

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

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\$1



NAMES LOST

Did you know the surnames Shackett, Shambo, and Swenor did not always begin with “s”? Genealogist Michael F. Dwyer explains.

PG. 2



TINY HOUSES TO THE RESCUE

Goshen’s Blueberry Management Area has addressed the housing shortage for one of its local populations: blue birds.

PG. 9



HALLOWEEN BALL

Brandon Rec’s Halloween Ball brought out the spooky on Saturday.

PG. 12



SUDBURY POP-UP

Community members gathered at the Sudbury Meeting House last weekend for a day of chili, conversation, and square dancing.

PG. 29

Pittsford SB discusses Insect Board, Syndicate Rd., crime stats

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 16. Board Chair Alicia Malay was not present. Acting in her place was Vice-chair David Mills.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The meeting began with a report from Town Manager David Atherton. Mr. Atherton presented the Board with a summary of the activity of the Pittsford Police Department (PPD) for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-25 (FY25), encompassing

(See Pittsford SB, Page 31)



Fall foliage frenzy!

WE’VE RECEIVED SOME beautiful foliage shots from our readers! This creative photo of brilliant foliage in an old clawfoot tub was sent to us by Julie Lonergan. See page 14 for more!

Brandon explores closing lower Carver St.

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The unpaved stretch of Carver Street from the railroad crossing to the bridge that separates Brandon and Pittsford can often be a

depressing sight with debris scattered everywhere. It’s been an illegal dumping ground for years. Every Green-Up Day results in dozens of discarded

(See Carver Street, Page 11)

Local group proposes multi-town community rec center

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—On a rainy Sunday afternoon, a bunch of middle-aged friends in Pittsford want to play some pick-up basketball. Or some older folks want to continue their daily exercise walks when the snow is knee deep outside in win-

(See Community rec center, Page 21)

Special election coverage

Forum gives community chance to hear from Brandon’s candidates for VT House of Representatives

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) hosted a Candidates Forum at the Brandon Town Hall on Tuesday, October 15. The event was intended to give voters an opportunity to pose questions to the two candidates for Brandon’s seat in the Vermont House of Representatives. The seat is currently held by Democrat Stephanie Jerome, who

has been in office since 2018. Challenging her in this election is Republican Todd Nielsen, who won the Republican primary in August through a write-in campaign.

The event was moderated by BACC Executive Director Bernie Carr. Each candidate was afforded 2 minutes for an opening statement and then 90 seconds to respond to each question that was posed by the audience. Each audience member

who wished to speak was given 30 seconds to pose their question. The order in which Ms. Jerome and Mr. Nielsen responded to the questions alternated from question to question and was initially determined by a coin flip conducted by Mr. Carr. Ms. Jerome won the flip and presented her opening statement first.

Because of space constraints, we cannot transcribe the entirety of the forum in these pages. We have

tried to present the core of the statements, questions, and responses, but all have been edited for length and clarity. A video of the full event can be found at <https://vimeo.com/1020230932>, courtesy of Arlen Bloodworth. The questions are presented here in the order in which they were asked.

OPENING STATEMENTS

Jerome: It has been an incred- (See Candidate forum, Page 7)



Names lost in Vermont, Part 35: Shackett, Shambo, and Swenor

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

On town or school rosters, the names Shackett and Shambo might have followed each other on an alphabetical list, but as you have come to expect in this column, neither of their original names started with the letter S. Let's start with unpacking a lost name with Shackett. I remember a conversation with my student Ethel Shackett, OV Class of 1991, that she was named for her grandmother, Ethel (Swenor) Shackett, who married Leon Shackett Sr. on April 4, 1916. Grandmother Ethel lived to be 102 years old, with her longevity perhaps coming from her grandfather, Montréal-born Pierre Chouinard/Peter Swenor who died in New Haven on December 20, 1920, age 100. [Pronunciation of Chouinard Shwee nar explains how the variant spelling evolved.] At some point in Peter's long life, he left his native Catholicism and joined the Baptist church.

Ethel's husband, Leon Pearl Shackett (1893–1944), who died suddenly of a heart attack, ran the Town Farm in Leicester for many years. Leon's father, Peter Shackett (1865–1918), was the first generation born in Bridport, Vermont. Peter's parents, Frank Shackett (1841–1919) and Mary Brow (1844–

1904), both born in Canada, were married in Cornwall on January 26, 1863 by a justice of the peace — an anomaly for Catholics later rectified with a rehabilitation of the marriage by a priest before the baptism of their first child in August. Their second child, Peter, listed only by last name Shackett by the town clerk of Cornwall, had his baptism recorded at St. Mary's Church in Middlebury with the original spelling of his name, Peter Choquette. [Pronounced Shah-ket]. Frank and Mary Shackett were prolific, with eleven children born over a span of twenty-four years.

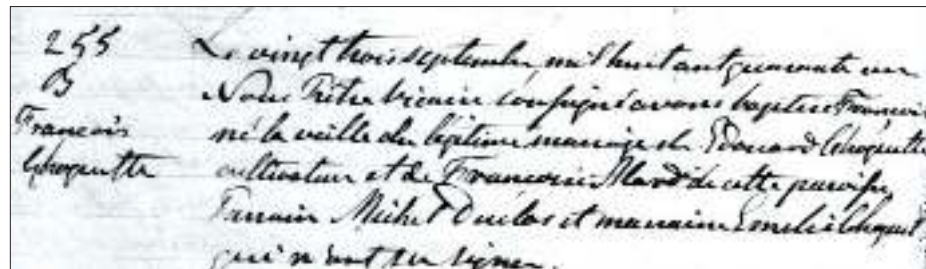
Frank Shackett was baptized as François Choquette, son of Edouard Choquette and Françoise Alard, on September 23, 1841 in Marieville, Québec, about 20 miles southwest of St. Hyacinthe, Québec, from whence so many other French-Canadian families emigrated to greater Brandon. His parents had two sets of twins, including Israel and Isaie, the later known in Middlebury as Isaac Shackett, who died in 1935, age 95. Along with Frank, two of his brothers married two sisters of Mary (Brow) Shackett.

By 1900, over 60 individuals in Vermont carried the Shackett surname, ex-



ABOVE: DENIS (SHAMBO) Archambault (1856–1942) and his wife Rose Bastien, circa 1900. He represents a significant number of Vermont-born French Canadians who left the state to work in the mills of Massachusetts.

BELOW LEFT: BAPTISMAL record from Marieville, Québec of François Choquette, aka Frank Shackett. Transcription: 23 September 1841, We the priest who signs below baptized François born the evening before of the legitimate marriage of Edouard Choquette, farmer, and Françoise Alard of this parish. Godfather Michel Duclos and godmother Emelie Chaput who were not able to sign.



cluding those already dead or married with a different surname. From their origins in Québec, they descend from Nicolas Choquette dit Champagne, a soldier from Amiens, Picardie, France. He came with the Carignan-Salière Regiment to New France, leaving La Rochelle, France, on May 13, 1665 aboard the ship L'Aigle d'Or [Golden Eagle] and arriving at Québec on August 18,

1665. Today Shackett Road in Leicester bears evidence of Nicolas Choquette's descendants who lived there.

Two obelisks in Brandon's St. Mary's Cemetery, one for Isaac Archambault and the other for J.B. Shambo, take us into their story. They descend from Jacques Archambault, a winegrower from Dompierre-sur-mer, France, who came to Montréal in the 1660s. The (See Names lost, Page 8)

THE TOWN HALL PLAYERS PRESENT

"OLDE TYME RADIO READINGS"
SATURDAY, OCT. 26 AT 7:00 PM AND
SUNDAY, OCT. 27 AT 4:00 PM.

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SNACKS FOR EACH TABLE

COLD DRINKS AND ADDITIONAL SNACKS WILL BE FOR SALE.



J.B. SHAMBO MONUMENT, St. Mary's Cemetery, Brandon.

A shared Brandon landmark anticipates repairs

BY THE BCC COUNCIL

The Brandon Town clock, the tolling of the bells on the hour and half-hour, and the noontime playing of carillon tunes are some of the familiar sights and sounds of downtown Brandon associated with the steeple of the Brandon Congregational Church. Through the years these recurrent sights and sounds have helped to mark a daily rhythm and cherished small town atmosphere for many in Brandon. Learning how their mechanisms are set and maintained, and of the shared efforts that have helped to bring these sights and sounds to the town, reveals a story to celebrate of shared community endeavors.

Our understanding is first aided by a dive into the history of the town and church. The current Brandon Congregational Church building was constructed in 1832. Fifty-two years later the church's bell was cast by the Meneely Bell company and installed in 1884. The years 1890 - 1892 were pivotal years for the relationship between the town and the church. At the March 1890 Brandon Town Meeting the voters authorized the Selectmen to purchase a town clock at a cost of no more than \$400, an amount increased to \$500 two years later at the March 1892 Town Meeting. The Annual Report of the Town Board of Officers for the year ending in early 1893 confirms an expenditure of \$500 to Geo. W. Olmstead for a town clock.

A newspaper article following the 1890 vote to make plans to purchase a town clock was glowing in its enthusiasm: "No more useful thing was voted at our March meeting than a new town clock. Its value is inestimable, and, placed in the handsome new prospective tower of the Congregational Church and illuminated at night by electric light, will be a great addition to our street attraction." The article goes on to say that the Congregational Church would meet in a few days to take action on the plans for repairs to the building needed to securely house the bell and clock together. Historical records of the church show votes taken to raise \$2000 for the repairs to the church by a note on the church mortgage for necessary repairs already underway.

A subsequent newspaper article discusses the installation of the clock and its intricate mechanisms and makes the argument for a "new bell

that can be used for the clock and for a fire alarm." The article noted that the supporting structure for the existing bell was severely compromised and there was great concern about

could be rung quickly without having to gain access to the church. In 1919 an updated alarm system was needed and the use of the steeple alarm bell was discontinued.



A VIEW OF the steeple and town clock on the Brandon Congregational Church. The brick church building dates to 1832. The clock was installed in the early 1890s. The clock and the steeple, both cherished Brandon landmarks, will require costly repairs.

it giving way. Bracing and additional supports for the bell were part of the repairs to the church noted above.

Another shared community endeavor developed between the church and the town as the fire district picked up the suggestion of having a fire alarm bell in the steeple. The Brandon Fire District made a proposal to the Brandon Congregational Church and the church accepted the plan in June of 1892: "Resolved that we accept the appropriation of Fire District Number One of \$300 towards buying a new bell upon the condition that the connection for fire alarm purposes be made from the outside of the building..." The bell was to be hung in the church tower, and to be rung from a cupboard placed on the outside wall of the church. This ensured the fire alarm bell

PRESENT DAY -

Although the organizational structures, purpose and function of each entity may differ, the church and town each seek to serve the people of the surrounding region, and the long history of a cooperative beneficial relationship symbolized by the steeple is something to celebrate. The clock tower continues to serve as a visible shared community resource. It continues to be a noticeable presence and landmark that grounds us in the history of each entity, and serves as a community timekeeper even in this new digital age.

In the late spring when the clock stopped working a church member and a town employee climbed up into the steeple together to investigate the cause. The clock was reset at that time after they learned

the intricacies of how the clock operates, tracing the multitude of gear and yoke connections that lead from a very tiny electric motor to the hands on the four clock faces. Alas, in late July the clock was reading the wrong time again and the town employee discovered one of the clock gears was missing many teeth in one spot. This damage caused the clock to stick at 8:05. New parts have proven to be challenging to track down, but the town is actively researching sources for the needed brass gear replacement. Repairs will be made as soon as one is able to be found.

The original church bell is no longer in active service, though it still hangs in the belfry. The sound of the bells that ring on the hour and half hour are now produced electronically, and broadcast through speakers housed in the belfry section above the clock. The current whereabouts of the 1892 fire department's alarm bell once housed in the tower is uncertain and is being researched.

MOVING FORWARD -

2024 marks the 192nd year since the current Brandon Congregational Church was constructed. The building is showing its age, and most noticeably in all the sections of the steeple. Several years ago the clapboards on the lowest portion of the steeple - the tower where the clock resides - were repaired and painted. Above the tower is the belfry and higher up is the lantern and finally the spire. All of these parts of the steeple currently have areas of missing and bare wood and some rot that must be addressed to maintain the integrity of the structure and protect the bell, speakers, and town clock mechanisms.

In 2000, a steeplejack company that utilizes rappelling equipment made repairs and painted these surfaces unreachable by manlifts. That same company recently provided an assessment to the church of the current needs, and offered an estimate for the recommended work. Hopefully repairs will be scheduled for 2025, but per-

(See Brandon town clock, Page 31)

Spotlight On Business

RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE



Brandon.org for more info



Rutland County Solid Waste is proud to be a part of the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce and

to have Brandon as one of our member towns. RCSWD also provides and assists Brandon in an annual residential household hazardous waste collection event (3). For more information on what we do please visit www.rcswd.com.

For information on RCSWD programs, events and services provided to town, business, and educational institutions please contact Desna Jenkins, Outreach Coordinator at (802) 775-7209.



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Vermont's population ticked upward in 2023 — but only slightly

BY ERIN PETENKO/
VTDIGGER

Vermont narrowly avoided population decline in 2023 thanks to migration to the state, according to a new report from the state Joint Fiscal Office.

The state had 1,800 more deaths than births between 2022 and 2023, but gained 1,300 people through international migration and 800 people through domestic migration, the report said. The report's author Joyce Manchester, formerly an economist with the Joint Fiscal Office — which advises the state legislature — based the analysis mainly on U.S. Census Bureau data.

Combined, Vermont gained just 350 people over that year and 4,400 in total since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the report, barely a blip compared with the overall population of more than 647,000.

