

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 30, No. 3

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

\$1



## LOST NAMES

Genealogist Michael F. Dwyer looks into the history of the King, Bottom, and Superman families.

PG. 2



## TREASURE ISLAND

A new production of "Treasure Island," hosted by the Brandon Actors Troupe, is coming to town. K-8 youth are encouraged to audition.

PG. 3

## VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

A vote on whether to transfer OVUHS land to the Valley Community Center will be held on Feb. 26.

PG. 3



## LOGAN RIESTERER

Local musician Logan Riesterer delighted the crowd at Red Clover Ale Co. on Saturday with his indie country lineup.

PG. 8



## CAMP THORPE SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES TO COMMUNITY

BY STEVEN JUPITER

GOSHEN—Unless you have family that have attended Camp Thorpe, chances are you don't know much about the place, nestled up in the hills of Goshen. But since 1927, the camp has brought joy to thousands of kids with special needs who get to experience the freedom of just being kids in an environment where their usual challenges don't set them apart.

"Camp Thorpe is really about providing a positive summer experience," said Shelly Hudson, Thorpe's Executive Director since 2023. She came to Thorpe because of the camp's mission of joy and inclusivity, having worked for years in various non-profits in New England, particularly in New Hampshire, where she's originally from.

"It brought many of my skills and interests into one position," she said.

(See *Camp Thorpe*, Page 14)



**A VIEW OF Camp Thorpe in the hills of Goshen. A haven for special-needs kids for going on 100 years, it's come to believe that a key to its continued success is stronger ties to its surrounding community. To that end, it will be creating programs that the wider community can participate in.**

Photos provided

## Rutland County Parent Child Center to open childcare facility at Pittsford Village Farm

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—Pittsford Village Farm (PVF) announced on Monday that it had entered into an agreement with the nonprofit Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC) to establish and run a childcare facility at PVF after the renovation of PVF's main building has been completed in 2026.

"We've known for a long time that we'd have a childcare center," said Lorrie Byrom, Chair of the Pittsford Village Farm, in a phone conversation with The Reporter. "It's been part of our strategic plan from the begin-

ning. We're thrilled to enter into a partnership with RCPCC."

The new facility will be open to parents throughout Rutland County and will initially



**PITTSFORD VILLAGE FARM will be the site of a new childcare facility run by the Rutland County Parent Child Center, expected to open in the spring of 2026.**

Photos provided

be able to accommodate 8 infants (at least 6 months old), 10 toddlers, and 12 preschoolers, though the site might allow for expansion over time.

According to Byrom, PVF solicited proposals for the childcare facility from organizations throughout the area. Two proposals stuck out to them: one from RCPCC, which has operated since 1985,

(See *Parent Child Center*, Page 7)

## OVUU Board proposes 4.53% jump in FY26 school budget Annual meeting warned for Feb 26

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) School Board is proposing an increase of 4.53% for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY26), which will begin on July 1, 2025. This proposal will be put before voters on Tuesday, March 4. OVUU's annual meeting, at which the budget will be discussed and where certain floor votes will be taken, will be held on Tuesday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Otter

(See *OVUU*, Page 9)

# Names lost in Vermont, Part 41: More Kings, Bottom, and Superman

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

Continuing to search for Kings born in Canada as Roi/Roy brought me to this household in New Haven's 1850 census. At first glance, it seemed easy to locate a Denis Roy, born circa 1825 in Québec. In the *Genéalogie Québec* database, however, there was not a single person of that name for the entire decade of the 1820s. The next step was to evaluate all mentions of Dennis King in Vermont records. He was married in New Haven on May 5, 1848, to Julianne Lafond, their marriage officiated by a Congregational minister. Had they been married by a French priest, the record would likely have named his parents. In Vermont, Lafond was anglicized to Bottom, its literal translation from French. Thus, in the census, John and Mary Bottom were likely Julianne's parents. Her first name was variously recorded as Lucia Anne in 1850, Lucy in 1860, and then Julia on her death record when she died from consumption, age 42, on December 11, 1869. Her birthplace was listed as Napierville, Canada, and her parents named as John and Mary Bottom. As with Dennis King/Denis Roy, I could not find a match in Québec records with her various first names and last name of Lafond.

Within a year of Julia's death, Dennis remarried widow Phoebe (Phelps) Trudo. The record of his second marriage stated his parents were Joseph and Margaret King, but that didn't bring me any closer to a child named Denis. In early November 1897, Dennis was badly burned in a fire. He died in Middlebury on November 13, 1897, from "disease caused by burnt feet." With no more clues forthcoming about Dennis, I turned to another King family living in New Haven at the time of the 1850 census.

Gilbert King, age 25, laborer, born in Canada, with wife Mary, had two young children also born in Canada. He remained in Addison County throughout his life. In 1868, he became a naturalized United States citizen. Most of these records only list Canada as the applicant's birthplace, but in this instance, it disclosed the name of the village, L'Acadie. [Now merged with St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu] With this information, I discovered the church record of Gilbert Roy's marriage to Marcelline [Mary]

Lajoie at St. Valentin on April 29, 1845, with the name of his parents, Joseph Roy and Marguerite Poutre. True to his statement on his naturalization record, Gilbert Roy was born at L'Acadie on January 27, 1827. If Dennis were Gilbert's brother, I would have expected to find him among the baptisms of his other siblings. The clos-

est male in age to Dennis was Telesphore Roy, born on December 29, 1829. In one of those Aha! moments, I remembered George Valley's uncle Telesphore, born in Canada. Some of his brothers called him "Teles." With the sound of T and D made in the same way where the tongue is placed behind the teeth, Dennis was

much easier for Vermont natives to pronounce than Teles. Mystery solved with all these pieces fitting together. The immigrant ancestor of these two Roy/King brothers was Nicolas Roy from Dieppe in Normandy, France, who married Marie Madeleine Leblond at the church of Ste. Famille, Ile d'Orléans just outside Québec

been born. Most of the death records of Dennis and Julia's children stated that Julia's maiden name was Bottom or Lafond, except one. Daughter Matilda (King) Conant of Salisbury, Vermont, died in 1931. Nelson Conant, her son and informant on Matilda's death certificate, stated Matilda's mother's maiden name was Julia Supernos. While that was clearly wrong, it suggested some remembered association with that name.

Remembering that I had noted Henry Bottom, age 15, born Canada in the household of "Franklin Superman" in New Haven's 1850 census, I was beckoned me to examine that family. "Superman" and "Supernos" were garbled versions of the name Surprenant. Perhaps Matilda, age 28, wife of Franklin, was a Lafond/Bottom which would explain the presence of Henry in their household. Following through with that conjecture led me to find the marriage of François Surprenant and Domitilde Lafond at St. Jacques-le-Mineur on October 4, 1841. Domitilde was born at L'Acadie, daughter of Jean Baptiste Lafond and Marguerite Bonneau—a match to John and Margaret Bottom of New Haven, Vermont. Her youngest child John Baptist Supenor, born in Salisbury on March 18, 1859 lived until 1944.

Jean Baptiste Lafond's immigrant ancestor from France was Etienne Lafond, from Saintonge, in Québec by 1642, where he married Marie Boucher on January 20, 1645. The Lafonds moved from L'Acadie to Napierville by the mid-1820s, which fit with information on Julia King's death record that she had been born in Napierville. As with the case of Dennis King/Telesphore Roy, I suspected a different first name for Julia at baptism: among the Lafond children recorded at Napierville was Felicité Lafond, baptized there on May 20, 1826. Looking at the full context of the Lafond/Bottom family, she presents herself as Julianne/Julia/Lucie King! As a footnote to Catholic history, mothers did not attend the baptisms of their children until after Vatican II in the 1960s. It may be simple enough that the Lafond family never called her Felicité.

Unsurprisingly, evidence points to the Roy and Lafond (See *Names lost*, Page 8)



JOHN BAPTIST SUPENOR and wife Mary Davis in 1884.

Name	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Married
Franklin Superman	38	Male	Canada		
Mary Davis	32	Female	Canada		
John Baptist Supenor	21	Male	Canada		
Mary Davis	21	Female	Canada		
John Baptist Supenor	17	Male	Canada		
Mary Davis	17	Female	Canada		

FRANKLIN SUPERMAN 1850 New Haven census.

City on November 18, 1868.

Back to Bottom. John and Mary or Margaret Bottom was last recorded in the 1860 census, still living with Dennis King's family. In Québec records, I hoped to find evidence of them living in Napierville where Julia was said to have

# 'Treasure Island' to be presented by the Brandon Actors Troupe

## Auditions for Children K to 8 coming soon

**BY MITCHELL PEARL BRANDON**—The Brandon Actors Troupe will be holding auditions for “Treasure Island” on Sunday, January 26, from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m., in the downstairs of the Brandon Town Hall. Auditions are open to all area children, kindergarten through 8th grade, including those being homeschooled. The production is an opportunity for younger children to gain experience in theatre. The younger students will take all the acting roles and the technical work will be done by some older students—up to the 12th grade—with training and supervision by the directors. Rehearsals will take place in February and March, with

tation of the Robert Louis Stevenson novel by the ArtReach Children’s Theatre. The novel by Scottish author Stevenson was first published in 1883 and has greatly influenced the depiction of pirates in popular culture, including elements such as deserted tropical islands, treasure maps marked with an X, and one-legged seamen with parrots perched on their shoulders. ArtReach Children’s Theatre, a touring company founded more than thirty years ago and hailed as the “best children’s theatre in the United States,” now offers its scripts and adaptations to youth theatre groups worldwide. The “Treasure Island” play is not well known but will offer young actors the opportunity to play the pirates and other exciting characters in this dramatic tale.

experience and learn theatre arts, as these opportunities have been sparse for younger children since the pandemic. Both Lennon and Hayden grew up in the area and benefitted from youth theatre programs here. Both were active in Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theatre Program and have continued their involvement in the theatre arts after graduation. Lennon was last seen locally in the Brandon Actors Troupe production of “Lucky Stiff,” playing Vinnie DiRuzzio, the murderer’s brother who “wouldn’t be coming home for dinner.” Among other things, he works in music talent management. After graduating from Otter Valley, Hayden Hull studied music at UVM and theatre arts at Castleton. He was the stage manager for “Lucky Stiff” and, among other things, does technical work at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland.

Directors Lennon Philo and Hayden Hull hope this production will provide an opportunity for younger students to

Students wishing to audition (See ‘Treasure Island’, Page 19)



“TREASURE ISLAND” DIRECTORS Hayden Hull (L) and Lennon Philo (R). The Brandon Actors Troupe will be auditioning kids for the play on Sunday, January 26.

shows on March 28 and 29, to be performed on the Otter Valley High School Stage. To sign up for auditions, see below. “Treasure Island” is an adap-

## Vote on ‘Valley Community’ Recreation Center will be held at Otter Valley on Feb 26

**BY STEVEN JUPITER**

**BRANDON**—The OVUU School Board has voted to hold a floor vote on transfer of land for the proposed “Valley Community Center” VCC at its annual meeting on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Otter Valley Union High School.

VCC would provide 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.

VCC would be centrally located on the Otter Valley campus, on land granted by 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.

When the idea was first proposed last October, the OVUU Board decided to leave the decision whether to grant permission to use the district’s land to the voters in the district. The assumption on the Board was that the question could be placed on the Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day along with the proposed school budget.

However, at last week’s OVUU Board meeting, the Board was informed by RNESU Business Director Brenda Fleming that the only questions permitted by law to appear on the Australian ballot were those relating to the budget or to the election of the School Board. Any question relating to the grant of (See ‘Valley Community’, Page 5)

## Spotlight On Business

### BLUE MOON CLOTHING & GIFTS



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**CHAMBER**  
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Jim & Liz McRae

# Vermont signs agreement to bring investment, flexibility for healthcare transformation

WATERBURY—The Vermont Agency of Human Services announced today that Vermont has signed an agreement with the Federal Government to join the States Advancing All-

Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) model. The AHEAD program will bring additional money

for healthcare transformation to Vermont. Most importantly, Vermont's agreement allows the state to invest in and strengthen its healthcare system.

Vermont will participate in Cohort 2. The new funding model will take effect January 1, 2027.

Over the coming year, AHS and its partners will be working to stand up the processes and structures necessary to implement the agreement. Starting in 2026, the State will recruit Vermont hospitals to join the Medicare Fee for Service Hospital Global Budget program. Throughout the transition process, Vermont will continuously assess whether the model meets Vermont's needs. The State has the option to withdraw from the agreement if cost and quality targets are not

met.

