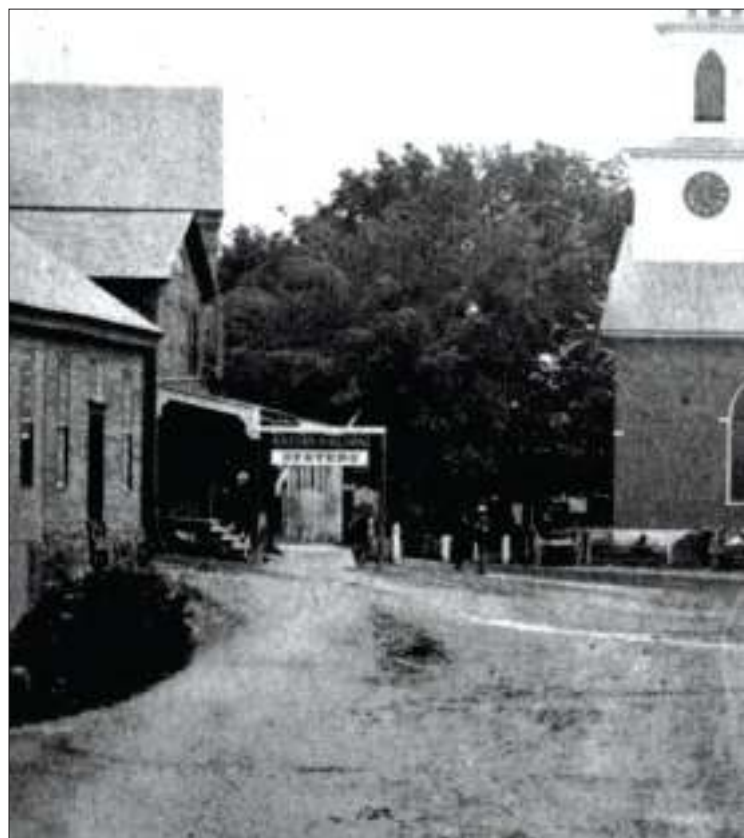
Basically the firemen were no match for the inferno which roared, and "billows of smoke and flames were rolling from the windows, so they concen-

trated on saving the adjacent building. The article noted that it was a blessing that there was no wind that night, and that the rain from the day before had pretty well soaked everything, including the buildings that were close to the Simonds Block.

By April of the next year, 1890, brothers George and Frank Briggs had built a similar building on the site of the destroyed Simonds Block. Now called the Briggs Block, it had four storefronts and three floors like its predecessor, but it had 14 windows across the front, not 13. Three years later, in 1893, the Briggs brothers had died and the building was sold to Theron Bush Smith, thus becoming the Smith Block.

Special thanks to Jim Peck for finding all of the pertinent information about the history of this building.

CENTER STREET CIRCA 1900, and now.



Your mystery for next week!

REAL ESTATE



LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION!

What a spot for your new business - in the center of the thriving village of Brandon and overlooking the waterfall on the Neshobe River! The property has been a family run barbershop since 1931. Being sold "as-is" without the equipment, although the seller would consider selling the equipment to someone seeking to reopen the shop. Upstairs is a permitted apartment for additional rental income or in-town living. **\$125,000**



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



Mim's Photos

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



Recognized



Kayla Stevens and Deb Miner identified the woman on the right, pictured here with Pearly Scarborough, to be Charlotte Johnson, also known as "Grandma Char," according to Ms. Stevens. She owned the Union Street Grocery together with Mr. Scarborough. Ms. Stevens noted that she still has a plant clipping from a plant that Ms. Johnson had in the store.



Last week we mistakenly ran the wrong caption for this photo. Our apologies to Sue Wetmore, who had identified Welland Horn in the center of the picture.

Terry Ferson and Deb Miner also corrected our mistake. Ms. Miner noted that Mr. Horn "owned a lot of property in Forest Dale/Brandon, Leicester, and Goshen at one time. My husband believes that the man to the left of Welland was his forester."