Ken Johnson, a demography researcher from the University of New Hampshire, said the findings were in line with long-term trends across northern New England: low fertility levels and rising mortality due to an aging population.

"Part of the reason the mortality levels are so high in these states is because they have so many older adults," he said. About 22% of the Vermont population is older than 65, compared with the national average of just under 18%.

Vermont's older population is getting older, too, according to the report. Vermont's population of 55- to 64-year-olds dropped by 6% between 2020 and 2023, while its population of 65- to 79-year-olds grew by more than 10%.

The report, directed at lawmakers, argues these continuing demographic shifts could have broader implications for the state's economy and its ability to support older Vermonters, particularly in the health care and social services realm. It would also translate to lower tax revenue per capita, the report said.

"Unless Vermonters ages 65 and older decide to leave Vermont in droves or younger working age people flock to the state in great numbers, Vermont's share of older people will continue to rise, placing a greater burden on workers to support both young and old," the report said.

Among the potential policy options that the report suggests exploring are expanding Vermont's infrastructure, including its housing and broadband access, to attract remote workers and developing a comprehensive approach to providing help to aging Vermonters.

One bright spot amid the bad news for economic growth was an uptick in Vermonters ages 25 to 54. Johnson said that could be connected to Vermont's pandemic-era migration. While the report doesn't give specifics on who, specifically, moved to Vermont, anecdotally Johnson said he has heard of working parents moving out of urban areas like Boston to get more space and cheaper housing.

"As they change from one stage of the life cycle to another, their preferences in what they want will change," he said.

Johnson cautioned that some of the data could be susceptible to error due to low population counts and skewed sampling. (See *Vermont's population*, Page 15)



Doe-Ray-Me-Fa-Sew-La-Tea-Doe

THIS SAVANNAH SPARROW is a grassland specialist and sings a high pitched buzzy song.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums 'Rediscovering the Reformation' conference at Brandon Baptist Church on 10/25 & 10/26

A unique church conference will occur on Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26 at the historic Brandon Baptist Church in Brandon Vermont. eight independent churches in the region will gather to celebrate the great truths of the Christian faith that were recovered during the Protestant

Reformation. With eight congregations joined together, the music should be loud and joyous, and the entire event should be a great encouragement and inspiration for believers and a grand introduction to the Christian faith for non-believers.

The annual "Rediscovering the Reformation" confer-

ence began in 2017 celebrating the 5 Sola of the Reformation, "Sola" being Latin for "Alone". "Scripture Alone", "Faith Alone", "Grace Alone", "Christ Alone", "Glory to God Alone" was the rally cry for the reformers as they sought to return Christianity back to its (See *Reformation conference*, Page 9)

VT F&W website teaches deer processing

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- Vermont is one of the most rural states in the country, and Vermonters have a proud heritage of living close to the land. Hunting is highly regulated and provides a way to connect with the land, connect with nature and connect

with a healthy, sustainable food source that is rooted in Vermont.

Making the most of the meals provided by deer taken in hunting seasons starts with processing them quickly and correctly which is why the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has

three online videos demonstrating how to process deer. Finding the videos is easy on the Fish and Wildlife website (www.vt-fishandwildlife.com). Click on "Hunt" and then "White-tailed Deer" and scroll down to "Pro- (See *Deer processing*, Page 11)

50 acres along wild trout stream in Derby protected for wildlife, flood resilience, public access

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- Nearly 50 acres along the Johns River in Derby—a tributary to Lake Memphremagog and nursery stream for wild trout—is now permanently protected and open to the public as part of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Johns River

Streambank Management Area (SMA).

"The Johns River is make-or-break spawning and nursery habitat for Lake Memphremagog's wild trout," said Pete Emerson, Fish Biologist with the department. "The lake's different tributaries attract different

spawning runs, landlocked Atlantic salmon in the Clyde for example. Although the Johns River doesn't have the same name recognition as the Clyde or Willoughby, it's just as important for wild trout."

The department partnered (See *Derby wildlife*, Page 31)

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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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Letters to the Editor

Brandon Rec thanks all who made the Halloween Ball a big success

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make the first Halloween Ball happen! The Inn was decorated beyond my wildest dreams, and filled with charming people dancing, having their Tarot cards read, photos taken, and enjoying the Neshobe Pub. The costumes were amazing and it was terrible to have to choose who would win one of the coveted Connaughton Tro-

phies! Congrats to The Shining Twins, The Duck Hunter and Duck, and Medusa!

Designing the Halloween Interior of the Inn was a mighty job, led by Kelly Connaughton, Emma Page, Jennifer Tinsman, Jackie Thompson, Arturo Mendiola, Leo and the crew from 802 Ghostbusters, Stef Dziubek and Matt Haley, and Stasia Dziubek. It was a wonderful treat to

be able to enjoy the animatronics and, of course, Boneita greeting people out front.

Many thanks to the Brandon Inn staff and especially bartender Ray Hilder for helping us have this night happen. When you work together, great things happen!

Colleen Wright
Brandon Recreation
Department

Leadership is a constant conversation

I know what everyone's thinking: Yet another letter to the editor about the upcoming election? I promise I'll be brief.

I sat in the candidates' forum last week and have reflected on the essential leadership qualities for someone in such a critical position in our government. As a professional dedicated to helping people communicate effectively, I watched and listened to both candidates with a discerning eye.

The key qualities—which are vital for this role in our government—center on communica-

tion:

1. Listening: A leader must listen with empathy, understanding the diverse perspectives of constituents and colleagues. A leader must also know how to filter substances from noise.

2. Articulation and Fact-Checking: It's crucial to articulate one's position clearly and support it with well-researched facts and data.

3. Persuasion: A successful leader brings others—who may not initially share their views—into a dialogue, helping them

grasp the importance of their ideas.

4. Negotiation: This skill encompasses all the above but also requires knowing when to compromise for the greater good.

Considering the leadership skills needed for this job, the choice is clear. We must reelect Representative Stephanie Jerome to the Vermont State House.

Lisa Peluso
Brandon

Experience and preparation matter in race for VT House of Representatives

We've been hearing a lot lately about political experience and who is best equipped to represent Brandon.

In a job interview, if you're asked a predictable question, you should be ready and prepared to answer it. If not, you might not get the job. If I'm hiring someone, I'm going to hire the person who came prepared to answer the question.

Everyone does have to start somewhere, and there's no shame in that, but State Representative is not an entry-level position. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved--Justice of the Peace, Select Board, and any number of other local elected

positions or committees. Working in the legislature is complicated, and frankly does require the savvy and experience to grapple with complex issues.

Nobody should support a less-qualified candidate purely because he's a decent man trying his best. That's endearing, but it doesn't make one worthy of an important political office. Please vote for the candidate who has the political knowledge, experience, and work ethic that Brandon deserves as its representative. If it weren't clear already, that's Stephanie Jerome.

Jeff Haylon
Brandon

Abortion as birth control—Nothing to be proud of

The phrases “a woman's right to control her own body” or “reproductive rights” are often used in discussions about abortion. However, to me, these terms sound like they're describing the right to get rid of unwanted children by ending their lives. I'm talking specifically about using abortion as a form of birth control, and I believe this is nothing to be proud of.

If the majority in a community decides that it's easier to end an unwanted child's life from the start than to raise them, that's a troubling reflection of our values. It's disheartening to think that, in such cases, an unwanted child's life seems to matter less than the mother's right to her own body. Yes, life is difficult, and raising a child is a big responsibility. Not every mother is able or willing to take that on. But the easiest way out—simply getting rid of the “unwanted child” early on—reduces a complex situation to a mere convenience, which seems wrong. It may solve a problem for the mother and reduce costs for the state, which won't have to invest in maternity care, adoption, and other services.

But think about what we're saying as a society when we make this the norm. People sometimes dispose of unwanted kittens or puppies by terminating their lives, and that's considered cruel. Yet, somehow, the same logic seems to be applied to human life, and it's defended in the name of “rights.” I once had a coworker say, “Abortion is fine, I've used it a lot as my birth control.” To hear something so significant reduced to a casual, everyday choice is deeply unsettling.

I also take issue with politicians who use abortion as a political weapon. The decision to end a human life is a serious one, and if we, as a society, choose to allow abortion as a way of birth control, we shouldn't be proud of it or praise ourselves for it. It's a heavy moral and ethical decision, not something to celebrate.

In conclusion, while I understand the complexities of life and the challenges of raising a child, using abortion as a form of birth control is something we should think deeply about. If we are heading in this direction as a country or state, it should be approached with the gravity and seriousness it deserves—not as something to be proud of.

Aida Nielsen
Brandon

Letters to the editor

Letters Policy: *The Reporter* will only print letters to the editor that are signed with the author's full name, address and a phone number so the author may be reached for verification or questions. Only name and town will be printed.

Letters will only be accepted from residents of the eight towns we cover (Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland, Goshen, Sudbury, Leicester and Whiting) or letters that pertain to issues or people in our coverage area. We will also consider letters from former residents if the subject matter is pertinent.

The editor reserves the right to approve or reject any letter to the editor. Any letter considered slanderous or libelous will not be printed. Letters written locally endorsing candidates for office will be accepted without charge.

Send your Letters to the Editor by Sundays before 5 p.m. to news@brandonreporter.com

Please vote! Vote for change! Vote for affordability! Vote Nielsen for Brandon!

As we near the November 5 vote for VT House and Senate members, it is extremely important that we all know the voting record of those that seek re-election. There have been many concerns with affordability in VT. The supermajority has pushed through many expensive pieces of legislation using fancy words to convince us they are working for us. But are they?

H.126 (Act 59) that was allowed to become law on 6/12/23 without the Govern-

nor's signature establishes State goals of conserving 30 percent of the land of the State by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050. It requires ... (the state) to develop an inventory of the existing conserved lands in the State and a plan on how to reach the goals. In Brandon, we have seen hundreds of acres turned over to conservation, the landowners taking small pots of money, and then some not wanting to pay taxes any longer, and the town selling off parcels for very, very low cost.

What does that mean for the rest of us? It means we pay the community's taxes among less people. If more is conserved and the goal is 50%, won't we see that play out across the state and the taxes on parcels will become higher, while less land is usable and taxable? How will they get to these goals? Will they be voluntary or involuntary? Landowners beware. And if EEE is caused by mosquitos that spread the EEE virus that is carried by birds that live in freshwater swamps, is it best

practice to keep conserving swampland?

H.89 (Act 14) was approved on 5/10/23 and defines “legally protected health care activity” ...to include reproductive health care services and gender-affirming health care services and reaffirms that access to such services is a legal right in Vermont. The act declares interference with legally protected health care activity... against the public policy of Vermont and the act shields providers and patients from

litigation seeking to interfere with these established health care services. This act has no age requirement so children can consent to sexual mutilation and chemical infertility without knowing the lifelong consequences. How does a civilized society allow this to be done on our most vulnerable population, children, and does not hold doctors responsible for their intentional act of harm that will affect a child's whole life?

(See Vote Nielsen, Page 19)

Obituaries

John Thomas “Tom” Rennert, 86, Brandon

John Thomas “Tom” Rennert, 86, passed away on October 12, 2024, with his family in Oregon. Tom was born on June 15, 1938, in Newton, New Jersey, to the late Wilfred and Mildred (Loder) Rennert. After graduating from Lafayette College, where he was a Theta Chi member, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army. He remained an active Lafayette alumnus, interviewing potential students across New England and attending every game of “The Rivalry,” including the 150th played in Yankee Stadium. From his best man to godfather for his kids, there was always a fraternity brother around throughout his life.

Following his military service, he had a long, successful career in fundraising. With a passion for non-profit work, Tom was known for his dedication to the American Cancer Society, where he spent most of his career as their Area Fundraising Director. He often found creative ways to combine his passion for golf with his charitable work, once playing an incredible 81 holes in a single day with friends for a fundraiser. After raising a family in Massachusetts, he moved to Vermont to work with local colleges. He settled in Brandon over 30 years ago to be close to his favorite golf course, Neshobe.

Tom’s love for music was



JOHN THOMAS RENNERT

a defining part of his life. He started with the high school marching band and often ventured to New York City to enjoy Broadway musicals. He had a particular fondness for ABBA—their infectious tunes never failed to bring a smile to his face!

But Tom’s first love was undoubtedly sports. Whether as a coach or a spectator, his enthusiasm was infectious at baseball, basketball, and hockey games. He encouraged friends to join him in Glens Falls and made many of them rabid fans of local hockey. In his free time, Tom enjoyed golfing and could be found almost every Monday on any number of Vermont courses, always saying his year wasn’t complete until he hit 100 rounds.

Following his retirement, Tom embarked on a second career as the owner of Novus Windshield Repair. His dedica-

tion to his business led to lasting relationships with many Vermonters, who fondly remember the “wooden nickels” he would give customers. He retired again at 80 but continued to volunteer, providing driving assistance to local veterinarians, particularly those working with cats and shuttling other veterans to White River Junction.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Michele Warther (John) of Oregon; his son, Terry Rennert (Kimberly) of Florida; granddaughter Vivian Warther; granddaughter Cassandra Chaput (Will); and great-grandson Wyatt Chaput, along with many other loved ones.

His family would like to express their sincere gratitude for Tom’s wonderful care over the years from the Veterans Administration, his many RMCC doctors, and most recently Donna, Irene, and Jessi. They are also forever grateful for his community of neighbors at Country Club Townhouses, who have always offered a helping hand and a watchful eye for over 25 years.

Respecting his wishes, a private celebration of life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733 or the American Cancer Society.

