

# The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 30, No.12

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

\$1



## AHOY!

Local youth in the Brandon Actors Troupe will perform *Treasure Island* this Friday and Saturday at Otter Valley. **PG. 2**



## CHAMBER AWARD

The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the many efforts of artist Warren Kimble in promoting Brandon. **PG. 3**



## TULIP TIME

Lyn Desmarais shares the exotic history of this common spring flower. **PG. 15**



## LIFE BEFORE THE WAR

The Maclure Library is featuring an exhibit of Pittsford artists, and mother-daughter duo, Martha Wood Belcher and Hilda Belcher who captured scenes of Europe just before WWI. **PG. 19**

## Pittsford SB addresses public nudity, zoning, and covered bridges

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Selectboard convened for its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 19.

After Interim Town Manager Ann Reed's report, which is printed in full in this issue, the Board discussed the need to keep the Police Department's cruisers clean, as residents had noticed that some of the vehicles had been dirty lately. The Board discussed allowing officers to pay for car washes with the same cards they use to refuel.

The Board unanimously ap-

proved the Rutland County Humane Society Coin Drop on Saturday, October 11. The Board had previously tabled the request in order to secure from RCHS assurances that the drop would be conducted safely.

## ZONING

Zoning Administrator Jeff Biasuzzi requested that the Board appoint an alternate for his position because he also works as a real estate agent and might on occasion have a conflict of interest between his two roles. He told the Board that he's only needed to recuse him-

(See Pittsford SB, Page 3)

## Former Brandon & Pittsford TM David Atherton will be Killington's new TM

BY POLLY MIKULA/MOUNTAIN TIMES

KILLINGTON—David Atherton will be Killington's new town manager, the Killington Selectboard announced at a special meeting Tuesday, March 18. The 4:30 p.m. meeting took only 14 minutes as the confirmation of Atherton new town manager and his contract signing was the only thing on the agenda.

Chair of the Selectboard Jim Haff read the contract aloud in full before Ricky Bowen made the motion to approve the contract. All were in favor.

Atherton has most recently worked as town manager of Pittsford (February 2023 to February 2025) and prior to that he was the town manager for Brandon for

nearly eight years. In Brandon he oversaw the Segment 6 project, a major overhaul of the road and waterlines through downtown.

Atherton said he enjoys working on large municipal infrastructure projects.

"I'm really project based," he said in an interview Tuesday. "I love to see projects through from start to finish and although I'm coming into the Killington project a bit after the start, I'm excited to see it through to completion."

"I can remember in my title searcher days, there was talk about things going on up there, and the lack of water was what was really holding a lot of them back. So it's pretty cool that it's finally happening. It's just gonna do so much for

(See David Atherton, Page 11)



DAVID ATHERTON



## Tap dance!

IT'S SUGARING TIME! Brandon Selectboard member Cecil Reniche-Smith (left) learned how to tap a maple from Bob Baird (right) during an open house at Baird Farm in Chittenden on Saturday. See more photos on page 9.

## Brandon SB talks ethics complaint, police contract, and Halfoween

BY STEVEN JUPITER

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

## Town Manager report

After Town Manager Seth Hopkins delivered his written report, which is reprinted in full in this issue, he added that the town's attorney had drafted a letter warning Brandon residents who had serious tax delinquencies that their homes would be subject to forced sale if arrangements were not made to pay the arrears.

Board member Brian

Coolidge asked who the town's attorney was, and Mr. Hopkins identified Jim Carroll of Carroll, Boe, & Kite in Middlebury.

In response to concerns from several attendees about the expense of the attorney, Mr. Hopkins clarified that Mr. Carroll is not the town's staff attorney and is not on retainer. Instead, he is an independent attorney that the town uses when it cannot get the help it needs from the attorneys available through the town's membership in the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

(See Brandon SB, Page 4)



Theater

‘Treasure Island’ to be presented by the Brandon Actors Troupe—Youth Company—at Otter Valley this weekend

BY MITCHELL PEARL

Brandon Actors Troupe will be presenting “Treasure Island” on Friday evening, March 28 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday afternoon, March 29, at 2 p.m. on the Otter Valley High School stage. The performance features area children up to the eighth grade and is directed by Philo and Hayden Hull. The theatrical work done by older students up to the grade 12 level also plays the “na-“Skeleton Island” is an adaptation 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 tropi-

*They see this production as an opportunity for these younger students to experience and learn theatre arts, as these opportunities have been sparse for younger children since the COVID pandemic.*



BRANDON ACTORS TROUPE rehearsing “Treasure Island,” which will play at Otter Valley on Friday at 7 and on Saturday at 2. The book on which the play is based introduced many of the things we now associate with pirates: eye patches, peg legs, parrots, X marks the spot... Photos by Mitchell Pearl



PHOTO BY MITCHELL Pearl

‘Queens’ makes Theater Festival!

The Otter Valley Walking Stick Theatre Company’s production of “Queens” has advanced to the Vermont State Drama Festival, which will be held at BFA St. Albans on April 11 and 12. Pictured here is Elyse Singh, as Jane Seymour, in a dramatic scene where she dies in childbirth, surrounded by the ladies-in-waiting. Performance schedules at the State festival TBA. Congrats to all involved!

cal islands, treasure maps marked with an “X,” and one-legged seamen with parrots perched on their shoulders—all of which are featured in the play. ArtReach Children’s Theatre now offers its scripts and adaptations to youth theatre groups worldwide. This “Treasure Island” play is not well known but offers these young actors the opportunity to play the pirates and other exciting characters in this dramatic tale. Directors Lennon Philo and Hayden Hull have been working with the students in rehearsal since February. They see this production as an opportunity for these younger students to experience and learn theatre arts, as these opportunities have been sparse for (See ‘Treasure Island’, Page 6)

B.A.T. YOUTH PRESENTS  
TREASURE ISLAND

SHOW DATES:  
FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 PM  
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2:00 PM

LOCATION:  
OTTER VALLEY UNION SCHOOL  
2997 FRANKLIN STREET  
BRANDON, VT 05733

TICKETS:  
FREE WILL DONATION AT THE DOOR

# Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

self once in the 9 or 10 years that he's been Pittsford's Zoning Administrator.

Though Ms. Reed was open to the idea of becoming the alternate, the Board declined to appoint anyone that night, opting instead to wait until they had an opportunity to discuss the position with members of the Zoning Board and the Planning Commission who might be interested.

However, the Board did appoint Jim Lacoille to a vacancy on the Zoning Board.

## ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN

The Board agreed to ask the Planning Commission to set two dates for public hearings on the town's Enhanced Energy Plan, which forms part of Pittsford's Town Plan and is required for eligibility for certain grants that the town currently has open.

Ms. Reed noted that the Planning Commission had completed a draft of the plan and was expected to forward it to the Selectboard for review. Board Chair Alicia Malay noted that the plan was over a year behind schedule, but Ms. Reed assured the Board that the plan could be finished in time to maintain eligibility for the grants.

## INCREASING ATTENDANCE AT TOWN MEETING

In response to concerns that attendance at Town Meeting is low—roughly 60 people attended this year's meeting—the Board has been brainstorming ways to draw more people. Attendance is especially important in Pittsford, as the budget is approved through a floor vote and not by ballot.

Suggestions included holding a pie social, offering child-care services, and holding the meeting on the weekend instead of on Monday night.

It was also suggested that the Board hold an informational meeting in October or November to solicit input from the community on the development of the town budget.

## NEW BODY AND CRUISER CAMERAS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Reed alerted the Board to the need for new body and cruiser cameras for town police. The department's cameras are failing, she said. Ms. Reed also noted that replacements would be expensive and that she was seeking grants to cover the cost.

Police cameras are required

by the state Department of Public Safety. They can aid the public in holding law enforcement accountable and also help shield the town from false allegations of wrongdoing.

Ms. Reed did not have any specific quotes on hand for the equipment.

## PUBLIC NUDITY ORDINANCE

Under current Vermont law, people can be naked in public as long as they were naked when they left their homes. In other words, public nudity is permitted but public disrobing is not. However, municipalities are free to place additional restrictions on public nudity or ban it altogether.

Pittsford has recently seen instances of public nudity that have raised concerns among citizens. At least two residents

have been seen naked in public, sometimes in view of children. The issue received attention in online forums and prompted the Board to address it.

The Board agreed that a more stringent standard was needed in Pittsford and Ms. Reed was tasked with drafting a proposed ordinance. Ms. Reed identified Brattleboro's ordinance as a potential model. She agreed to draft a proposal for the Board's review. She also asked concerned members of the community who want to offer input to contact her.

## COVERED BRIDGE WEEK

In recognition of Pittsford's wealth of covered bridges—among the greatest in the state—the Board discussed ways to draw visitors to town for Covered Bridge Week

(See Pittsford SB, Page 8)



**RENOWNED FOLK ARTIST Warren Kimble received the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce's President's Award on Saturday, March 8. Mr. Kimble has been at the center of Brandon's arts community for decades and was one of the main drivers behind Brandon's reputation as a creative town. Here, Chamber President Nancy Spaulding-Ness presents the award to Mr. Kimble.**

# Chamber of Commerce annual dinner and President's Award

**BY BERNIE CARR,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BRANDON AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner meeting at the Neshobe Golf Club on Saturday, March 8. We said goodbye to four tremendously hardworking directors on our board. They devoted many hours of their time and brain power over the past six years, assisting with the good works that we continue to do, helping our businesses succeed through these tough times. Our deepest thanks go out to Jack Schneider, Russ McColman, Joan Rowe, and Gary Marini. We also welcomed three new faces onto the board: Jordan Bresette of New England Woodcraft, Tricia Welch, & Dennis Marden, individual members. And returning for another tour of duty, after a year retirement, is another individual member, Pat Wood. Officers for our group are Pat Wood-President, Lynn Wilson-Vice President, Laurie Bertrand-Treasurer and Claire Sinozich-Clerk.

The Chamber thanks our outgoing president Nancy Spaulding-Ness for her hard work over the

past year. She continues to bring a strong energy to the Chamber's many activities. Nancy presented the annual Chamber President's Award, which goes to an individual or business who continues to work to make Brandon a better place to live, work and play. Her choice was famed folk artist Warren Kimble. Turning a very young 90 this year, Warren has worked tirelessly for the past 50 years to promote Brandon and especially his beloved Brandon Independence Day parade. He played a crucial role in establishing the very successful Brandon Artist Guild and continues to champion local artists in their efforts to succeed in their endeavors.

Nancy stated in her speech, "Warren brings people together and has always believed in Brandon and the community he has helped build. He is an idea man and an artist whose contributions to Brandon will be recognized for years to come. This is why I selected him to receive the BACC President's award."

This was an excellent choice, and our congratulations and thanks go out to Warren.

## Spotlight On Business NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT



In 1961, in a one-car garage in Vermont, Harmon and Maxine Thurston had a vision; a vision that started with a footstool. Now, sixty-four years later and an employee-owned business, New England Woodcraft continues to be a leading custom furniture manufacturer

providing services to Universities, Colleges and Military installations worldwide. Nestled in Forest Dale, in a vast facility where you won't see any time clocks, you'll find over 120 dedicated and hardworking employees, some of whom are the original N.E.W employees.