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

Or call us at 247-8080

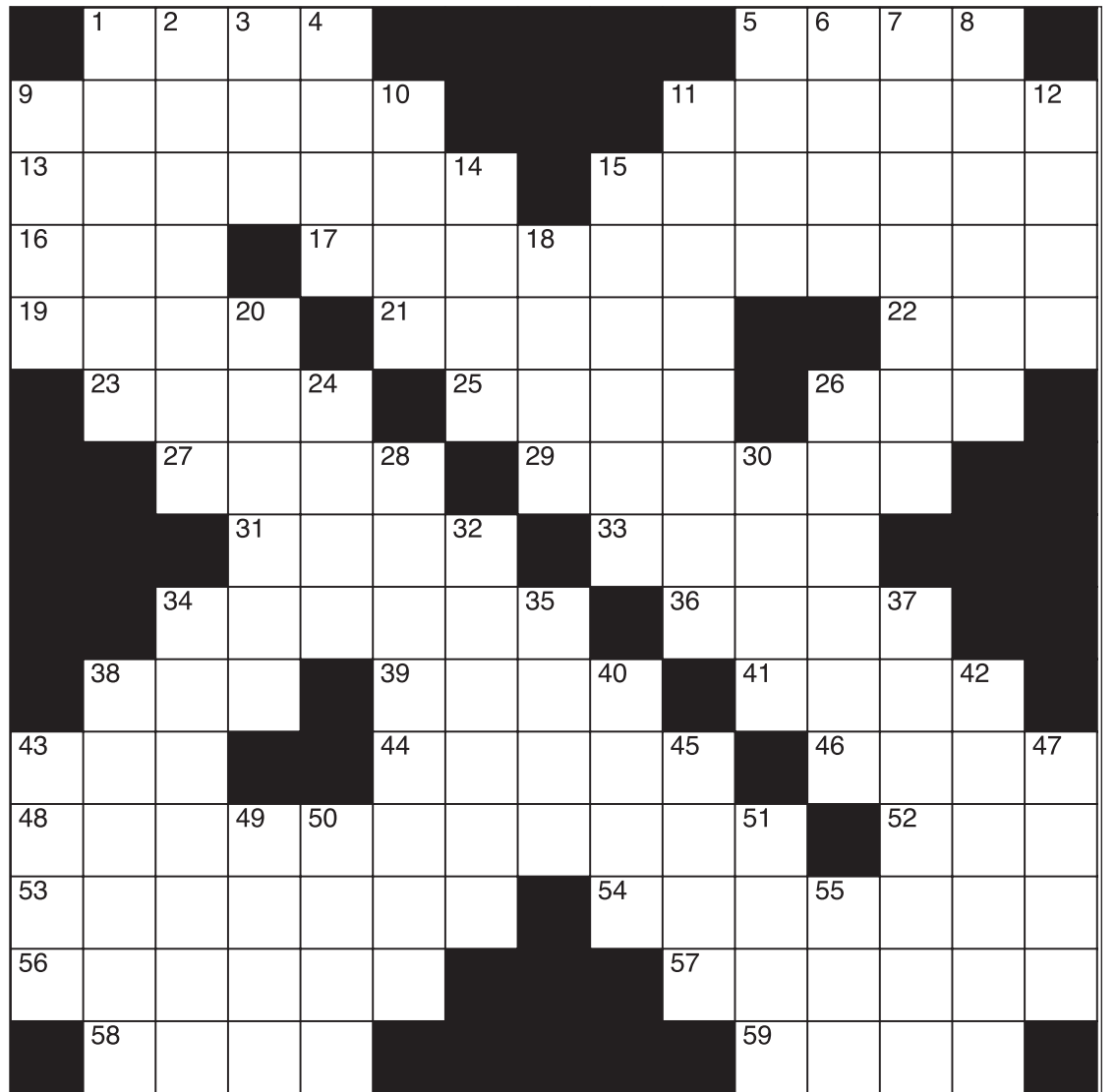
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tall, upright post on a boat
5. Basics
9. Used to refer to cited works
11. Folds
13. Former UK PM May
15. Cold region of Russia
16. Standard operating procedure
17. Separating
19. Particles
21. A way to map out
22. Referee declares
23. Beginner
25. Water (Spanish)
26. Gov't lawyers
27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
29. Spanish friends
31. A type of tree
33. Walk heavily
34. About a wood
36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
38. Political action committee
39. SB19 hit song
41. Scorch the surface of
43. Moved quickly on foot
44. Sacred state for a Muslim
46. Growl
48. Pearl Jam frontman
52. Irritating person
53. Something requiring a solution
54. Firing
56. Hazards
57. Taiwan capital
58. Impudence
59. Rock frontman Durst