David F. Hazen, 80, Pittsford

David Francis Hazen, 80, of Pittsford, Vermont, died on October 16, 2024, at Mountain View Center in Rutland, VT. He was born on July 13, 1944 in West Hartford, VT, the son of John Hazen, Sr. and Barbara (Clifford) Hazen. David grew up on his family farm, where he lived until he went on to attend Castleton State University and graduated with a teaching degree in 1966. He credits Castleton for being where he met the love of

his life, Carolyn Goodwin Jenkins, whom he married on June 30, 1968 and shared a loving 56 years. Prior to his time at the university, he attended West Hartford Grammar School and Hartford High School. He was known throughout his school years for his incredible joviality, and his musicianship demonstrated through his trumpet playing and beautiful tenor voice.

With his degree in hand, David embarked upon a teaching career which spanned principal-ships in Tunbridge, VT as well as Orwell, VT and he ultimately retired from a teaching position at the Lothrop Elementary school in Pittsford, VT where his legacy of reading “The Polar Express” to countless children lives on.

Working in education left time in the summer for David to earn extra money for his family by doing something else he loved: cooking. From being a chef at the Hanover Inn and Mountain Top Inn to spending 11 summers in the kitchen at Camp Betsey Cox, David loved to prepare food for a crowd.

Though he loved working in education, it was a dream of David’s to become an entrepreneur and so he took a pause from working in schools to own and run The Red Balloon on Center Street in Rutland, VT, a specialty shop known for its excellent toys, teacher supplies, and baby furniture, as well as its wonderful Send in the Clown deliveries that brought smiles to many.

David and his wife Carolyn have been active members of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ in Rutland for approximately 50 years. They had a great love of the church and its community and chose to serve it through long standing participation on the diaconate and the Nominating

committee. David was co-chair of the Flower Committee and cherished decorating the church for Christmas; he treasured his annual role as one of the Three Kings in the Christmas Eve Pageant. He also was a member of the Music Committee and loved being part of the church choir; he counted on the rehearsals every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. He adored running the kitchen for the Harvest dinners and continued

to be involved with them even when his health was failing at the Mountain View Center.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn of Pittsford; daughter Hannah Weeden and husband Russ of Saratoga Springs, NY and their two daughters Olivia and Amelia; daughter

Gretchen Powers and her husband John of Holliston, MA and their son Eamonn and daughter Aine; and daughter Abby Johnson and her husband Clayton of Lunenburg, MA and their daughters Eva and Phoebe. David had no greater pleasure than to hear news of his grandchildren and then share it with others. He was always so proud of them all!

He was predeceased by his parents, two brothers, Douglas R. Hazen and John H. Hazen Jr., and his sister, Alice Hazen.

David will forever be remembered for his wonderful laugh, joyful spirit, and generous heart; he has been beloved by all who have known him.

His family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the supportive and kind staff at Mountain View Center who provided him loving care through his stays there.

A Remembrance and Celebration of Life Service will be held to honor David’s life on October

26, 2024 at 1:00 PM in Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court Street, Rutland, VT, with the Rev. Terry Hanley, pastor, officiating. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall with a time for remembrances to be shared.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grace Church Music Dept., 8 Court St., Rutland, VT 05701 or to Vermont Public, 365 Troy Ave., Colchester, V 05446.

Tossing Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements



DAVID F. HAZEN

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • www.barnardfuneralhome.com

(802) 483-2811 Christopher Book/Director

For five generations the Barnard family has assisted families in Pittsford, Proctor, Chittenden and the surrounding area getting through one of life’s most difficult times.

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory

Candidate forum

(Continued from Page 1)

ible honor to serve Brandon. My husband and I chose to make roots in Brandon almost 30 years ago. The town looks great today. More and more people are finding Brandon and choosing to make it their home. But there's still work to do to make Brandon more affordable. We need to improve certain things, including revamping the education funding system, healthcare, climate change resiliency, consumer protection, and workforce development.

Nielsen: I've been a carpenter most of my life. My wife and I remodeled our fixer-upper ourselves. I relied on government assistance at times when I was younger but I am now debt free. I love living in Vermont but may not be able to afford to retire here. I commit to voting no on new taxes. We can't have what we can't afford.

Question #1: What role does government play in reproductive healthcare?

Nielsen: The state of Vermont already has laws in place for abortion. I support those laws and everything that goes with it. That's all I have to say.

Jerome: An overwhelming majority of Vermonters voted to en-

shrine reproductive rights in our constitution in 2022. I see no reason ever to not allow IVF and other fertility treatments.

Question #2: What can be done to make childcare affordable and support young families?

Jerome: I'm really proud of the

work we did last year. We passed a bill to help young families that implemented a small payroll tax to help with childcare, providing up to

\$24K for childcare, building childcare centers, and paying childcare workers a fair wage. We've created 1,000 new childcare slots but we need 8,000. We've also created 2,300 new childcare jobs. It's also a workforce issue; we need people to move to Vermont and those people will need childcare.

Nielsen: 14 years ago, there were neighborhood childcare providers. It was a system that worked. Then the state got aggressive and regulated them out of business. We can't afford this new payroll tax.

Question #3: How can we help our children in a time of cultural change without increasing taxes?

Nielsen: I don't know how we can afford to do everything. We can't afford all these great ideas.

Jerome: We have to support our children. Strong schools are pivotal to a strong town. This year's property tax increase resulted from inflation and higher health insurance premiums. We need to take a close look at the education funding system. The state is already taking a look and a report is due in January of 2026. We also need to look at how we spend money, how we use tax dollars on non-public schools.

Question #4: How is it equitable?
(See Candidate forum, Page 23)



TODD NIELSEN (LEFT) and Rep. Stephanie Jerome (right) met with prospective constituents for a candidates' forum on Tuesday, October 15 at Brandon Town Hall. Ms. Jerome, the incumbent Democrat, is looking to defend her seat against Mr. Nielsen, a Republican who won a write-in campaign in the August primary. The forum was hosted by the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce.

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There's never been a better time to weatherize your home.

- 75% off project costs, up to \$9,500
- Free services for income-eligible Vermonters
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Join us for webinars to learn more!

ButtonUpVermont.org



sponsored by Efficiency Vermont

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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



GROW THE ECONOMY



MAKE VERMONT MORE AFFORDABLE



PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE

PAID FOR BY THE COLLAMORE FOR SENATE COMMITTEE, FRIENDS OF DAVE WEEKS, AND TERRY WILLIAMS FOR SENATE



ISAAC ARCHAMBAULT MONUMENT, St. Mary's Cemetery, Brandon.

Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

American version of the name Shambo derives from the last two syllables of Archambault [Ah sham bow]. Three brothers, sons of Joseph Archambault and Catherine Bernier from St. Hyacinthe, all touched down in Brandon by 1850. The first, born as Jean Isaie Archambault, earned his living as a stone mason. He remained in Brandon, where censuses consistently recorded his last name as Shambo. On his gravestone, the name is carved as Archambault. The second brother, Joseph Shambo, married Esther Baril in the early 1840s in Vermont. His occupation, as recorded in the 1850

census, was a cabinet maker. Joseph left Brandon and moved to Hydeville, Vermont, where his last-born son Denis was born on Christmas Eve, 1856. A record of Joseph's death has not been found, but widow Esther returned to Canada with her children before moving to Lowell, Massachusetts, where all of the family, including Esther, found employment in the cotton mills. Within Lowell's densely populated French-Canadian enclave, their last name reverted to Archambault.

Now to J.B. Shambo, who died in 1896 from a "liver complaint." He was born in Brandon on September 3, 1849 to the

third of the Shambo/Archambault brothers, known alternately as Leo, Leon, or Leonard Shambo. This family left Brandon and moved to Northfield, Vermont, where John married Exilda Bashaw [Bachand] who had many relatives in Brandon. Leo, his wife, and his younger children made one more move to Cohoes, New York, where they all worked in the mills. John B. Shambo, however, undoubtedly through the pull of his wife's family, moved back in Brandon by 1874. John earned his living as a blacksmith. He and Exilda leave many descendants in the area.



ETHEL (SWENOR) SHACKETT Fletcher on the wedding day of her granddaughter Ethel Shackett to Timothy Disorda, 14 August 1993.



LEON P. SHACKETT (1893-1944) Family photos courtesy of Ethel Shackett Disorda.



STUDENTS FROM THE Addison Central Program helped the Forest Service erect new bluebird houses in the Blueberry Management Area in Goshen on Monday. The program serves kids from Middlebury, Vergennes, and Mt. Abe schools.
Photos by George Fjeld

New bluebird houses raised in the Blueberry Management Area

BY GEORGE FJELD
GOSHEN—Students from the Addison Central Program spent a beautiful Monday in the Blueberry Management Area in Goshen installing new bluebird houses in the open meadows. The students at this alternative education program, along with their teachers and a couple of Forest Service employees, dug the holes and screwed the houses onto poplar poles which were placed in and supported in those holes. The students spent

the last couple of weeks making the bluebird houses in their classroom. Then, Monday, after hiking up the hill, they selected

from the experts in the Forest Service, Sue Staats and Joe Cahill. The digging was hard with many stones encountered but the students persevered and were able to get all the houses set up. Although the bluebirds have moved south for the winter they'll be back in early spring. The birds are sure to appreciate their new homes.

The project is the brainchild of special educator Rob McCuen, who envisioned the project when the group was up picking blueberries last season. He contacted the Forest Service, which had planned to put in new and replacement bluebird houses in



THE KIDS WERE able to help maintain bird populations while enjoying a beautiful autumn day in the hills of Goshen.

sites for the houses scattered around the open fields with help

Reformation conference

(Continued from Page 4)

historic truths laid out in the Bible.

Each subsequent year after 2017, the conference reconvened to focus on one of these Sola, finishing in 2023. Beginning in 2024 the theme has shifted to start review the implications of these truths in practical living out the Christian Faith.

The 2024 conference theme is "The Church" and will include messages on what the Bible says about the church, including "The Analogies of the

Church", "The Attributes of the Church", "The Adoration of the Church", "The Authority of the Church", "The Assembling of the Church", and finally "The Advancement of the Church". Interspersed throughout these messages will be music and singing celebrating these truths using the great music of the church, both traditional and modern.

The conference is free for all, and all are welcome. Details can be found at Rediscovering the Reformation (reformation-vt.org)

Leicester News

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds voters that ballots need to be returned to the Town Office by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5. If you plan to mail your ballot, check with the Post Office to make sure it will be delivered in time. Voters may drop completed ballots in the drop box between the office doors or drop the envelope off during the hours the office is open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00am to 2:00 pm. If you choose to vote in person, bring the ballot with you to the office, between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. If voting in person, it is important to bring it with you as there is a limited number of ballots on hand.

Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Saturday, November 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Refreshments served and all are welcome.



Representatives from the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County will be at recycling on Sat., Nov 2, from 9:00 am. to noon to answer your questions about how to lower your energy costs and how to get support to get the necessary related work completed. Brochures and information, as well as coffee and baked goodies will be available at the town shed. Contact Diane Benware at 247-3786 for more information.

this area. The plan finally came together this past week to the great satisfaction of all involved.

Addison Central Program is an alternative education program for high school and middle school students. This program involved high school students from Middlebury, Vergennes, and Mt. Abe. The program is focused on integrated experiential learning. During this project they learned about the wood they used, measuring for the right pa-

rameters for the houses, how to use some tools, and some geology of the rocks they dug up. The focus of the program this year is sustainability and this project fits the model well. The students were supported by their team of teachers including principal Gina Fucci, interventionist Amanda Bliven, social worker Emory Clark, and behavior interventionist Marci Lambert, as well as McCuen.

Re-elect
Stephanie
JEROME
State
Representative
Brandon

★ **VOTE BY** ★
NOVEMBER 5th

www.stephaniejeromevt.com



Paid for by Stephanie Jerome for House of Representatives

OUR CREATIVE

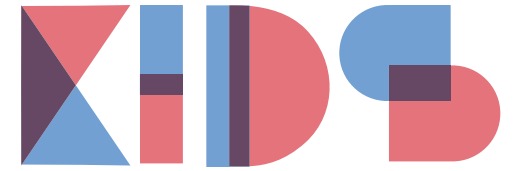
STUDENT: Sage Parker

GRADE: 3

SCHOOL: Lothrop Elementary

MEDIUM: Pencil and Markers

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



STATEMENT FROM SAGE:

“This is a stray cat looking at the sky. There is a happy sun. There is a beach nearby that is why there are so many birds.”

Carver Street

(Continued from Page 1)

tires pulled from the roadside. Old mattresses molder half-submerged in the water. Recently, the state obligated Brandon to extract a giant mess of roofing shingles from Otter Creek at a cost of \$800 in disposal fees, not to mention the time paid to town employees.

Perhaps the solution is to close that portion of the road to vehicular traffic. At least that's the approach being considered by Brandon's town management.

Technically, Carver Street is designated as a Class 3 town highway, which is defined by the state as a minor road that is navigable by regular automobiles in all seasons. However, Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins is exploring the possibility of re-classifying Carver to allow the town to restrict vehicular access to town employees and adjacent landowners. The public could still walk and bicycle on the closed portion, but pickups full of debris would no longer be able to get down there.

"The goal is to deter litter and dumping," said Mr. Hopkins in an email to The Reporter. "And to avoid the Town spending material and staff and equipment hours to bring in more gravel and regrade the road periodically, especially after it is overtopped seasonally and material is washed away."

Moreover, according to Mr. Hopkins, the town does not maintain the road in navigable condition all year. The road is not plowed and is often closed in mud season to avoid vehicles getting stuck.

The decision would not affect only Brandon, however. When Carver crosses Otter Creek, about 1.5 miles south of the railroad tracks, Brandon becomes Pittsford and Carver becomes Syndicate Road. So, Mr. Hopkins approached Pittsford Town Manager David Atherton, who had been Brandon's town manager for years and knows the road well, to gauge Pittsford's reaction to the proposal.

