

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, September 3, 2025

\$1

Public forum to be held on September 18

## October 1 will be *The Reporter's* last issue in its current form

BY STEVEN JUPITER

Since our first issue in December of 2022, the independent, nonprofit version of *The Reporter* has tried its best to be a reliable source of news and entertainment for Brandon, Pittsford, and the surrounding communities. We're very proud of the work we've done for the last three years, but practical realities have made it impossible to continue publishing the paper in its current format.

Our operating expenses are outstripping our revenues, our personnel are

overextended, reading habits are changing...all of it is forcing us to make major changes in how the paper is conceived.

We are extremely grateful to all who have supported us through subscriptions, newsstand purchases, donations, ad placement, and editorial contributions, but in order for

some version of the paper to survive, the current version must end.

The decision was not made lightly.

We know many readers rely on us for information about local events and affairs. Many readers look forward to our human-interest stories about local folks and organizations. We have been the paper of legal record for several towns in our coverage area, including

Brandon and Pittsford. The cessation of *The Reporter* is a big loss for our com-

munities.

Back in 2022, *The Reporter's* previous owner, The Addison Independent, sought to streamline its own operations and looked to transfer ownership of *The Reporter* to a nonprofit. George Fjeld, Barbara Ebling, and I created that nonprofit, now a 501c3, to receive ownership of the paper. We do not own the paper personally—it is owned by the 501c3 and overseen by a five-person Board of Directors. No one on the Board, including me and George, has  
(See *The Reporter*, Page 11)

*The purpose of the forum is to help the community decide what kind of paper it wants and can sustain.*

Eight Northeast states band together to prep for uncertainties amid sudden departures of high-level federal officials and concerns about the CDC's vaccine recommendations.

## With CDC in chaos, VT joins regional coalition to navigate public health challenges

BY OLIVIA GIEGER/  
VTDIGGER

Representatives from Vermont's Department of Health and seven other Northeastern states met last week to form a regional public health coalition that can respond to challenges passed down from the federal government amid dramatic changes brought on by the administration of President Donald Trump, such as disparities in vaccine recommendations or losses in lab funding.

Vermont's interim health commissioner, Julie Arel, confirmed that she and her principal adviser went to the meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, as did the state epidemiologist, lab

director and other senior staff members in the Department of Health. The meeting was first reported by the Boston Globe.

Arel described a collaboration in its preliminary stages: "The intent of that meeting in Rhode Island was to start to say, 'What is this thing?' We haven't really defined it. We haven't really decided what it is we're doing with this."

Still, she sees an increasing need for interstate collaboration as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention restricts funding for lab testing and departs from scientific consensus on its immunization messaging.

"The biggest issue for public health right now is the uncertainty coming from the federal government," Arel said. "That level of uncertainty is  
(See CDC chaos, Page 7)



## A beautiful Labor Day weekend!

TRADITIONALLY THE LAST weekend of summer fun, Labor Day did not disappoint this year. The sun was out but the temperatures were comfortable. Folks flocked to local lakes to take advantage of summer's last days. Here, sailboarders make the most of a gorgeous day on Lake Dunmore.

Photo by Steven Jupiter



# Coming to America, No.5: Christian Fjeld

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

I enjoyed teaching three sets of Fjeld first cousins during my Otter Valley years. I taught the children of George and Carol (Keyser) Fjeld: Jessica, Heather, Kalle, and Christian; the children of Peter and Jayne (Oliver) Fjeld: Grayce, Harley, Randi, Per, Robert Oliver; and the children of Karl and Wendy (Oberkirch) Fjeld: Heather and Heidi. Their uncle Gus Fjeld's children did not go to Otter Valley. From snippets of past conversations, I gathered that their great-grandfather Christian Fjeld came from Norway under the auspices of the Salvation Army. One day I hoped to explore Christian's immigration story, with moves that not only crossed the Atlantic but also took him coast to coast. Christian's only son, Ellsworth Fjeld (1931-2002), father of Peter, George, Karl, and Gus, moved his family to Leicester, Vermont, from Long Island, New York in 1972.