"Vermonters know that the high cost of healthcare is one of the critical affordability challenges we face," said Secretary of Human Services Jenney

Samuelson. "Our healthcare system needs support to evolve to better serve the needs of Vermonters. This agreement will help by moving us toward a funding model that better supports the care Vermonters need."

Elements of Vermont's AHEAD agreement include:

Establishment of a new way of funding Vermont's healthcare system. This model, known as Total Cost of Care, gives Vermont the authority to more flexibly manage and control healthcare costs and quality and make important investments in our system.

Up to \$150 million in additional Medicare funds annually starting in 2027, with increases each year to reflect inflation, to strengthen Vermont's healthcare system and fund services not typically covered by Medicare.

Establishment of a hospital Global Budget model to help keep care affordable and pre- (See Healthcare transformation, Page 20)

*The State has the option to withdraw from the agreement if cost and quality targets are not met.*



**It's not that I have no neck, it's that it's too cold for a neck HEADLESS? NO THIS is a Yellow-bellied sapsucker on an extremely cold January day conserving heat.**  
Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums Vermonters Encouraged to Support Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery with Nongame Tax Checkoff

MONTPELIER—Vermont's Nongame Wildlife Fund is essential to the conservation and restoration of some of Vermont's most at-risk wildlife, from bumblebees and butterflies to mussels, birds and mammals. Thanks to a check-off option on the Vermont state income tax form, donating to the fund is easy and impactful.

"Responding to biodiversity loss starts right here in Vermont, where we work hard to safeguard the wildlife and

plants we care about," says Rosalind Renfrew, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Diversity Program Manager. "What's more, every dollar Vermonters donate to Nongame Wildlife Fund on their taxes is doubled or tripled when donations leverage matching federal grants, securing even more resources to benefit Vermont's wildlife."

Vermont's Nongame Tax Checkoff has been helping since 1986 to recover species

that were once on the brink of extinction in Vermont, like the common loon, osprey and peregrine falcon. Most recently, the bald eagle was removed from Vermont's list of endangered species. The Nongame Wildlife Fund continues to support nest monitoring for loons, peregrines and eagles to ensure that numbers remain robust. Meanwhile, species of turtles, bats and other birds are in need of conservation action.

(See Nongame Tax, Page 5)

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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.**

**Graphic design by Sepi Alavi; Kate Saunders, Operations coordinator**

**Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733**

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

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# Letters to the Editor

## I'm running for Brandon Selectboard: Vicki Disorda

In four short years we went from a nation that “sheltered in place” to protect the elderly to a state where one lobbyist blames long term Vermonters for the current housing crisis. Lake Champlain Chamber lobbyist Austin Davis referred to properties of owners who have either paid off their homes or have the benefit of lower mortgage interest rates as “golden handcuffs” that prevent beneficiaries of the state’s property tax credit from freeing up housing stock.<sup>1</sup>

In truth, a 38% increase in residential property sales to out-of-state buyers from 2019 to 2020 and the highest inbound move rate among states in 2021 “far outstripped supply” and average home prices “shot up” in those two years.<sup>2</sup> In 2023 the state treasurer’s office found that Vermont had the highest immigration of any New England state, the third highest rate in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

Treasurer Mike Peciak said, “It’s clear that the people who are moving to Vermont are higher-income earners and what that says to me is that they are bringing their remote jobs with them to Vermont.”<sup>4</sup>

In spite of facts, the housing crisis in Vermont has yet to be referred to publically as a sudden overpopulation of Vermont.

According to Davis, a “young professional who has spent his career at the nexus of government,”<sup>5</sup> Vermont’s current property tax credit “incentivizes” people to stay in their homes. Some might call this the American dream, but Davis says that because of these long-term home owners “the churn of the housing market has ground to a halt.”<sup>6</sup>

Vermont House Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, told Davis “The political reality and personal reality of that is, I think, quite different

than the way you’re framing some of it.”<sup>7</sup>

In a recent Front Porch Forum post and letter to the editor of The Reporter, another young (former) government analyst wrote of Brandon, “it’s clear that there are two conflicting worlds here, with different socioeconomic status, experience, and perspectives, and it’s rare that those worlds interact unless we’re arguing over the town budget.”

To be clear, it isn’t as much the budget being argued over as it is as the rights of long-term Vermonters not to become unhoused by excessive taxation.

It is one thing to be aware of the economic struggles some homeowners face and quite another to be empathetic, as last year’s policy makers so clearly demonstrated. With so many competing for real estate, it is of little wonder why there is so much friction between classes

and “old” and new Vermonters. At the state level, perhaps it’s time to reconsider— at least temporarily— the government’s recruitment incentive programs, like the Stay-to-Stay initiative, which provide grants to help people to move to Vermont.

Not so surprising also is that the two conflicting worlds rarely interact. One world remains undaunted socially by sky-rocketing prices of beverages and dining out, while the other continues to shelter in place and choose between “heat or eat.” What the latter needs most are real solutions, responsible spending, and taxation with representation. This is why I am running for a one-year term on the Brandon Selectboard.

As a board member, I will work to help ensure Brandon-area residents’ basic needs are met by supporting a new town laundromat via tax stabilization and the Revolving Loan Fund. I will

fight for inclusivity by voting to keep local hunting and fishing areas open to all. To help increase the 1% fund, I will advocate to open class 3 and 4 roads to ATVs with class 2 road access to area inns, restaurants, and gas stations. This will help to reunite socioeconomic classes. We all deserve to be happy and thrive here. This is our home. I will do my part to ensure all feel welcome.

Sources: <sup>1</sup> vtdigger, “Final Reading: House Ways and Means explores the roots of Vermont’s housing crisis”, April 3, 2024; <sup>2</sup> usnews.com, Destination Vermont: The State Sees an Influx of Newcomers Amid the Pandemic, Feb. 16, 2022; <sup>3</sup> linkedin.com; <sup>4</sup> vermontpublic.org, Thousands more people are moving into Vermont than moving away, December 11, 2024

## Brandon Selectboard will present its FY26 budget in public meeting on January 30

The Brandon Selectboard is offering a “pre-Town-Meeting” informational session regarding the proposed FY26 Town budget on Thursday, January 30th at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall. The Selectboard, town management, and five-member budget advisory committee are all expected to take part. The Selectboard will make a presentation and then open the floor to your questions.

In recent years, it has become apparent that many people have already voted by the time of the evening Town Meeting in March. This is a chance to become well-informed and have your questions answered before any votes are cast. The Town will still have

the evening Town Meeting on the traditional date required by Vermont law, (Monday, March 3rd with Australian balloting on Tuesday, March 4th).

It is very important for the voters to have the opportunity to examine the budget proposal with the twelve people who crafted it during the budget workshop series. These panelists have the knowledge to make sure you have accurate factual information before you vote. You’ll be able to ask questions of any of them. You may submit questions in advance to any of the panelists if you wish or ask that night as you think of them.

The FY26 budget in a two-page summary, a 23-page detail,

and the municipal property tax estimator are all available to you at <https://www.townofbrandon.com/fy26-proposed-town-budget/> or linked in red at the top of any page of the Town website. By using the estimator, you can see the actual dollar change on your particular tax bill.

We hope many voters will consider attending. Last year’s failed budget votes were difficult for the whole community, and the goal this year is to avoid divisiveness by presenting a budget that can earn the citizens’ support on the first vote.

*Doug Bailey,  
Chair of Brandon Selectboard  
Seth Hopkins,  
Brandon Town Manager*

## ‘Valley Community’

(Continued from Page 3)

land to VCC would have to be conducted as a floor vote at OVUU’s annual meeting on February 26.

This raised concerns among the Board that an important decision could be left to the historically small number of people who attend the district’s annual meeting. The Board feared that however the vote went, a significant segment of

the community would end up feeling like they had not had a say in the decision.

The land in question is a 10-acre parcel along the western side of Route 7 on the southern end of the OV campus, past the last driveway into the OV parking lot. OVUU Chair Laurie Bertrand said last Tuesday that the parcel didn’t have any real value to OV but that it wasn’t the Board’s to give away; the

decision had to come from the voters.

The question that will be put before voters at the meeting is:

“Shall the voters approve the Unified Union District’s conveyance of a +/-10-acre parcel of

land along the easterly boundary of the Otter Valley Union High School (OVUHS) property and southerly of the OVUHS’s access driveways, in

exchange of One Dollar

(\$1.00), to the Valley Community Center (VCC), contingent on VCC securing sufficient

funds by March 30, 2027 to construct a community center or recreation facility with

related improvements southerly of the OVUHS access driveways with no additional

Unified Union District financial commitment to the prop-

erty or to VCC?”  
If voters approve the conveyance, VCC must still secure the funding for the project by March 30, 2027 or the conveyance is voided. VCC had initially said that it planned to ask the voters of the constituent towns to approve bonds to fund the project. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$12.1 million.

## 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 Fridays before 5 p.m.  
[news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)

## Nongame tax

(Continued from Page 4)

“Nongame Checkoff donations have made possible some of our greatest conservation success stories, and they continue to fund front-line work on behalf of our most at-risk species,” said Renfrew. “The eastern meadowlark and rue anemone wildflower were recently

# Obituaries

## Dolores C. Furnari, 92, Brandon

Dolores C. Furnari, 92, of Brandon passed away peacefully on January 16, 2025 in the Palliative Care room called "The Estuary" at Porter Hospital in Middlebury.

She grew up in Lawrence, Massachusetts and married her husband of 74 years there. They moved to Brandon in 1986. She was a dedicated employee of the Town of Brandon for over 29 years.

Many Brandon residents know Dolores through her art. She taught Early American decoration and Folk Art in her home studio. She received a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Early American Decoration. She was a found-



**DOLORES C. FURNARI**

ing member of the Brandon Artists Guild, which just cel-

ebrated its 25th anniversary in May of 2024.

She is survived by her husband, Donald; her daughter, Dawn Marie Bailey (Douglas); her granddaughters, Lisa Marie Rovi (Raymond), Jennifer Marie Hubert (Miles), and two great-grandsons, Anthony Rovi (Ashley) and Joseph Rovi; and her great-great-granddaughter, Isabella, who brought the fifth generation of joy and laughter to her life.

Per her wishes, there will be no services. The family would like any donations in her memory to go to "The Estuary" at Porter Hospital for the comfort of future patients and their families.

## Linda Bailey Stone, 72, Brandon

Linda Bailey Stone, age 72, passed peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at her home in Brandon.

Linda was born in Rutland on June 25, 1952. She was the daughter of Norman and Phyllis (Disorda) Bailey. She grew up in Brandon, where she received her early education. She graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1970. Following graduation, she married David William Stone on June 27, 1970 in Brandon. She began her working career at Brandon Training School and was employed there until the school closed. She afterwards continued working for the State of Vermont with the Department of Children & Families. She retired in 2014 as a member of the Special Investigation Unit for DCF. She was a past president of Brandon American Legion Unit #55 Ladies Auxiliary. Linda loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by two daughters, Yvonne Perry and Sarah Wideawake; one son, David Stone; a brother, Norman Bailey, Jr; and one sister, Carol Racine. Thirteen grandchildren, 16 great-grandchil-



**LINDA BAILEY STONE**

dren and many nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband David Stone; a son Stephen Piper; a sister, Pamela Sue Bailey; and a brother, Robert "Beetle" Bailey.

All services will be private.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to Dunmore Hose Company, 61 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

## Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



## Legislative Report

BY TODD NIELSEN

### Getting to work in Montpelier

Brandon and Forestdale Vermont House Representative Todd Nielsen is on the House Committee on Human Services. On Tuesday, January 14th, the committee received an oversight and accountability implementation update on Overdose Prevention Sites. Wednesday and Thursday were primarily dedicated to a joint hearing with the House Judiciary on Juvenile Justice Oversight. There was an organization & overview of the Agency on Thurs-

day afternoon. The rest of the week was dedicated to the House Floor and Committee discussion on the Budget Adjustment Act.