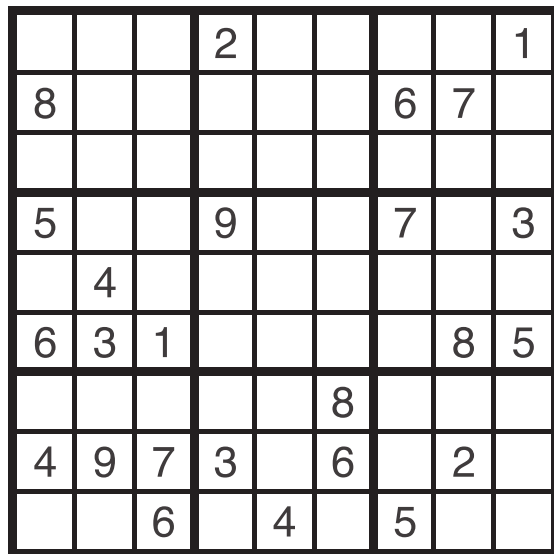
CLUES DOWN

1. One who rides an elephant
2. Absence of bacteria
3. Soviet Socialist Republic
4. Men's fashion accessories
5. "Honey" actress Jessica
6. Round red root vegetable
7. Latin term for "charity"
8. Doesn't smell good
9. Mental health issue
10. Millisecond
11. Hairstyle
12. Edible starch
14. Middle Eastern military title
15. Protein-rich liquids
18. Indian musical pattern
20. Cancer and Capricorn
24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
26. A bend
28. Fishes of the herring family
30. Antelopes
32. Chaos
34. Popular music app
35. Cooking material
37. Musical instrument
38. San Diego ballplayers
40. Small amounts
42. Poured
43. Fabric
45. Food option
47. Finger millet
49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
50. Alberta, Canada river
51. Canadian flyers
55. Dry white wine drink



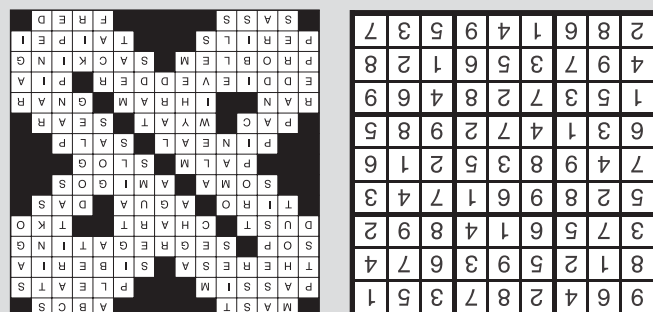
Sudoku

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



Keep Your Pet Safe This Fall

As autumn settles into Vermont, it's important to be mindful of hidden hazards that could affect your pets. Seasonal toxins such as acorns, mushrooms, and antifreeze can be dangerous, so always be cautious. As temperatures drop, ensure older and short-coated pets stay warm as they adjust. With Halloween approaching, be aware that candy is toxic to pets, and decorations like cords, inflatable toys, and corn displays can pose serious risks. When walking outdoors, especially during hunting season or low-light hours, wear high-visibility clothing to keep both you and your pet safe. By following these simple tips, you can enjoy the beautiful fall weather while keeping your pets happy and healthy.

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



MEET JUNIOR 7-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. BLACK LABRADOR RETRIEVER MIX. BLACK/WHITE.

This sweet old man arrived at RCHS because his previous family could no longer provide for him. Don't let his age fool you; he has quite the spunk and still has many adventures left in him. Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-4 pm to meet him.

MEET PLAZA *At Petco - 4-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK/WHITE.

Plaza arrived at the shelter on September 15th after he was displaced by storms in Louisiana. He is a rather shy guy who needs a quiet home. He seems to enjoy other cats, but we have no history on dogs or children. If you would like to meet this quiet boy, please stop by Petco in Rutland to meet him.



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.



New books

The Naming Song by Jedediah Berry

When the words went away, the world changed. All meaning was lost, and every border fell. Monsters slipped from dreams to haunt the waking while ghosts wandered the land in futile reveries. Only with the rise of the committees of the named—Maps, Ghosts, Dreams, and Names—could the people stand against the terrors of the nameless wilds. They built borders around their world and within their minds, shackled ghosts and hunted monsters, and went to war against the unknown. But after a series of monstrous attacks on the named, an unnamed courier is forced to flee and seek her long-lost sister. Accompanied by a patchwork ghost, a fretful monster, and a nameless animal who prowls the shadows, her search for the truth of her past opens the door to a revolutionary future—for the words she carries will reshape the world.

Lantern of Lost Memories by Sanaka Hiiragi

A magical photo studio owned by Mr. Hirasaka, is in fact, the door to the afterlife, the place between life and death where those who have departed have a chance—one last time—to see their entire lives flash before their eyes via Mr. Hirasaka's "spinning lantern of memories." We meet Hatsue, a ninety-two-year-old woman who worked as a nursery

teacher, the rowdy Waniguchi, a yakuza overseer in his life who is also capable of great compassion, and finally Mitsuru, a young girl who has died tragically young at the hands of abusive parents. Sorting through the many photos of their lives, Mr. Hirasaka also offers guests a second gift: a chance to travel back in time to take a photo of one particular moment in their lives that they wish to cherish in a special way.

Somewhere Beyond the Sea by TJ Klune

Arthur Parnassus lives a good life, built on the ashes of a bad one. He's the headmaster of a strange orphanage on a distant and peculiar island, and he hopes to soon be the adoptive father to the six magical and so-called dangerous children who live there. But when Arthur is summoned to make a public statement about his dark past, he finds himself at the helm of a fight for the future that his family, and all magical people, deserve. And when a new magical child hopes to join them on their island home—one who finds power in calling himself monster, a name Arthur worked so hard to protect his children from—Arthur knows they're at a breaking point: their family will either grow stronger than ever or fall apart.