Mr. Atherton brought the matter to the Pittsford Selectboard on Wednesday, October 16. The Board expressed concern about closing a connection between the two towns but did not immediately shoot down the idea. Mr. Atherton consulted with Pittsford's Highway Department and later informed Mr. Hopkins that the Highway Chief did not object to the plan.

"My concern is that Brandon close the road at the end of the bridge," said Mr. Atherton. The bridge over Otter Creek is owned by Brandon. "We don't want people just driving up there and piling trash on the bridge."

Even if Pittsford raises no objections, the proposal would still have to be approved by VTrans and by Brandon's own Selectboard, which has not yet had public discussions of the idea.

"There will be Selectboard consideration and action at a public meeting, and likely a site visit, before any reclassification is attempted," wrote Mr. Hopkins. "We anticipate working with VTrans on possibilities and with the Town of Pittsford on safe turnaround and access spots." The turnaround is necessary to allow drivers to return down Syndicate Road when they reach the closure at the bridge.

Mr. Hopkins has already spoken with adjacent landowners, who did not raise any objections.

"If there were opposition or even hesitation/reservation expressed during that process, we would likely not be advancing the concept further," he wrote. "Other classifications that would retain town ownership and public access while eliminating the environmental damage, property damage, and adverse economic impact on taxpayers' funds would be prudent."

"We will work with VTrans next regarding lawful options and then bring this to the Selectboard."

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles. See page 25

Deer processing

(Continued from Page 4)

cessing Your Deer Videos."

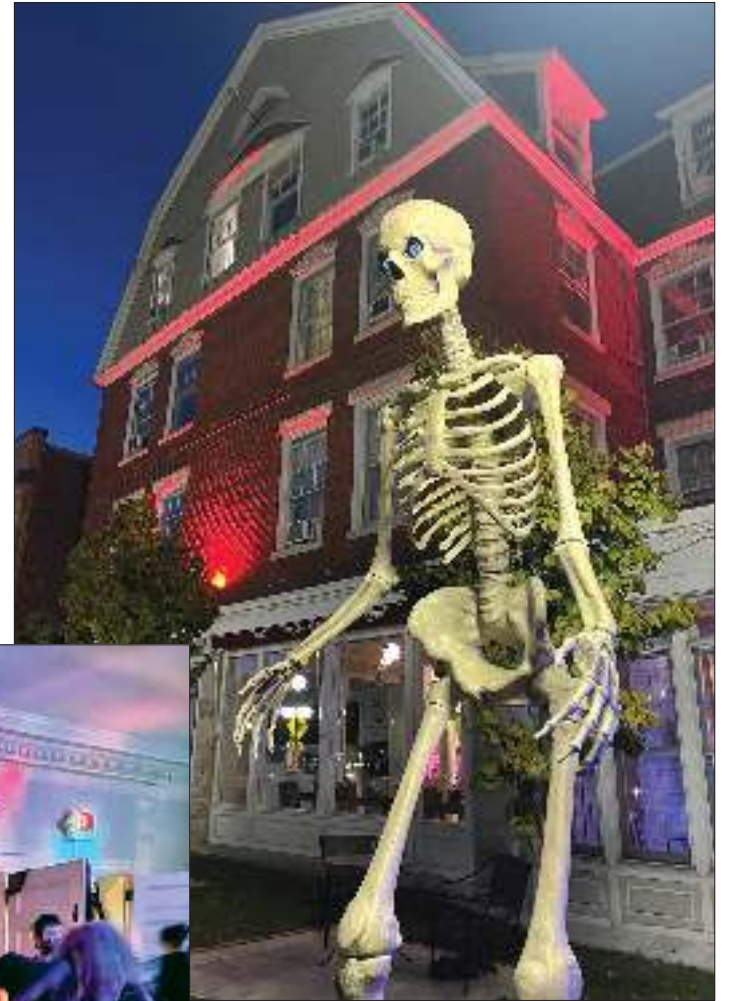
The educational videos are titled Field Dressing, Skinning a Deer and Butchering a Deer.

"Correctly processing game

can make a big difference in the taste of the meat," said Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. "Taking the time to do it correctly assures that you and your family will have many enjoyable meals ahead."

One hundred people attended the Halloween Costume Ball at the haunted Brandon Inn!





THEY DRESSED IN their fanciest, scariest, funniest, and most horrifying costumes. Loads of lights and tons of decorations made this elegant masquerade ball the best! The Neshobe Pub featured eerie specialty drinks, DJ music played all night, tarot card readings occurred, and Emma Page presented a horrifyingly hoopy dance. After all, it's Spooky Season! The event raised money for the Brandon Recreation Department.

Photos by Isidro Beccar Varela and Patty Moore



FALL FOLIAGE DECORATES VERMONT!



THANK YOU TO our readers for sending us such lovely shots of our local fall foliage! Clockwise from bottom left: Lyla Fuller, Steve Bauer, Stephen Salvatore, and Kristi Theise.

Coming to Brandon

**OCT 25
SPOOKSVILLE**

5-6:30 pm
Estabrook

OCT 27

KIDS HALLOWEEN BASH

2-4 pm American Legion,
\$2.00 per kid, adults free!



Get ready for
Basketball,
Wrestling
signups!



THEATRE TRY ITS WED NOV 6TH - ACTING!

5:00-6:30pm, Brandon Town Hall Cellar

THEATRE TRY ITS WED NOV 13TH- MUSIC!

5:00-6:30pm, Brandon Town Hall Cellar

Both events are free but
registration is required at brandonvt.myrec.com



Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

It is probably hard to see in this photo, but the big sign on the storefront in Brandon Vermont, 200 miles from the ocean, says OYSTERS.

After the Civil War, oysters became a craze! In the 1800s, the average New Yorker ate 600 oysters a year. Today, the

average American eats only three oysters per year. Oysters were cheap, abundant, and very popular. Oysters were inexpensive and considered to pair particularly well with alcohol, so most bars, taverns, and saloons served oysters. As train tracks spidered

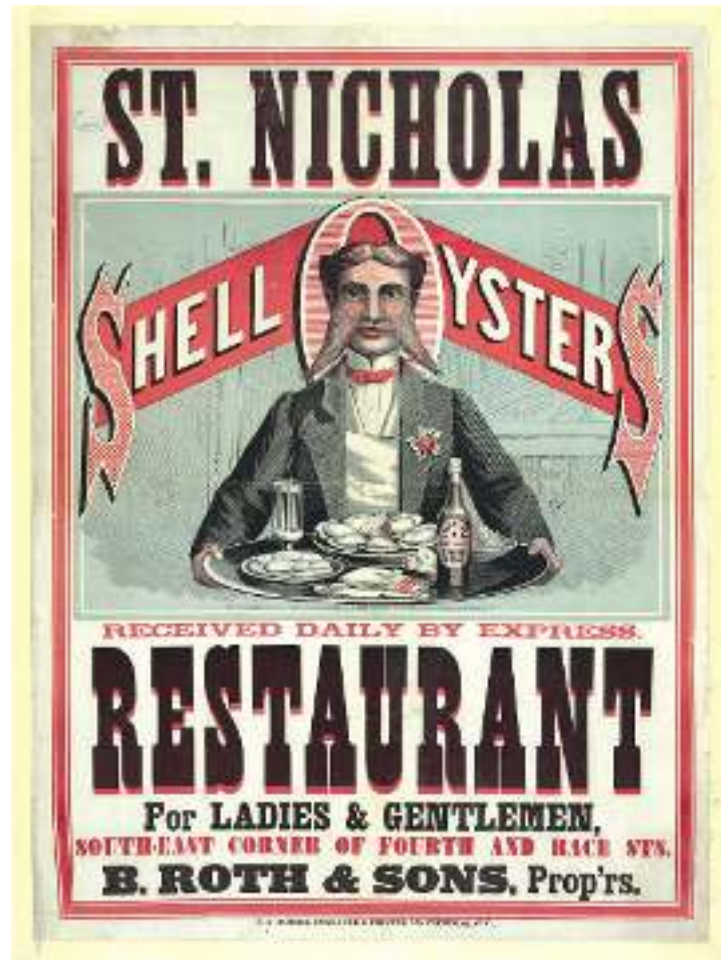
out across the country, oysters' popularity grew.

Oysters were loaded on trains and shipped on ice as far as Chicago, Saint

not a specialty item in Brandon, Vermont. Fresh oysters were shipped in daily by train and bought and enjoyed like a person in 2024 might pick up and snack on a bag of chips or a slice of pizza. Oysters cost about two or three cents each (equivalent to 50 or 75 cents each today.) Oysters were cheap and available, so many recipes included oysters: fried oysters, stewed oysters, fricasseed oysters, pickled oysters, oyster pie, oyster stuffed turkey, oysters with scrambled eggs. Or oysters were used to add bulk to more expensive dishes like meat pies. Oysters were eaten raw or cooked, for breakfast, lunch, and dinner by rich and poor alike.

Eventually oysters were over-harvested and depleted by disease. Public perception also contributed to their decline. People became more aware of the less-than-sanitary conditions in the oyster industry, and the added health regulations increased the costs of production. Bad press followed in the 1920s, when typhoid broke out in Chicago and was traced to oysters being exposed to sewage. And maybe the final blow was Prohibition, when the taverns and pubs where oysters were sold in huge quantity were closed. The Oyster Craze lost its hold, and America moved on.

Special thanks to John Peterson for his insights on oysters in the 19th century.



Louis, Cincinnati, and Detroit.

Fresh oysters were

Your mystery for next week!

Vermont's population

(Continued from Page 4)

College-aged students, for example, saw a slight decline between 2020 and 2023 — but that could simply be due to annual fluctuations in college enrollment.

He noted that inward migration has a long history of influencing Vermont's population dynamics, based on an analysis of migration data he collaborated on earlier this year.

Vermont lost residents to migration in the 1950s and 1960s but reported an influx of newcomers in the 1970s as Baby Boomers sought out rural areas as part of the "back-to-the-land" movement. That trend continued into the 1980s and 1990s, he said.

"A lot of those people who came then are still there. They're just older now. So that's fueling that older population," he said.

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

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

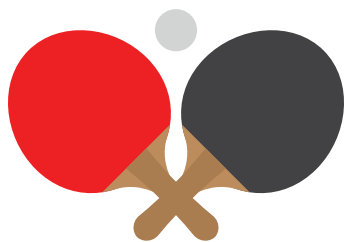
Ping Pong

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.



Brandon Forestdale Lions Club Diaper Drive

To make up for the cut in state funding to the VT diaper bank from \$320,000/yr to \$100,000/yr, there will be a diaper drive at Brandon United Methodist Church.

Donations accepted during Food Shelf Hours:
Tuesdays 12-3 pm
Sundays 12:30-2 pm
1 Franklin Street

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 with 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 24th

Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) Community Dinner — Stowe Street Cafe

Join us for a very special Southwest Asian and North African Community Dinner at Stowe Street Cafe. Chef Stephanie and our team will lovingly prepare and present a variety of dishes from this region of the world commonly referred to as the "Middle East." There will be many plates to savor and share throughout the evening,



Thursday, November 7th, 6 pm

11th Annual Vermont B...

Ridgeline Outdoor Collective and Catamount Trail screening of the 2024 Winter Wildlands Alliance B...

Doors open at 6 pm for potluck, with beverages and displays from partners and vendors. Huge raffle w... and much more.

Information and registration at www.RidgelineOutdoorforum/ Questions email info@ridgelineoutdoorcol Pierce Hall Community Center, 38 So. Main St., Ro...

as well as some special offerings to be announced, all to deeply honor and celebrate the incredible history and beauty of this region. Many of these dishes come from the truly beautiful cookbook, "Bethlehem: A Celebration of Palestinian Food," by Fadi Kattan, as well as other recipes from Lebanon, Iran, Morocco, and more. These Community Dinners have become quite special among our guests for the way that they bring together friends old + new to share different flavors and celebrate different cultures from around the world—but they only occur every so often, so please don't miss out! \$60 per person + tax/tip.

TO BEGIN:

- Labneh (v)
- Fattoush (v)
- Hummus (v)
- Tabbouleh (v)
- Chicken Kofta
- Toum Sauce (v)
- Assorted Olives (v)
- Turmeric Milk Bread (v)

TO CONTINUE:

- SWANA Stew (meat or vegetarian)
- Israeli Couscous
- Loukmet Broccoli

TO CONCLUDE:

- Lebanese Baklava
- Kashmiri Kahwa Ice Cream
- Moroccan Orange Date Cake

BEVERAGE:

- Classic Iranian Sekanjabin Mocktail



Thursday 24th Friday 25th

Wheels for Warmth

Donate tires (or discard your old, unusable tires for a small fee) and support a great community event! Established in 2005, Wheels for Warmth has three goals: raise funds for emergency heating assistance for distribution to individuals and families through regional Commu-

nity Action Agencies; create a resource of DMV-inspected tires that are deemed safe for at least one season of use, to be sold to Vermonters in need at reasonable prices; and provide a convenient, inexpensive way to dispose of unwanted tires, reducing the number of tires discarded in rivers or along our roadways.

From 2–6 pm at Casella Construction Inc. , 1385 U.S. 7, Pittsford.

Friday 25th

Valley Gone Madder — Halloweez Experience

Please join us at Afterthoughts, above Valley Meade Dispensary, for another amazing Halloween Party. Our theme this year is Sinister Carnival/ Circus, so get your best killer carnie-wear ready to go. We will have special guests back by popular demand for live music: Running in Circles. The evening will be hosted by the amazing Mister Burns and he might even bless us with some of his lyrical mastery. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the High's Organization.

Tickets are \$20 pre-sale and \$25 at the door if tickets remain. Afterthoughts, 8 Vermont 17, Waitsfield. \$20.