Todd has co-sponsored the following bills thus far:

H.16

An act relating to repealing the Affordable Heat Act

H.39

An act relating to repeal of authorization of overdose prevention centers

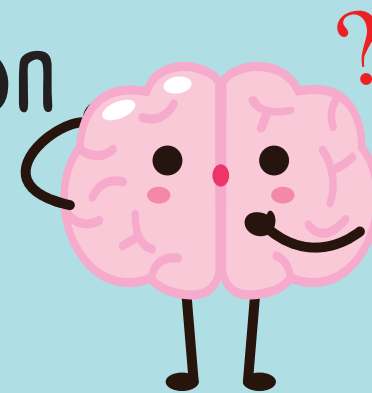
H.43

An act relating to exempting military retirement and survivor benefit income from Vermont income tax

When Todd is home on the weekend, he volunteers at the Brandon Area Food Shelf Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 2. Everyone should know this is the best time to meet with him for in-person discussion while the House is in session. Otherwise call (802) 247-4373 or (802) 342-8009.

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## Brandon Brain Buster



If all the even whole numbers from 2 through 100 (including both end points) are multiplied together, which of the following must be true?

- I. The result can be divided by every odd number between 3 and 49 without a remainder.
- II. The result can be divided by 81 without a remainder
- III. The result can be divided by 625 without a remainder

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) I and II only
- D) II and III only
- E) I, II, and III

Answer on pg.21

# What's likely to be included in Gov. Phil Scott's education reform package?

BY ETHAN WEINSTEIN

Gov. Phil Scott has promised a major education reform proposal that would transform Vermont's public education system.

"The bottom line is our system is out of scale and very expensive. And as obvious as these challenges are, we haven't been able to fix it," the Republican governor told lawmakers in his inaugural address earlier this month.

For now, the specifics remain murky. But the broad strokes have begun to come to light, and the Legislature expects to hear a more complete plan in a joint briefing on Wednesday.

The inaugural speech itself hinted at the major areas of proposed reform, including changing school district governance structures, increasing student-to-staff ratios, and reimagining Vermont's education funding formula.

That means the state could see district consolidation, school closures and state-imposed budget constraints unprecedented in recent memory, all targeted at lowering the cost of Vermont's public education system.

Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia, the Senate minority leader and a teacher at St. Johnsbury Academy, has focused on education funding during his legislative tenure. While he declined to share details of the governor's plan, he said the package would address several aspects of education funding and delivery.

"It's a very big reform bill, probably the biggest proposal that this Legislature has seen in 50 years," Beck said.

The call for reform arrives after education property taxes rose an average of 13.8% last year, driven by a roughly \$180 million increase in education spending. This year, the tax department has predicted a 5.9% increase in property taxes, though Scott has said his plan would bring that number to zero.

Democratic legislative leaders have expressed support for the active role Scott's team has taken in developing new policies, acknowledging a need to make the cost of education more affordable.

Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, said this week that Democrats would take the gov-

ernor's plan and "marry it with our own ideas" in an attempt to find compromise.

But the state's teacher's union, the Vermont-NEA, is among those wary of any plan that reduces the number of teachers or limits services to students.

"We're already seeing many positions being eliminated in our schools," Don Tinney, the union's president, said in an interview. "We will never support a plan that doesn't put students first."

A foundation formula

Scott's plan will propose shifting the state's education funding formula to what's called a "foundation formula," a system used in 36 states across the country, according to analysis from the Education Commission of the States.

Currently, local school boards have near complete discretion to build their budgets in Vermont's idiosyncratic school funding landscape.

In a foundation formula, districts are provided a base amount of money per student. That base amount can vary significantly from state to state and is arguably the biggest policy decision inherent to the formula.

A foundation formula may also account for students who are more expensive to teach, like English language learners or students from impoverished homes, by "weighting" those students to count for more than one student. Or, the state could account for those additional expenses in another way, such as through separate grants. Vermont's current system already utilizes student weights.

It's unclear whether districts might be able to raise more money than the foundation provides, and if so, how. If that money is allowed to be raised locally, lawmakers worry it would exacerbate inequities between communities based on wealth. Possibly, a foundation formula could create a state-wide pool for the additional money, more closely mirroring the current system.

Central to the discussion of a new funding formula is the Vermont Supreme Court's 1997 Brigham case. The court determined that the state's previous funding system—a form of a foundation formula—was unconstitutional, and that the

(See Education reform, Page 15)



THE BEAUTIFUL SETTING of Pittsford Village Farm was a draw for Rutland County Parent Child Center. RCPCC Co-Exec Dir. Stephanie Carvey said she hopes to create programming for the kids to take advantage of the outdoors there.

## Parent Child Center

(Continued from Page 1)

and one from an organization that has been in operation for only two years.

"We went with RCPCC because of their years of experience," said Byrom. "They were the best solution."

RCPCC Co-Executive Director Stephanie Carvey said by phone that the opportunity to work with PVF had come up late last year and they "jumped" at the chance.

"We want to have more established roots in the Pittsford area," said Carvey, noting that Pittsford is close to Rutland, where there is a great need for childcare. RCPCC currently operates a facility in Brandon, and Carvey stated that the future of that site will be decided in conjunction with the community.

"This is a team effort," she said. "We will be making these decisions together and will be seeking feedback from Brandon." Over the next year or so, RCPCC will be trying to determine whether the Brandon community wants to retain its RCPCC facility or whether a facility in Pittsford is close enough to serve its needs.

"PVF was a great opportunity," she continued. "We have a year and a half to figure out our next steps."

Moreover, Carvey emphasized that "childcare" provides more than what people may think of as "daycare." As at all

such facilities, children will be engaged in educational activities during their time at PVF. It won't simply be a place to park children during work hours.

"We work on milestones," said Carvey. "We try to get kids to their next steps."

A childcare facility will be a welcome addition to the Pittsford area, as stringent state regulations have made it difficult for smaller operations throughout Vermont. In recent years, the lack of local options has not gone unnoticed by residents and has been a topic of concern among the members of the Pittsford Selectboard.

"I'm already getting calls from interested parents," said Byrom, even though the facility isn't expected to open until spring of 2026. She added that all questions about enrollment should be directed to RCPCC, a notion that Ms. Carvey seconded. Carvey added that anyone with questions about the facility should contact RCPCC ([rcpcc.org](http://rcpcc.org)).

"Pittsford Village Farm is just leasing the space to RCPCC," said Byrom. "It's a great opportunity for the community and also a great opportunity for PVF to generate revenue for our other programming. RCPCC will be paying us a flat monthly rent that isn't tied to enrollments. Parents will pay fees for childcare directly to RCPCC."

Ms. Carvey couldn't say at

this early stage what the enrollment fees at PVF would be, but she did say that they would likely be comparable to the fees at RCPCC's other sites. She added that Vermont is keenly aware of the need for childcare and is investing a lot of money in it, including subsidies. Plus, RCPCC does offer its own scholarships to families that need assistance.

PVF encompasses an 8,000 square-foot historic farmhouse and 150 acres of farmland, trails, and woods in the heart of Pittsford Village. In addition to the childcare facility, its plans include two affordable apartments, and a community meeting space. PVF currently hosts events, concerts, and performances on its grounds. Its stated mission is to "to strengthen the vitality of the community by connecting social, cultural and educational opportunities that help build a stronger community for all."

"We're so excited about everything happening at PVF," said Byrom. "Construction costs have soared since COVID and collecting the capital for the renovation has been a challenge. But there's light at the end of the tunnel now. It'll be terrific."

"It's a new adventure," Carvey said. "We're always looking to expand our services and reach new communities in Rutland County."



**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**

See page 17

# Singer Logan Riesterer wows his fans at Red Clover Ale Co. in Brandon

BY JEFF SACKS

BRANDON—On the night of Saturday, January 18, Logan Riesterer of Brandon played “some good old-fashioned outlaw and independent country music,” as promised on his Facebook page, and he expertly delivered for the packed house at Red Clover.

Along with his amicable nature, Riesterer’s strong baritone voice and fierce guitar playing, reminiscent of Johnny Cash, were on full display throughout his two-hour set during which he didn’t take a single break.

Admittedly, my experience with Country music is extremely limited and I typically don’t listen to it. I didn’t grow up with it, friends in my neighborhood didn’t listen to it, and about the only collection of songs in the genre I own is Cash’s “American II: Unchained.”

However, from the first time I heard Logan play at Red Clover’s Open Mic (every Thursday from 6 pm to closing) a couple of years ago, I knew this guy has real talent, as he always leaves me supremely impressed with his renditions of classic Country songs by legendary artists such as Cash, Waylon Jennings, Cody Jinks, Ward Davis, Charles Wesley Godwin, and others. This old city slicker never tires of hearing him play.

Listening a little more closely to his songs on Saturday, one can begin to understand the humble heroes Riesterer tends to sing about: flawed men who know they have demons they can’t escape yet try to keep afloat in life despite all the trouble that has tended to find them as a result of their weaker moments. However, their regrets don’t seem to inspire them to change. Rather, they guide them to those who can appreciate them even if they themselves can’t.

One of Riesterer’s favorite songs is “Hippies and Cowboys” by Jinks, where the nar-

rator “Started on the whiskey pretty early this morning/That’s alright, I was up all night/But I passed out before the sun came up.” Yet he can admit: “I know that’s no way for a man to behave/With a mortgage due and a baby on the way/But somehow, I made it to where I’m at.” Yet

he put it: His music heroes are “just regular guys without the desire for the spotlight.” Likewise, the Red Clover crowd is always open to musicians from all walks performing.

“It feels really great to be part of a community of all walks of life, different genres and styles



**LOGAN RIESTERER PLAYS** country music at Red Clover Ale Company in Brandon. A frequent performer at Red Clover’s popular Thursday Open Mic, Riesterer has developed an enthusiastic following for his take on country. Photo by Jeff Sacks

he finds comfort “Raising hell with the hippies and the cowboys/They don’t care about no trends/They don’t care about songs that sell.”

Those last lines seem to illustrate why Riesterer plays at Open Mic regularly and took humble appreciation in being invited to play his expanded set on Saturday afternoon. As

of music, and people,” said Riesterer. Likewise, many of us appreciated what he had to say, as we also value the diversity and mutual acceptance that exists within our small town, and the mood of the crowd reflected back the same appreciation for him.

The Burlington Free Press  
Tue, Nov 02, 1897 - Page 6

## MIDDLEBURY.

### A Serious Accident to Dennis King—Village Affairs.

Dennis King, an elderly gentleman living in the basement of Mr. T. Kidder’s house, met with quite a serious accident recently. During a fit he overturned the lamp and it immediately set fire to his clothes. Had it not been for the prompt assistance of friends he would have been badly burned.

CLIPPING ABOUT DENNIS King’s burning accident.

## Names lost

(Continued from Page 2)

families all knowing one other in the vicinity of L’Acadie and Napierville prior to their moving to Vermont. As described in previous episodes, Napierville was a hotbed in the Canada rebellions of 1837 and 1838. The

subsequent social upheaval spurred the migration of many families to Vermont. In Salisbury’s 1840 census, John Bottom, headed a household of nine. Clearly more of this family has yet to be discovered.



GILBERT KING NATURALIZATION record.

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Place of Birth
Gilbert King	45	M	W	Farmer	Canada
Mary	40	F	W	Housewife	Canada
William	15	M	W	School	Canada
Robert	12	M	W	School	Canada
Elizabeth	10	F	W	School	Canada
John	8	M	W	School	Canada
Mary	6	F	W	School	Canada

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Place of Birth
Gilbert King	45	M	W	Farmer	Canada
Mary	40	F	W	Housewife	Canada
William	15	M	W	School	Canada
Robert	12	M	W	School	Canada
Elizabeth	10	F	W	School	Canada
John	8	M	W	School	Canada
Mary	6	F	W	School	Canada

ABOVE: GILBERT KING, 1850 New Haven Census.

BELOW: DENNIS KING 1850 New Haven census with John and Mary Bottom.



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# Quebec government upping border security with Trump in office

BY SHAUN ROBINSON/  
VTDIGGER

The Quebec government is bolstering its law enforcement presence along the province's border with Vermont, New Hampshire and New York—a response, one top official said, to calls by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to curb the number of people crossing illegally into the U.S. from Canada.

François Bonnardel, Quebec's public security minister, told Canadian news outlets at a press conference this week that the move would show the incoming Trump administration “that we're ready, just in case.” Bonnardel called on Canada's federal government to direct additional resources to Quebec's border, as well.

The security minister also said that while illegal crossings in the reverse direction, from the

U.S. into Canada, have not been a recent concern for Quebec officials, “we have to be prepared for the new administration after the (20th) of January—and see, after that, what will happen.”