Before delving into Christian's story, a few facts are in order about the Salvation Army. Founder William Booth, a Methodist lay preacher, and his wife Catherine, shed a traditional church structure. In 1865, in London's East End, they opened "The Christian Mission," in their efforts to reach lost souls—thieves, prostitutes, gamblers, and drunkards. Adopting a military structure, their organization grew quickly. While proofreading the organization's 1878 Manifesto, Booth changed the name to The Salvation Army. A chapter was established in Christiana [changed to Oslo

in 1924], Norway in January 1888, aimed at addressing poverty and addiction.

A Salvation Army soldier who rose in its ranks, Christian Ditlef Bernard Fjeld was born in Lillestrom, Norway, less than 14 miles from Oslo, on March 6, 1884, the eldest son of Karl Anton Fjeld and Gina Kristiansdatter Svastabraten. Baptized in the Lutheran Church and confirmed at the age of 14, he joined the Salvation Army cause as a young man in his early twenties. On January 25, 1907, Christian left his native Norway aboard the SS Parisian which sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. From there he traveled by rail to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where he entered

the United States on February 11, 1907. His first mission took him to Seattle, Washington.

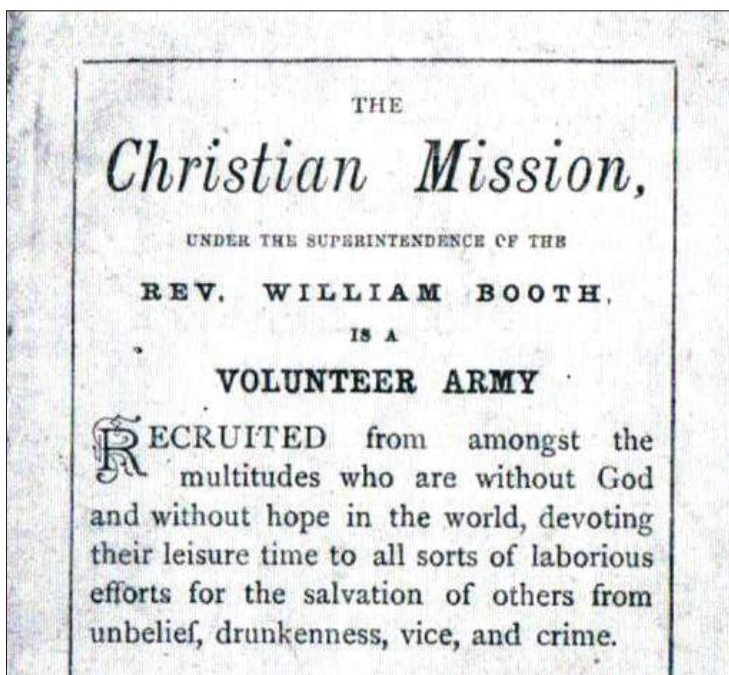
Christian wasted no time in declaring his intention to become a United States citizen in 1911. Documents describe him as 5'8" with dark hair and gray eyes. He also indicated he wanted to be known as Christian Fjeld, dropping his two middle names. On June 9, 1917, he took his formal oath of allegiance as an American citizen, renouncing any ties to King Haakon VII of Norway. Christian's work in the field took him from Seattle, then to Minneapolis, and by 1920 to Chicago, where he applied for a passport to travel to England, to attend a Salvation Army con-

ference, and from there to Norway to see his aging parents and younger siblings. A letter from his field officer accompanied the passport application.