"Voile Levée" A Hallowtide's Dance for the Living & Lived — Grange Hall Cultural Center

Join us for a mirthful and reverent magical space between the worlds where light & sound play together in a projection-based participatory celebration of music and dancing among your beloveds both Earthly

and Beyond; a pagan(ish)-adjacent Dumb Supper at Studio 54; mixing songs somber, sacred, joyous; forever + always: animating. Rump-bumping at your discretion.

Featured Artists in this exhibition: Ian Babylon, Jean Bennet, Cynthia Cagle, Anne Cummings, Eve O. & Stephen Schaub (EveN-Steve), and Sarah Vogelsang-Card.

Lifting the Veil is an exhibition featuring work by an invited group of artists, with the overarching theme of the connection—through art, memory, and artifacts—of the living with those who have "crossed the veil," into whatever the next state may be. Related events will include a closing celebration, with performances connecting to a variety of cultural traditions, beliefs, and values about honoring our ancestors, as well as nurturing and healing the living. The intent is to create a space, through the art installation and event, which is positive, comforting, and caring in exploring the ways we interpret the veil between the world of the living and the world of the lived, and to share in the healing process. Artists will be presenting workshops and performances, and community members will be invited to share memories of ancestors and family legacies through photos, writings, or objects, as part of the installation and join in a culminating celebratory event.

From 7–10 pm at the Grange Hall Cultural Center, 317 Howard Avenue, Waterbury Center. \$0–\$20.

October 26

Monster Dash Fun Run/Walk 2K — Neshobe School

Students at Neshobe School have been working very hard in P.E. at increasing their cardiovascular health through jogging and exercise. In celebration of that, we invite the community to our first ever Monster Dash Fun Run/Walk 2K (1.2 miles) at Neshobe on Saturday, October 26 at 10 am.

The Fun Run will be two loops around the story loop on the freshly cleared nature trail. Parents are encouraged to run/walk with their children. All are invited to run in their Halloween costumes! There will be a prize drawing for all entries, age category race prizes for kids, and one

Pittsford Village Farm Turkey Trot Fun Run

Saturday, November 16th

Join us at the beautiful Pittsford Village Farm for a Turkey Trot Fun Run to benefit the Pittsford Christmas For Kids.

Rain or shine event!

Prizes awarded for top 3 finishers: a turkey donated by Kamuda's Market; a breakfast basket by the Maple Museum; 2 apple pies made by Unity Wellness Farm in Proctor.

Pre-register by October 28, 2024 to be guaranteed a shirt.

Entry fees: \$15 for pre-registered 5K, \$20 for race day. With the proper fees you may bring your form into Pittsford Auto. You can also pay via Venmo, mail, or drop in the After-Hours Drop Box located on the door of Pittsford Auto Offices.



To register online, go to <https://www.pittsfordvillagefarm.org/events>

age category for adult male and female, and prizes for best costumes. Our focus is on participation and fitness for life, but we do have students who love to race, so the opportunity is there. We hope you will be able to make it. A donation of \$5–10 is suggested (not required). We definitely need volunteers so let us know if you might be interested in helping out, or if you have questions. PRE REGISTERING makes it easier on the day of so please register: <https://formurl.com/to/neshobedash>



Goings on around town

Brandon Area Food Shelf

The Brandon Area Food Shelf is open Tuesdays 12–3 pm, Sundays 12:30–2 pm, to anyone who needs assistance. Walk-ins are welcome.

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).





New books

Us Fools by Nora Lange

As sisters Jo and Bernie's imaginative solutions for escape from their family farm in rural Illinois come up short against their parents' volatile relationship and mounting debt, the family leaves their farm for Chicago, where Jo—free-spirited, reckless, and unable to tame her inner violence—rebels in increasingly desperate ways. After her worst breakdown yet, Jo goes into exile in Deadhorse, Alaska, and it is up to Bernie to use all she's learned from her sister to revive a sense of hope against the backdrop of a failing world.

If Only by Vigdis Hjorth

A relatively young woman aged thirty. She married in her early twenties, had two children. It is winter. January and minus 14°C, white, frosty mist around the parked car, around the spruces, the mailbox on its post, but higher up the sky is blue, clear, the sun has come back. She has written in her diary that she is waiting for the heartbreak that will turn her into her true self. She has an impending sense of doom or possibly her own death.

The Empusium by Olga Tokarczuk

September 1913. A young Pole suffering from tuberculosis arrives at Wilhelm Opitz's Guesthouse for Gentlemen in the village of Görbersdorf, a health resort in the Silesian mountains. Every evening the residents gather to imbibe the hallucinogenic local liqueur and debate the great issues of the day: Monarchy or democracy? Do devils exist? War or peace? Meanwhile, disturbing things are happening in the guesthouse and the surrounding hills. Someone—or something—seems to be watching, attempting to infiltrate this cloistered world. Little does the newcomer realize, as he tries to unravel both the truths within himself and the mystery of the sinister forces beyond, that they have already chosen their next target.

Death at the Sign of the Rook by Kate Atkinson

In his sleepy Yorkshire town, ex-detective Jackson Brodie is staving off boredom and malaise. His only case is the seemingly tedious matter of a stolen painting. But Jackson soon uncovers a string of unsolved art thefts that lead him down a dizzying spiral of disguise and deceit to Burton Makepeace,

DID YOU KNOW?

Woody Guthrie: Dustbowl Balladeer—the legacy of the singer told through readings from his prose, as well as recorded and live examples of his music.

Presented by Mark Greenburg with the Vermont Humanities Council. October 30, 6pm.

a formerly magnificent estate now partially converted into a hotel hosting Murder Mystery weekends. The stage is set. The players are ready. By night's end, a murderer will be revealed.

New DVDs

Longlegs (rated R)

Starring Nicolas Cage. An FBI agent uncovers a series of occult clues that she must solve to end his terrifying killing spree.

Pictures of Ghosts

A multidimensional journey through time, sound, architecture, and filmmaking, set in the urban landscape of Pernambuco, the coastal capital of Recife, Brazil.

Regulated Trapping Seasons open Oct. 26

Vermont's regulated land and water trapping seasons open on October 26, 2024, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Traps can be set on land for species such as fisher, coyote and raccoon through December 2024, and in the water or under ice for species such as beaver, muskrat and otter through March 2025. These species have healthy populations in Vermont that can sustain regulated trapping for fur and food each year.

"If you plan to enjoy Vermont's outdoors this fall and winter it is important to know when trapping season is open

and to be aware that trappers may be using the same public lands or, with landowner permission, private lands," said Wildlife Biologist and Furbearer Project Leader Brehan Furfey. "Vermont has had regulated trapping seasons for decades and Vermont hikers, hunters, skiers, trappers and others have a good track record of sharing the same landscape safely and respectfully."

In December 2023, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board adopted amended regulations that require trappers to use traps that reduce harm to captured animals and to follow safety measures to minimize

conflicts with pets and other outdoors users.

It is extremely rare for pets to be caught by law abiding trappers during Vermont's regulated seasons. The department's website has information on how to free pets from traps in the unlikely event they are caught. Anyone whose pet is caught in a trap should report the incident to a game warden after freeing their pet.

It is illegal to interfere with lawfully set traps in Vermont. Anyone who finds a trap that appears to be in violation of Vermont's trapping regulations should contact a game warden.

Brandon Police Report

October 14

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Route 7 at Union Street for vehicle violations.
- Assisted a Consolidated Communications work crew that had requested police assistance with a resident on Frog Hollow Road who was being hostile toward them while they were trying to work on the property.
- Received a complaint of illegal dumping at the transfer station on Corona Street.
- Received a complaint of a hunting dog in an unsecured crate in the back of a truck, with Pennsylvania license plates, in the area of Grove Street.

October 15

- Responded to a burglary alarm activation at OVUHS. The alarm had been accidentally activated by an employee.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at the Pittsford town line for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.
- Received a report of a minor non-reportable crash on Franklin Street. Documented for insurance purposes.

October 16

- Posted a property watch for a residence.
- Received a request for a welfare check on an elderly family member, residing on Florence Road, who had not been heard from.
- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle on Old Ice House Road occupied by two individuals.
- Received a report of vandalism involving a window that was shot at with a BB gun on Mulcahy Drive.
- Received a late vehicle complaint at Walgreens. Case generated for insurance purposes.

- Received a report of larceny from a residence on Church Street.
- Received a complaint concerning an individual possibly using binoculars to look onto area residents' private properties on Pearl Street. The entire length of Pearl Street was patrolled, but the individual had apparently already left the area.
- Received a late vehicle complaint at Hannaford Supermarket.
- Took fingerprints for employment.
- Took fingerprints for employment.

October 17

- Responded to an alarm ac-

tivation at OVUHS. The alarm had been accidentally set off by an employee.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Forest Dale Road near Neshobe Elementary School for ongoing speeding complaints. No violations observed.
- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for speeding. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol on Pearl Street for ongoing complaints of individuals doing "burn outs" on the Sanderson Bridge. No illegal activity observed.

October 18

- Took fingerprints for educational licensing.
- Received a report of a tractor trailer, that was overweight, driving on River Street. The roadway did not have a weight restriction and therefore no violation was determined to have occurred.
- Responded to a report of some juveniles walking northbound on Route 7. Officers made contact with the three juvenile males at the Jiffy Mart on McConnel Road. The juveniles were discovered to have been truant from school and they were returned to their parents.

- Conducted a welfare check at a local apartment complex on Mulcahy Drive. The person of interest was found to be fine and did not need any assistance.
- Received a call at the Brandon Police Department (BPD) regarding a man who had not come home on time and family members were concerned of his general welfare. The man was later found to be fine and had just gone out with friends in Burlington.

- Conducted a patrol on Pearl Street by the Sanderson Covered Bridge.

October 19

- Responded to a report of suspicious activity on Conway Terrace. Officers did not observe any suspicious activity.
- Responded to Park Street for a report of someone burning trash. No indication of anyone burning trash was located.
- Assisted Middlebury EMS with medical call/lift assist on Birch Hill Road.
- Assisted Middlebury EMS with a medical call/lift assist on Union Street.
- Assisted Rutland Regional Ambulance Service with a medical call on Barlow Avenue involving a possible heart is-

(See Police report, Page 19)

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

sue. The individual was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

October 20

- Alerted to a medical call on Conant Square.

- Responded to a late report of a damaged vehicle. The owner was unsure where the damage had occurred, and the incident was documented for insurance purposes.

- Took custody of a missing dog that was located and brought to the BPD, where it was subsequently returned to its owner.

- Received a call from an off-duty officer regarding an erratic operator on Grove Street that was failing to maintain their travel lane. The vehicle was stopped and it was determined that the driver was not impaired.

- Vehicle stop on Paint Works Road for misuse of license plates. The vehicle was towed from the scene for being unregistered, uninsured, and for attaching unassigned license plates. Ticket(s) issued.

- Conducted a patrol in the area of Duval Road/Slab Fence

Road. No suspicious activity observed.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Union Street due to increased reports of speeding vehicles in the area.

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Franklin Street at Park Street.

- Assisted a motorist with traffic control while they fixed their damaged bumper due to striking a raccoon on Grove Street.

- Responded to Mulcahy Drive for a domestic disturbance where the woman involved reported that the man involved had grabbed her by the neck on two different occasions. After investigating the facts and circumstances of the incident, the man was placed under arrest for two counts of Domestic Assault (Offense Committed Within the Presence Of a Child) and False Information to Law Enforcement Authorities. The man was lodged at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility on \$500 bail and was issued a citation to appear in Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 10/21/2024 at 12:30 p.m.



Fire draws crews to Marble Street in Brandon

ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, fire departments from Brandon, Pittsford, and Salisbury tried to extinguish a house fire at 13 Marble Street in Brandon. The owners, Roger Paquette and Anne Runyon, are safe, as are their pets. The cause of the fire is still unknown, though Ms. Runyon and other neighbors reported hearing snapping and popping right before smoke starting billowing from the house. Thank you to all the departments who responded so promptly.

Photo by Steven Jupiter

Vote Nielsen

(Continued from Page 5)

nor's veto was overridden. This act establishes ... an overdose prevention center and provides limited criminal and civil immunity to those who use the services of a center and the individuals and entities who operate the center... An overdose prevention center provides a space... supervised by health care professionals or other trained staff where persons who use drugs can consume pre-obtained drugs and medication for substance use disorder." This act appropriates \$1,100,000 for this purpose. The detailed law language about how much drugs can be consumed is even more concerning. When has it ever helped an addict to let them enjoy their addiction while you watch them? Most families of addicts could tell

you the low success rate on that idea. Will they count the same person they saved over and over and tell you how many lives they saved? Why is there no age requirement on this bill?

In Brandon, Rep Stephanie Jerome voted for all of these laws. She wants to be re-elected. This is just a sample of the spending decisions she has made since 2019. Most Brandon folks are not better off since she has been in office. Please vote wisely. We don't need more of this nonsense taking our money!

Vote for change in the next election! We need affordability and citizen focused decisions in Montpelier. Vote Nielsen for Brandon!

Sharon Stearns
Brandon



Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?

are on page 24!

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

to establish healthy habits and set realistic goals for self-improvement. may feel a surge of motivation to pursue your ambitions or start new projects.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Romantic relationships may experience a boost this week, so it's a great time for connection and fun, Leo. Just be mindful of avoiding overindulgence and don't stray from your principles.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, set aside time this week to work on personal goals and address any unresolved issues. Quiet activities and solitude can provide valuable insights and inform your next steps.