The Witch of Colchis by Rosie Hewlett

Medea, daughter of King Aetes of Colchis, longs for a different life. Since childhood, she

DID YOU KNOW?

Our monthly game night starts up Thursday! Come alone or bring the family and try out one of our new games! Third Thursdays, after hours, 6–8 pm.

Upcoming events:
Wargaming, 10/19, 1–4 pm; Woodie Guthrie: Dust Bowl Balladeer, 10/30, 6 pm; Plant Swap (& Sale) 11/2, 1–3 pm. For more information, check our Facebook page or website.

has been separated from her sister, shunned by her mother, and beaten and tormented by her brother and father. All because Medea was born with a unique and seemingly dangerous talent: witchcraft.

But when a dashing young hero, Jason, arrives to claim the famed Golden Fleece that her father fiercely protects, Medea sees her opportunity for escape. In offering to help Jason overcome the obstacles that stand between him and his prize in return for taking her away from Colchis, she sets in motion a journey that will test every ounce of her strength, magic and loyalty; a journey that will see her battle monsters, dethrone kings and fall in love with a man who is not the hero we all know from story; a journey that will inevitably end in betrayal and bloodshed.

Brandon Police Report

October 7

- Responded to North Seminary Street for a report of a loud explosion in the area. Nothing was located after checking.
- Stopped a vehicle following a complaint called in by an ambulance on Route 7/Franklin Street for erratic operation. The driver was found to be from out of the area and was trying to find their destination.
- Responded to Larch Lane for multiple 911 calls from a cell phone caller. It was later determined that there was no emergency and that the phone had accidentally dialed 911 while the owner was mowing their lawn.
- Received a vehicle complaint in the area of Barlow Avenue regarding a speeding vehicle. The area was checked, but the car in question was not located.

October 8

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Franklin Street at NAPA Auto Parts. Three stops conducted and one ticket issued.
- Vehicle stop Franklin Street at High Street for speeding. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at Nickerson Road for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at the American Legion Hall for a speeding violation. Ticket issued.
- Responded to an alarm activation at the National Bank of Middlebury. Alarm was accidentally activated by an employee.
- Served a Relief From Abuse Order upon an individual on Morning Dove Lane.
- Completed a VIN verification for a resident on Hawk View Road.

October 9

- Received a report of a hit-and-run vehicle crash at OVUHS.
- Vehicle stop on Valley View Drive for a speeding violation. The operator was found to have had a suspended driver's license. The operator's vehicle was towed and a ticket was issued.
- Took fingerprints for employment.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.

October 10

- Received a 911-hangup on Park Street.
- Responded to a residential

burglary alarm activation on Pearl Street. It was found to be a false alarm.

- Provided the Otter Valley Boys Varsity Golf Team with an escort to Brandon along with Brandon Fire, Brandon Area Rescue, Pittsford Fire, and Pittsford First Response. The Brandon Police Department would like to congratulate the Boys Varsity Golf Team on their State Championship Victory.
- Vehicle stop for an erratic operator on Franklin Street at Van Ness Drive. Upon further investigation, evidence of illegal drug activity was detected and a consent search was conducted on the vehicle. The vehicle was later seized and a large amount of trafficking weight fentanyl and a large amount of methamphetamine were found in the car. The driver of the vehicle, who was from Connecticut, was also arrested on suspicion of DUI-Drugs. Investigation ongoing.

October 11

- Responded to a vehicle crash on Pearl Street at the Sanderson Bridge. During the investigation, officers determined that the woman driving was operating under the influence of alcohol. The operator was arrested, processed, and issued a citation to appear at Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 10/28/2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- Executed a search warrant on a vehicle suspected of containing narcotics. Large amounts of fentanyl and methamphetamine were located in the car.
- Vehicle stop at the intersection of Franklin Street and Country Club Road for driving without license plate(s). Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Multiple tickets issued.
- Vehicle stop on Marble Street for speeding. Ticket issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Ticked issued.
- Responded to the area of Conant Square for a report of a two-car crash with minor injuries reported. The cause of the crash was later determined to be due to one of the operators failing to use care when backing out of a driveway.
- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Grove Street. Upon further investigation, a juvenile female was taken into custody for domestic assault.
- Responded, along with a (See Police report, Page 19)

SPREAD THE WORD!

Have an upcoming event that you'd like to have added to our calendar?

LET US KNOW BY EMAIL AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

Brandon Town Manager's report, Sept.20–Oct.10

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

VTrans advises regarding the four-way intersection at Marble Street/Park Street/High Street: “the town can sign it as a 4-way stop intersection if they choose to do so. If so, the town’s traffic ordinance would have to be updated to include the new stop point. A traffic study is not needed. I would suggest that the Select Board perform public outreach if the decision is made to add the new stop sign.” This — again — represents different information than what has been long held to be the accepted practice. The Town’s traffic ordinance requires a front-to-back review and revision at this point. I recommend a comprehensive process to do that rather than a piecemeal approach. A two-board-member working group with the town management team has worked for similar policy revisions in the past.