In the meantime, Bonnardel said Quebec was adding six investigators from its regional police force—the Sûreté du Québec—to a joint task force with

U.S. immigration officials that investigates cross-border crime, CBC/Radio-Canada reported. And he wrote on X that another 300 regional police officers were on hand to be deployed to the border “in the event of a signifi-

cant flow of migrants from the United States.” Right now, Bonnardel wrote on X, there are about 800 provincial officers patrolling the border along the Swanton Sector, which is a U.S. Border Patrol jurisdiction that includes Vermont, New Hampshire and parts of New York State. Data from U.S. officials shows that the Swanton

Sector has accounted for the vast majority—about 80%—of U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions along the entire Canadian border over the most recent full federal fiscal year, which started in October 2023 and ended in Septem-

ber 2024. Canada needs to focus its border security resources on the region accordingly, Bonnardel told reporters on Tuesday, according to The Canadian Press. “We have to put a minimum of 80 per cent of the possible or future effort of the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency in this sector to show the Ameri-

cans there is a decline (in illegal crossings) that will continue in the months to come,” he said.

The RCMP, short for Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is responsible for policing the country's border in between official adequate efforts to stop illegal border crossings and fentanyl smuggling into the U.S. “Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long simmering problem,” Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social, the social media site he owns, in November. “We hereby demand that they use this power, and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a very big price!”

Last month, the Canadian federal government announced part of what appears to be its answer—a \$1.3 billion plan to combat fentanyl trafficking and increase surveillance along the U.S. border, including with the use of helicopters, drones and mobile surveillance towers, according to CBC/Radio-Canada. Bonnardel said this week that the flow of fentanyl is not currently a concern at the U.S.-Quebec border, the outlet reported.

Quebec's ramp-up also comes as U.S. officials have made similar moves in and around Vermont.

U.S. Border Patrol assigned more agents to the Swanton Sector last year from other parts of the country in response to the high number of migrant apprehensions. And U.S. Customs and Border Protection—the agency that oversees the border patrol—has built at least three surveillance towers along the border in Vermont and New York in recent years, with more likely to be built soon, VTDigger reported last month.



THE HIGHGATE SPRINGS border crossing with Canada on Sept. 1, 2021.

File photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

## OVUU

(Continued from Page 1)  
Valley Union High School.

The OVUU Board voted to approve the proposed budget on Tuesday, January 14. Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Business & Finance Director Brenda Fleming led the Board through a presentation on the proposed budget.

The 4.53% increase represents a dollar increase of \$1,214,177 over the current year's budget of \$26,808,822 and covers all schools and facilities within the OVUU district: Otter Valley Union High School, Otter Valley Union Middle School, Neshobe Elementary in Brandon, Otter Valley North Campus in Brandon, Lothrop Elementary in

Pittsford, Otter Creek Academy (OCA) in Leicester, and two specialized facilities in Sudbury and Whiting.

Ms. Fleming said that the proposed budget incorporated the feedback that RNESU received after last year's budget conflicts, when district taxpayers rejected the proposed budgets twice, eventually passing a third proposal by a narrow 53%-47% margin. The final proposal that passed

*District residents complained last year that the reductions that were implemented seems to focus on instructional services while sparing admin.*

for FY25 (current year) was still 11% higher than the budget for FY24 (last year).

According to Ms. Fleming's presentation, feedback from the community included a focus on student needs and a desire for cost savings at the administrative level. District residents complained last year that the reductions that were implemented seems to focus on instructional services while sparing admin.

ports of entry, similar to U.S. Border Patrol.

The minister's comments come as he, and other Canadian leaders, have angled to respond to threats Trump first made last fall to impose sweeping tariffs on all U.S. imports from Canada and Mexico. The president-elect has tied the notion to what he describes as those countries' in-

Cuts in the FY26 proposal include:

A reduction of 3.9 elementary school teachers. 1 full-time teacher at Lothrop, 1 full- and a part-time teacher at Neshobe, and 1 full- and 1 part-time teacher at OCA

Part-time paraeducator positions at Neshobe and OCA

A full-time support staff position at Neshobe

A full-time mental-health clinician at Neshobe

\$25K in departmental budgets at OV

As was the case last year, a major factor in the budget increase is health insurance. Premiums for FY26 will increase 11.9%.

New RNESU Superinten-

dent Rene Sanchez, who was just hired on a permanent basis after six months as Interim Superintendent, has been resistant to major cuts at the administrative level, defending those positions as necessary to the smooth functioning of the district.

However, Superintendent Sanchez noted that the Director of Safety position at RNESU, which was paid \$120K per year, is being eliminated. Sanchez and Fleming both suggested in a subsequent discussion with The Reporter that the elimination of this position may look like a cost savings on paper but in reality simply burdens other RNESU employees

(See OVUU, Page 24)

STUDENT: Christian Dunbar

GRADE: 4

SCHOOL: Lothrop

TITLE: Otis the Cat

MEDIUM: Liquid Tempera Paint,  
Sharpie Marker

TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



**COMMENT FROM CHRISTIAN:**  
Otis is a character I created. He likes the rain and he likes to sleep. Otis has three siblings, two sisters and a brother. His older sister's name is Molly. His younger sister is Sophie. His older brother's name is Ace. I had fun painting this piece. I used paint, sharpie and pencil.

# Our Creative Kids Poetry Corner

## Where I'm From

by Ethan

5th grade class at  
Otter Creek Academy

I am from Vermont,  
from dogs and my besties -  
Makenna, Kaibry and Kaylee.

I am from the USA.  
I am from the forest,  
the land of the USA.

I'm from art and baseball,  
from football and watching softball.  
I'm from the room in my mom's house,  
from the backyard,  
from Mom and Dad.

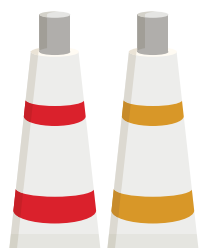
I'm from my bodyguards, my family,  
my pookies.

I'm from watching GTA and climbing trees,  
and looking at the stars.

I am from my dark side,  
to playing Fortnite in the dark.

I am from fireworks on the Fourth of July.

I am from Snapchat and watching TikTok.



### MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



## January inspections are due!

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cleaning • Woolwax undercoat to protect  
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# Calendar of events

## January

### 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](http://www.AikidoVermont.org)

#### Maclure Library Yoga -

Gentle to moderate Kripalu yoga. Class includes physical movement, breathing techniques & meditation. Please bring a mat & any props you practice with. At 6 pm, \$10 fee. Sign up by emailing Paula Liguori at [pali36@aol.com](mailto:pali36@aol.com)!



### Tuesdays

#### Maclure Library Story Time Play-group

Jessica Abbott from the Rutland County Parent Child Center hosts

a weekly family program at the Library from 10 am–12 pm, geared towards kids ages 5 and under with singing, dancing, stories and crafts!

#### 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](mailto:vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or (802) 345-4125).

#### Pokémon Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

3–5 pm. Ages 7+.

#### Magic the Gathering at the Brandon Free Public Library

5–7pm

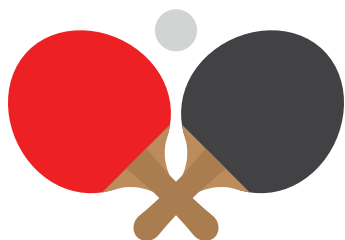
#### Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

### Wednesdays

#### Ping Pong

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.

## Meatloaf Dinner at the Brandon United Methodist Church Saturday, January 25th, from 4:30–6:30 pm

All are Welcome to Attend.

Suggested Donation: \$10/Adult.

Union Street (formerly 1 Franklin St.)



## Upcoming Events at the Maclure Library

Tuesday, 28th at 6 pm

#### Reader's Choice — Biography or Memoir

Choose someone you'd love to know more about and join us to tell the book club about what you learned!

Monday, 3rd at 5:30 pm

#### Cookbook Club — Salads

We invite you to join us! There is a theme for the meeting, most often a particular cuisine, supported by a common cookbook on display in the library. Members choose a recipe they would like to prepare and sign up for the upcoming month. On the meeting date, we gather with our chosen dish, discuss our recipes, discuss the cookbook, and enjoy a delicious dinner. We bring our own place settings and serving utensils and something for transporting leftovers! Sometimes the recipes work, sometimes they don't but it is always enjoyable.

Thursday, 6th at 12 pm

#### February Movie Matinee

Join us at the Maclure Library for a free romantic movie viewing!

Call 802 483 2972 for the movie title.

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](http://www.gmttc.com).

#### Crafternoons

Join us from 12–2 pm at Maclure Library every Wednesday & bring your craft projects & supplies for an afternoon of art. Share tips, get ideas & inspiration for new projects with

fellow crafters!

#### Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library

4:30–6 pm

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

From 10:30–11:30 am 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, mak-

ing 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

#### Coffee and Cards at the Brandon Free Public Library

2–4 pm. Come play Bridge, Hearts, or other games! Coffee and tea are available.

#### 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!

## Free Medical Care County Health Partners January 25nd,

A free healthcare clinic for uninsured or underinsured adults in Rutland County will be offered by the Rutland County Health Partners (formerly Rutland Free Clinic) on January 22, 2025 and January 29, 2025 from 10 am–12 pm at our offices at 204 North Main Street, Rutland, VT. No appointment is necessary. A clinic will also be held Monday January 27 from 3 pm–7 pm. Appointments are

## Upcoming Auditions

#### Wednesday, January 22,

Birds of Cuba Grace Cong Court St, Rutland 05701 (Use the left side door to the end of

Long-time Area member Mil Blust and his wife, Vangie will share photos and stories about Cuban Birds and Culture from their trip in April 2024

#### Wednesday, January 22,

be kicking off for our School Fund raffle time Cruze paddle. Tickets 1 and 3 for \$ will be held

## 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.

### 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!

Music present a dance party with roots and world music quintet The Gaslight Tinkers. Blending African, Caribbean, funk, reggae, and Latin grooves with traditional fiddle music, the quintet creates the genre-bending future of the music of the past.

The Gaslight Tinkers' mix of global rhythms creates a joyous world beat sound around a core of traditional New England old time and Celtic fiddle music, merging boundless positive energy with melody and song. Drawing from their extensive musical backgrounds in traditional folk, Caribbean, old time, Celtic, and rock, I-Shea, Clara, Garrett, Elie, and Peter craft a sound that brings world traditions together.

## Ballroom Dance Classes with Patti Panebianco — Wallingford Town Hall

Have fun learning ballroom dance with one of the country's most sought-after instructors, coaches and ballroom judges Patti Panebianco! 4-week sessions in January, February and March.

Never danced before and want to learn? Are you already dancing and want to learn more? Did you used to dance but want to rekindle the joy it brings? Join us on Tuesdays and get your mojo on! No partner needed! First session each month is OPEN HOUSE and free to new students!

**Tuesdays Jan 21, 28.** 5-5:50 pm. Upon request: Kids/Youth — Foxtrot & Rumba; 6-6:50 pm Waltz; 7-7:50 pm West Coast Swing.

**Tuesdays Feb 4, 11, 18, 25.** 5-5:50 pm. Upon request: Kids/Youth — Swing & Salsa; 6-6:50 pm Foxtrot, 7-7:50 pm Rumba.

**Tuesdays March 4, 11, 18, 25.** 5-5:50 pm. Upon request: Kids/Youth — Swing & Salsa; 6-6:50 pm Foxtrot, 7-7:50 pm Rumba.



Cost is \$15 per person per class. Please note there is a 4-person minimum per class. For more information please contact Patti Panebianco 516-909-1686 or email [pattipdance@gmail.com](mailto:pattipdance@gmail.com).

## Free at the Rutland Health Partners 27th and 29th

recommended for this clinic but walk-ins will be allowed. The last patient will be seen at 6 pm. For appointments or questions, please call 802-774-1082.

Rutland County Health Partners has a Vermont Certified Assister available to help you apply for or re-enroll in Medicaid. This service is by appointment only. Please call 802-774-1082.

## 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.

## Joining Rutland County Audubon Society Events

6:30-8 pm —  
a  
regational, 8  
tland, VT  
the parking lot  
and go in the  
or, all the way  
of the hall)

### Thursday, January 23

— Join us at 8 am at the kiosk on Marble St, West Rutland, for our monthly monitoring walk around the Marsh. Go half way or the whole 4.2 miles. All levels of birders are welcome.