## Open house for our NEW STUDIO CLASS SPACE!

**Try needle felting-  
Make a wool pin to take home!  
Samples and more!**

**Saturday, March 29th  
10 am -4 pm**



**Blooming Bungalow**

22 Center St. Brandon, VT

# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)

According to Mr. Hopkins, the town has used Mr. Carroll to cure defective deeds and handle closings on real estate, such as the parcel recently purchased on Seminary Hill.

Board Vice-Chair Cecil Reniche-Smith, herself a retired attorney, added that the Select-board or other town officials could use the town's attorney at the town's expense only if the matter related to town business.

Board Chair Doug Bailey noted that the town's revenues were outpacing predictions (at 107% of projections) and expenses were in line with expectations (at 81% with the year 75% complete).

Community Development report

Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore delivered his Community Development report, which is reprinted in full in this issue.

Mr. Moore introduced Robin Douglas, the new part-time Assistant to the Rec. Director, to the community.

"She's already crushing it," said Moore.

Ethics complaint

The Board continued its discussion of an ethics complaint submitted by a Brandon resident against two elected officials. The Board has not made public the name of the complainant, the names of the officials, or the specific allegation contained in the complaint. The Board has said, though, that the complaint was not lodged against any of the Board's own members.

However, numerous attendees at the meeting questioned the Board about the operations of the Trustees of Public Funds (TPF), which is composed of three independently elected officials (currently Tanner Romano, Courtney Satz, and

Laura Miner) and which disburses grants from a fund established by Brandon resident Shirley Farr after her death in the 1950s.

One of Brandon's wealthiest residents at the time (her home is now the Lilac Inn on Park Street), Ms. Farr left 2/20 (or 10%) of her estate for sewage, sanitation, spraying of trees, or "the general improvement of the village in ways not sufficiently provided for by taxation."

Brandon was mandated by state law to create a 3-person board of trustees (now TPF) to manage the bequest, which was originally around \$200K and has grown through investment to over \$800K. According to TPF member Courtney Satz, the trustees no longer focus primarily on sanitation and sewage but rather seek to "disburse funds to a broad range of community improvements."

Recent TPF grants have gone to the Brandon Free Public Library, the Brandon Museum, the Forestdale Cemetery Association, the Brandon Toy Project, the OV Football Club, and The Reporter, for example.

The attendees' questions concerned a particular pledge of \$20,000 to the Otter Valley Activities Association in March of 2023. The grant was submitted by Mike Howe and Jodie Keith and would be used for a study to determine the feasibility of a new community center that later came to be known as the Valley Community Center (VCC).

VCC was the subject of some controversy earlier this year when it sought permission from the Otter Valley Unified Union school board (OVUU) to site its proposed building on land owned by the school district. The total cost of the project (See Brandon SB, Page 5)



**'the wave of the bird is the wing'**

THE MALE EASTERN bluebird is like a piece of sky on wings.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums Green Mountain National Forest to Begin Prescribed Fires

The Green Mountain National Forest is planning prescribed fire operations beginning in April and continuing in May. We estimate this work to continue through the spring as weather conditions allow. We use prescribed fires to help reduce overgrown vegetation to help protect local communities, infrastructure and natural resources from wildfires.

Prescribed fires planned for the area include:

- Approximately 240 Acres on the Rochester / Middlebury Ranger district in Addison and Rutland counties.
- Approximately 425 Acres on the Manchester Ranger District in the counties of Rutland, Bennington, and Windsor.

Those areas may close to the public for several days for public safety. Watch for warning signs along roads near all prescribed fire areas before and

during burns.

Residents may experience smoke during the prescribed burns. Go to <https://fire.airnow.gov/> to find more detailed information about air quality. When driving, slow down and turn on your headlights when you encounter smoke on the road.

We will evaluate weather conditions in the hours before a burn begins. If conditions warrant, scheduled prescribed fire activities may be canceled.

Stay informed about the scheduled prescribed fires through the forest website, social media channels, and InciWeb, the interagency incident information system. We will notify county emergency management officials when burning begins.

About the Forest Service: The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years

brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology— and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

## The REPORTER

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A community supported newspaper

The Reporter is a 501c3 nonprofit, community-supported newspaper managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary; Mitchell Pearl; Shelly Williams.

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](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com), [ads@brandonreporter.com](mailto:ads@brandonreporter.com)

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by Reporter News Media Corp., Brandon VT.  
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$50.00, SENIORS \$45 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$60.00, SENIORS \$55  
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# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 4)

was estimated to be more than \$12 million, much of which would be obtained from taxpayers in the towns that agreed to contribute to and maintain the facility.

A public vote was held at OVUU's annual meeting in February to determine whether to convey the land to VCC. Though attendance at these meetings is usually slight, an online campaign to defeat the proposal drew hundreds to the meeting and the proposal was shot down.

However, accusations of impropriety had already begun to surface online and even at the meeting, where attendees accused members of VCC of trying to mislead the community for personal gain. The member of VCC that was present at the OVUU meeting was Tanner Romano, who is also one of the Trustees of Public Funds. In addition to his work with TPF and VCC, Mr. Romano is a principal in Naylor & Breen, a large and successful construction company based in Brandon.

Though the Selectboard has not revealed any details of the ethics complaint, it became apparent at Monday's meeting that some Brandon residents viewed Mr. Romano's involvement with both VCC and TPF as a conflict of interest and a violation of the state's new ethics code.

The concern among attendees seemed to be that TPF had pledged \$20,000 to OVAA to determine the feasibility of what later turned out to be a \$12-million project from which Naylor & Breen could potentially profit if it won the bid to construct VCC.

Reached for comment on Tuesday morning, TPF members Courtney Satz and Laura Miner stated that they did not see the OVAA request as involving Mr. Romano at that point and that they had given grants to OVAA for other projects in the past. They did not recall Mr. Romano specifically alerting them to his involvement with the OVAA project that eventually became VCC.

They also stated that they had already provided information about the OVAA grant to several parties who had inquired about it, including Brandon Town Clerk Sue Gage, who had herself received inquiries about the circumstances of the grant.

In a separate conversation also on Tuesday morning, Mr. Romano acknowledged that he was already involved with

OVAA when it submitted its funding request to TPF and that the responsibility lay with him if Ms. Satz and Ms. Miner had been unaware. But he also stated that it was simply a feasibility study at that point and that if the project had progressed to execution, he would have recused himself from any request to TPF for additional funds.

Mr. Romano referred to a request from the Brandon Library for funds to begin its recent renovation, noting that he'd recused himself from that decision because he knew that Naylor & Breen would likely be one of the bidders on the project. Naylor & Breen did end up winning that bid.

According to Ms. Satz and Ms. Miner, only \$10,000 of the \$20,000 pledge has been disbursed to OVAA because the project stalled after the failed OVUU vote. Mr. Romano stated that none of that \$10K was paid to Naylor & Breen.

Despite very direct questions about and even specific accusations toward TPF, the Selectboard fielded attendees' questions about TPF's operations without acknowledging or denying that the subject of the ethics complaint was TPF or Mr. Romano.

The Board also noted that, aside from themselves, elected town officials are not under the Board's control and that it was unclear to them what remedy they would have if they were to find that a non-Selectboard elected official had violated the ethics law. They asked the public for patience while it tried to navigate this new procedure.

In executive session after the public meeting, the Board appointed Ms. Reniche-Smith and Board member Jeff Haylon to investigate the complaint.

Appointment to Energy Committee

The Board unanimously appointed Serge Cotnoir to fill the vacancy on the Brandon Energy Committee left by Jeff Haylon when he stepped down to take his seat on the Selectboard.

Mr. Cotnoir has volunteered with the Energy Committee and also serves on the Board of the Brandon Senior Center.

America's 250th anniversary committee

The Board unanimously appointed Dr. Kevin Thornton, Ellen Knapp, and Sophie Moore as the first three members of a committee tasked with organizing events for America's 250th birthday in 2026. Dr. Thornton is a historian, formerly of

(See Brandon SB, Page 6)



## Thanks to Brandon's Highway Crew!

Following last weekend's windstorms, a Forest Dale homeowner called the town office to say she had been out inspecting the damage from a large limb that the wind knocked down. She waved at a Town truck approaching, and a crew member stopped to speak with her. Within very short order, the other crew members arrived and the roadway and adjacent property were cleared

and the debris removed. The homeowner called simply to express her appreciation for the job well done.

Brandon is benefiting from a really outstanding Highway crew who are responsive and happy to do the hard work. Pictured (L-R) are Brian Kilpeck, Jeremy Disorda (Highway Division Chief), and Winston Forbes. (Not in photo: Kyle Leedom.)

They are standing in front of the replacement plow truck that was delivered ahead of this winter season and paid for using 1% local option tax funds rather than property taxes.

*This was submitted to us by Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins*

## Community Forums continued Vermont Woodlands Association announces annual conference

Montpelier.—The Vermont Woodlands Association (VWA) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting its annual Vermont Woodlands Conference on April 12, 2025 at Vermont State University in Randolph, Vermont. This year's conference theme is "A Century and Beyond of Woodland Stewardship," celebrating Vermont Woodlands Association's 110-year legacy of promoting healthy, thriving forests, educational programs and resources for woodland property owners in the state.

The event brings together landowners, forestry professionals, and forest stewards for educational sessions, policy updates, hands-on resources, and meaningful conversations. Whether you're a seasoned

steward or just starting out, you'll leave with new knowledge, useful resources, and connections to support each participant's journey in woodland stewardship.

The conference will feature a keynote address by renowned ecologist and author, Liz Thompson titled "A Thing is Right..." Letting Nature Lead the Way." Drawing inspiration from Aldo Leopold's timeless words, Thompson will explore the importance of letting nature lead the way, through informed, ecologically sound forest management. The keynote presentation will be followed by a presentation from Alan Calfee, a retired consulting forester, reflecting on his long career working with landowners to care for Vermont's forests.

The conference will also feature state and federal policy updates, the annual VWA business meeting, and afternoon breakout sessions on forest stewardship, which will explore a variety of themes, including:

- Creating Habitat for Song Birds
- Managing Invasive Plants and Forest Pests
- Resources and Apps for Forest Landowners
- Forest Farming 101: Cultivating Non-Timber Forest Product
- And a new family friendly offering with VT Forest, Parks and Recreation's conservation educator Rebecca Roy

This event is open to landowners, forestry professionals, loggers, policy makers, students and anyone (See Woodlands conference, Page 11)

## Correction

Rep. Todd Nielsen’s Legislative Report was submitted for last week’s issue but was inadvertently omitted. We are printing it here this week. We apologize to Rep. Nielsen and to our readers for the confusion and inconvenience.