Sidewalks on Pearl Street and Carver Street were completed with removal, installation of new base, and surfacing with new asphalt. The work by Vermont Roadworks was inspected and approved by our Highway Division Chief. Vermont Roadworks will return for additional sidewalk improvements along West Seminary Street later this month. Road paving by Pike is expected later this month as well (Union Street south of Otter Creek; North Street from post office to 73; patch on River Street).

The Town has received the 45-day notice of Novus Brandon Solar LLC in advance of their anticipation of filing application for a certificate of public good for the 150kW array on land owned by the Brandon Industrial Corporation and from which the Town would be the off-taker of the solar credits generated.

We had planned an open house at the wastewater treatment facility now that the project is officially completed; however, a replacement large component (automatic transfer switch) has been delayed into December, and ongoing interior work by the Town staff over the winter. Our chief operator suggests postponing until Clean Water Week in April 2025, and I support that.

I worked with Edward Delhagen of the Vermont Department of Public Service to advance the Town’s grant

request for the energy efficiency and conservation block grant (EECBG) round 2.

The Town worked with our Regional Planning partners to submit a MERP implementation grant which, if successful, will assist the Town in making some of the building improvements recommended by the building energy audits (posted on the Town website under Reports).

FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Kyle Leedom from the Town crew completed a re-sealing of the marble steps in front of the Town Hall last week. The old material was pressure washed and scraped out and the vertical and horizontal joints were resealed using the product recommended by the forensic masonry consultant who performed the initial installation twenty years ago. (For those interested, that 2004 installation is documented with photos here: <http://www.lisztrestoration.com/project-portfolio/granite--marble-stair-restoration>)

As part of ongoing State trainings of which the selectboard has been supportive, I was in Montpelier on Friday the 4th, where our morning instructor was the Legislature’s deputy joint fiscal officer Emily Byrne and our afternoon instructor was the Governor’s director of budget Aaron Brodeur. I appreciate the selectboard’s recognition that learning from and interacting with top-tier officials like this will benefit our own local processes and practices in Brandon and get us the best results for our tax dollars.

I met at Newton Road with Kyle Medash, western floodplain manager; Erin De Vries, Vermont River Conservancy; Josh Carvajal, state river management engineer; and Shannon Pytlik from the watershed management division. The occasion was the planned removal of the factory building at 110 Newton Road and the concurrent interest of another two homeowners for buyout assistance. As a result of this meeting, I’ve reached out to Vermont Emergency Management’s hazard mitigation officer Stephanie A Smith to seek grant support for an engineering alternatives study to see what floodplain restoration would be most effective and efficient at preventing the necessity of continued reinvestment in the public and private infrastructure in harm’s way.

I reached out to the police union requesting flexibility in terms of being able to offer either of the small group employer health insurance plans available to it (BlueCross and MVP).

I had many meetings with town officers, staff, townspeople, and responded to a number of requests for information from various parties. Highway/tree/sidewalk matters were the most frequent topics.

FOR AWARENESS OF THE SELECTBOARD

As you are likely already aware, a truck hit the Sanderson Covered Bridge on Friday the 4th. Siding and a beam were damaged, but the bridge was evaluated by

Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber and deemed safe for traffic. The Town’s opt-in emergency text alert system was activated for the closure at 10:37AM and for the reopening at 6:12PM. The Town has obtained two quotes for repair, both in the neighborhood of \$25,000, and is working with its insurer on a claim. I’m working with our highway division chief to investigate the potential for design and installation of some clearance guide bars well back of the bridge on both sides, where a truck could turn around when they realize they’ve not cleared the guide bar and will not clear the covered bridge. Coincidentally, the guardrail approach on the Town side of the Sanderson Covered Bridge was damaged by a vehicle in the early morning hours of Friday the 11th.

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Superintendent of Schools Rene Sanchez will meet with the selectboard on 28 October for introductions and to hear from the Town’s elected leadership.

Jeremy Gildrien from Rutland Regional Planning Commission will present an update on the Regional Plan to the selectboard at the 28 October selectboard.

I attended the historic preservation commission meeting on October 8th, but they were unable to conduct business due to lack of quorum. This is an important commission to fully staff as it is a requirement of Brandon’s certified local government status. There is one vacancy right now and one member who has not attended meetings in quite some time.

The selectboard has before it a nomination from the planning commission to appoint Natalie Steen as the assistant zoning administrator. This is an unpaid, unstipended position which exists to have a qualified individual in place to act for the zoning administrator when he (Larry Stevens) is unable to act, such as when he has a conflict of interest. Ms Steen has professional education and experience in planning/zoning, and we appreciate her willingness to serve in this capacity.