### Saturday, February 15

— Join us at 8 am at the kiosk on Marble St, West Rutland for our monthly monitoring walk. This is also the week-end of the Great Back-



yard Bird Count using the phone app "ebird." For more information on the walk or Great Backyard Bird Count, please contact [birding@rutland-county-audubon.org](mailto:birding@rutland-county-audubon.org).

— We will also  
ff a fundraiser  
larship  
g a 10 ft Life-  
100 kayak with  
kets are \$2 for  
\$5. Drawing  
on May 10.

## 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](mailto:ceastman88@gmail.com)

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

## Friday, 24th

**Dance Party with the Gaslight Tinkers — Next Stage Arts**  
Next Stage Arts and Twilight

## Welcoming Disagreement and Difference: Introducing the Skill of Real Dialogue at the Brandon Free Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 1st, 1-3 pm

This workshop will introduce three key skills: Speaking for Yourself, Listening Mindfully, and Remaining Curious. These practices will help you increase problem-solving abilities and reduce polarization at home, work, and in your community.

For more information:  
[info@realdialogue.org](mailto:info@realdialogue.org) or  
[www.realdialogue.org/programs](http://www.realdialogue.org/programs)

Since its formation in 2012, the band has lit up the nation coast to coast as well as the Caribbean, headlining clubs, dances, and major festivals. From 7:30-9:30 pm at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$10-25.

### Cobalt & Titien w/ Ed McGee — Chandler Center for the Arts

**\*\*New Location\*\*** This event will take place at Chandler Center for the Arts at 71 North Main Street in Randolph.

**Cobalt & Titien:** Cobalt and Titien are two Central Vermont-based musicians who have been laying down tasty slabs of musical junk for over a decade now whether with Carter Glass, Coquette, or any number of musical projects. Boasting an eclectic catalogue as broad as it is stanky, the brothers from the same dead mother will rock your cocks off.

**Ed McGee:** New Hampshire native Ed McGee is a singer-songwriter guitarist who toured nationally with Ohio bands ekoostik hookah and One Under for 15 years before moving to Colorado in 2011.

Advance: \$16 (+fees) // Day of show: \$18 (+fees).  
Doors: 7 pm // Show: 7:30 pm. All ages.

## Saturday, 25th

### Knit with the Designer: Lindal Tørkle with Wöldten — Green Mountain Yarn and Fiber

Join Vermont designer Wöldten to begin the Lindal Tørkle! The Lindal Tørkle is part of the Lindal Collection and features a cascading line of increasingly larger short-row shapes that are mirrored both across the width of the scarf and the length to create a beautiful symmetrical design that can be worn similar to a cravat and tied, or secured with a pin or brooch in

the front. Participants will work through the start of the pattern together, placing markers, then do the initial wrap and turn, and slipping stitches to get a good amount done. This will be enough to have the confidence to take this project home and bring it to completion. The fee for the event is \$50, and preregistration is required. You can purchase a materials bundle that includes two skeins of Junction Fiber Mill's Making Tracks, a coordinating skein of Plymouth Homestead, and the pattern at our website as well.



## Goings on around town

**Sharpen your mind  
with our puzzles.**

See page 17



**THORPE'S CAMPUS IS beautiful and the perfect setting for events. It requires constant upkeep, however, and the Camp is hoping to bolster its network of volunteers to help keep the grounds beautiful.**

# Restaurant guide

**From Provence to You  
De la Provence à Vous**

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

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

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

**Franklin's**  
FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

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

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

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

**Ad design included in pricing**  
Call 802 236-4662, or email [george@brandonreporter.com](mailto:george@brandonreporter.com) for more information

## Camp Thorpe

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Now, as Thorpe nears its 100th birthday in 2027, Hudson has become increasingly aware that the camp's long-term survival depends not only on maintaining its high-quality summer experience for the kids, but also on bringing the surrounding community up to the stunning grounds, to make the camp less of a seasonal enclave for campers and more of a year-round resource for the entire area.

"We want to bring the community to campus as much as possible," she said.

Though the Camp has for years rented out its facilities for private events such as weddings, this year Hudson and Thorpe's Board of Directors are taking a new approach by planning their own off-season events that will be open to everyone.

"This coming August we're trying something new," said Hudson. "We're calling it 'ultracamp' for adults. The first one is a 'Dirty Dancing' weekend where people will come stay here for two nights and we'll have dance lessons, mu-

sic, and other activities reminiscent of the movie's time period. There will also be yoga, movies, trivia. Or you can just lounge by the pool. It's for ages 21 and up. You can rent a whole cabin, a 1/2 cabin, or a single bed."

The event will be held August 23-24. Tickets go on sale February 13 on the Camp's website ([campthorpe.org](http://campthorpe.org)) and Eventbrite. The cost will be \$200 to \$600 based on chosen accommodations.

If the "Dirty Dancing ultracamp" is successful, there will be others. The idea is to utilize

*In addition to providing recreational opportunities for local residents, Hudson is also hoping to draw more local volunteers to help out.*

the Camp's assets—its cabins, facilities, and natural setting—for activities that provide for adults the kind of fun that Thorpe's summer campers experience.

Hudson also envisions other activities, such as Sunday concerts, leaf peeping, and medieval-themed events.

In addition to providing recreational opportunities for local residents, Hudson is also hoping to draw more local volunteers to help out.

"We only have two full-time employees," she said. The rest

are either part-time outside contractors or seasonal, such as the counselors that come from around the world to spend the summer at Thorpe.

"We have a great group of volunteers, but we're always looking for more," she said. "Camp is a special place that requires a lot of attention." The buildings and facilities see a lot of wear and tear in the sum-

*(See Camp Thorpe, Page 20)*



**SHELLY HUDSON, EXECUTIVE Director of Camp Thorpe.**

# Education reform

(Continued from Page 7)

state needed to provide equal educational opportunity by giving districts the ability to fund their schools regardless of local property values.

“The idea that a wealthy community could raise a bunch of money on top of a block grant at a much easier level than a poorer community, you know, not only is that from a principal point of view a no go, but it probably wouldn’t survive a Brigham test,” Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, House Education Committee chair, said in an interview.

Beck, the Republican senate leader, argued the state could comply with Brigham without pooling property tax revenue through a statewide grand list. A town’s “grand list” is the listed value of the property in that town.

“It’s a decision point, right?” he asked. “Do you have a statewide grand list on top, or do you have a local grand list on top with some sort of mechanism to account for Brigham?”

No matter how the state might pivot back to a foundation formula, lawmakers would likely diminish in some way local control over school budgets.

That change concerns Tinney of the NEA.

“People brush it off as some sort of quaint (idea),” Tinney

said of local control. But, he argued, local communities know best the needs of local students.

“That’s the problem with decisions being made in the state capital rather than decisions being made in the community,” Tinney said.

A change in formula alone does not specifically address the factors driving school spending, like the increasing costs associated with staff health care benefits, students’ mental health needs, inflation and staff salaries. But a change may make it more expensive for local districts to spend more, using that economic pressure to reduce budgets.

‘More efficient delivery’

With the exact details unknown, Scott’s plan will include what Beck called “more efficient delivery”—fewer school districts and supervisory unions, and with them, fewer superintendents.

In Vermont, supervisory unions typically consist of multiple school boards and districts that share administrators. But colloquially, “supervisory union” and “school district” are often used interchangeably.

How exactly new district boundaries could be drawn is an open question certain to roil local communities, as it did when Act 46 catalyzed a similar process almost a decade ago.

“If you take diminishing the number of supervisory unions from 52 to a dozen or maybe along county lines, that has pretty significant implications,” Conlon said.

Conlon expects other cost-saving ideas to be on the table as well, such as “minimum class sizes” and “prescriptive” student-to-staff ratios.

Both initiatives would target Vermont’s lowest in the nation student-to-staff ratios, a likely necessity for lowering spending. Personnel account for about 80% of education costs.

Tinney, the teachers’ union president, said teachers around Vermont are already receiving reduction-in-force notices, including at Spaulding High School in Barre.

“Policymakers should spend a week working in a public school. They should ride the school buses, work as a substitute teacher, work in a cafeteria,” he said. “They can all get together on a Friday afternoon and decide where the extra services are.”

Tinney and the state teacher’s union are offering parallel ideas to decrease education spending. He argued the state should strengthen the community organizations that provide social services to shift some of the student support burdens out of schools. He also suggested moving teacher pension con-

tributions out of the education fund, and using an income tax to pay for education—something the union says will benefit the middle class.

“Our members are also taxpayers,” Tinney said, “so they’re feeling the burden of the property tax as well and want a different approach.”

Once announced in detail, the administration’s education reform package will absorb the time and attention of the Legislature’s education and money

committees over the following weeks. So far, lawmakers haven’t indicated how exactly they’ll take on the proposal.

The process will bring top administration officials to the fore, including Tax Commissioner Craig Bolio and Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders.

In an interview, Saunders acknowledged all the work that lies ahead.

“I expect to live at the Statehouse,” she said, smiling.

## REAL ESTATE



Time to revitalize the old Sudbury Country Store and the 3 bedroom apartment upstairs.. It will take some work but should be worth the effort! Great storefront location along a scenic road with beautiful country views beyond. The store area is 750 SF with hardwood floors, bead-board panels, and includes lots of shelving and the original product coolers. The 1.0 acre parcel includes land across the road that once had a barn, creamery, and single wide. Pleasant Brook runs along the west side of the property, and the Sudbury School is a neighbor across the street.

\$125,000



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

Judy Anderson - Mornings from 6 to 10 am!



# 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



Ellen Knapp identified her father, Bob Ripley, in this photo. She writes, "I believe he was serving Sugar on Snow at Thelma's Sugarhouse."

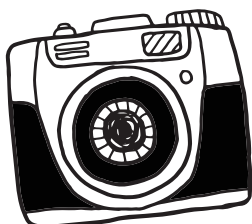
Bob Read and Sue Wetmore also recognized Mr. Ripley, noting that he was a former teacher at OVUHS. Ms. Wetmore told us that Mr. Ripley was in fact her geography teacher, and Mr. Read added that he believes Mr. Ripley attended Norwich University and was "good football player."



Bob Read recognized Ernie Miner on the right in this photo, while Sue Wetmore thinks the woman pictured might be Ginny Russell, who lived in Marsh House on Pearl Street.