## Legislative Report

BY TODD NIELSEN

### Getting to work in Montpelier

On the 14th day of March 2025, Governor Scott informed the House of Representatives that he vetoed H. 141, an act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

From the Governor’s veto letter: For weeks, I have been clear that I do not support H.141 as passed by the House or the Senate for many reasons including: 1. Given growing uncertainty around federal funding and the potential for significant funding cuts to critical programs, spending additional general funds in the budget adjustment for expenses that are not time sensitive is irresponsible. These new spending proposals should be considered as part of the FY26 budget to be weighed against other initiatives that may have been reduced due to federal budget cuts. 2. Expanding the free “hotel/motel program,” moves us backwards, reversing important progress made towards reforming this failed program, agreed upon by the Administration and Legislature just last year. After nearly five years of experience, we know this approach is far too expensive and fails our constituents, communities and taxpayers. I proposed a compromise path to the Committee of Conference which would

have moved these spending and policy decisions to the FY26 budget while providing \$2.1 million in flexible grants to municipalities to address needs in their communities during April, May and June. My compromise proposal protects the most vulnerable, develops emergency shelter capacity, adheres to the agreement from the last session, and limits unnecessary appropriations while we monitor federal action. This compromise proposal, or something similar, remains on the table. For these reasons, I’m vetoing H.141 pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution. It’s my hope the Legislature will reconsider and send me a budget adjustment I can agree to.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives: That the General Assembly recognizes July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designates July 18, 2025 as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day, and be it further

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives: That the General Assembly recognizes March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont, and be it further.

Bills passed in the House:

H. 96 House bill, entitled An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need.

H. 50 entitled An act relating to identifying State real property suitable for conversion into affordable housing

H. 2 entitled An act relating to increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings

H. 21 entitled An act relating to service of writs of possession

H. 105 entitled An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program

H. 1 entitled An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission

H. 206 entitled An act relating to the Uniform Commercial Code

H. 238 entitled An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

I am available Sundays 12:30 pm to 2 pm at United Methodist Church Food Shelf for discussions.

Representative Todd Nielsen  
toddnielsenforvthouse@gmail.com



CO-DIRECTOR LENNON PHILO instructs the cast of “Treasure Island.”

## ‘Treasure Island’

(Continued from Page 2)  
younger children since the COVID pandemic. Both Lennon and Hayden grew up in the area and benefitted from local youth theatre programs. Both were active in Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theatre Program and have continued their involvement in the theatre arts after graduation.

This is a family-friendly performance which will run just about an hour. Admission

is by goodwill donation at the door, which will support future performances by the Brandon Actors Troupe. The directors hope that this will be the start of many more youth productions in Brandon. The Brandon Actors Troupe is also planning for an adult community theatre production in the early fall, which will be announced soon.

## Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 5)  
UVM, who has done extensive research on local history. Ms. Knapp has taught kindergarten at Neshobe for many years and is a long-time organizer of the “flower girls” ceremony on Memorial Day. Ms. Moore is a senior at Otter Valley and planning to study history in college, with the goal of becoming a teacher.

Dr. Thornton told the Board that Brandon’s history offers unique opportunities for the 250th birthday celebrations, given the town’s long involvement with the anti-slavery movement and its importance in the development of clean energy. Thomas Davenport received the first U.S. patent for an electric motor that he invented in Forest Dale in the 1830s.

Halfoween  
The Board chose to table a request from Colleen Wright

Events for a permit to close Park Street for a “Witches’ Walk” on Friday, May 2 from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The event would be in celebration of “Halfoween,” a holiday meant to mark the halfway point between consecutive Halloweens and give Brandon residents an excuse to have fun.

The proposal was met with some resistance because Park Street is closed several times a year already and the closures cause problems for traffic and for the police and fire departments.

An attendee suggested that the event could use the sidewalks on Park Street instead of the roadway itself. The Board was receptive to the idea and agreed to hold off on a decision pending further conversation with the sponsoring parties. The Brandon Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown (See Brandon SB, Page 8)



## BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • [www.barnardfuneralhome.com](http://www.barnardfuneralhome.com)


(802) 483-2811



Christopher Book/Director

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

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory




# March 30 **DOCTORS' DAY**



Check out more artwork  
from local schools online

*Thank you for your courage & compassion.*  
**You are the ♥ of our community.**

 **Rutland Regional Medical Center**  
www.RRMC.org | 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT | 802.775.7111  
**Healthy You. Healthy Together.**

# Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 3)

from August 2 to August 9. It was suggested that each of the town's bridges be hung with a banner and that a banner be placed somewhere prominent, such as the Town Green on Route 7. The beginning of that week, August 2, is also Pittsford Day and the coincidence could be exploited.

Ms. Malay is a member of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society and former Pittsford State Rep. Butch Shaw, who was in attendance, also expressed enthusiasm for the structures.

"Our bridges are a state treasure," said Shaw. Mr. Shaw also urged the Board to devote more attention specifically to

Hammond bridge.

Board Vice-Chair David Mills suggested devising a QR code that would link visitors to maps of and information about Pittsford covered bridges.

**TOWN AUDIT**


The Board received the results of the audit of its 2023-24 fiscal year, conducted by RHR Smith & Company of Buxton, Maine. Problems that had been identified in last year's audit were not flagged this year, though the town continued to deal with residents occasionally holding town-issued checks too long.

"Overall, it looked good," said Ms. Reed.

# Pittsford Town Manager's report, week of March 19

- Interim Town Manager Ann Reed reported the following:
- Attended the Winter Vermont Government Finance Officers Association. The meeting topics were on overtime and labor costs
  - Attended the cybersecurity training on Monday, February 24, 2025 at Hub Works in Rutland. The work that is currently being done by Silloway is making the system tighter on the security needed and there is a possibility of additional training options for staff.
  - Attended the Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing and meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025 to advise them of the mandatory ethics training.
  - Attended the Tri Town Trails meeting with Town Managers from Proctor and West Rutland. Steffanie Bourque from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission was also in attendance. The finalization of plans are done with the town managers involved reaching out to the landowners for discussions. The Pittsford Village Farm has already been contacted about a trail they have constructed from Town Hill to Depot Hill Road.
  - Attended the Planning Commission hearing and meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025. They were finalizing the draft of the Enhanced Energy Plan. This should be coming to the Select Board in the near future for feedback, then the public hearings can be scheduled. The Planning Commission was also advised about the mandatory ethics training.
  - Met with Otter Creek Engineering, Markowski Excavating and Shawn Hendee with regard to the Plains Road project, that has been suspended due to the deep frost.
  - Met with Otter Creek Engineering and Shawn Hendee with regard to the outstanding projects and status updates.
  - Working with Proctor Gas for the First Response building, which has a heating issue. A big thank you to Shawn Hendee and Chad Eugair for their assistance with electric heaters to help heat the building while Proctor Gas is awaiting parts. Also a thank you to Bob Foley who was able to add additional heating sources when the temperatures dropped overnights.
  - Water shut off notices have gone out to 47 residents. Residents are urged to take advantage of the payment agreement forms.
  - Ms. Reed will be out of the office on March 11, 2025.
  - The Staff Meetings will be happening on a regular basis again. The next one will be held on March 13, 2025 at 11:30 AM and members of the Select Board are invited to attend.
  - The Police Department monthly recap was included in the packets for review and the number of calls has nearly doubled compared to the same timeframe as last year.

M. Winslow inquired the heating situation at the First Response building. Ms. Reed explained that there was no heat and Proctor Gas, who supplies the town buildings with propane, was called and determined that the heating unit was very old and it was difficult to locate parts to make the repair. The unit was determined to be part of the original building. D. Adams recommended that contact be made to The Gas Guys for their thoughts. M. Winslow recommended obtaining 1 or 2 more quotes from qualified repair companies. Chair Malay inquired the information status regarding the Tri-Town Trails. Mis. Reed explained that this information will be coming before the Select Board in the near future.



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**Price:**  
\$34/hour except Wed–Fri 10–4 is \$25/hr

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# Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 6)

Brandon Alliance are also offering some support for the event.

**NEW CONTRACT WITH POLICE UNION**

The Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Agreement amending the town's contract with the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. ("the Police Union"). The town had sought to change the terms of the contract in order to make the Brandon Police Department (BPD) more attractive to potential staff.

First, the new contract increases the entry-level hourly wage for officers at BPD from \$26.91 to \$34, making Brandon more competitive with larger and better-funded departments.

Second, BPD will now give credit to new BPD officers for service performed in other departments.

This new contract will be valid through June

30, 2028.

In response to a question from the room, Mr. Hopkins said that officers who recently left BPD would be informed of the new contract and informed they'd be welcomed to return. Mr. Bailey said he'd reached out directly to one of the officers but had gotten no response.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

An attendee informed the community of a "Hands Off" event in Central Park on April 5, from 12 to 2. The event is organized by Indivisible Brandon, a "pro-democracy" organization that opposes the actions of President Trump's administration. Anyone interested in more information can go to indivisible.org.

**WARRANT**

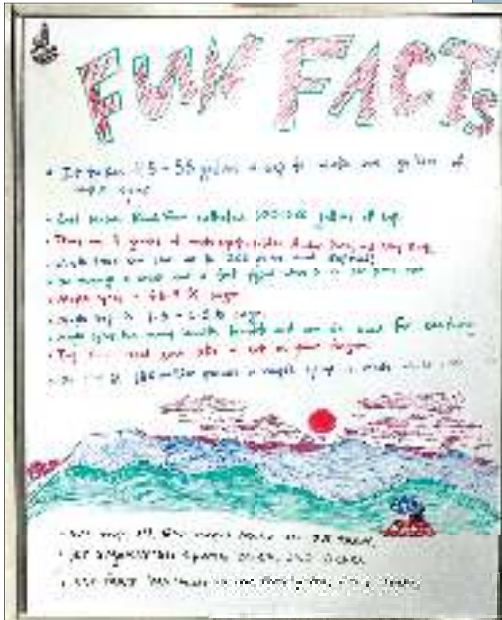
The Board unanimously approved a warrant for \$174,281.28 to cover the town's obligations and expenses.

# SUGAR, SUGAR!

FOLKS FLOCKED TO Baird Farm in Chittenden last Saturday for the farm's open house. There was an opportunity to sample all the flavors of maple syrup (birch and spruce were especially popular). Ethan Nelson performed music while people enjoyed Baird Farm syrup on delicious rosemary waffles. Jacob Powsner and Jenna Baird manned the register as jars and jugs flew off the shelves.

BOB BAIRD (IN blue baseball cap) gave a lesson on how to tap a tree to fascinated kids. Pittsford-Proctor State Rep. Alicia Malay (in black ski hat) joined in the fun as well.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



STUDENT: Jax Romano

GRADE: 7th

SCHOOL: OVUMHS

TITLE: Untitled

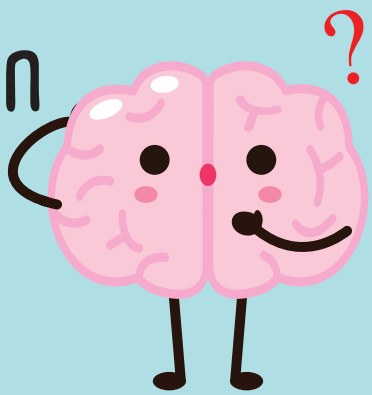
MEDIUM: Pencil

TEACHER: Mrs. St. Michaud

# OUR CREATIVE KIDS



# Brandon Brain Buster



A certain box contains a group of standard U.S. quarters, with exactly one of the quarters representing each of the years between 2010 and 2020, including both end years. If one of the quarters is chosen from the box at random and flipped, what

is the probability that it's an even-year coin AND that it lands heads?