FY26 BUDGET PROCESS SECOND STEPS

I did consult with the Town Treasurer regarding some continued examination of the FY24 actuals. In both FY23 and FY24, the general fund budget suffered a hit of ~\$100,000 in taxes which were billed, not received, and sent over to the “delinquent” side. I asked whether for prudence we ought to assume we’re not going to collect about that amount in the FY26 budget now being planned, and budget our spending to that lesser figure. Sue says do not do this. It may be that that line (second line at the top of the Revenue side on the budget status reports) becomes a positive, whether due to reminder notices from the Town, or attorney letters, or as part of the tax sale process. This all makes sense, but in the meantime, there is the \$100,000 hit to the bottom line, without which, even accounting for the identified problem of overtime in one department, the FY24 budget would have ended net positive. Just passing it along for thought as you form FY26 spending and revenue plans.

*Respectfully submitted,
Seth Hopkins*

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

State Game Warden from Vermont Fish and Wildlife, to a car versus bear accident on McConnell Road and North Birch Hill Road. The vehicle suffered minimal damage and the bear fled the scene.

- Attempted to locate an individual with an active warrant for his arrest on Union Street. The subject was not located.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Assisted a woman on River Street who had accidentally locked herself out of her home. The responding officer was able to gain entry into the residence.

October 12

- Responded to Center Street for a report of a stolen vehicle.

- Responded to a noise disturbance at the Lilac Inn. It was found that a wedding party was taking place.
- Assisted an individual with a flat tire on McConnell Road.

October 13

- Conducted a patrol near the area of Union Street and Maple Street in Brandon.

- Responded to Union Street near the Walgreens for a report of a minor vehicle crash.
- Vehicle stop on Route 7 near the Pittsford town line for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Responded to the area of Grove Street for a report of a two-car crash with no reported injuries.
- Provided assistance in sorting out a civil dispute over an automobile repair service on Furnace Road.

| FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| FY25 Budget Operating Expenses | 33% thru funds / 29% thru year |
| Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance | \$441,392 |
| 1½ (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated [\$100,000 board-reserved paving now \$35,000 per board action 12 Aug 2024 not included at right] | \$326,173 |
| Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated | UNION STREET |
| Delinquent property taxes (prior years) | \$507,730 [was \$511,128] |
| Delinquent wastewater (prior years [over 120 days]) | \$203,478 [was \$206,912] |
| Tax Sale Status — PAUSED due to Legislated changes | 70 accounts at attorney for letters |

Baird Morgan

(Continued from Page 9)
in Cambridge, Massachusetts called and placed an order for 25 beds, an unusually large order for a shop that sold only tabletop wares like dishes and glassware.

“It was Crate & Barrel,” said Morgan. And Tubbs’s bed was one of that chain’s first successful forays into furniture sales, forever linking Brandon, Vermont to the birth of a retail juggernaut.

By the late 1980s, however, Tubbs was a victim of its own success, finding itself unable to fulfill all the orders it was receiving.

“We didn’t have enough space. We needed new equip-

ment. We needed a new building.”

A company conference at the Mountaintop Resort in Chittenden in 1988 convinced Morgan that change was needed for the company to survive.

“20% of our product line was responsible for 80% of our sales,” he said. Vermont Tubbs needed to streamline.

Morgan sold the snowshoe division to Ed Kiniry, who owned Stowe Canoes, and narrowed the company’s focus to just furniture. However, Morgan had also taken on investor-partners who had different ideas about how to run a company.

“It didn’t work out well for

me,” he said.

Morgan’s partners wanted to live high on the hog, treating themselves to an expensive lifestyle that Morgan didn’t think the company could support.

Vermont Tubbs reaches its end

Morgan sold his stake to Bill Carris in 1989. Carris moved the company’s operations to a new facility in the Brandon Industrial Park off Arnold District Road and began trying to sell to large department store chains.

“I warned him he’d have trouble with that,” said Morgan. “And it came true. When you’re dealing with retailers on that scale, they get very demanding. Every piece has to conform to their standards. It was a nightmare for him.”

And then the nature of the U.S. furniture industry changed as well.

“Manufacturing went overseas,” said Morgan. “It was cheaper. There used to be so many furniture makers in western New York and central Massachusetts. Pretty much all gone now. I don’t think there was anything they could’ve done to save Vermont Tubbs furniture.”

Under Carris, Vermont Tubbs reached peak revenue of \$16 million in 2000, with 255 employees. By 2003, however, revenue had plummeted almost 27% and the number of employees had dropped to 140. That year, Carris sold the company to Vermont Quality Wood Products, which continued to run the facility in Brandon until 2008, when it was sold to Brown Street Furniture and relocated to New Hampshire. In 2013, Brown Street declared bankruptcy.

Though Vermont Tubbs may no longer do business, its vintage products are still sought after by collectors and its sturdy furniture still graces many homes.

As for Baird, he started another company to manufacture furniture for Conran’s, but that chain also went out of business in 1991.

“I still have no idea why Conran’s folded,” Morgan said. “It was very sudden.”