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

Or call us at 247-8080





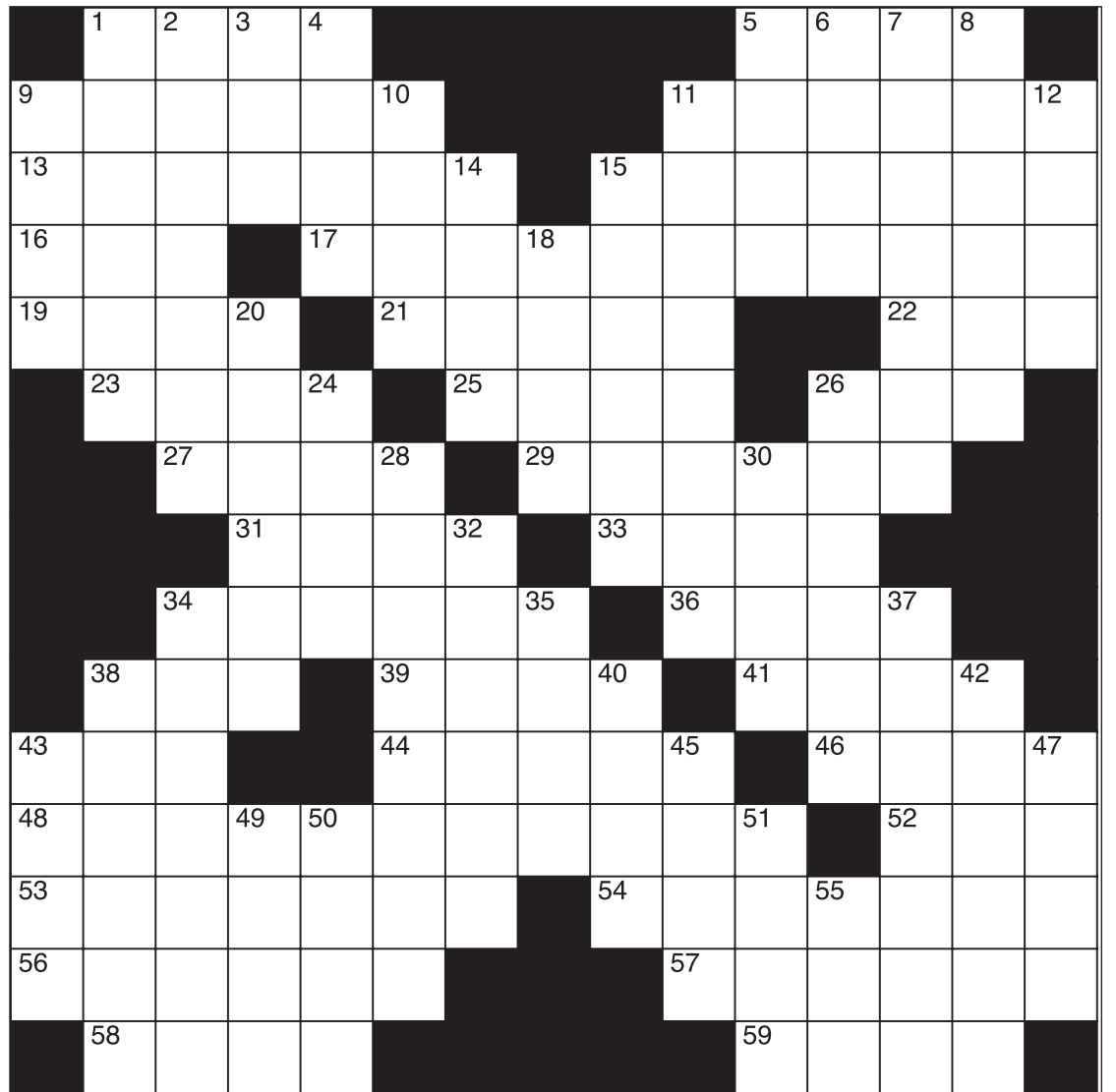
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. "Loser" rocker
5. Partner to relaxation
9. Mixing
11. Winged nut
13. Expression of blame
15. Vast ocean
16. Comedienne Gasteyer
17. Multiply
19. Meat from a pig (French)
21. Related
22. Rocker Stewart
23. Surprise completely
25. Loon
26. Canister
27. Large, deep-bodied fish
29. Takes forcefully
31. Oil cartel
33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
34. More than one
36. Places down purposefully
38. Pitching statistic
39. Type of sword
41. Witnesses
43. Body part
44. Mixes slowly
46. Satisfy
48. Strong belief
52. One's physique (slang)
53. More frightening
54. Soup cracker
56. Teaches
57. One who carries something
58. Actor Sean
59. Changes

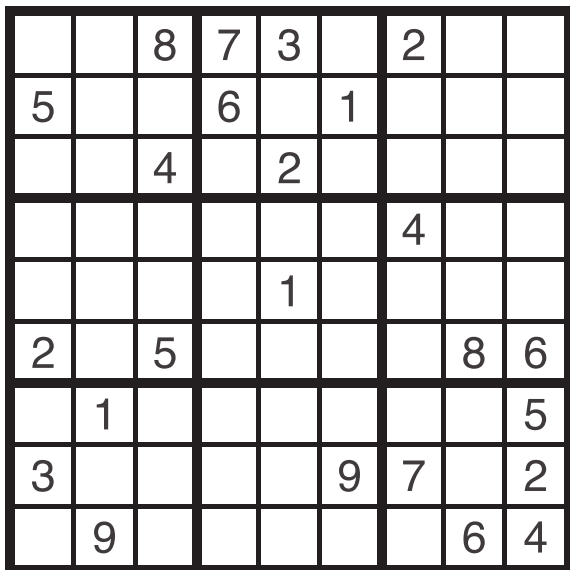
## CLUES DOWN

1. \_\_\_ Aires, city
2. Coarse grass
3. Type of gene
4. Door handle
5. Competition
6. Muslim ruler title
7. Hunting expeditions
8. Large mollusk
9. Bind securely
10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
11. 2-point plays in football
12. Breezed through
14. Type setting
15. Felt for
18. Codified rules
20. Small dome
24. Chevrotain
26. Male reproductive gland
28. Controversial beliefs
30. ZZZ
32. One who confines another
34. Bishop
35. Garlands
37. Bird that flies by the coast
38. Optical device
40. Greek goddess of discord
42. Some are "Rolling"
43. Formerly (archaic)
45. Thrust a knife into
47. German river
49. Atomic #26
50. Make a grotesque face
51. Primordial matter of the universe
55. Chinese philosophical principle



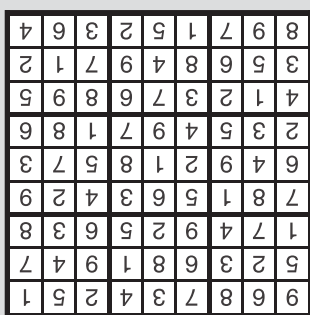
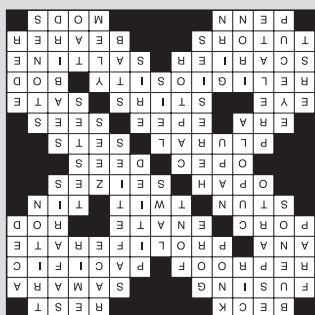
# Sudoku

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



## Fun Indoor Activities to Keep Your Pets Happy This Winter!

When it's too cold for long outdoor adventures, there are plenty of fun ways to keep your pets active and entertained indoors! The Rutland County Humane Society suggests these ideas to keep your furry friends happy: **DIY Treasure Hunts:** Hide treats or toys around your home and let your pets sniff them out. It's great mental stimulation! **Obstacle Courses:** Use pillows, chairs, or boxes to create a course for your dog or cat to navigate. Reward them with praise and treats for completing it. **Interactive Toys:** Puzzle feeders and treat-dispensing toys are a perfect way to challenge your pet while keeping them busy. **Training Time:** Winter is a great opportunity to teach new tricks or reinforce basic commands. Training is fun and strengthens your bond! **Cat-only Laser Chase or Wand Toys:** Cats love the thrill of the chase! Grab a laser pointer or feather wand for an engaging play session. Keeping your pets active indoors isn't just fun—it's important for their physical and mental health. Share your favorite cold-weather activities with us on Facebook, and let's keep those tails wagging all winter long!

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



#### MEET TYRONE - 2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. HOUND MIX. TRI-COLORED.

Looking for a handsome dog to add to your family? Well, meet Tyrone. He came to us in August when his previous owners could no longer care for him. This young guy is a sweetheart, with a playful and energetic demeanor. He LOVES to play outside and sniff in the snow. He would be best in a home without young kids, or cats. But he would be good with other dogs, with a proper introduction. If you want to meet Tyrone, stop by the Adoption Center open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am–4 pm. Hurry, he's waiting for you!

#### MEET CRANBERRY - 4-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. GREY TIGER.

Meet Cranberry! This young gal was found in Rutland as a stray on 12/05/2024. She is now ready for her new family. She is a real sweetheart, who loves to be pet! She is also still young, so very playful! She gets along great with the other cats here at the shelter, often batting around a toy mouse with her roommates. If she sounds like what you are missing in your life, stop on down to the adoption center Tuesday to Saturday 11–4, Hurry, she'll be waiting for you.



**RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**

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



**OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN TUESDAY–SATURDAY FROM 11AM–4PM.**



## New DVDs

### Severance, season one

Mark leads a team of office workers whose memories have been surgically divided between their work and personal lives. When a mysterious colleague appears outside of work, it begins a journey to discover the truth about their jobs.

### The Boy in the Woods (unrated)

The true story of a Jewish teen-aged boy who was hunted by Nazis while hiding in the forests of Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe.

### Conclave (Rated PG)

Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake—secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

### The Wild Robot (Rated PG)

When robot ROZZUM unit 7134, "Roz" for short, is shipwrecked on an uninhab-

ited island, she must learn to adapt to the harsh surroundings, gradually building relationships with the animals on the island, and becoming the adoptive parent of an orphaned gosling.

### It Ends with Us (Rated PG-13)

Lily Bloom (Blake Lively) embarks on a new life in Boston to chase the lifelong dream of opening her own business. A chance meeting with charming neurosurgeon Ryle Kincaid sparks an intense connection, but as the two fall deeply in love, Lily begins to see sides of Ryle that remind her of her parents' relationship. When Lily's first love, Atlas Corrigan, suddenly reenters her life, her relationship with Ryle is upended, and Lily realizes she must learn to rely on her own strength to make an impossible choice for her future.

### The Beast (Unrated)

In the near future, where emotions have become a threat, Gabrielle finally decides to purify her DNA in a machine that will immerse her in her previous lives and rid her of any strong feelings. She then meets Louis and feels a powerful connection, as if she has known him forever. A melodrama crossed by the genre, which unfolds

## DID YOU KNOW?

On Feb 1st from 1 to 3 p.m. we'll be hosting a talk called "Welcoming Disagreement and Difference: Introducing the Skill of Real Dialogue." Learn three key skills to communicate and more. Presented by the Center for Real Dialogue.

over three distinct periods, 1910, 2014, and 2044.

### Subservience (Rated R)

After his wife is hospitalized awaiting a heart transplant, Nick decides to purchase a SIM—an AI robot to help around the house. But after she's reset, her actions become deadly when Nick's wife returns home.

### The Apprentice (Rated R)

Sebastian Stan stars as a young and power-hungry Donald Trump in 1970s New York. He comes under the spell of Roy Cohn, the cut-throat attorney who would help create the Donald Trump we know today. Cohn sees in Trump the perfect protege—someone with raw ambition, a hunger for success, and a willingness to do whatever it takes to win.

# Brandon Police Report

## January 13

- Issued a juvenile citation to an individual on behalf of the Rutland City Police Department.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.

## January 14

- Received a report from a resident on Carver Street that a suspicious red truck has been driving by his house on an ongoing basis.
- Received a late report of a minor vehicle crash at Dunkin'.
- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue Squad with a medical call on Town Farm Road.

- Conducted community policing at an OVUHS basketball game.

## January 15

- Assisted a citizen who had no phone service.
- Responded to a juvenile problem at OVUHS.
- Took fingerprints for foster care.
- Spoke with a DCF worker and a juvenile in state custody regarding an ongoing harassment issue with another student at OVUHS. The parties were advised about their legal options to deal with the matter in court.

## January 16

- Conducted a welfare check

at a residence in attempt to locate a child. The residence appeared empty and no signs of anyone inside were found.

- Served a death notification on behalf of the Albany NY Police Department.

## January 17

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

## January 18

- Gathered information regarding an alleged assault that occurred in Pittsford.
- Removed a traffic hazard from the roadway on Franklin Street.

## January 19

- Received a call about an alarm coming from an unknown location in the area of North Street. Officers patrolled the area but observed neither anything suspicious nor heard an audible alarm.
- Responded to a vehicle complaint involving a truck that was operating erratically. The truck was not located upon police patrol.
- Responded to a residence for a citizen who was dealing with a mental health incident. Counseling options were offered.

# Clean heat standard is less expensive than previously thought, though not 'well suited to Vermont,' commission says

BY EMMA COTTON/  
VTDIGGER

Implementing the controversial clean heat standard could cost significantly less than others have previously suggested, the chair of the state's Public Utility Commission told lawmakers on Thursday while presenting a long-awaited report. However, Ed McNamara concluded by saying that the commission recommends that the state does not move forward with it.

Debate about the proposed program — which is designed to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions that come from heating and cooling buildings in Vermont — has almost entirely

focused on its potential cost to consumers.

In May 2023, state lawmakers overrode Gov. Phil Scott's veto of a bill that set up, but did not implement, a clean heat standard. Instead, lawmakers directed the state's Public Utility Commission to complete a detailed framework that they could analyze and decide whether to pass in the 2025 session.

Political momentum to enact a clean heat standard has swiftly waned, given that Democratic supporters lost ground in November's elections, and lawmakers have increasingly said the program would be too expensive for Vermonters. However, supporters

of the policy have long warned that skeptics should wait for the delivery of the commission's final report before jumping to conclusions about the program's viability and cost.

That 247-page report went live at 11:37 p.m. Wednesday evening, and McNamara attempted to sort through its major findings only hours later for lawmakers in a joint hearing between the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee and the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee.

The report, which McNamara said contained gaps, estimated that a clean heat standard would likely increase the cost of a gallon

of fuel oil by less than 10 cents in 2026, and that price could increase by another 45 cents by 2035. That's far less than other per-gallon cost estimates, including a \$4 per gallon estimate often cited by Scott.