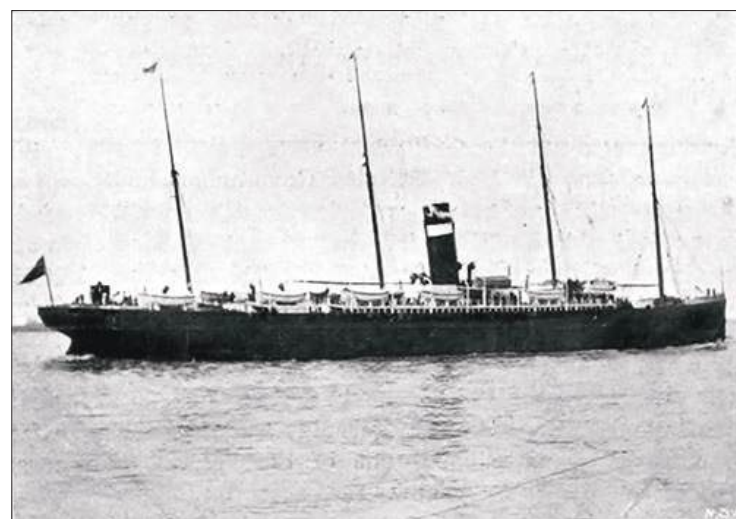
Over the next two decades, he made several more transatlantic voyages. While living in Chicago, he had an unintentional brush with notoriety. Christian frequented Dean O'Banion's flower shop in order to bring bouquets to hospital patients and shut-ins. Unbeknownst to the Salvation Army officer, O'Banion was a North Side Gang leader. He was gunned down in the shop on November 10, 1924, spark-

ing gang war reprisals that culminated in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929. Perhaps this was a motivating factor to Christian's move to New York City.

In June 1929, at the age of 47, he wed Sigrid Anderson, 15 years his junior, in New York City's Salvation Army Auditorium. Born in Cranston, Rhode Island, on August 22, 1899, Sigrid was the daughter of Per and Augusta Anderson, Swedish immigrants. She had been highly active in the organization and held several offices. Three years after the birth of (See Coming to America, Page 8)



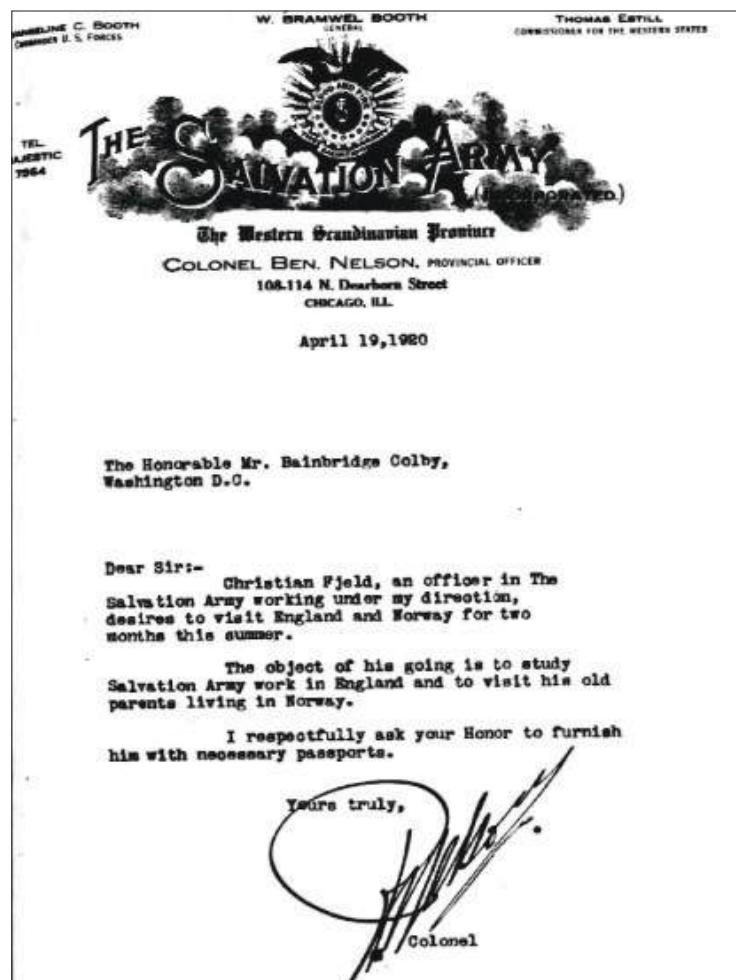
LETTER ACCOMPANYING CHRISTIAN'S passport application in 1920.



SS PARISIAN, WHICH stayed in service until the end of World War I.