After short stints at New England Woodcraft and a furniture company in Massachusetts, Morgan left the furniture business.

“It’s now dominated by online retailers and chains like IKEA and Ashley,” he said. “I didn’t want to sell to ‘big box

stores.”

A new legacy

But Morgan hasn’t been idle. He and Betsy have helped facilitate the creation of the Pittsford Village Farm (PVF),

is now PVF. So, in 2000, he tried negotiating with Bob Forrest, who was then the owner of the property. But it wasn’t until 2015, after Mr. Forrest had passed, that Morgan was able



ONE OF VT Tubbs’ “snowshoe” rocking chairs, made from bent-wood and rawhide strips in the style of the company’s iconic snowshoes. These pieces, made in the 1970s, are highly sought after by collectors today and can fetch in the thousands.

across from Kamuda’s Market. PVF offers cultural events and concerts and will eventually house a community meeting room, daycare center, café, and affordable apartments.

“Back in the 90s, I was on the Pittsford Planning Commission,” said Morgan. “People often complained that there was no village green, no meeting place. And then in 2000, the Post Office wanted to move to Plains Road, where the Town Offices now are. I thought that would suck the lifeblood out of the village. People come to the Post Office and go to the library and Kamuda’s.”

Morgan eventually went to court to prevent the move. He thought perhaps the Post Office could occupy the house on what

to reach an agreement to purchase the house and 22 acres.

“I bought it so it couldn’t be developed,” said Morgan. “It’s too beautiful and it’s right in the center of town.” The Morgans purchased the property personally and then donated it to a nonprofit called Pittsford Preservation Corporation, which had been formed in 2001 in anticipation of the purchase. This nonprofit now owns the property and operates as PVF. The Morgans have no ownership stake.

The Morgans, who celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary this year, may be out of the furniture game, but they’re still making their mark on their community.

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Angus Chaney

(Continued from Page 8)

The aboriginal songlines of Central Vermont, if you will.”

These books (there will be a third) are meant to affectionate satirize 19th-century academic treatments of ancient mythology, treating the bicycle as if it were an ancient trope like the horse and imagining an entire mythology with its own cosmology based on spokes, chains, giant pumpkins, and groundhog jerky.

Why bicycles? It’s a logical question with a simple answer: Angus Chaney likes to ride them. In fact, the idea for these books came to him while on a ride with friends in Rochester on a beautiful June day. As the group neared the crest

of the Old Gents trail, Chaney was overcome with a feral urge to hoot and howl.

“I felt like it was a good time to let out some ‘monkey whoops,’” he recalled as he gazed out over the valley, seemingly stifling an impulse to recreate the moment for me. His biking buddies immediately saw the expressive value in the act and joined in.

To their surprise and delight, their vocalizations were reciprocated by an unseen band of cyclists somewhere else on the trail. The two cohorts eventually crossed paths and felt they’d already shared a primordial bond, a common tribal origin, as it were. The idea for the books was born.

“That was the day I realized we were in the golden age of single-track trails in Vermont,” he said. Their trails were the best they’d ever be, and their bicycles were at the zenith of technological advancement. “The wider world was a bit bleak that year and I wondered what people years from now might think if they discovered these fossilized trails.”

“Finding the tone was the biggest challenge,” said Chaney. The books are written in a sly, tongue-in-cheek style that draws heavily both from academic treatises and the absurdities of authors like Kurt Vonnegut.

In fact, “absurd” is an apt adjective for the books. “Couldn’t the future loop all the way back to the past like a bicycle wheel?” is an example of the pseudo-serious philosophizing that threads through both volumes. In fact, the 2nd volume, “Chasing the Falcon,” relays an academic debate between professors at WGU whose analyses of the myths are at odds with each other.

The books are illustrated by Brandon artist Ethan Nelson, who

used cave paintings and petroglyphs for inspiration.

“I kept the art deliberately crude,” said Nelson, who is also a cycling enthusiast and has known Chaney for years. “Angus requested that the style evoke something ancient. Both books were done with brush and ink or paint on watercolor paper.”

“I strongly recommend reading these stories aloud,” he continued. “On the one hand they could be fairly described as gonzo. On the other hand, they end up sounding somehow very familiar to anyone with a wild sense of humor. Imagine a punk rock Tom Sawyer retold

by Homer around a campfire.”

There were even instances where Nelson’s illustrations inspired Chaney to rework parts of the text to incorporate something absent from the story that the drawings had captured.

Both Chaney and Nelson acknowledge that the books will appeal to a certain sensibility. But for those who like mountain bikes and/or Monty Python, they might just be the perfect winter read.

Both volumes are available at The Bookstore in Brandon, Phoenix Books in Rutland, and at bike shops throughout the area.