ARIES March 21-April 20

You'll feel a strong urge to take initiative, especially in areas related to your career or personal projects, Aries. However, be careful to avoid overextending yourself.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, it's a good week for practical projects that enhance your daily life. Think about what you can change around the house to be more efficient with your actions and time.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

You may find yourself drawn to group activities or collaborative projects, Aquarius. It can be challenging to cede control, but you can learn from others as you go along.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, you might find yourself evaluating your spending habits or considering new ways to increase your income. It's a good time for financial planning and budgeting.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, engage in activities that stimulate your mind and encourage personal growth. Pick up a new skill or engage in thought-provoking conversations with loved ones.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, you might feel a stronger sense of responsibility in your work if you switch up your tasks. If you feel the work is getting stale, figure out what you can change.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 25 Anne Tyler, novelist (83)
- Oct. 26 Bootsy Collins, musicians (73)
- Oct. 27 Fran Lebowitz, writer (74)
- Oct. 28 Frank Ocean, singer (37)
- Oct. 29 Isao Takahata, Studio Ghibli founder (d)
- Oct. 30 Louis Malle, filmmaker (d)
- Oct. 31 Johannes Vermeer, painter (d)

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, be open to new information and perspectives, as they could lead to valuable insights. Social interactions may be particularly rewarding, so make time for friends.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, explore your deeper values and how they align with your financial goals. Embrace this opportunity to make strategic decisions that will benefit you in the long run.

CANCER June 22-July 22

You may find yourself reevaluating your work-life balance, Cancer. It's a good time

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Personal goals and self-improvement are on your mind this week, Sagittarius. You

Brandon Repair Fair brightens an already sunny day!



THE BRANDON ENERGY Committee held a "Repair Fair" at Brandon Town Hall on Sunday, October 20. Folks were welcome to bring anything they wished to have repaired. The goal is to encourage people to repair what they have rather than discard and buy new, hopefully cutting down on waste in the process.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP left:

- 1-- "A day to get your stuff fixed"
- 2-- Jill fixes sewing machines
- 3-- Fixing a lamp
- 4-- Jeff Haylon is ready to repair your furniture
- 5-- Ready to fix anything

Photos by Mitchell Pearl



SCENES FROM AROUND RNESU!



KIDS IN OUR district have been busy! The Upper Moosalamoo students (left) recently completed their first overnight trip of the year, embarking on a climbing adventure in the Adirondacks. This outdoor excursion challenged students both physically and mentally as they worked together to navigate the rugged terrain, push their limits, and support one another.

STUDENTS AT OTTER Creek Academy (center) got the exciting opportunity to learn how to skateboard. The enthusiasm was so great that we've extended Skateboard Week for another week! Students are eager to keep improving, and we're thrilled they'll have more time to practice and enjoy this fun activity. This extra time will allow even more students to join in on the fun and continue building confidence on the board. We can't thank Ms. Landon enough for making this experience possible!

LOTHROP SCHOOL (RIGHT) celebrated its annual Fire Safety Day recently with a full day of engaging activities focused on fire safety. Students had the opportunity to learn about essential fire prevention tips and explore the equipment used by firefighters. The Pittsford Volunteer Fire Department visited the school, meeting with individual classes to reinforce the importance of fire safety. In a highlight moment, Principal Stacey Farrington climbed one of the fire truck ladders, much to the excitement of the entire school. It was a memorable day, made possible by the dedication and bravery of our Pittsford firefighters!

Community rec center

(Continued from Page 1)

Or some kids want to play volleyball but the school gyms are all closed. Where can they go?

A group of 5 local residents—Tanner Romano, Travis Romano, Alia Dick, D.J. Keith, and Mike Howe—have an idea: a new community center that provides indoor recreation space to all the towns that feed into the RNESU school district. According to the plan, these seven communities—Brandon, Pittsford, Sudbury, Leicester, Whiting, Goshen, and Chittenden—would share an indoor recreation and exercise complex that would provide residents with recreational opportunities that the area currently lacks. The area has a combined population of over 10,000.

The new "Valley Community Center" (VCC) would be centrally located on the Otter Valley campus, on land leased or purchased from the district, and would be managed by a nonprofit created specifically for the purpose, whose board would comprise members from each participating town. VCC would encompass an indoor gymnasium with basketball and pickleball courts, a walking track, weight and cardio rooms, a snack stand, first-aid station, and a flexible, multi-use meeting room.

"There was talk around the community about a desire for this," said Tanner Romano in a recent telephone conversation about VCC. "It's similar to the new lights on Markowski Field. A group of us saw a need and came together to figure out how to make it happen. We wanted to put some science behind it and come up with a proposal that would give the communities the core fundamentals to make the decision."

Last week, the group made its first public presentation on VCC to the Otter Valley School Board, hoping to win the board's support for locating VCC on land currently owned by the district, specifically a parcel along Route 7 just south of OV's main parking lot.

"We zeroed in on that location because it's a central hub," said Romano. "We didn't want to locate the center anywhere it could be seen as clearly within a particular community. It's a shared resource."

The presentation included architectural renderings of the facility, a floor plan, and a breakdown of the project's budget, which is likely to be the main sticking point for community members in a year when the public's appetite for municipal spending is especially low given recent tax increases.



The total estimated cost of the project now stands at roughly \$12.1 million, with an estimated annual net operating cost of \$246,900. Though the group will seek donations and grants, the bulk of these costs will be borne by the participating communities, through bonds and town budgets. Though Mr. Romano has brought his experience at Naylor &

Breen to bear on creating the proposal, the project will be put out to bid and *(See Community rec center, Page 26)*

Pittsford Chili Cook-off winners kept it spicy



THE 8TH ANNUAL Pittsford Chili Cook-off was a big success on Saturday, October 19 at the Pittsford Rec Area. 22 people entered the contest this year. The winners were (l to r) Alex Manell (#11) in first place, Craig Pelkey (#9) in second place, and Dan & Codi Keith (#4) in third place. Gordon Fox (#2) won spiciest. Colton Reno and Ronan Daly won the cornhole tourney. The event raised \$3,759 for Sara's Stories, a charity that promotes children's literacy. Congrats, all!

Photos provided



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Candidate forum

(Continued from Page 7)

ble to provide childcare subsidies to families making up to \$176K per year with up to \$1m in assets?

Jerome: Childcare is a very important part of our economy. The bill we passed makes childcare free for families with income under \$50K and then there's a sliding scale as income increases. It's not free for high earners. The assistance will cover only a percentage of the cost for them.

Nielsen: We can't afford this. I would have voted no.

Question #5: Would it be better to fund our education system through an income-based tax rather than a property tax?

Nielsen: Property taxes were up an average of 13.8%. It's going to take 2 years to submit the report to reform the system. Little has been done.

Jerome: We all suffer when taxes increase. We need to consider basing the tax on income. We need to look at what programs are using the education fund dollars. Is it appropriate to give money to out-of-state schools or schools that are exclusionary? I'm looking forward to seeing the report submitted by education experts.

Question #6: Please offer an example of your leadership skills.

Jerome: I started my career at NASA and saw how some of the smartest people in the world solved problems. I co-managed a business with my husband. I was president of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. I was president of the Planning Commission. I worked on the PTO and the Friends of OV Music. I'm on the Board of Trustees of UVM. I'm vice-chair of the Economic Development Committee. I look back on a lot of experience and have built a knowledge base. I can work with anyone.

Nielsen: I'm a simple carpenter. I get a plan and follow it. I get help when I need it. I don't have all this experience. I go out and find the answer when I have a problem. I'm not a politician.

Question #7: What can the state do for climate resiliency?

Nielsen: I'm reading a book about the 1927 flood right now. Vermont is in a spot where the climate is against us sometimes. The culvert that was put in after Irene is great. But the climate has been changing forever.

Jerome: All the crises Vermont has faced since Irene have been devastating. We have a responsibility to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. Wisely, Brandon followed the state's advice and spent money on the culvert. Other towns did not mitigate after Irene but there was no indication that they would flood as they have. Mitigation and infrastructure are expensive but it's

part of our future.

Question #8: Can you guarantee that taxing carbon with legislation like the Affordable Heat Act will prevent flooding?

Jerome: There's a lot of misinformation about the Affordable Heat Act. There is no carbon tax. It commissioned a study that will show how we can help Vermonters heat their homes. We won't pass the bill if the study indicates that we shouldn't. We do need to rebuild our infrastructure with climate change in mind. I'm willing to listen and learn.

Nielsen: We can't afford the Affordable Heat Act. It will devastate our economy. I don't want to be forced to make changes in the fuel I use. I don't want to pay \$0.70 more per gallon to make everything cleaner. I don't get it.

Question #9: What can be done to create affordable housing?

Nielsen: There's no easy answer, but I will try to find the answer.

Jerome: A lot has already been done on this. It's a national problem, not just a local one. Costs are skyrocketing. But there's already development activity in Brandon. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission has a document with all the different programs available to fund housing. There's money for landlords to rehab apartments and bring them back online and to add Auxiliary Dwelling Units. The more units we have, the lower the price.

Question #10: Could you please give an overview of the Affordable Heat Act?

Jerome: 2 years ago, the Affordable Heat Act commissioned a study to see how we can make heating homes more affordable because the market in fuel oil has been so volatile. It was mostly directed at low- and moderate-income Vermonters, trying to find a way around the volatility. We're looking for ways to incentivize change. There are no mandates. I would not have voted for mandated change. It's ridiculous to think I would force people to change. There's a lot of misinformation about the bill. I'm waiting for the study to make my decision on whether to vote the bill into law.

Nielsen: Oil is the cheapest fuel now, followed by propane. Electricity is the most expensive. The bill is trying to force local fuel dealers out of business and trying to take our rights away. I don't want to subsidize electric vehicles and heat pumps. I would've voted no. It's a very bad plan.

Question #11: Vermont is very generous, and people come here for the benefits. There will be many homeless people as a result of the end of the motel voucher program. What is the state's ob-

ligation to the needy?

Nielsen: My son from a previous marriage is homeless. He won't live with us. You can't help people who don't want to be helped. Would be wonderful if we had warming shelters for everyone. I can't talk about this. Sorry.

Jerome: The overwhelming number of people in the voucher program are Vermonters. We need affordable housing. We need mental healthcare. We need treatment for addiction. It's a very expensive problem to solve, which is why the legislature reduced the number of rooms in the program.

Question #12: It seems as if the government is always commissioning studies with little action taken. What is your position on the elimination of burdensome regulations on business owners?

Jerome: Regulations are often for health and safety. But we did just reform Act 250 to cut the red tape for development in designated downtown districts. Brandon is perfectly situated for these Act 250 cuts. We need to study this issue and gather facts. When we ask for studies, it's because we need more information. But I do agree that we need to streamline our agencies and services.

Nielsen: These programs work well for urban areas but the situation is a lot more difficult in rural areas.

Question #13: Now that an independent review has recommended against the Clean Energy Standard, will you vote no? Please answer with a yes or no.

Nielsen: I would vote no.

Jerome: I can't say yes or no. I need to look at the data in the study.

Question #14: What can be done about rising healthcare costs?

Jerome: Health insurance premiums for public-school teachers went up 16% this year. We need to fix the problem at the national level, but we passed two bills in Vermont last year. One bill got rid of the prior-authorization requirement imposed by insurance companies, so your primary-care physician can order the tests that you need. Another bill addressed the costs associated with pharmaceutical benefit managers who drive up the cost of medicine. We're trying to address this bill by bill.

Nielsen: I will get advice from different sources and determine what we can afford.

Question #15: [Editor's note: A question asking the candidates to reveal their presidential choices was not allowed and the attendee was given a chance to ask a different question.] Do you have faith in our country's election system?

Nielsen: I have full faith in the

election integrity of the U.S. and Vermont.

Jerome: I see how hard our town clerk works. It's an example of what every clerk in Vermont does. I have full faith in our election system.

Question #16: Instead of providing things like motel vouchers, how can we help people better themselves?

Jerome: We have multiple workforce development programs in Vermont. I would love to see more people get the training to help our labor shortage. But a lot of people in the voucher program are already working. We need to be able to provide permanent housing for people.

Nielsen: I work for GMCS [Security] and worked at a warming shelter in Burlington for 3 months. Only 10% of the people there were working. For 90% of the people, it was a big party. I have to bite my tongue. I can't believe the things I witnessed there.

Question #17: How can we improve the job market in Vermont?

Nielsen: High housing prices are killing us. There's no easy answer.

Jerome: We need to get high-school kids into workforce training programs. The housing supply has also dwindled since the 1980s. Act 250 reform will help with housing, which will help the job market.

Question #18: Some people refuse to work in order to keep their benefits. Is there a way for the state government to monitor fraud in our welfare system?

Jerome: We need to reexamine the 'benefits cliff,' which is the number of hours you can work before you lose your benefits. It's worth a conversation with the Agency of Labor.

Nielsen: I cannot give a politically correct answer.

Question #19: If individuals were not mandated by law to carry health insurance, wouldn't the price be cheaper?

Nielsen: Health insurance is very expensive. We can't afford it. We need to make a change.

Question #20: What do you see as the role of state government and why are you the person to carry it out?

Jerome: I was raised to believe that the role of state government is to provide services that the private sector can't. I think we do a good job in Vermont. My experience makes me an excellent legislator and helps me every day in the Statehouse. I'm an excellent communicator and bring a lot of good qualities to be a voice for rural Vermont.

Nielsen: Government keeps getting bigger and we can't afford it. We need less government and we need to control taxes. We need to

get regular people into the Statehouse. My mission is to make Vermont affordable again.

Question #21: Can you discuss 2 or 3 of your personal values?

Nielsen: I take care of my family and my community. I'm a good neighbor. I love everyone here. We live in a wonderful place. I'm a good parent. I try to listen. I want everyone to be happy and work together.

Jerome: Honesty. Compassion. I listen to multiple viewpoints, which is definitely needed in the legislature to work across party lines as I do.