BABY ELLSWORTH, SIGRID, visiting Christian's father, Karl, in Norway.



1878 SALVATION ARMY manifesto.

# My cancer journey, part four: the continuing saga

BY CAROLYN VAN VLECK

So, I've just had my fourth infusion! Yes, each time I have had the same side effects, though I had been warned that they could change around the fourth one...blah!

I did have nausea this morning for the first time but have terrific fast-working pills to get rid of it...or hide it (never sure how meds actually work). My face was also very hot all day, so I had to keep putting ice on it and finally took a couple of aspirin, which seemed to work. It was very uncomfortable. No temperature, though.

My hair has never actually come out. It came off in great handfuls, but I've never been bald. I did have it shaved off, and now it is growing back. I wear little tube-like scarves on my head, as I don't want to shock my public! Hats actually hurt the scalp, which is too bad. I still retain both my eyelashes and my eyebrows. I have been given several hats with false hair, as well as a wig, none of which I wear. I like just what I call the "cloth tube" hats. All hair hats will be donated to RRMC Foley's Center.

I definitely have chemo brain! This matches and exceeds menopause mind (my made-up term) where I'd forget what I was talking about, and it would take a minute to retrieve it. Now, I can't even remember what I was talking about. There is also chemo belly, which involves big-time bloating, but I haven't been blessed with that.

No neuropathy...yet. No mouth sores...yet. Constipation...yes.

I never did the exercise thing. I simply did not have the energy to do so.

I am hot a lot. No tempera-

ture, just very hot skin. My pillow seems to retain much heat, so I'm constantly flipping it over.

I have lost approximately 20 pounds, which is exciting but I don't recommend the manner in which I've lost them! But I do struggle to eat...odd, indeed, for a person who made her living cooking in restaurants and basically lives to eat, but I have no appetite at all during infusion week, so I have to make myself eat. Food is very important to healing. More proteins and fibers. Need it to battle problems with the internal plumbing. Trying to have a healthy smoothie every day now, as well.

My legs (knees and ankles) continue to be wobbly. Sometimes I have to literally crawl up the stairs. It affects my housework, so I have had to hire a housecleaner to help out with the cat hairs!

I have cut way back on the Tylenol, as it was affecting my liver. This has happened to me before. I'm the one who has pointed this out to my physicians! So, I just take it now when I have actual pain vs. taking it twice daily to keep it in check. It was also suggested recently that I wear a mask in closed-in public areas due to the whole blood-cell thing, which has lowered my immune system tremendously. I feel all right, but don't want to tempt danger, so if you see someone walking around Hannaford with a mask on, it'll be me!

I make no plans for the week following the infusion. Zero! Every time I do, they have to be cancelled, so it's a quiet week at home, which is fine. I get projects done and read a lot and watch British movies. But

I still nap much of the time. I text a lot and chat with buddies on the phone.

The nurses at Foley all know me now and are so kind and helpful. I am going to take them a gigantic edible gift of some sort on my last infusion day!

Yesterday, the doctor told me that my score had dropped to 8! Incredible! From 15 to 9 to 245 to 295 to 15 to 8! I'm a survivor!! Yahoo! Of course, the port stays in (sigh) as I will continue to get a blood test every week just to stay on top of things, probably until October or so.

My friends have continued to watch over me, which is just the sweetest thing. They drive from a half an hour away to take me another half-hour down to my infusions. Taking them out to dinner at the end, of course! I get texts and cards and flowers. I feel loved, which helps the psyche! I feel blessed in many ways, to be honest—very lucky to have to have an infusion every three weeks instead of daily, like many others do.

My stomach continues to heal from the April surgery. At least, I'm hoping that it does, what with chemo slamming it. It still hurts at times.

I'd like to go over what chemo actually does to work against cancer. Cancer is the rapid dividing of cells—bad cells. So, the chemo prevents this from happening by targeting the cancer cells and preventing them from multiplying. Unfortunately, it also targets regular old blood cells, so it's a battle inside...which I shall win.