- A) 1/4
- B) 3/11
- C) 1/3
- D) 1/2
- E) 6/11

# David Atherton

(Continued from Page 1)  
this whole area," he added.  
Atherton will officially begin on March 25, 2025, for a contract term of five years. He will be paid a salary of \$140,000.

Atherton was one of three candidates the Killington town manager search committee had recommended to the board for consideration. Two former members of the board, Chris Karr and Robert Hecker, had been involved in a months-long process of interviews prior to Town Meeting Day, but when Rick Bowen and Patrick Cushing took those places on the board after the election, the top candidates were re-interviewed. The selection of Atherton was unanimous.

Atherton currently lives in Brandon, but is contemplating a move.

"We're looking at relocating closer. Actually, we've been thinking about that since I got done in Brandon," he explained. "Probably in the Rutland City area. We used to live down there years ago,

and I think it's exciting what's going on there now... It's a good time to be there, I think."

Atherton does not ski or snowboard but "used to mountain bike a lot" until a back injury three years ago. "I'm hoping this is the year I can get back into it as well. It's been three years of not being able to do much, so it's time."

Interim town manager Tom Yennerell (who stepped in for the town Sept. 3 after town manager Michael Ramsey left Aug. 14) will complete his contract with the town upon Atherton's arrival.

Atherton said he feels confident about the job and will be able to hit the ground running. "I've done this gig before, so there's a lot of similarities. It's just the little nuances that I'll need to figure out," he said. "The first week or so is going to just be meeting everybody and see what's going on and then I'll really start to dive in the following week and go from there."

"I'm looking forward to getting things done," he told the board Tuesday.

# Woodlands conference

(Continued from Page 5)  
interested in promoting healthy forests through responsible stewardship. Registration is required.

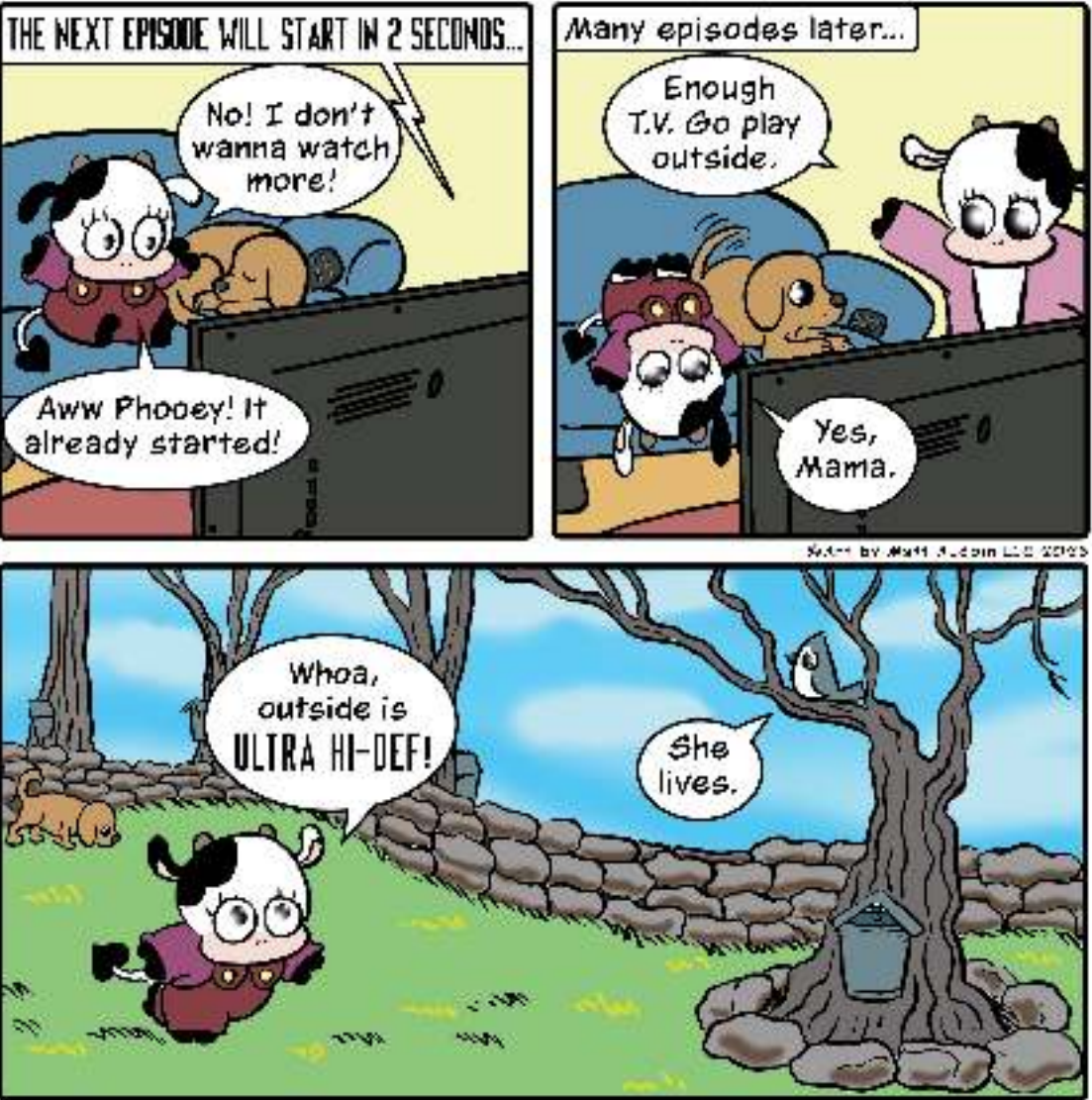
Registration is available here: Vermont Woodlands Conference

Vermont Woodlands Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the practices of productive stewardship, use, and enjoyment of Vermont's woodlands. It

is a member centered organization that delivers programs for landowners, the public, and policy makers that support forest health, forest economy, wildlife habitat, recreation, and enjoyment of forests for today and for generations to come.

More information about Vermont Woodlands Association is available on their web site at [www.vermont-woodlands.org](http://www.vermont-woodlands.org).

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**2014 TOYOTA TACOMA**  
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# Calendar of events

## March

### 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 Playgroup

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.

## The Brandon Congregational Church will be having a Chicken & Biscuits Dinner

Saturday, April 5th from 5-7 pm

The Brandon Congregational Church will be having a Chicken and Biscuits Dinner on Saturday from 5 to 7 pm (or until sold out). There will be an assortment of brownies for dessert and lemonade, water, or coffee for beverages.

This is our first community dinner since Covid and we are very excited, so please join us! Free will offering.



Free Drop-In Tech Support at the Brandon Free Public Library  
5–6 pm

### 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.

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).

## Upcoming event at the Brandon Free Public Library

Thursday, March 27

5–7 p.m.: Letter Press Printing artist talk. Experience the art of letterpress printing firsthand and chat with John from Revolutionary Press.

#### 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  
5–6 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Thursdays

#### Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Art Center from 12–1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together. Must pre-register. There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

Attendees will be led through specific sheet music by musician Steven Wilson. All levels are welcome.

#### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

#### Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Starts at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories and bubbles!

### 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!

### 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.

## Red Clover Ale — Brandon Saturday 2

Red Clover Ale Co brings the beer, the LAN chef brings the food, and Electric Bear brings the music! Electric Bear delivers heartfelt American music in deep rock. With their



## Upcoming event

Tickets are on sale for our raffle Lifetime Cruze100 kayak with \$2 for 1 and 3 for \$5. Drawing 10. Proceeds will support our Contact [birding@rutlandcountyrvt.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyrvt.org) if you would like to purchase

#### March 26, 2025 (Wednesday)

Talk by Lee Allen. Grace Congregational Church (Rutland) Conference Room, Using Listening Software. Our RCAS Citizen Scientist Day Enhance Your Birding Experience

Lee Allen will talk on two related topics. As he outlines them, I will briefly describe two listening. Merlin Sound ID and Haikubox. They work, and my experience with them. Many birders are now using Merlin Sound ID to assist in identifying 'who is around'. Merlin's Sound ID are not perfect... especially for birds but during noisy spring mornings Merlin has helped me to increase my high confidence visual and sound numbers by at least 20%. In addition for the last 2 years, I have been using a Haikubox to listen 24/7 for birds on my property. Highlights include recording more than 85 individual spring days, learning more about

Sundays

Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal  
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!  
Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceast-

presents Electric Bear  
don Town Hall  
29th, starting at 7 pm

the expansive sonic palate and story-telling lyrics, they provide the soundtrack for your journey down the cosmic highway.  
Band members include:  
Emma West - Guitar, Vocals  
Evan West - Bass, Vocals  
Walter Stone - Guitar, Vocals  
Chris Pike - Keys  
Graham Sutton - Drums

chess on Sunday mornings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All experience levels are welcome. Free and open to adults 21 and older only.

Thursday 27th Wednesday 2nd

MUHS Student Art Exhibition at The Jackson Gallery — Town Hall Theater  
In the gallery March 24th-April 2nd. Opening Ceremony March 28th 5-6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. The IB Visual Arts Exhibition, showcasing student artwork from Middlebury Union High School developed over two years, will be held on Friday, March 28th from 5-6:30 p.m. Students will present their artwork that represents the culmination of their International Baccalaureate Visual Arts program. The

vents with Rutland Audubon Society

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paddle. Tickets are  
will be held on May  
Scholarship Fund.  
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y) 6:30–8 pm. —

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and departures, and seeing the impact of refilling feeders after an extended absence. Both devices have been game changers greatly enhancing my birding enjoyment."

Second topic: Presentation and interpretation of 20+ years of RCAS species count data from annual Christmas Bird Counts and monthly West Rutland Marsh walks. WOW! Highlights include several "new" species over time and changes in species seasonal presence and abundance.

April 24, 2025 (Thursday), 8:00 am — West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk. Meet at the boardwalk on Marble Street. Join us for our monthly monitoring of West Rutland Marsh. Go the whole 4-mile route or halfway.

April 26, 2025 — Pie for Breakfast! 6–11 am at the West Rutland Town Hall. We'll start serving at 6 AM for you hunters and will serve until 11. Prices: \$10 for adults; \$5.00 for children over 5. This is an all you can eat buffet, with coffee and juices.

public is invited to enjoy the exhibition, which will feature live music and light refreshments.

Friday 28th

Marsh Lights — Old Firehouse, Tinmouth  
Marsh Lights will perform songs from their new album, Cover the Water. The Vermont acoustic quintet plays original progressive bluegrass and folk music with a hyper-literate edge and beautiful execution and is led by Colby Crehan, former vocalist and songwriter for the Bluegrass Gospel Project and PossumHaw. Tom Huntington from the Rutland Herald called the new album "an inspired and impressive new sound" from "one of Vermont's finest roots bands."  
There is a suggested donation of \$20. From 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Old Firehouse (next to Town Office), 7 Mountain View Road, Tinmouth.