Question #22: Why does the state provide safe injection sites for drug addicts rather than get them into rehab?

Jerome: There's only one safe injection site, in Burlington. It's a pilot program. We're trying a lot of different avenues to help addicts recover. The site is manned by a medical professional to prevent deaths and the site provides resources to get people into rehab.

Nielsen: When I heard about it, I thought I wouldn't want it in my neighborhood.

Question #23: Shouldn't veterans be given priority by the state in housing programs?

Nielsen: It's a good question but I don't have an answer.

Jerome: There is a housing facility for veterans in Rutland, so there is some priority for vets. I will try to get more information for you on this.

Question #24: What is the difference between a 'public servant' and a 'public nuisance'?

Jerome: I see myself as a public servant. I work all year on behalf of Brandon and my constituents. All the legislators in Montpelier work very hard. And the Rutland County delegation meet every week and work very hard together to solve Rutland County's problems.

Nielsen: I won't reply to that.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

Nielsen: I pledge to uphold the Constitution and address the concerns of everyday people. I will find practical, not costly solutions. We must live within our means. I will vote no on any new taxes. It's time for change.

Jerome: Legislating is a difficult job. It takes skill and requires that you work across party lines. I will use all my experience in making decisions. It's an honor to serve Brandon. I will support policies to create a rural Vermont that works for all. I will focus on important issues and help create a fiscally responsible budget. I will work on housing, childcare, healthcare, education funding, and the environment.



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



Joan Rowe, Maridon Gibson, Dawn Bailey, and Terry Ferson identified the men in this photo for us. From left to right: Jim Jasmin, first executive director of the Brandon Chamber and former Brandon town manager; Bill Braun, of The Adams Motor Lodge; Doug Bailey, Brandon Chamber president and current selectboard member; Gary Stanley, of Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home; and Fred Rowe, of Rowe Real Estate. Ms. Bailey thinks the photo must have been from a Chamber event around 1985.



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

Or call us at 247-8080

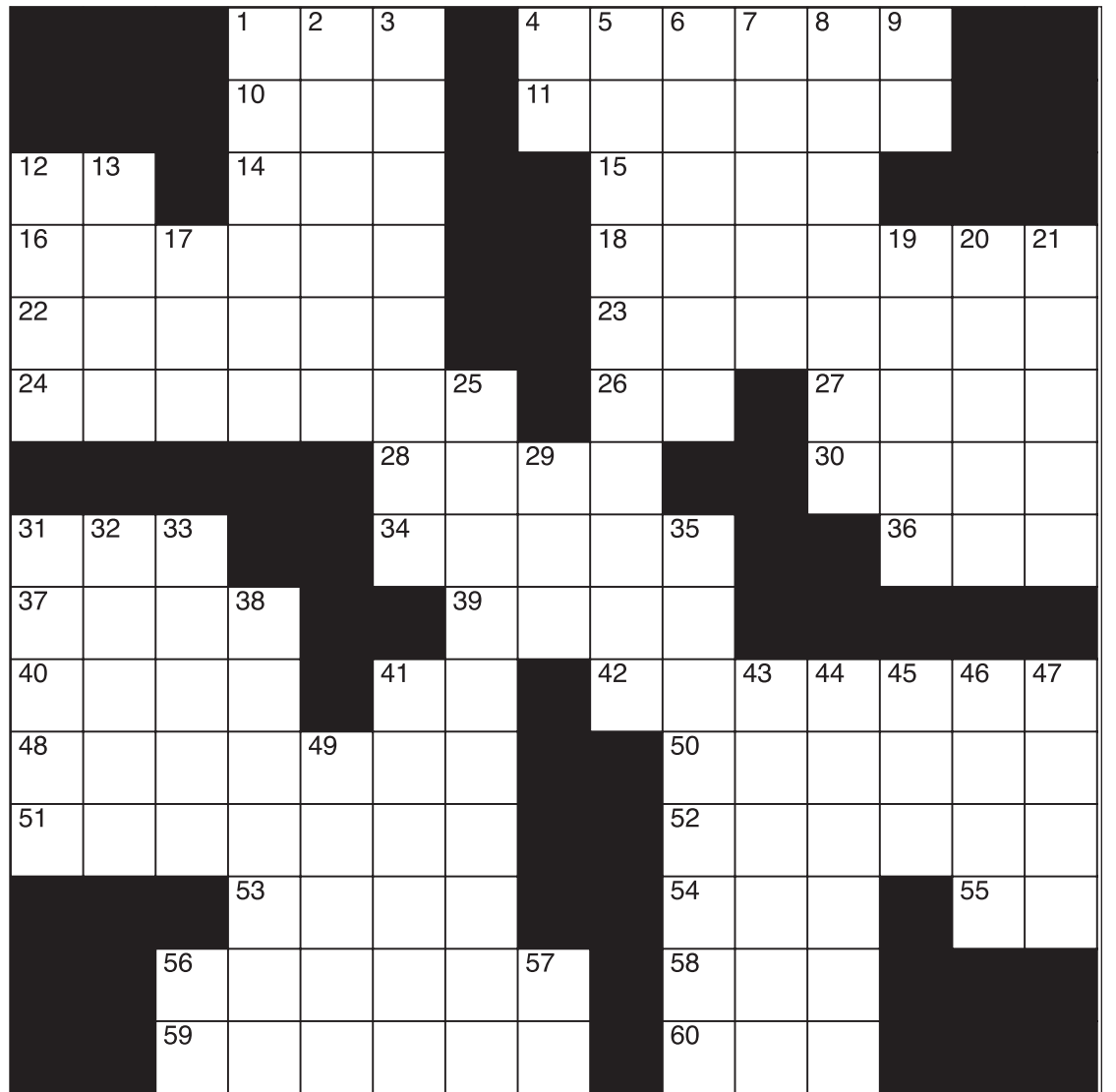
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. "60 Minutes" network
4. Train line
10. Go quickly
11. Straightforward
12. Canadian province
14. At any rate (abbr.)
15. Genealogy
16. Make changes
18. Utter repeatedly
22. In a way, turned up
23. Type of ship
24. Agents of one's downfall
26. Not out
27. Something to scratch
28. Round water pot
30. Refreshing green fruit (slang)
31. Promotions
34. Primordial matters
36. One-time world power (abbr.)
37. Source of illumination
39. The content of cognition
40. An Arab ruler
41. South Dakota
42. Gnawed at with teeth
48. Hawaiian island
50. Smaller
51. Of a single person
52. Rigid bracelet
53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)
54. Not even
55. Specific gravity
56. Engage in petty bargaining
58. Boxing's "GOAT"
59. Split between parties
60. Notable offensive

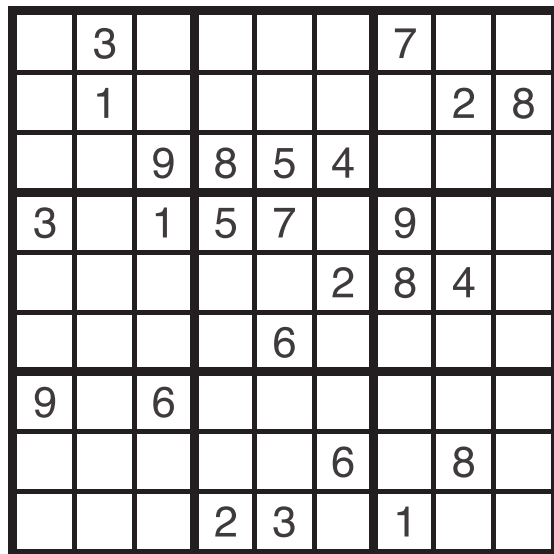
CLUES DOWN

1. A place to lounge
2. Skewed views
3. Peacefully
4. Commercial
5. Auxiliary forces
6. Large mollusk
7. Take out again
8. Sharp and forthright
9. Knight (chess)
12. Source of fiber
13. Flesh covering some birds' beaks
17. Energy
19. Night monkeys genus
20. Small, sharp nails
21. Pleasant-smelling liquid
25. Affirms one's hold
29. CNN's founder
31. Texans can't forget it
32. "Oppenheimer" actor Matt
33. Expression
35. Vessel
38. Lacking poetic beauty
41. Tall, swift and slender dog
43. Sports personality Michelle
44. Robber
45. Liquefied natural gas
46. Snakelike fishes
47. The most worthless part of something
49. City in Crimea
56. Bad grades
57. Reichsmark



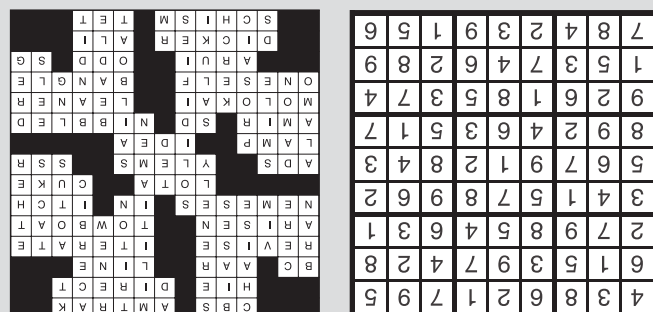
Sudoku

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

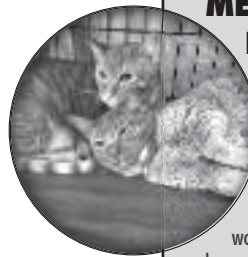


National Black Cat Day

Did you know that black cats are often overlooked in shelters? Despite their sleek coats and mysterious charm, black cats tend to stay in shelters longer than other colorful cats. This is so silly because these beautiful cats make wonderful companions, and we have several waiting to meet you at RCHS! Splinter and Victoria are two youngsters who are full of spunk and love, and then there is sweet Molly who is more laid-back. These cuties will bring so much joy to their forever families. Stop by to meet some of our black felines Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am-4 pm. Help us celebrate National Black Cat Day by giving one of these amazing cats a loving home!

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

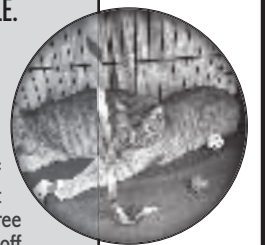
MEET DARREN *BONDED WITH KYLE*- 5-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE.



DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. ORANGE. Meet Darren—your new TV-watching bestie! Darren is an absolute delight! He loves nothing more than settling down with you for a cozy evening, whether watching TV or relaxing together. Darren and his pal, Kyle, arrived at RCHS from a busy shelter in Florida. They were having a challenging time acclimating to the change, so they spent a few months in foster and we learned a lot about them. Darren is the confident one who will happily lay on your lap and watch your favorite TV show with you. Kyle seems to be the quieter of the two. They both will need a quiet home where they can get to know their new home and slowly get used to their surroundings. They've been through a lot of change, so a peaceful, dog-free, and kid-free home would be ideal. Could Darren and Kyle be the perfect companion for your quiet nights? Since they have been in the shelter for some time, their adoption fee will be discounted to half-off. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.

MEET KYLE *BONDED WITH DARREN* - 2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE.

DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. ORANGE. Kyle may be shy at first, but give him time and patience, and you'll discover how he goes up on his tippy toes when you pet his back. Though more reserved than Darren, Kyle has a soft spot for affection once he feels safe. Kyle and his pal, Darren, arrived at RCHS from a busy shelter in Florida. They were having a challenging time acclimating to the change, so they spent a few months in foster and we learned a lot about them. Darren is the confident one who will happily lay on your lap and watch your favorite TV show with you. Kyle seems to be the quieter of the two. They both will need a quiet home where they can get to know their new home and slowly get used to their surroundings. They've been through a lot of change, so a peaceful, dog-free, and kid-free home would be ideal. These two loves have been with us for some time, so their adoption fee is half-off. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.



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Community rec center

(Continued from Page 21)
Naylor & Breen will have to compete with other construction firms for the job.

VCC estimates that the cost to taxpayers will be \$31.47 per \$100K of assessed property value. So, a taxpayer whose home is assessed at \$300K, for example, would be looking at an additional \$94.41 per year on their tax bill for the carrying costs of the bonds for the project. And the \$246K in operating costs would also be divided among the taxpayers of the participating communities and included in their respective town budgets.

“Participating towns will have to pay a portion of the

maintenance,” said Romano. “But it doesn’t seem insurmountable if it’s spread out.”

Each participating town would need to approve the plan in order for it to go forward. The VCC group is prepared to make the rounds to pitch the project to the communities’ Selectboards. Though, no Selectboard has been formally approached at this stage, the Selectboard in Pittsford was alerted to the proposal and discussed it briefly at its last meeting, balking at the cost and expressing some skepticism that the project was feasible at that price.

But the VCC group had anticipated some resistance.

“We started putting this proposal together in 2023 though we put the project on ice 4 or 5 months ago because of everything that was happening with local taxes,” said Romano. “But OV reached out and asked us to speak with them.”

OVUU School Board President Laurie Bertrand said in a subsequent email to The Reporter that although the Board was open to the proposal, the district’s taxpayers would ultimately have to make the decision whether to convey the requested parcel to VCC.

“That is a decision that would have to be done by ballot by

the taxpayers,” Bertrand wrote. “We’re also cognizant of the fact that we’re in tough economic times, as you know our budget went down twice last year. Even if the taxpayers conveyed the land, we would need to make sure that the public realizes this is not in direct correlation with the school. There are many factors to consider. We have a lot to think about in the next couple of weeks.”