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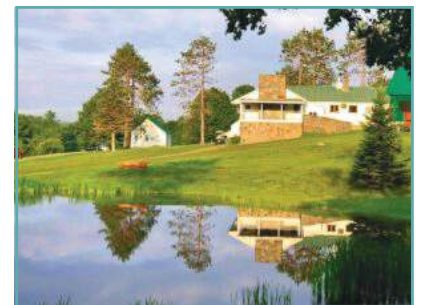
\*Varies yearly based on co-op performance and is subject to change

## Spotlight On Business CAMP THORPE



Camp Thorpe provides a joyful and inclusive

summer camp experience for teens and adults with developmental disabilities, in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont. We help them experience the excitement of summer camp in a secure and loving home away from home. Camp



Thorpe is preserving its unique history, stewarding its lands, and continuing to improve its campus, in order to foster inspirational and transformational experiences for the whole community—campers, their families, caregivers, and staff.

## SPREAD THE WORD!

Have an event to add to our calendar?

EMAIL US AT [NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM](mailto:NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM)

## Touch-a-TRUCK

~ At ~  
**Pittsford Village Farm**  
42 Elm Street,  
Pittsford, Vt.

### Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

**Rain Date: September 13**  
10am - 2pm • 10am-11am: Horns-free hour  
(for children with special needs and sensitive ears)

Touch-a-Truck is a family friendly event that offers children and families a hands-on opportunity to explore a variety of vehicles/machinery and to meet people who build, protect and serve the Pittsford area. Displays include construction equipment, trucks, machinery and emergency responders.

~ Food ~ Play Area for Kids ~ More! ~ LOTS OF FUN!

FREE EVENT! (Donations Welcome)

**PITTSFORDVILLAGEFARM.ORG**

"We do have patients that we're not able to serve because we're at capacity," the chief operating officer said

## Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center expansion to add 64 beds and focus on geriatric care

BY VALLEY NEWS

This story by Lukas Dunford was first published by the Valley News on Aug. 28.

LEBANON—Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center has begun another multimillion-dollar expansion of its five-story patient pavilion.

The expansion is set to double the 64 beds currently in use in that section of the hospital, Tom Manion, the medical center's chief operating officer, said in a Thursday video interview.

There are currently 460 inpatient beds in the medical center, according to Dartmouth Health spokesperson Cassidy Smith.

"We do have patients that we're not able to serve because we're at capacity," Manion said.

Following the 240,000-square-foot pavilion's opening in 2023, this expansion, which began in April, is set to be carried out over yearslong phases on two currently empty floors of the building.

After the final phase of the project, which is planned for 2028, the medical center will be able to admit an additional 4,500 inpatients annually, Manion said. Compared to current rates, this would be an increase of around 12% to 14%, Smith wrote in an email Thursday.

With an aging New Hampshire population, currently the second-oldest state in the nation, the departments set to expand are those that older adults need most: cardiovascular, neurology, oncology, trans-

plant, surgery and general medicine.

Of the 64 new beds, 32 will expand the cardiovascular department, David Duncan, the vice president of facilities management for Dartmouth Health, said on Thursday's call.

The cardiovascular expansion "is directly related to the age and population," Duncan said. "As people get older, there's more heart issues."

The 32 other new beds will be a combination of neurology and general medicine beds, Duncan said. The particular department of the beds isn't set in stone, as they can change based on the current needs of the population.

The expansion will also place related departments beside one another, so patients and staff can easily respond to changing needs. For example, the intensive care unit will be relocated to the third floor beside the specialty care unit, which is one step down in severity from intensive care, allowing for movement based on patients' needs, Manion said.

Locating related units neighboring each other also allows for more "collaborative care" between different levels of physicians and nurses, according to Manion.

Despite health care workforce shortages, medical center officials "feel pretty comfortable in general about the direction we're heading," Manion wrote in a Wednesday email. "We have offers made, we have staff coming, etc. But we have some more recruiting to do."