Nani — Next Stage Arts  
Breathing new life into the ancient Spanish-Jewish language, Nani creates a bridge between the past and the future with socially relevant lyrics that celebrate migration, gender, and female empowerment. As a singer, composer, trombonist, and pianist, her solo performance invites listeners into a world that is both timeless and contemporary. Her songs weave together stories of Nani's grandmother with present-day narratives, blending the sounds and scents of the marketplace with raw, flamenco-inspired vocals, soulful trombone harmonies, and heart-rending piano. This immersive experience is enhanced by electronic tracks from her laptop, creating a rich, elemental soundscape. "I play Ladino because I see the future when I look at the past." – Nani Vazana.  
From 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10-25.

Livin' in The Blues w/ Em & Nat — The Underground - Listening Room  
Livin' in The Blues blends vintage blues with jazz and rock influences, creating a dynamic, improvisational sound that channels the spirit of classic American music. This ensemble of seasoned musicians brings decades of collective experience to their performanc-

Upcoming faith community happenings

Community Dinner, Saturday, March 29th, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Brandon United Methodist Church, 2 Union Street (formerly 2 Franklin Street). Ham, scalloped potatoes, broccoli slaw, apple sauce & dessert. Free will offering. All welcome to attend.  
Hymn Sing, Sunday March 30th, 6 p.m., Forest Dale Christian Fellowship (formerly Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church), 1895 Forest Dale Road, Forest

Dale. All welcome to attend.  
Ecumenical Cross Walk, Good Friday, April 18. Gather in front of Brandon United Methodist Church (2 Union Street) at noon for a silent walk down Carver Street to St. Mary's in honor of the crucifixion of Christ. Each is offered the opportunity to carry the cross. There will be a short ceremony in the cathedral followed by soup and fellowship. All welcome to attend.

tradition while embracing spontaneity.  
Em & Nat came together in early 2020, with years of performing live music with various bands and combos. Nat's lyrical guitar and Em's vibrant vocals put an acoustic spin on favorites from Adele and Maroon 5, to Tedeschi Trucks and John Prine, and to Fleetwood Mac and Incubus— sit back and relax— to New England's acoustic duo.  
Advance: \$14 (+fees) // Day of show: \$17 (+fees). Doors: 7 p.m. // Show: 7:30 p.m. BYOB (21+). All Ages.

Goings on  
around town

Saturday 29th

Open House for Blooming Bungalow Studio Classes!  
Come check out our new studio class space! We are hosting an open house to celebrate our 1- year anniversary and welcome you to our new downstairs art space. We are excited to begin offering a variety of classes for all skill levels. Learn more about upcoming events, try a needle felting demo, and more! We can't wait to see you! 22 Center Street, Brandon.

Post 31 Baseball Hopefuls Information Meeting — Rutland  
Please join us to meet the coaching staff for the 19U Post 31 Baseball team. We will be offering information for the upcoming season for players and parents. We look forward to seeing you at American Legion Post 31 in Rutland as we embark on the centennial season of American Legion Baseball! Jason Labore Baseball Manager, Post 31, Rutland, Vt.  
From 10-11 a.m. at American Legion Post 31, 33 Washington Street, Rutland.

Rotary Club Fundraising Dinner — Wallingford  
The Wallingford Rotary Club will hold a fundraising dinner for a local family who lost their home to a fire in early February. Help us to support our neighbors and enjoy a dinner of homemade pasta with Bolognese sauce, meatballs, garden salad, garlic rolls and a selection of homemade desserts. Goodwill offerings will be accepted at the door. Reservations may be made at the Wallingford Rotary website: [https://wallingfordvtr](https://wallingfordvtr Rotary website: https://wallingfordvtr) or by calling 540-303-3005. From 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Paul Harris Memorial Rotary Building, 96 North Main Street, Wallingford.

Upcoming events in Brandon


April 18  
Wildlife Encounters at the Brandon Town Hall! Come and learn about exotic animals, see them up close, learn about our environment and the ecology of the world!  
6:30 p.m. \$5 per person, children under 2 are free! Snacks available! All are welcome!  
May 2 & 3  
Halfoween in Brandon, Vt.! Brandon celebrates Halfoween along with its sister city Salem, Mass!  
May 2  
Beginning with a Witches Walk down Park Street at 6 p.m. We

encourage everyone to dress up and join in! Vehicles welcome! Party following the parade behind the Inn with live music and bounce houses by Whirlies World! Horror movies at Barn Opera from 5 p.m. on, and a haunted house at 6:30 at the Brandon Town Haunted Hall! Haunted Hall is \$10.  
May 3  
Mystical Market at Central Park in Brandon - Vendors of handcrafts, tarot readings, psychics, metaphysical items, crystals and more! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Haunted Town Hall at 6:30, \$10. Masquerade Ball at 8 p.m., Brandon Inn, \$25 per person.

es, delivering passionate originals and reimagined standards with authentic emotion. Their chemistry shines through extended jams where keyboards, dual guitars, and a rock-solid rhythm section create a compelling musical conversation. Perfect for blues enthusiasts who appreciate musicianship that honors

Cuss & Cut Print Making at  
Brandon Free Public Library  
Dive into block cutting and printing, let the profanities fly as you create, and don't worry—no experience needed! 1-4 p.m.

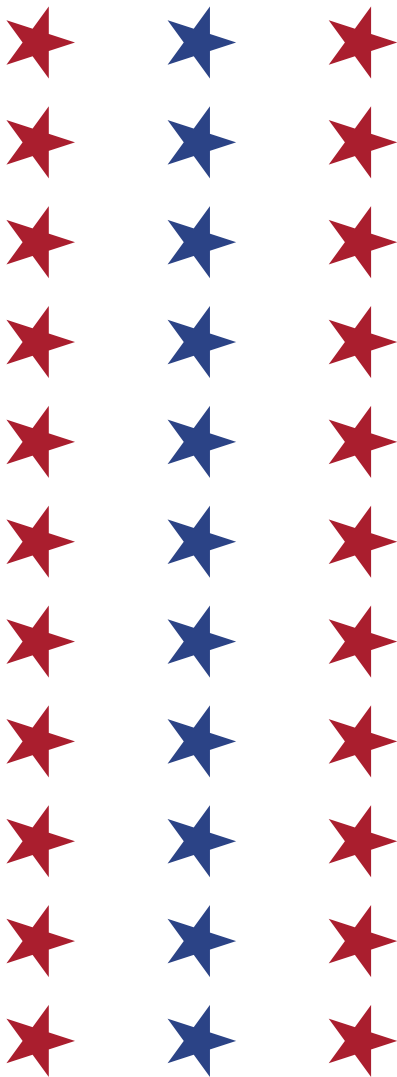
### Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.



See page 17

# Brandon celebrated the nation's 100th birthday in style!

Brandon celebrated the nation's Centennial in a grand way on July 4, 1876 with lots of music, guns and salutes, prayers, singing, a "monster picnic," a "parade of the invincibles," bell ringing and "the most elaborate and expensive displays of fireworks Vermont has ever witnessed." The town's current Independence Day Celebration Committee is working on topping it all for the nation's 249th celebration in July this year! Clipping is from The Brandon Union, July 1, 1876. Courtesy Sue Gage, Brandon Town Clerk.



# Restaurant guide



### From Provence to You

*De la Provence à Vous*

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

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or call (802) 247-9997

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT



### Franklin's

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# CELEBRATION

— AT —

## BRANDON

**JULY 4th, 1876.**

**PROGRAMME:**  
SUNRISE.

Salute of Thirteen Guns and Ringing of all the Bells, for half an hour.

**HENRY BARROWS, DIRECTOR.**

8. A. M. Meeting of the Executive Committee, at the Headquarters Tent, near the Flag Staff. This tent will be the Headquarters of the Chief of Police, Marshal, and all Transients, and it is expected that all in want of information or assistance, will report there. The tent will be open from 8 A. M., till noon, and from 4 p. m., till 10 P. M., and during the close of the Fair Weeks till 11:00 P. M.

9. A. M. Opening of the Town Hall for the reception and arranging the articles of Antiquities, under direction of Col. H. H. Merrill. All are invited to send for being in all old articles of interest, as they will be sold cheaply.

9:00, A. M.

**RAISING OF THE FLAG.**  
CEREMONY.

1st. Music by the Band.  
2d. Prayer by Rev. H. Tabor.  
3d. Singing: "Hail to the Chief," by a select Chorus, under direction of Dr. V. Ross.  
4th. Salute of Five Guns.  
5th. Music by the Band.  
From 10 A. M., till 11, Reception of Representatives, under direction of Chief Marshal.

**CAPT. A. S. COOK.**

11:00, A. M. Formation of

**THE GRAND PROCESSION.**

The procession will be on Center, Union and Carter Streets, with the right turning on Park Street.

**MOVEMENT.**

Through Park to High, through High to Franklin, through Franklin to Center and Union, Square, thence through Pearl Street to the Ground.  
12, noon. Arrived at

**ONE HUNDRED GUNS.**  
by the Battery.

**Col. FULLER, of Brattleboro, Commanding.**  
After arrival of the movement at the time, they will be dismissed by Drums, which is expected to be a

**MONSTER PICNIC.**  
1:00, P. M. — Commencement of the picnic.

**EXERCISES.**

1st. Called to order by the President.  
2d. Music by the Band.  
3d. Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. C. A. Thomas.  
4th. Reading by the Chaplain, "America."  
5th. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by  
**PROF. JOSEPH S. CILLEY.**

6th. Music by the Band.  
7th. Motion by

**HON. N. B. BRYANT,**  
of Boston, Mass.

8th. Music by the Band.  
9th. Poem by E. L. Hart, of Boston, Va.  
10th. Singing to the Chorus, "Hail to the Chief."  
11th. Toasts.

**CAPT. E. J. ORMSBEE, TOAST MASTER.**  
One Gun After Each Toast.

12th. Music by the Band.  
From the close of the Exercises till sunset.

**PARADE OF THE INVINCIBLES!**  
Through the streets under the direction of  
**I. W. COPELAND, Comd.**

**SUNSET.**  
SALUTE AND RINGING OF THE BELLS FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.  
EVENING.

The Celebration will close with one of the

**MOST ELABORATE AND EXPENSIVE DISPLAYS OF FIREWORKS,**

Vermont has ever witnessed. This display is from the Laboratory of

**MIL. C. E. MASTEN, OF BOSTON, MASS.**  
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**JOHN A. CONANT, President.**  
VICE PRESIDENTS:  
Dr. A. T. Woodard, Dr. C. Ross, O. Newcomb, Hon. N. T. Sprague, Franklin Farrington, Geo. W. Parmelee, Hiram Blackmar, Sumner Briggs, & Clerk.

**CHARLES D. PITTS, Secretary.**  
**HENRY C. COPELAND, TREAS.**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**  
Chas. D. Pitts, C. M. Winslow, C. W. Briggs,  
D. C. Buscom, Dr. C. W. Peck.  
Chief of Police, — A. W. GOSS.

**RAILROADS CARRY FOR FARE ONE WAY.**  
It is expected that Extraneous will be run, of which due notice will be given by the Rail Road Company.  
People coming with teams will be provided with suitable hitching places removed from the crowd and noise.