Staff at the commission concluded in the report that, while the clean heat standard prescribed in the 2023 Affordable Heat Act is "theoretically workable," commissioners wrote, the body "does not believe that this program is well suited to Vermont."

The state has "a long history of implementing innovative and effective programs to reduce energy use," commissioners wrote, and it would be more effective to

build on existing programs rather than stand up an entirely new policy.

After the presentation, Sen. Anne Watson, D-Washington, said in an interview her initial reaction was relief that the cost "was not as high as what some folks had projected that it might be."

She referred to other options put forward by the commission, including increasing the existing fuel tax and funneling the additional money toward incentives for cleaner heating systems, and a potential thermal efficiency charge that could be used in a similar way.

(See *Clean heat standard*, Page 19)

# Clean heat standard

(Continued from Page 18)

“As we know, we have to find common ground amongst Republicans, Democrats and Progressives this session,” she said. “And so I think having a menu of options is a good thing for us.”

The conversation is taking place while Vermont careens toward a 2030 deadline in the state’s landmark climate law — the 2020 Global Warming Solutions Act — by which time Vermont must cut its emissions almost in half. Without a comprehensive program to reduce heating-related emissions, the state is certain to miss that deadline — which has prompted a different discussion

about moving the 2030 deadline back.

Scott has long been opposed to the clean heat standard, and without a supermajority of Democrats and Progressives, any effort to move the program forward is unlikely to succeed.

Sen. Scott Beck, R-Caledonia/Essex, the Senate minority leader who also serves on the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, told VT Digger that he won’t support “a program that imposes taxes, penalties or fees on Vermonters.”

“I am willing to support, and I have supported in the past, programs that are supported by

general fund revenues, and goals that are based on the affordable technologies that are available,” he said.

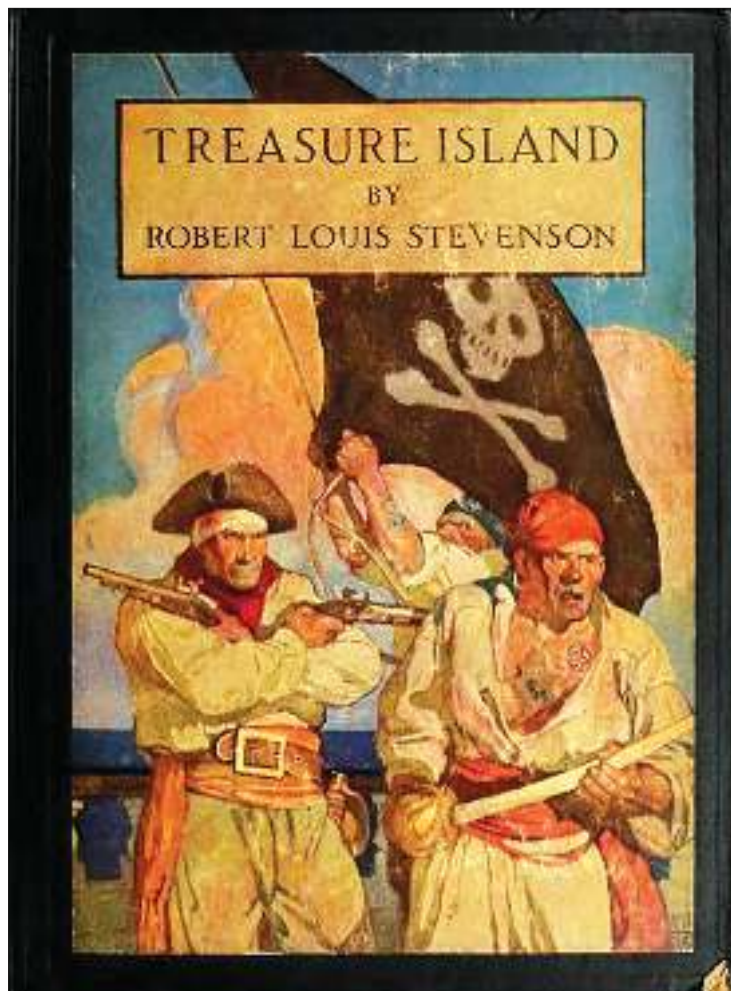
## ANOTHER COST ESTIMATE

A clean heat standard would work by establishing a credit market. It would require fuel dealers

that import heating-related fossil fuels into Vermont to offset the emissions associated with their products by earning credits. Fuel dealers could gain credits in several ways, by delivering cleaner-burning products like biofuels, for example, or by paying a fee.

Money raised from those fees would go toward switching Vermonters to efficiency measures and other heating systems that pollute less, but those who don’t make the switch could pay higher prices for heating fuels.

(See Clean heat standard, Page 21)




“TREASURE ISLAND” BY Robert Louis Stevenson is a children’s classic and the source of much of what we think of today as “pirate culture.” Without “Treasure Island,” there would surely be no “Pirates of the Caribbean.”

## Treasure Island

(Continued from Page 3)

tion for “Treasure Island” should sign up online by filling out the form at <https://forms.gle/1r4prLk6AMHDL3ka6>. All auditions will be on January 26th: Grades K - 2 are from 1:00 - 2:00; Grades 3 & 4 are from 2:30 - 3:30; Grades 5 - 8 are from 4:00 - 5:00. Once you are registered, an email reminder will be sent to those registered a few days before the auditions outlining the pro-

cess and times. Rehearsals will take place on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons at the Brandon Town Hall lower level; the first rehearsal will be on February 2nd at 2:30. Additional information is available at the Brandon Actors Troupe Facebook page, and should there be additional questions or problems with audition sign-up please contact Lennon Philo at [lennonphilovt@gmail.com](mailto:lennonphilovt@gmail.com).



## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

**LEO July 23-Aug. 23**  
Clear up some space at home so you can work more easily, Leo. Too much clutter in your home or work area can be a distraction. Disorganization can make tasks harder.

**CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
Capricorn, happy news is coming your way this week. Share the good fortune with others in your life, either a spouse or a sibling. These people can use some sunshine as well.

**VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22**  
Practice being smooth and professional in your manner, Virgo. This will be the best way to get good results at work. Others may be impressed by how you handle yourself under pressure.

**AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
Aquarius, if at first you don’t succeed, you may need to change your approach to things. Enlist the help of others to help turn your ideas into results.

**ARIES March 21-April 20**  
Express yourself with great confidence this week, Aries. You feel like you are in control and well organized. This is a recipe for success regarding the things you need to accomplish.

**PISCES Feb. 19-March 20**  
Develop a better strategy for saving money, Pisces. You need some extra funds to pay for larger expenses, and clipping coupons alone might not be the answer.

**TAURUS April 21-May 21**  
Taurus, you have a clear mind this week to put plans in place. But you might need some inspiration to get started. Avoid procrastinating.

**LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23**  
Libra, you might be very popular with superiors at work this week. Use this to your advantage to seek out a raise. Ask to head an important project.

**SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22**  
Scorpio, you can do anything you set your mind to. Share your ideas with others and determine which concepts have merit. If nothing comes up, go back to the drawing board.

**GEMINI May 22-June 21**  
There are many tasks that lie ahead this week, Gemini. It will be essential that you stay focused. One of the areas to consider is changing personal health for the better.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21**  
Others admire your ability to be a good friend, Sagittarius. This week you will showcase your compassion and humility in myriad ways. It might garner you extra attention.

**CANCER June 22-July 22**  
Cancer, you may find you’re an asset and sought-after among friends and coworkers. Use social situations to your advantage to network even more.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 24	Edith Wharton, novelist (d)
Jan. 25	Virginia Woolf, writer (d)
Jan. 26	Angela Davis, political activist (80)
Jan. 27	Elmore James, guitarist (d)
Jan. 28	Arthur Rubenstein, pianist (d)
Jan. 29	Anton Chekov, playwright (d)
Jan. 30	Christian Bale, actor (50)

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# Healthcare transformation

(Continued from Page 4)

dictable for Vermonters while providing budget predictability and flexibility to allow hospitals to transform and adapt to better serve patients.

“Many people put in a lot of work to make this a reality, and I am grateful for their efforts,” said Brendan Krause, State Director of Healthcare Reform. “This agreement is the culmi-

nation of years of work by AHS and many partners, and months of negotiations with the federal government, to create an agreement to help improve access and make care more affordable.

In particular, I would like to thank our excellent team here at AHS and the membership and staff of the Green Mountain Care Board.”



## Golf Course

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It's that time of year again! Neshobe Golf Club is excited to reintroduce our special offer: Buy a 2025 Membership now and play the remainder of 2024 for FREE!

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SUMMER CAMPERS ENJOYING themselves in the pavilion at Camp Thorpe.

Photo provided with permission

## Camp Thorpe

(Continued from Page 14)

mer and endure harsh Vermont winters. Plus, the vast grounds require constant upkeep in the summer. Students from OV Middle School have come up to campus to help out on occasion, but maintenance at camp is a hamster wheel and assistance is always welcome.

For those who'd like to help out in less physical ways, Thorpe's Board of Directors

has openings for people with backgrounds in fundraising and development, architecture and construction, land development, and/or finance. Knowledge of the local community is a plus.

Camp Thorpe has meant so much to so many campers, many of whom continue coming to camp well into adulthood. But like any organization, it will thrive only as long

as there are people committed to it. And right now, Hudson sees increased community engagement as crucial.

“The only way Camp Thorpe will survive is to stay connected to the community,” said Hudson. “We're trying to map out our path for the next 100 years.”



## Mim's Photos

**Like all things vintage?**

are on page 16!

# Clean heat standard

(Continued from Page 19)

Many have tried to estimate how much prices would increase. The Public Utility Commission's new report provides another cost estimate of the clean heat standard. However, along with past estimates that have been widely criticized, this estimate may be similarly murky.

The analysis is missing a major component, McNamara told lawmakers. It only calculates program costs — such as the cost for the government to provide incentives to buy a heat pump — not costs that individuals pay to make those upgrades. Its analysis also cuts off at 2035, meaning that the long-term cost benefits of purchasing a heat pump in 2034, for example, are not included. As a result, lawmakers still don't have a clear picture of the total costs and benefits.

Those missing pieces aside, the upshot, according to McNamara, is people who are able to switch

to less-polluting heating systems because of the clean heat standard would likely save money. The commission's rough estimate shows that a clean heat standard might cause people who don't switch to different systems to pay between 8 cents and 9 cents more for a gallon of heating fuel in 2026. By 2035, that price is estimated to increase to between 56 cents and 65 cents per gallon.

In addition to cost, McNamara said the credit market established in the clean heat standard would be tricky for Vermont to pull off alone.

More testimony came Thursday from Mia Watson, special programs manager at the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, who chaired an Equity Advisory Group that was tasked with telling lawmakers how the clean heat standard might affect low-income people and other marginalized communities.

Watson said the status quo —

in which heating oil prices have fluctuated immensely throughout the past several years — is highly inequitable and that lower income households use a greater percentage of their budget on heating costs. Lower income households, which statistically produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, are also more likely to "rely on expensive and price-volatile heating fuels," she said.

Still, the clean heat standard would pose a web of challenges for the same group, Watson said.

For example, there are no requirements or market forces that would ensure that weatherization would occur before heat pumps are installed in Vermonters' homes. Experts recommend that weatherization happens first, "so you're not blowing hot air into an unsealed space," Watson said.

Low-income Vermonters are more likely to live in older homes, which are more likely to need repairs — and those repairs

could be costly.

"Even when homes don't require repairs, full decarbonization of a home can easily cost over \$20,000 for weatherization and multi-zone heat pumps in a single family home, and that's kind of a good-case scenario," Watson said, which is more than a lot of people can afford, even with incentives. About 78,000 Vermont households are considered low-income in this context, meaning they earn at or below 60% of the median income, she said.

Rick Weston, who worked with the commission as chair of the clean heat standard Technical Advisory Group, told lawmakers that, while implementing a clean heat standard might be challenging, "that's not a reason not to do it."

"Reducing emissions and reducing costs are not alternative, mutually exclusive choices. In my view, they are the same choice," he said, pointing to volatile fuel prices.

Given that the governor does

not support the program and its prospects of political success are slim, Johana Miller, energy and climate program director with the nonprofit Vermont Natural Resources Council, said she hopes "the governor and his team do far more work to figure out, if not this, then what."