### And for my next trick...

THIS SMALL FALCON is a Merlin. One is currently hunting in the Pearl St area.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

# Penalties increase for wildlife offenses

MONTPELIER—The penalties for wildlife violations have increased substantially according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Poachers who illegally shoot deer, bear, moose, or wild turkeys now face higher fines and jail sentences. Maximum fines have doubled from \$1,000 to \$2,000 with a potential jail sentence of up to 60 days for the

first offense. A second offense now brings a maximum fine of \$5,000 and potential jail sentence of up to 180 days.

The same penalties also now apply for possessing, transporting, buying or selling big game; violations of threatened or endangered species laws; interference with hunting, fishing or trapping; and illegal commercial importation or possession of

wild animals.

"These changes are long overdue," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jason Batchelder. "Vermont's wildlife violation penalties have remained unchanged since 2015."

The changes, which are now in effect, were included in Act. 47 passed by the Vermont legislature in the spring.

# Company ends lockout of Vermont bus workers, contract talks in the works

BY GRETA SOLSAA/  
VTDIGGER

An ongoing labor dispute in southeastern Vermont subsided on Labor Day when bus company Travel Kuz ended its lockout of bus drivers and monitors represented by the Vermont Teamsters Local 597 union.

The workers returned to transporting students enrolled in

Windham Southeast Supervisory Union's 10 schools in Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Putney and Vernon on Tuesday.

The workers had been on the picket line for nearly two weeks since Travel Kuz locked them out from the company's Brattleboro headquarters after contract negotiations stalled. The company brought in replacement workers for the start

of the school year.

Travel Kuz accused the union of unlawful picketing and endangering students in a cease-and-desist letter last week. Local law enforcement did not witness any unlawful activity and the Teamsters disputed the characterization.

A spokesperson for Travel Kuz — affiliated with Beacon Mobil- (See Bus workers contract, Page 6)

## The REPORTER

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

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

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# Letter to the Editor

## Governor Scott needs to reclaim his ethical principles

Governor Scott enjoys a well-earned reputation as a moderate Republican who doesn't allow party affiliations to cloud his judgment. He has a strong backbone that lets him tell the Republican President that he will not support many of the erratic policies the President keeps proposing.

Unfortunately, two recent events have raised some concerns about his strength and tenacity. His past history of strong resistance to the administration's campaign to destroy the rule of law may be weakening.

The first event: Before daylight on August 6, a crowd of people in handcuffs were escorted by ICE agents through a side door at Burlington Airport. Both airport officials and ICE agents refused to answer questions about the people's identity, why they were handcuffed, why they were being shuffled through the airport at such an unusual hour, and where they were being taken. Such activity has no place in our democracy. Such activity smacks too much of human trafficking.

To date, I am not aware of any statement from the Gov-

ernor's office condemning the activity.

The second event: A recent directive from the White House required all states to provide personal information on participants in several government programs. One was the SNAP program. Attorneys General in 20 states filed a lawsuit to block the SNAP order. However, in Vermont, he opted to voluntarily turn over the names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers of all 64,000 Vermont SNAP recipients. Although SNAP funds are federally sourced, the lawsuit

brought by the Attorneys General clearly states that personal information is strictly confidential.

To date, I am not aware of any statement from the Governor's office concerning his compliance with the order to supply personal information on SNAP recipients.

I've admired the Governor's backbone that he displayed in the past (most recently his re-

jection to send the Vermont National Guard to American cities.) I feel certain that his moral compass will again guide him through the wilderness that is certain to block many paths in the near future. His code of ethical principles will not be easy to set aside.

Frank Spezzano  
Brandon

## Why buy local?

Brandon just hit a milestone that I think should be celebrated. At one of the last Selectboard meetings, it was announced that the Town received its quarterly Local Option Tax revenue in the amount of over \$88,000. That \$88,000 set a new record—the highest quarterly revenue so far collected. Since collections began in 2017, the 1% tax has generated more than \$2 million for Brandon. In the last 4 quarters reported from August 2024 through July 2025, the town received more than a quarter of a million dollars from this tax revenue.