EQUIPPED WITH WINGS and a manual typewriter, Professor Angus Chaney of West Goshen University sets out to conduct ethnographic research on the mountain bike clans of Central Vermont.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



PEEKING OVER ANGUS Chaney’s shoulder as he works on a manuscript in his office at West Goshen University. A third book in his Proto-Cycology series is in the works.

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Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 6)
mining and processing lithium for batteries was potentially deleterious to the environment. The Board requested copies of the article.

BOY SCOUT PARADE ROAD CLOSURE

The Board approved the closure of Park Street from Celebration Rentals to the Brandon Inn from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 9 for “Scouts’ Salute to Veterans” parade. According to the submitted proposal, last year’s parade involved 237 participants.

Mr. Hopkins said that the closure does not pose an undue bur-

den on the town because Route 7 remains unaffected and there are reasonable detours around the affected area.

The vote to approve the closure was 4 to 1, with Mr. Guiles voting against.

STAY OF TREE EXECUTION

A public hearing on the proposed removal of a historic maple on Park Street was postponed because the resident who had requested the hearing was unwell and unable to attend. The hearing will be conducted instead at the next regular meeting, scheduled to take place on October 28.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the public-comment portion of the meeting, an attendee asked the Board whether the town would be undertaking a survey of its lead water pipes, as per new federal regulations. Mr. Hopkins replied that water pipes are the purview of the Fire District, which is separate from the town. Any concerns about the scheduling or cost of such a review should be addressed to them.

Vicki Disorda, pastor at the Brandon United Methodist Church, announced a lasagna dinner at the church, its first community dinner in many

years. The dinner will be held at the church from 5 to 7 on Saturday, October 19. Adults \$10, children \$6.

Board chair Doug Bailey reminded the room that the Budget Committee would be meeting on Tuesday, October 15 after the Candidates’ Forum at Town Hall. The Committee will also meet on Monday, November 4 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

An attendee told the Board and Town Manager that his adult

son had called Brandon PD to report a dangerously speeding car and was hung up on when he asked to speak to an officer instead of whoever had answered the phone. Mr. Hopkins said he would bring it up with the Police Chief at their next meeting.

WARRANTS

The Board unanimously approved a warrant in the amount of \$590,620.51 to cover its obligations and expenses.

Look at finances

(Continued from Page 6)
money next to impossible; donations might be made by individuals anywhere in the country and held by a national group before being distributed back to local sources to be spent on campaigns.

Unsurprisingly, each candidate has been given significant support by their respective parties. Nielsen, in fact, has been gifted \$4,000 dollars by Republican party groups based in Rutland—more than Jerome’s entire fundraising yield. Their Democratic counterparts have sent \$750 for Jerome, but she makes up some ground with three donations made by PACs. Two of Jerome’s PAC contributors list their causes as child-care and education legislation (though such groups are historically vague about the exact details of their platforms). One, the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, is Jerome’s largest single donor, with a \$784 gift. The third is a Vermont association of credit unions (industry PACs are common). Altogether they have given Jerome’s campaign over \$1,200.

This is where we stand with a month to go, altogether 11 donations for \$6,697 to Nielsen, and 23 gifts for \$3,701.80 to Jerome. Brandonites have and will make their voices heard in the political process. But votes and rhetoric are not the whole picture; money and politics have had a fruitful marriage and renew their vows often. It is a constant fight to achieve transparency in campaign finance, but voters deserve to know not only what the candidates say, but who has given them the microphone to be heard with. Only

an informed people can have a government of their own. Please make your voice heard.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Brandon Development Review Board (DRB)

On Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:00 PM, the Brandon DRB will hold in-person and via Zoom remote conferencing, Public Hearings to review the following application:

Application # 6354 from Frank and Amy James (applicant) for an appeal of the Zoning Administrator decision at 110 Newton Road, Town of Brandon (Owner) on the zoning approval to remove the 4,080 square foot industrial building per FEMA hazard mitigation buyout program and return to a grass at current grade (Parcel # 0010-0000).

This Meeting & Hearing will be conducted remotely by Zoom audio & visual programs; and access instructions are posted on Town website, Town and Post Offices.

Interested Parties are to be registered and present testimony, or have submitted written testimony to the Town, by 7:00 PM of the Hearing date or they may forfeit their right to appeal any decision of the DRB to VT Superior Court (Environmental Division).

TOWN OF PROCTOR Employment Opportunity

The Town of Proctor is seeking a qualified individual to serve as a crewmember on the Public Works Highway Department.

Job Description

Highway Department employees work under the supervision of the Public Works Foreman and are charged with maintaining approximately twenty-two (22) miles of town highways. This is a full-time, hourly position requiring a flexible schedule that may include nights, weekends, and holidays, particularly in the winter. This is a “non-exempt” position under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. A detailed job description is available at by emailing manager@proctorvermont.com.

Letters of Interest and/or resumes should be addressed to: Town of Proctor, 45 Main Street, Proctor, VT 05765 attention Judy Frazier, Town Manager. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Review of applicants will begin immediately.

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