## GARDENING CORNER

### Tulips

LYN DESMARAIS

Unlike with daffodils, there aren't any famous poems about tulips that I knew or could discover. I found one by Emily Dickinson but with her signature melancholy thoughts. We don't need more of that. Here's the closest I found to a famous poem. Like many, they merely list tulips. Written by Sara Coleridge, a friend and neighbor of William Wordsworth. Her father was poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and she wrote this verse for her children. She lived in the north of England. We either have different bloom times, or it made for a better rhyme, which I totally understand.

*January brings the snow,  
Makes our feet and fingers glow.*

*February brings the rain,  
Thaws the frozen lake again.  
March brings breezes, loud and shrill,  
To stir the dancing daffodil.*

*April brings the primrose sweet,  
Scatters daisies at our feet.*

*May brings flocks of pretty lambs  
Skipping by their fleecy dams.*

*June brings tulips, lilies, roses,  
Fills the children's hands with posies.*  
—Sara Coleridge  
<https://poets.org/poem/garden-year>

The tulip, unlike the fabulous but more humble daffodil, has a long history of being prized and sought after. It originates in the Himalayan Mountain range of Asia, more specifically the Celestial Mountains (Tian Shan). Even its origins aren't humble. By

the 10th century, the Ottoman Empire had brought tulips to Persia, where it seems they acquired their current name from the word "tulipan," meaning turban. The Ottoman Empire loved tulips, and the flowers rapidly became a symbol of its power and wealth. Scholars have traced their introduction to Western Europe to the late 1500s, via an Austrian botanist who planted them in various prestigious gardens. Yet they must have been introduced earlier. They were certainly known and valued in Holland within the same period.

Tulips are exotic looking and came, even then, in many colors. Tulips can be grown by seed or by breaking the bulb up and planting it. Since seed takes a long time, about 12 years to flower, and a bulb but a year, people propagated them via bulbs. Again, all parts of this plant are poisonous, especially the bulb, but this plant does not have an unpleasant smell, hence the deer love to eat them. The poison is called tulipalin. I guess the deer do not know about the poison, which is toxic to cats, dogs, horses, and humans, and they eat the beautiful flower and tender green stems. Who wouldn't after a winter of tree bark?

The Dutch meanwhile prized these flowers and began investing in the bulbs. There is even a movie about this called "Tulip Fever." Historically, speculation in tulip bulbs did cause a huge financial market bubble, which burst, proving that people will bet on anything. The investors kept betting that the price of tulip bulbs would go up. There were future contracts, buying on credit, and irrational pricing. It may be wildly inaccurate, but some posit that a single bulb could sell

(See Gardening corner, Page 21)





# 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



Nancy Crosby Zapf was able to identify a few more faces in this Brandon High School Class of 1958 reunion photo. Putting all of the identifications together, we have here: Standing: (left to right) Bob Shepard, Judy Sanderson, Nancy Cameron, unknown, unknown, Gene Barrows, Elaine Brown, Kathleen Johnson, Muriel Marsette, Jean Hunt, unknown. Seated: (left to right) Marie Simonds, Betty Steele-Russell, Lucille Fales (Sargent).

Thank you to Sue Wetmore for spelling assistance.

E-mail [kate@brandonreporter.com](mailto:kate@brandonreporter.com)  
if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080



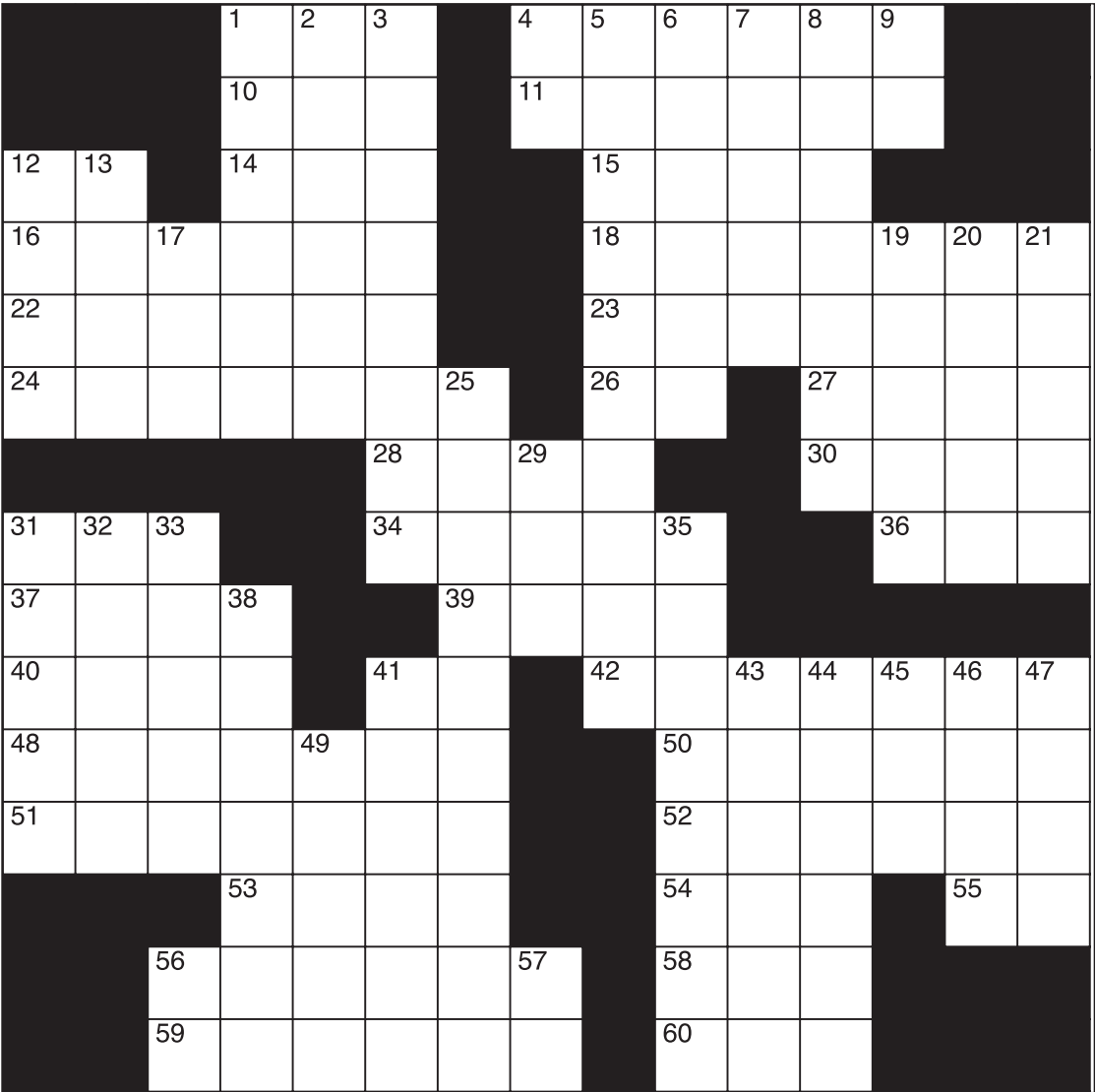
# Crossword

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. State in southwestern India
- 4. Pashto
- 10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Supervised release from prison
- 12. Greeting
- 14. Type of drug
- 15. \_\_\_ Sagan, astronomer
- 16. Every year
- 18. Nasal cavities
- 22. Nova \_\_\_, province
- 23. In an inactive way
- 24. Cream-colored root
- 26. Nervous system disease
- 27. Guitarist Clapton
- 28. Three came to see Baby Jesus
- 30. Lebowsky's nickname
- 31. Play a role
- 34. Not fresh
- 36. Where golfers begin
- 37. Negatives
- 39. Wild goat
- 40. Releasing hormone
- 41. Makes up
- 42. Fastens
- 48. Exists in large numbers
- 50. A connecting word
- 51. A phase of the heartbeat
- 52. Northern Ireland county
- 53. An independent ruler or chieftain
- 54. Pacific sea bream
- 55. Commercial
- 56. Azure
- 58. Doctor of Education
- 59. Protected oneself against loss
- 60. Car mechanics group

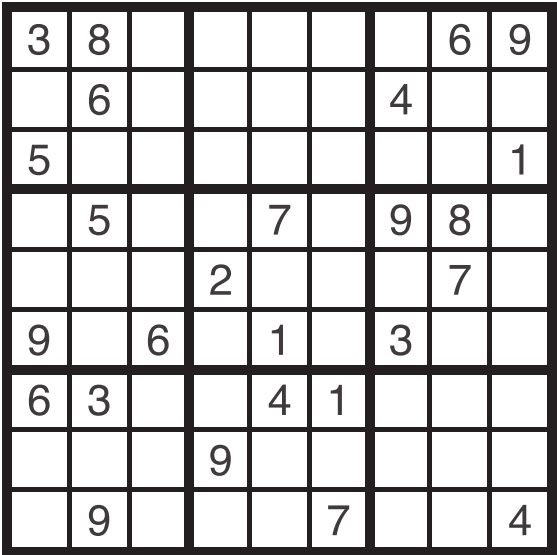
### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pastes for filling crevices
- 2. Acquire
- 3. Heralds
- 4. News group
- 5. Exact copies
- 6. Particles
- 7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena
- 8. Tempted
- 9. Midway between north and east
- 12. Slotted, hinged metal plate
- 13. South American hummingbird
- 17. Neither
- 19. Walk with confidence
- 20. Omit when speaking
- 21. Imperial Chinese currency
- 25. A bakery specializing in French pastry
- 29. Talk incessantly
- 31. Ethnic group of Nigeria
- 32. Longtime NY Times film critic
- 33. Beginners
- 35. Makes a trade
- 38. Sleep
- 41. Not moving
- 43. Popular drink: Pina \_\_\_
- 44. Potential benefits
- 45. A place you can get stuck in
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Chalcedony
- 49. Rover
- 56. Digraph
- 57. Investment vehicle



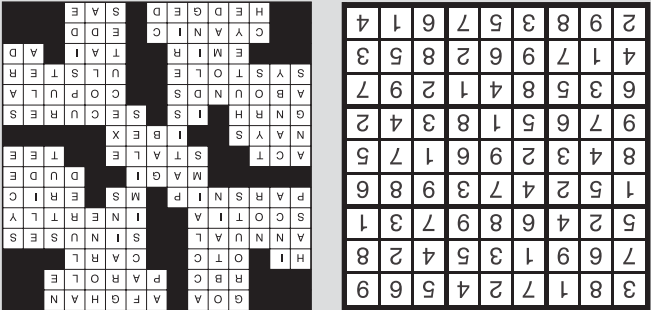
# Sudoku

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



## Join Our Team at the Rutland County Humane Society!

Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) is growing, and we are looking for compassionate, dedicated individuals to join our team! We are currently hiring for the following full-time positions: Donor Relations Coordinator and Animal Health Technician. Both positions play a vital role in supporting the animals and the mission of RCHS. If you're passionate about animal welfare and looking for a rewarding career, we'd love to hear from you! For more information or to apply, visit <https://rchsvt.org/about-us/join-our-team/>

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



### MEET MISCHIEF - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. PITBULL TERRIER. BRINDLE.

Don't let her name fool you—Mischief is all about love, fun, and adventure! She's an energetic, smart pup who thrives with an active family. She already knows some basic commands and is eager to learn more. While playful and affectionate, she can be a bit nervous in new situations and needs a patient home to build her confidence. She's great in the car, loves snuggles, and is always on the lookout for treats—especially pup cups! If you're looking for a fun, loving, and loyal companion, come meet Mischief! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**MEET JAMBA - 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. BASSET HOUND/PIT BULL TERRIER MIX. BLACK/WHITE.** Meet Jamba! This sweetheart is an absolute lovebug. She is a higher-energy girl who will thrive in an active home. She loves to be busy and will need plenty of exercise. She is a true Vermonter and LOVES playing in the snow. She is great with kids and loves people, but prefers a home without other dogs. She will be sure to keep you busy with her sassy personality. Stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to meet her.