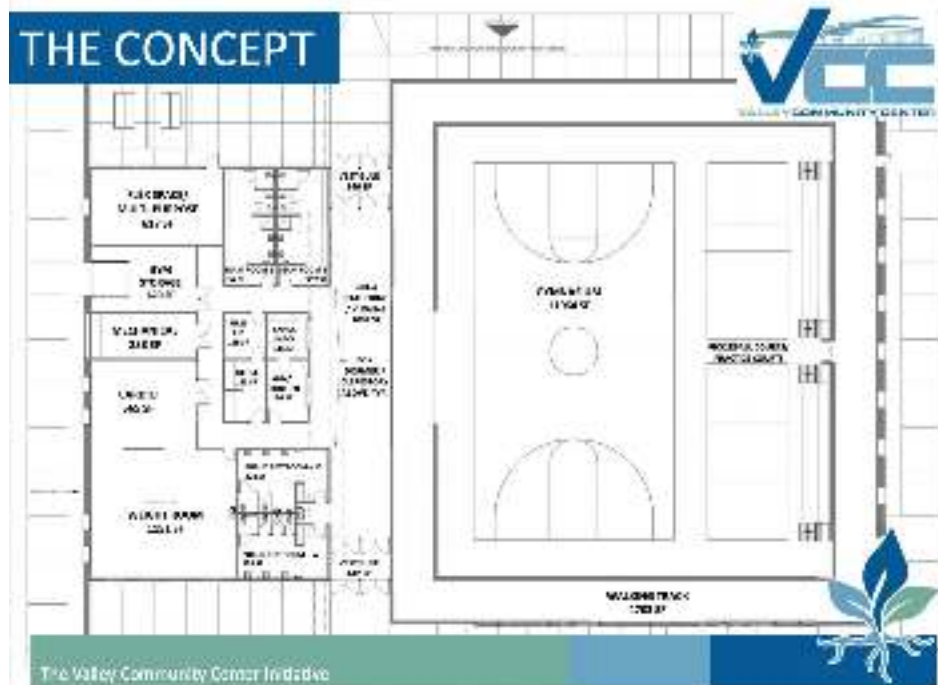
VCC will revisit the OVUU School Board at its next meeting on Tuesday, October 29. If Otter Valley ultimately decides not to proceed, Romano says the project will go back to the drawing board.

“Everything in our presentation, including the architectural renderings, is based on that location,” he said. “If OV says no, we would need a whole new evaluation.”

The project also depends on the agreement of the seven constituent communities. Without their buy-in, the project will not go forward.

Along those lines, Brandon Rec Department Director Bill Moore said in response to an email, “If the VCC group is able to acquire the necessary land/permits and convince the taxpayers in all the towns to bond for the funding, the Brandon Rec would be happy to collaborate on expanding recreational opportunities for area residents using their proposed community center.”

“If folks decide it’s not for them, they can vote it down,” said Romano. “We’re not trying to force it on anyone. Someone had to bring the project to this point or there’s no progress. We’re just trying to work for the community.”



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Winner of Brandon Library quilt raffle announced!



BOB CLARK IS the winner of the Friends of the Brandon Free Library quilt raffle! Bob's wife Kathy bought a bunch of tickets and put his name on just one- it was the winner! Maybe she'll put his name on all the raffle tickets she buys from now on! The beautiful log cabin design quilt was made by the Maple Leaf Quilters Guild of Rutland and generously donated to the Friends for the raffle. The Friends raised over \$1,000 in the raffle. In the photo, Carol Fjeld of the Friends (left) presents the quilt to Kathy and Bob Clark.

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The history of the Brandon Training School captured in artwork at Brandon Library

Local artist Virginia Creighton has had her watercolor paintings of the Brandon Training School on display on the second floor of the Brandon Free Public Library all through October. These powerful pieces capture an important part of Brandon's history. The Training School operated from 1915 to 1993. Ms. Creighton includes a written history of the school with these artworks. The works will be on display for the rest of the month. Please stop by to see them.



Sudbury envisions its future at successful pop-up event

BY STEVE LOHRENZ

It was a beautiful, crisp fall day for the Sudbury community pop-up event organized by the Sudbury Community Club and the Lake Horton Community Trust to get residents' feedback on building community. The event started at the Sudbury Meeting House off Route 30 with a chili cookoff and live music from Hermit Hollow String Band. Over 50 community members voted for their favorite chili among nine entries and enjoyed the company of friends old and new. The ultimate winner was Janice Lages of Lake Horton Road. Janice was solemnly inducted into the ancient and benevolent order of Tiny Crockery and given a piece of tiny crockery to commemorate her esteemed membership.

Next, people migrated to the Cook house, just north of the Meeting House, to see staged displays of what the house would look like as a cafe, general store, and library. Coffee, cider, and donuts were available, and community members were invited to share their thoughts on what they wanted to see in the community. They learned some history of what services were once in Sudbury and visited with local artists and vendors. Whiting

Fire and Rescue was out teaching people CPR. There were pumpkin ring toss, bocce ball, and tic-tac-toe on the grounds. Two majestic workhorses took attendees on wagon rides around the grounds and fields above the meeting house.

Then, it was back to the meeting house to wrap up with square dancing. Two squares were going at once, and there was lots of laughter as people tried to follow along in what was their first-time square dancing. And then it was over. It is estimated there were over 200 attendees at the event.

The Sudbury Community Club and the Lake Horton Community Trust are taking and consolidating the community's feedback from the event. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 7 p.m. in the Meeting House. At this community visioning meeting, participants will be asked to zoom out and consider other potential projects and ideas for the region as the community considers its role in the greater area.



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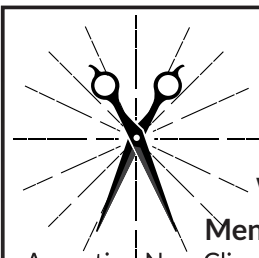
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Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

the months of July, August, and September.

According to the submitted chart, PPD documented a total of 354 incidents, compared to 191 during the same period in the previous fiscal year (FY24). An increase in traffic tickets was responsible for the bulk of the increase, with 213 traffic tickets issued in the first quarter of FY25 and only 58 issued during the same period in FY24. The total amount in fines collected by PPD so far this fiscal year is \$57,655, compared to \$12,876 in the first quarter of FY24. Other categories of crime, including larcenies, domestic disturbances, vandalism, etc, remained roughly comparable from one year to the next.

Mr. Atherton advised the Board that the town's auditor would be on site the following week to begin the town's annual financial audit. Despite a few hitches in last year's audit, when the auditor made suggestions to tighten some of the town's accounting procedures, Mr. Atherton assured the Board that the town was "looking pretty good" this year.

Mr. Atherton also noted that a presentation had been given the night before at the OVUU School Board meeting regarding a proposal for a new community center to be built on land currently owned by the school district. [Please see the article on the proposed Valley Community Center in this issue for more details about the plan.] The members of the Pittsford Selectboard appeared skeptical, balking at the estimated cost of over \$12 million.

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District personnel issue

Mr. Atherton requested permission from the Pittsford Selectboard to draft a "letter of concern" to the Brandon Selectboard regarding one of Brandon's representatives to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCWICD), whom he believed to be disruptive to the operation of that organization.

Mr. Atherton had recently become one of Pittsford's representatives to OCWICD, taking the position over from Alicia Malay. He stated that at OCWICD's meeting the previous week, this board member, Wayne Rausenberger, had disrupted the meeting with "repetitive, aggressive questions" that hindered the function of the meeting and drew it out to

almost 3 hours.

In a later conversation with The Reporter, Mr. Atherton stated that Mr. Rausenberger had been on the OCWICD board several years ago and had created a conflict with the Vermont Department of Agriculture that was serious enough to jeopardize OCWICD's state funding for larvicide. The Brandon Selectboard subsequently removed Mr. Rausenberger from the board but recently re-appointed him.

OCWICD President Stephen Belcher of Pittsford stated in an e-mail that he has "invited comments from senior members of the Board and await their opinions."

In response to an e-mail from The Reporter, Mr. Rausenberger stated that he had been looking out for Brandon's financial interests at that meeting.

"I was stepping up for Brandon, who I represented," he said, noting that OCWICD was asking for an increase in Brandon's annual disbursement to the organization, which also serves Pittsford, Proctor, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, and Leicester.

Mr. Atherton said in a phone call after the meeting, "It would be negligence not to say something in my role as town manager. I have to look after Pittsford's best interests. Wayne almost cost the district \$70K in larvicide funding the last time he was on the board."

Proposed closure of Syndicate Road at Brandon line

Mr. Atherton advised the Board that he had received a phone call and subsequent letter from Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins regarding Pittsford's Syndicate Road, which is a continuation of Carver Street in Brandon. Mr. Hopkins wanted to see whether Pittsford "had any concerns" about a potential reclassification of the unpaved portion of Carver Street between the railroad crossing and the bridge over Otter Creek, where Syndicate Road begins. The issue, as Mr. Hopkins relayed to Mr. Atherton, is that this stretch of Carver Street has long suffered from illegal dumping of trash and debris.

In response to an e-mail inquiry from The Reporter, Mr. Hopkins stated that the road is currently Class 3, which the state defines as "a highway negotiable under normal circumstances all seasons of the year by a standard manufactured pleasure car." Essentially, a Class 3 road must be drivable

by standard motor vehicles in every season. However, according to Mr. Hopkins, the town does not maintain that stretch of Carver Street in the winter and it is often closed during mud season.

Though the Pittsford Selectboard expressed reservations about cutting off a road between two towns, Mr. Hopkins noted that Mr. Atherton later told him that the Pittsford Highway Chief had no objection to Brandon's barring that portion of Carver Street to vehicular traffic from the Pittsford side.

Please see the main article on this proposal in this issue for more details.

TRI-TOWN TRAIL MEETING

The Board discussed upcoming public meetings at the Pittsford Town Offices, Proctor Library, and West Rutland Town Hall at 6:30 on Wednesday, October 23 as part of the Tri-Town Scoping Study for a nature trail connecting Pittsford, Proctor, and West Rutland. The meeting will present the results of "local concerns" meetings held in June to gauge community response to the project. Results of surveys will be discussed, as will the pros and cons of 4 proposed routes for the trail.

Roads approved for snowmobiling

The Pittsford Snomads submitted a request to the Board for authorization to use certain town roads for snowmobile travel in the 2024-25 winter season. The Board granted the authorization. The full list of approved roads can be found in the Selectboard packet for 10/16/24.

Budget workshops scheduled

The Board scheduled two budget workshops outside of regular Selectboard meetings: Wednesday, October 30 and Wednesday, November 13, both at 5 p.m. at the Town Office. These meetings are open to the public.

RNESU SUPERINTENDENT

RNESU Superintendent René Sanchez had been expected to appear at the Selectboard meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss a grant proposal, having been warned on the meeting's agenda, but Mr. Sanchez ultimately did not make the meeting.

APPROVAL OF ORDER AND PAYROLL

The Board's last piece of public business for the evening was the approval of an order in the amount of \$77,845 for the town's obligations and expenses.

Brandon town clock

(Continued from Page 3)

haps 2026 due to the potential for weather related delays. The company's estimate also breaks out the cost to paint the face and hands of the clock. Given that the clock faces provide cover and protection for the town clock mechanism, the hope is that the town will be able to take advantage of this opportunity for clock upkeep while a company specializing in this type of work is already on site.

The church is applying for grants to help defray some of its steeple repair costs, and will

appeal to members and friends to help support this initiative. Should anyone wish to donate to this effort, contributions can be mailed to Brandon Congregational Church UCC, PO Box 97, Brandon, VT 05733, care of: the steeple fund. The Brandon Congregational Church looks forward to continuing in this shared endeavor with our community to help safeguard these historical treasures and familiar community resources.

(Sources - Historical records of the Town of Brandon and the Brandon Congregational Church)

Derby wildlife

(Continued from Page 4)

erties along the river with high conservation value. On top of their importance for wild brook, brown, and rainbow trout, the new additions to the Johns River SMA will help strengthen flood resilience in Derby and provide Vermonters with more places to enjoy fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching in the watershed.

"These four parcels offer so much opportunity for habitat improvements that benefit both people and trout," said Patrick Hurly, Project Manager with MWA. "The Johns River cut new channels on some of this land during recent floods and caused some fairly damaging erosion. We'll work to restore the natural channel and floodplain and build resilience against future storms by planting native trees and replacing undersized culverts. These projects will help reduce runoff and nutrient loading into the lake by phasing out

agriculture in the less productive spots while keeping leases with local farmers on dry, upland areas."

The Johns River SMA expansion comes at a time when river corridor conservation is top of mind for many, after two consecutive years of extreme floods. However, the work to protect this stretch of river and floodplains began earlier. Emerson and Hurley identified the four new SMA parcels in 2020 as part of an effort to pinpoint opportunities to improve wildlife habitat, river resilience and public access in the watershed.

"Looking for places where we can do good for wild trout and rivers while also doing good for Vermonters has been our approach for a long time," said Emerson. "That said, the last few years have really underscored how important this kind of conservation can be."

NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take Notice that the attached Verified Complaint and Motion for Hearing of Abandoned Mobile Home will be heard before Rutland Superior Court on November 5, 2024 at 10 AM

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

Dated at Rutland, Vermont this 17th day of October, 2024.



Neigh
Clerk of the Court

Classifieds

SERVICES

OIL UNDERCOATING SERVICE - Protect Your Vehicle From Salt & Brine. Call 802-417-8877 to schedule now.

OV stumbles against Mill River but will host playoff against them on Saturday



OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL may have lost their game against Mill River last week, 35 to 26, but they finished the season strong and will host a first-round playoff game against Mill River again on Saturday at 7 p.m. It will be OV's first playoff game under the new lights. Come cheer on our boys! Go, Otters!

Photos by Colin Carroccia

Thanks to everyone who participated in Saturday's Trunk or Treat Event!



Congrats to the top three voter getters: the Romanos (Goats & Sheep Inc.) the Dames (dressed as farm animals) and the Grennoms (Minions).

Wishing a safe a happy Halloween to everyone!



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