"Business as usual is not serving anyone well," she said. "We need solutions that actually help Vermonters, reduce their energy bills, access more clean, local heating resources and save money, as well as doing our part to mitigate the climate crisis."

At the conclusion of McNamara's presentation, Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, thanked him and apologized that he had to present the information so soon after the commission's comprehensive report was filed.

"It seems important to get out of this what we can, especially given all of the work you guys have done," Hardy said. "I don't want to waste your work."

*The report estimated that a clean heat standard would likely increase the cost of a gallon of fuel oil by less than 10 cents in 2026, and that price could increase by another 45 cents by 2035. That's far less than other per-gallon cost estimates, including a \$4 per gallon estimate often cited by Scott.*

## Brandon Brain Buster Answered

Answer: E

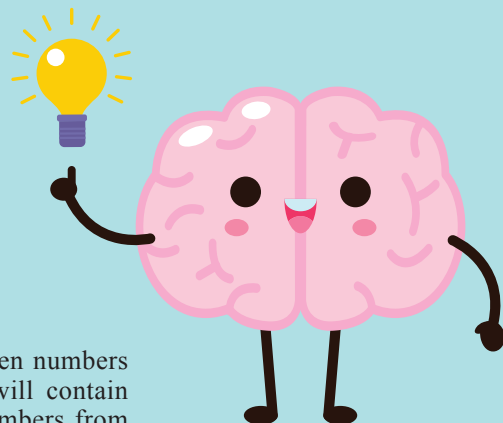
All of the even whole numbers between 2 and 100 can be expressed as  $2 \times n$ , where  $n$  is another whole number. For example,  $10 = 2 \times 5$  or  $38 = 2 \times 19$  or  $84 = 2 \times 42$ . So, if you multiply 10 by 38, for example, you're really multiplying  $(2 \times 5) \times (2 \times 19)$ . The result of that multiplication would therefore be cleanly divisible by both 5 and 19. In fact,  $10 \times 38 = 380$  and  $380/19 = 20$  and  $380/5 = 76$ .

So, when you multiply all the even whole numbers from 2 to 100, inclusive, you're multiplying all the  $n$ 's that are embedded in those numbers as well:  $2 \times 4 \times 6 \times 8 \times 10$  can be expressed as  $(2 \times 1) \times (2 \times 2) \times (2 \times 3) \times (2 \times 4) \times (2 \times 5)$ , for example. Notice that the  $n$ 's here are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...just the consecutive whole numbers starting with 1. If we continue to 100, we'd get  $2 \times 50$ . So, the result of multi-

plying all the even numbers from 2 to 100 will contain all the whole numbers from 1 to 50 as well and will thus be divisible by all of them.

This means that the result of multiplying all the even numbers from 2 to 100 will be divisible by all the odd numbers between 3 and 49 as well (since  $6 = 2 \times 3$  and  $98 = 2 \times 49$ ). So, we know option I must be true. We can eliminate choices B and D.

In order for a number to be divisible by 81, it must be divisible by  $9 \times 9$  because  $81 = 9 \times 9$ . When we multiply the even numbers from 2 to 100, we multiply 18 and 36 within that group.  $18 = 2 \times 9$  and  $36 = 4 \times 9$ , so we are multiplying  $(2 \times 9) \times (4 \times 9)$  within 2 to 100. We have two 9's in there, therefore the result will be divisible by 81. (There are other even numbers that contain 9, but we used 18 and 36 as examples). So, we know option II



must be true. We can eliminate choice A.

For a number to be divisible by 625, it must be divisible by 5 four times, since  $5 \times 5 \times 5 \times 5 = 625$ . Within the range of evens from 2 to 100, we'd need to find four even numbers that contain at least one 5. We have 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100, each of which can be expressed as 5 times some other number. If we multiply all of these together, we'll have more than enough 5's to get to 625. For example,  $10 = 2 \times 5$ .  $20 = 4 \times 5$ .  $50 = 10 \times 5$ .  $80 = 16 \times 5$ . So,  $10 \times 20 \times 50 \times 80 = (2 \times 5) \times (4 \times 5) \times (10 \times 5) \times (16 \times 5)$ . Just in those 4 numbers we have enough 5's to get to 625. Option III must be true.

The answer is E.

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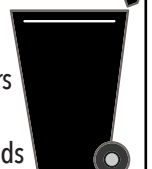
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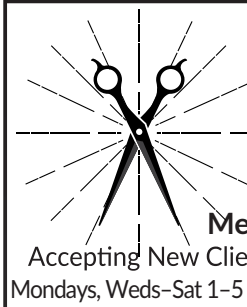
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# Vermont's civic health index shows high community engagement but room to grow

BY KLARA BAUTERS/  
VTDIGGER

Whether it's chiming in on Front Porch Forum or casting a vote on Town Meeting Day, Vermont has a rich tradition of community engagement. But just how involved is its citizenry?

On Wednesday, Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas unveiled the state's new civic health index, a tool designed to evaluate how Vermonters engage with their communities and participate in democratic processes.

As the 36th state to adopt a civic health metric, Vermont joins a growing national effort to better understand the dynamics of community involvement in the state. The report sheds light on strengths and weaknesses in volunteerism, political engagement, and social interactions, such as attending public meetings and connecting with neighbors.

The secretary of state's office, in partnership with the National Conference of Citizenship and other educational institutions, assessed how the state performs on these indicators through surveys, advisory boards, and panel discussions with residents and organizations.

The index revealed that Vermonters are deeply engaged in their communities, excelling in areas such as volunteering and charitable contributions, with 21.4% of residents reporting they volunteer frequently and 50% reporting they've donated more than \$25 to a religious or charitable organization.

The state also ranks second nationwide for public meeting attendance, with 17% of residents reporting they have ever attended a public meeting, which is significantly above the national average of 10%. It also

ranks second for collaborating with neighbors and discussing political, social or local issues.

While the report rated Vermont favorably across most indicators, Copeland Hanzas cautioned that performing well compared with other states doesn't automatically indicate the state is excelling overall.

"Vermont may rank high in so many of these indicators, relative to other parts of the country, but they may still be very low in percentage of people who actually engage in whatever that activity that question was based on," Copeland Hanzas said. The index found that 1 in 5 Vermont residents have felt uncomfortable or out of place in their community.

"The best way to tackle that is to be very mindful about that while talking about the report and what's in the report and making sure that we are adapting our language when we go to talk to folks who are maybe among that 22%," she said.

According to Copeland Hanzas, one of the more concerning findings was Vermont's low level of youth engagement in voter registration. Only 59% of young people indicated they expect to register to vote when they become eligible.

"I think it's an indication of a gap or lack in civics education in schools," Copeland Hanzas said. "If your parents didn't get a good civics education, they're not going to talk to you about how the government works and the importance of voting and that compounds itself over generations."

Copeland Hanzas is hosting a series of community conversations to gather feedback on the findings. They are taking place through the end of February in South Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Barre and Rutland. During these

events, attendees will have the opportunity to vote on a list of proposed next step recommendations to help prioritize actions. The first session took place Wednesday at Brattleboro's Brooks Memorial Library.

"I was really pleased to see

that the top vote-getter of all of the next step recommendations is more community conversations," Copeland Hanzas said. "People are yearning for ways to connect across their community, whether that's meeting your neighbors or just even connect-

ing with people who you may have nothing in common with."

Copeland Hanzas also encouraged Vermonters to reach out if they would like to have a conversation about the report but don't see a meeting in their community.

## Paid Steward Position Open at Brandon Museum

The Brandon Museum is hiring a Steward to begin work in February or March of 2025. The Museum helps to interpret Brandon's unique history by bringing the past to life via exhibits, education, events, and the preservation of Stephen A. Douglas birthplace and artifacts.

Candidates should have excellent communication and organizational skills, the ability to recruit supporters and volunteers, be comfortable interacting across public and social situations, be effective with service vendors, and collaborate successfully with other organizations. The Steward is the welcoming, effective, and enthusiastic public face of the Museum.

Duties: Museum/grounds maintenance; recruitment/support of the volunteer team; reporting to the board of directors via written monthly report and board meetings; maximizing knowledge of

exhibits to educate others; working with the board on new initiatives and program development; managing the Visitor Center in the building and answering questions about the area; cleaning the Museum; and other tasks as necessary. Building and grounds maintenance/repair is a mix of tasks the Steward is able to perform and using contractors.

Workload will average 18 hrs/month, with more in the summer and fewer in the winter.

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*The state also ranks second nationwide for public meeting attendance, with 17% of residents reporting they have ever attended a public meeting, which is significantly above the national average of 10%.*

## Classifieds

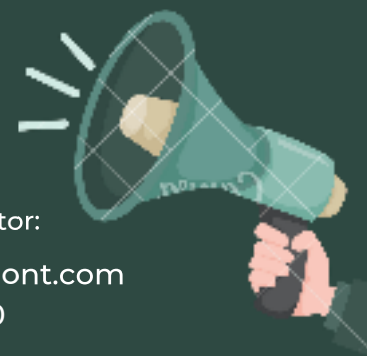
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# OVUU

(Continued from Page 9)

with additional work that cuts into the time they can spend on their core responsibilities.

“We wanted a level-service budget,” said Sanchez. “Losing this position means we won’t have that.”

And despite calls for administrative cuts, RNESU will be creating a new position at the admin level: Data Manager. According to Sanchez and Fleming, the position is necessary because the collection of student data across the district had been done idiosyncratically, with each school keeping records in slightly different ways. This made it difficult, they said, to assess trends across the district, since it wasn’t always clear how to compare, say, absences at Neshobe with those at Lothrop and OCA.

“We wanted to be sure we weren’t missing data,” said Fleming.

Additionally, the sheer amount of academic data that must be transmitted to various state agencies requires that someone keep track of it in a consistent, thorough way, they

said.

The position hasn’t yet been posted, but Sanchez said the salary would be around \$80K/year based on experience. This would be a full-time, year-round position that would continue over summers when the schools are closed.

Another factor that played heavily in last year’s budget challenges was the District’s Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), a device by which the state measures the gap between the assessed value of a community’s Grand List and that Grand List’s “fair market value.” Vermont bases its property tax on the assessed value of real estate and when that assessed value dips below the fair mar-

ket value (as determined by the average sales price for the last 3 years), the state brings the two figures in line by increasing the tax rate to reflect the current value of real estate.

For example, if the average assessed value of a home in Town X is \$150,000 but the average sales price for the past three years is \$200,000, then the CLA for Town X would be 75% because the average assessed value is 75% of the average fair market value.

The CLA for towns within OVUU has been low since the pandemic, because property values have spiked while towns have been slow to re-appraise their Grand Lists.

With the exception of Whit-

ing, all of OVUU’s constituent towns saw their respective CLAs drop as the average sales prices for the past three years continued to rise.

For Brandon, the drop in CLA means that taxpayers who do not receive income-sensitivity subsidies from the state will pay an extra \$0.01 per \$100 in assessed property value. This means that a home assessed at \$100,000 will pay an extra \$10 per year in taxes. A Brandon home assessed at \$367,000 will pay an extra \$36.70 per year.

For Pittsford, that figure is \$0.09 per \$100 in assessed property value. So, a Pittsford home assessed at \$100,000 will pay an additional \$90 per year. A Pittsford home assessed at \$367,000 will pay an additional \$330.30 per year.

For Leicester, the figure is \$0.12 per \$100 in assessed property value.

For Sudbury, the figure is \$0.00 (no change) per \$100 in assessed property value.

For Goshen, the figure is \$0.19 per \$100 in assessed property value.

For Whiting, the figure is

-\$0.07 per \$100 in assessed property value. This is because the average sales price in Whiting for the past 3 years dropped in comparison to that average last year. So, a Whiting home assessed at \$100,000 this year will pay \$70 less this year. A Whiting home assessed at \$367,000 will pay \$256.90 less in taxes this year.

To determine how the CLA affects your taxes, divide the assessed value of your home by 100 and multiply that result by the rate for your town as illustrated above. But keep in mind that the majority of homeowners in the district will end up paying a lesser amount once income sensitivity is taken into account: the state reduces property-tax liability by a significant amount for households whose total income is less than \$128,000 per year.

“The Boards worked hard and made difficult decisions this year,” said Ms. Fleming. “We’ve arrived at a pretty fair budget.”

*New RNESU Superintendent Rene Sanchez, who was just hired on a permanent basis after six months as Interim Superintendent, has been resistant to major cuts at the administrative level, defending those positions as necessary to the smooth functioning of the district.*

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