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



DVDs

We recently added a bunch of classic Disney and other films to our collection including: Finding Nemo, The Lion King, Bambi, Cars, and The Rescuer. We also added Sleepless in Seattle; Planes, Trains and Automobiles; Jaws; Home Alone; Dirty Dancing; and the original Miracle on 34th Street.

Adult fiction

Rooms for Vanishing by Stuart Nadler

The violence of war has fractured the universe for the Altermans, a Jewish family from Vienna. Moving across decades, and across the world, the novel finds the Altermans alone in their separate futures, haunted by loss, each certain that they are the sole survivor of their family. Sonja, the daughter, has gone in search of her husband, who has disappeared into London; Fania, the mother, is confronted with her doppelgänger in a Montreal hotel; Moses, the son, is followed by the ghost of his best friend; and, finally, Arnold, the father, dares to believe that his long-lost daughter might be alive after he receives a message from an Englishwoman claiming to be her.

The Jackal's Mistress by Chris Bohjalian

Virginia, 1864—Libby Steadman's husband has been away for so long that she can barely conjure his voice in her dreams. While she fears him dead in a Union prison camp, her days are spent running a gristmill with her teenage niece, a hired hand, and his wife, with all the grain they can produce requisitioned by the Confederate Army. It's an uneasy life in the Shenandoah Valley. Then she finds a gravely injured Union officer left for dead in a neighbor's house. Captain Jonathan Weybridge of the Vermont Brigade is her enemy—but he's also a human being, and Libby must make a terrible decision: Does she leave him to die alone? Or does she risk treason and try to nurse him back to health? And if she succeeds, does she try

to secretly bring him across Union lines, where she might negotiate a trade for news of her own husband?

Dream State by Eric Puchner

Cece is in love. She has arrived early at her future in-laws' lake house in Salish, Montana, to finish planning her wedding to Charlie, a young doctor with a brilliant life ahead of him. Charlie has asked Garrett, his best friend from college, to officiate the ceremony, though Cece can't imagine anyone more ill-suited for the task—an airport baggage handler haunted by a tragedy from his and Charlie's shared past. But as Cece spends time with Garrett, his gruff mask slips, and she grows increasingly uncertain about her future. And why does Garrett, after meeting Cece, begin to feel, well, human again? As a stomach flu threatens to scuttle the wedding, and Charlie and Garrett's friendship is put to the ultimate test, Cece must decide between the life she's dreamed of and a life she's never imagined.

Animal Instinct by Amy Shearn

It's spring of 2020 and Rachel Bloomstein—mother of three, recent divorcée, is stuck inside. Leaning on her best friend Lulu to show her the ropes, Rachel dips a toe in the online dating world, leading to park dates with younger men, flirtations with beautiful women. None of them, individually, are perfect . . . hence her rotation. But what if one person could perfectly cater to all her emotional needs? Driven by this possibility, Rachel creates Frankie, the AI chatbot she programs with all the good and bad parts of dating in middle age. But as Rachel plays with her fantasy to her heart's content, she begins to realize she can't reprogram her ex-husband, her children, her friends, or the roster of paramours. Perhaps real life has more in store for Rachel than she could ever program for herself.

Junie by Erin Crosby Eckstine

DID YOU KNOW?

We truly appreciate all those who have donated food for our kids and teen groups. These kids are hungry after school! Thank you to the Neshobe PTO for our Crazy8s Math Club snacks.

Enslaved since she was born, 16-year-old Junie has spent her life on Bellereine Plantation in Alabama, cooking and cleaning alongside her family, and tending to the white master's daughter, Violet. Her daydreams are filled with poetry and faraway worlds, while she spends her nights secretly roaming through the forest, consumed with grief over the sudden death of her older sister, Minnie. When wealthy guests arrive from New Orleans, hinting at marriage for Violet and upending Junie's life, she commits a desperate act—one that rouses Minnie's spirit from the grave, tethered to this world unless Junie can free her.

Brandon Police Report

Note from Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian: The Vermont State Police (VSP) are covering the Town of Brandon for emergency calls from 4 pm/6 pm until 8 am, 7 days a week, due to the staffing shortage at the Brandon Police Department (BPD). This log may not reflect calls that VSP receives during the time Brandon officers are off duty.

March 17

- Responded to a building alarm on Grove Street at the Lucky 7 Dispensary.
- Conducted a court ordered check-in.
- Assisted the Rutland County Sheriff's Department with serving a citation.
- Served a notice against trespass for the Pittsfield Police Department (NH) on a Brandon resident. The order was served in-hand.
- Responded to a vehicle complaint on Furnace Road.

March 18

- Received a report a violation of court orders on Birch Hill Road. Upon further investigation, it was determined that no violation had taken place.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin

Street for display of plates. Warning issued.

- Received a report from a resident on Grove Street that her ex-boyfriend had trespassed on her property.
- Dispatched to a commercial building alarm at the Lucky 7 Dispensary on Grove Street. Prior to their arrival, officers were advised that it was a false alarm and that no police response was necessary.

March 19

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Arnold District Road due to ongoing speeding complaints. No violations were observed.
- Received a report of a road rage incident that had occurred on Forest Dale Road.
- Assisted an individual with paperwork for a notice against trespass.

March 20

- Assisted the St. Albans Police Department in serving a Final Relief From Abuse Order at a residence on Union Street. Order was served in-hand.
- Responded to an overdose on Grove Street at the Pine Hill Cemetery.

(See Police report, Page 21)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



regarding relationships or past experiences. Embrace these deeper feelings.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Your social energy could be off the charts this week, Leo. Others will be drawn to your magnetism and self-confidence. It is a great time to network or collaborate.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Efficiency and productivity are the name of the game right now, Virgo. When it comes to organizing and planning, you will be all about getting things done in a timely manner.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, this week is a time for self-expression. You may find yourself pulled toward hobbies or artistic endeavors that enable you to showcase your talents.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

This is a time to dive deep into your home and family life, Scorpio. You want to create a sense of stability at home and address anything that might compromise that. Trust your gut with how to move forward.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Communication is the key this week, Sagittarius. Initiating important conversations

and speaking directly with others is a great way to clear the air and get to the root of these issues.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, you are focused on your financial well-being this week, but other issues may fall by the wayside. You might have to bring in someone else to keep the balance.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Personal goals and ambitions are front and center this week, Aquarius. This could put you in the spotlight and showcase what you want to accomplish to those around you.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, this week invites you to slow down and recharge your batteries as much as possible. You might feel pulled to spend time alone or simply get away for a few days.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 28 Mario Vargas Llosa, writer, Nobel Laureate (89)
- March 29 Astrud Gilberto, singer (d)
- March 30 Tracy Chapman, singer (61)
- March 31 Octavio Paz, writer, Nobel laureate (d)
- April 1 Toshiro Mifune, actor (d)
- April 2 Pedro Pascal, actor (50)
- April 3 Eddie Murphy, comedian (64)

# Maclure Library hosts exhibit of paintings by Martha Wood Belcher and Hilda Belcher

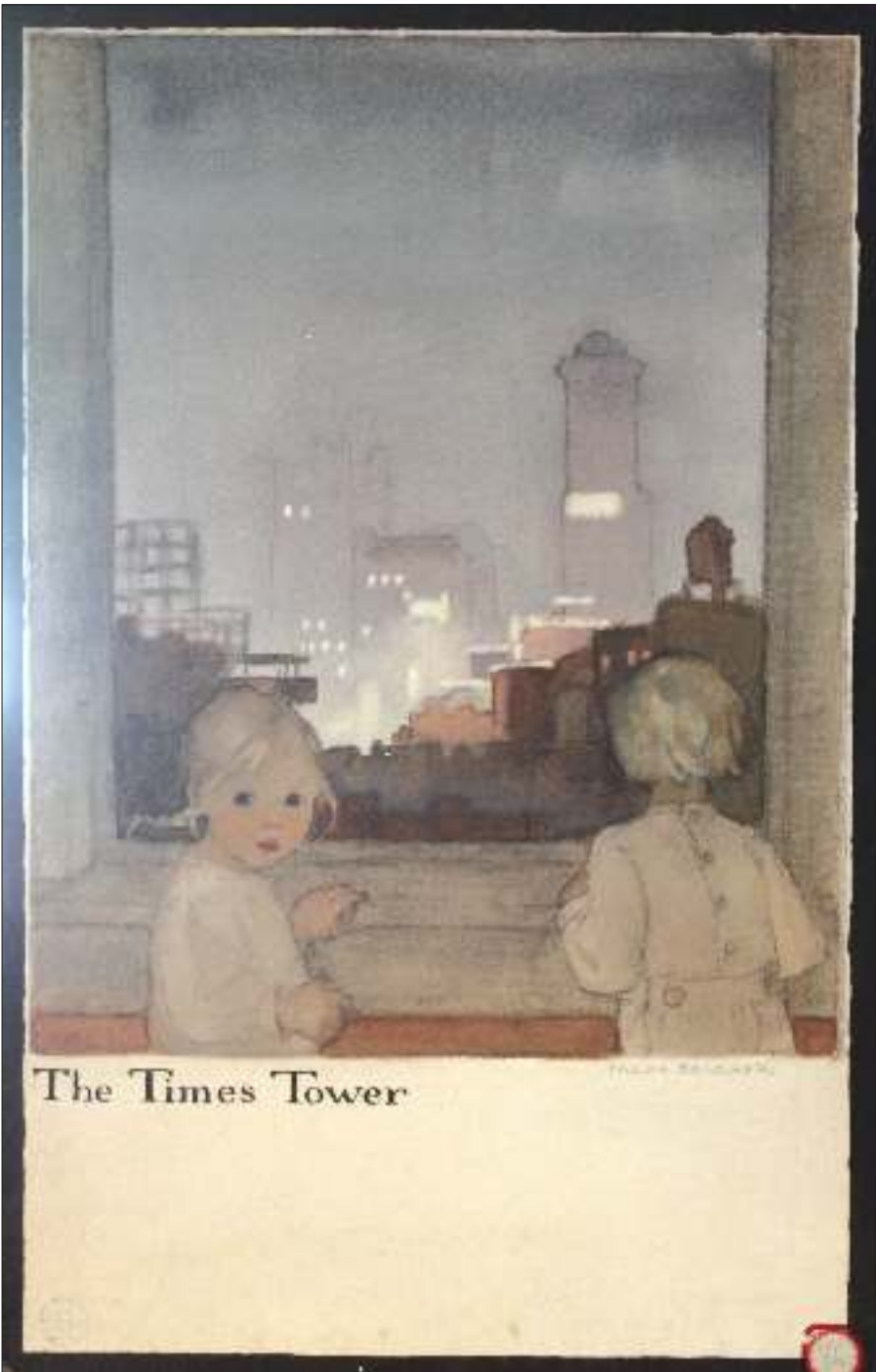
The Maclure Library in Pittsford has mounted a new exhibit of paintings by Pittsford artists Martha Wood Belcher (1844-1930) and Hilda Belcher (1881-1963). Many of the paintings date to a trip the mother and daughter made to Europe in 1913-14. They show the countryside where Martha had been a child. They started in England and Wales and then went through Germany, France and Italy, and returned to the US just before the start of World War I. Other parts of the exhibit include larger paintings by Hilda and works that had not been presented to the public in some time.

The Library hours are 10 to 5 Monday through Thursday and 10 to 2 on Saturdays. For information call 802-483-2972.

LEFT: MARTHA WOOD Belcher, 'Mrs. Cox's Garden.' 1913.



RIGHT: HILDA BELCHER, 'Times Tower.' No date.



It's MUD Season!

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**RADIO**

The Roots of American Music

## REAL ESTATE



Here's your chance to revitalize the old Selleck's 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.

\$115,000



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**WE NEED U**

## Brandon Town Manager's report, week of March 11–24

There are two vacancies on the Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO) Advisory Board. BRAVO Advisory Board members are responsible for staffing restorative justice panels when cases are referred by the Brandon Police Chief. The board ensures that a group of qualified volunteers is available with proper training and clearances. BRAVO also supplies qualified volunteers to county-wide restorative justice programs and works to stay educated on developments and best practices in the area. The board meets on the first Monday of most months. BRAVO is also seeking additional volunteers (training and a background check are required) who do not necessarily need to sit on the advisory board. To be considered, please submit a letter of interest and appointment cover sheet to the town manager.

On behalf of the Town, I applied for, and the Town was awarded, a grant of \$15,600 to produce a Townwide Road Erosion Inventory as part of the VTrans Better Roads program. To create this, our Town Highway Department will build upon work they've already accomplished as part of the Municipal Roads General Permit "segments" improvements. This is an 80% grant with 20% Town match, and the Town's match will be an in-kind contribution (staff time) within the general fund highway budget.

Springtime road weight restrictions have been posted.

I assisted the Historic Preservation Commission in applying for a grant from the Vermont Community Foundation in their project to update and reissue the 2002 Brandon Workbook. This grant does not require a match but may not supply the full budget necessary for the project, which is still in its conceptual stages. The Workbook informs appropriate preservation of the historic character of Brandon while fostering responsible development and growth.

I worked with Brandon Fire District No. 1 on a memorandum of understanding assigning a portion of the Town's solar credits from the existing Green Lantern array to the Fire District. On March 13, I attended the Fire District prudential committee meeting at which they voted 5-0 to enter into this agreement. We executed it that night, and the Town Clerk has recorded it in the Town records. Appreciation to Joyous Emerson and the energy committee for all their efforts and data analysis.

I worked with the Rutland County Solid Waste District on updating our recertification for the transfer station. I worked with Arthur Brown from the State's Attorney's office in Rutland on one of the three Sanderson Bridge incidents which resulted in criminal charges. The Town is attempting to recover funds from the driver's insurance company in relation to this case.

The external auditors from RHR Smith & Company report that all testing is complete for the single audit, and the financial audit is complete. They assure submission by the Town's reporting deadline to the State (March 31st).

We have had conversations with the regional transit services to see about incorporating our Park & Ride at 7 Conant Square into their routes. Our Park & Ride was 50% State of Vermont grant-funded (50% Town match came from ARPA award) and includes a bus shelter in addition to electric car chargers (4 parking spaces), a bike rack, and handicapped parking (1 space) and additional parking (12 spaces). Each of the bus operators is pleased to work with us to best serve the riding public. Next steps are for them to evaluate their existing stops and the logistics of incorporating the shelter stop given vehicle turning radius, traffic, etc.

The work we have done with the NEPBA has been a successful collaboration with the goal of restaffing our police department. This required a significant commitment of time and goodwill. The board will have an opportunity to ratify the agreement at this meeting.

The 2018 K9 cruiser auction was published on March 5th in The Reporter, on Front Porch Forum, and on the Town website; it was sold via Municibid on Tuesday the 18th for \$5,000. Proceeds will go to the capital replacement fund.

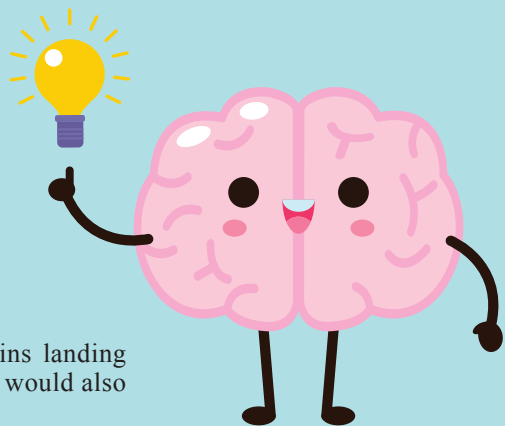
Following up on my verbal report of the failure of the Royalite curtain in the middle clarifier at Wastewater: we held a meeting with several engineers, the installers, the equipment supplier, and our wastewater treatment staff late last week. Further work is being done, and the State being kept apprised of progress toward a solution.

Town Treasurer Sue Gage did a tremendous job balancing and analyzing the mosaic of funding involved in our WWTF upgrade. This was the largest project the Town has undertaken since Segment 6. The project cost of \$6,720,092.94 was facilitated through a voter-approved bond via USDA, a grant from USDA, a pollution control grant from the State of Vermont, a loan through the State of Vermont clean water revolving fund, and contributions from the wastewater ratepayers. In the end, the local responsibility on our wastewater enterprise fund will be less than 60% of the total project. This project spanned three town managers, two wastewater treatment system chief operators, and called upon the expertise of a team of engineers at Aldrich + Elliott and State of Vermont officials. The contractor was Brandon-based Naylor & Breen. Brandon is investing to ensure our wastewater treatment is in compliance with all State and Federal environmental regulations for the protection of both public health and the waterways of Vermont.

After interviews with a series of candidates, the Town has hired a Brandon resident, Cara Boudreau, to be operator-in-training in our wastewater treatment system. Cara will start with the Town the first week of April. We look forward to her contributions as a member of the team.

*Seth M. Hopkins*

# Brandon Brain Buster Answered



**Answer: B**

If the coins represent the years from 2010 to 2020, including both end years, then there are 11 coins in the box (there are 11 years between 2010 and 2020 if you include both end years). Among those 11 years, 6 years will be even (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020). So, the probability of first selecting an even-year coin is 6/11. The probability

of any of the coins landing heads is 1/2 (and would also be 1/2 for tails).

So, if the probability of choosing an even-year coin is 6/11 and the probability of that coin landing heads is 1/2, then the probability of BOTH events occurring would be  $6/11 \times 1/2 = 6/22 = 3/11$ .

A good way to think of it is that in 1/2 of all cases, whatever coin is chosen and

flipped will turn up heads. So, if 6/11 of the coins have the characteristic we want (even year), then 1/2 of those coins will probably turn up heads. So 1/2 of the 6/11 is  $1/2 \times 6/11 = 6/22 = 3/11$ .

**The answer is B.**



# Gardening corner

*(Continued from Page 15)*

between \$50,000 and \$150,000 in today's money. This "tulip bubble" existed between 1634 and 1637, the burst caused great hardship, and we all learned our lesson and never pursued greed or excess like that ever again. Sigh.

Luckily, the Dutch love affair with this particular flower carried on and Holland continues to be the premiere growers of tulips to this day. It's also a great source of tourism as people travel to Holland in March to see the tulip fields in bloom.

Are tulips perennial? Yes, they are, technically. Why don't mine come back then? They need colder climates, well draining soils, and dry summer soils, remember where they come from. They don't like clay. If you want yearly blooms, gently dig them up, dry them and store them in a cool, dry place. Or let Renaissance Farm do all this work for you. They plant tens of thousands of bulbs every year here in Brandon.

The first time I saw a "black tulip" was in

2007. I saw it and made a friend for life that day. A New Zealander and professional gardener was tending to them and some Menton tulips and other white and yellow varieties. They were the loveliest display I had ever seen. His knowledge of plants is encyclopedic. Here is what he recommends: "The single late tulips of John Scheepers (a Dutchman who emigrated to the USA and both imported to and bred tulips and founded the company that still bears his name) are still some of the finest tulips ever bred, even though he created them almost 100 years ago. They include Avignon, Kingslood, Dordogne, Maureen, and Menton, totally unsurpassable in every way." He further recommends "the new Darwin hybrids Apeldoorn and Elite for being super long lasting if they are planted in the correct soil, i.e., sandy loam soil, and never in clay." Finally, he encourages me to talk about parrot tulips, which I will have to do in a subsequent article.

# Police report

*(Continued from Page 18)*

• Responded to a welfare check on Florence Road, called in by the Vermont Crisis Center, concerning an individual that was experiencing a medical/mental health crisis. The individual was later transported

to the hospital for treatment.

**March 23**

- Vehicle crash reported on Prospect Street.
- Dispatched to a vehicle complaint in the area of Park Street and Franklin Street.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of PermaSease (a family of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for PermaSease.

At least six hours in advance of spraying to control adult mosquitoes, specific route information and the pesticide(s) to be used will be posted to <https://ocwcid.com/public-notice>. The OCW also provides email notifications of all planned spraying. To subscribe to the spraying notification email list, please send a request to: [ocwcid@gmail.com](mailto:ocwcid@gmail.com).

The OCW's published spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwcid.com/route-maps>.

The OCW call center phone number is (802) 247-6779; the call center will take requests for treatment during the season.

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, please send a letter to the OCW address given below listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at <https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt-out requests must be renewed annually.

In accordance with paragraph 6.07 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has applied for a permit to conduct truck-mounted mosquito adulticide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:

Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair

Or questions mailed or emailed to:

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188  
Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779  
[ocwcid@gmail.com](mailto:ocwcid@gmail.com)  
<https://ocwcid.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW adulticide spraying operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division  
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
(802) 522-6973  
[steve.dwinell@vermont.gov](mailto:steve.dwinell@vermont.gov)

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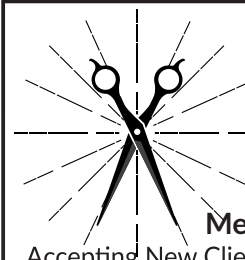
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PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES**

On or after April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), *Bacillus sphaericus* (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

Exclusion requests need to be renewed annually. Please send a written request to the OCW mail or email address below.

In accordance with paragraph 6.06 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has been granted a permit to conduct larvicide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:  
Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or  
OCW Operations Coordinator  
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188  
Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779  
ocwicd@gmail.com  
<https://ocwicd.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:  
Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division  
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
(802) 522-6973  
[steve.dwinell@vermont.gov](mailto:steve.dwinell@vermont.gov)



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