For those who aren't familiar with it, every time a taxable sale is made in Brandon, an extra 1% over the state's share is added to the bill. That money is submitted to Montpelier by Brandon's businesses with their regular tax submissions. But the 1% comes back to Brandon and is used by the Town for directed capital investments. This means that

Brandon can do capital improvement projects, paid for outside of property taxes.

The Local Option Tax was approved by Brandon voters in 2016 and receipts started pouring into town in early 2017. The town benefits from consumer spending at our gas stations, supermarkets and convenience stores, restaurants, bars, lodging establishments, retail stores and dispensaries. In the first full quarter of receipts in 2017, the town collected \$34,000. Compare that with today's \$88,000. WOW!

I was recently talking to customers at my shop, Across the Street, who told me they come every other week to Brandon from Chittenden County to buy animal feed at Blue Seal Feeds because of the price and selection. While here, they fill up at the gas station, which is also cheaper here. They usually go out to eat because of our excellent selection of food choices

and they like to browse the retail stores. Win-win-win! Every other week this couple is helping beef up Brandon's local option revenue fund.

By buying in Brandon and Forest Dale, consumers are supporting contributing to the 1% Local Option Tax revenue which is plowed into our town in the form of capital improvements such as matches for the Segment 6 project, sidewalks, additional paving projects and even a public works vehicle.

With so many Vermont towns and cities now participating in the 1% local option tax, consumers are going to pay it almost anywhere they shop, eat or fill up with gas in Vermont. So, if you buy it in Brandon, that 1% will directly come back here! Two million dollars' worth of projects, paid for outside property taxes in less than 10 years. Congratulations Brandon!

Janet Mondlak  
Brandon

## We must come together to defend democracy

Imagine a huge red, white, and blue tent. It is not a Democratic tent – nor is it a Republican tent. It is a tent for anyone, regardless of their political persuasion, who wants to defend democracy.

Who would be in this tent? Independents, Republicans, Socialists, Democrats, Progressives....

Anyone who believes that: The Constitution is the law of the land, and all people, including the government, are bound by it.

All people are equal in their rights and individual freedoms, including the rights to free speech, due process, and freedom of religion.

The government is made up of three coequal branches: the executive branch, the judicial branch, and the legislative branch, which check and balance each other.

If you believe in the above, it is time to put aside our differences and come together to preserve our democracy. We can disagree on the role of the

government, on how we spend our money. We can come from different religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations. We can be married or not. We can have a college education or not. We can wish a clear separation of federal and state rights, or not. None of this matters if we don't first save the democracy.

If we share these values, we must work together. United we stand; divided we fall.

Jill Freeland  
Brandon

## Leicester News

### Caucuses and bingo are on the horizon

**The Leicester Democratic Party Caucus** will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. at the white building (Senior Center) at the Four Corners. For more information, contact Joseph Watson at 802-735-6356.



**CORRECTION: The Leicester Republican Party Caucus** will be held on **TUESDAY, SEPT. 16**, at 6 p.m. at the white building (Senior Center) at the Four Corners. For more information, contact Tom Barker at 802-247-3160.



The Leicester Historical Society will be sponsoring Prize Bingo on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. All are welcome and refreshments served.



**RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION SATURDAY, SEPT. 6. RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION HAS BEEN MOVED ACROSS ROUTE 7 IN FRONT OF THE MEETING HOUSE. PULL UP PARALLEL TO THE TRUCKS AND UNLOAD YOUR STUFF.**



"In the present circumstances, the future of the United States cannot be taken for granted. The negative scenario in *On Tyranny*, and I think the negative scenario most often imagined, is that the entirety of the United States will undergo a regime change towards an authoritarian order, without the rule of law, without checks and balances, with permanent repression of dissidents, with informational control via technology, with programmed ignorance through decimated and humbled schools and universities, with an economy controlled such that social advancement is impossible and wealth remains with the regime-friendly oligarchs.

"That is the goal of those in power, and we are right to fear it, and right to work against it – more right, I think, than we realize."

-- Timothy Snyder, author of *On Tyranny*

More at: [indivisiblebrandon.org/resist](https://indivisiblebrandon.org/resist)

# Obituaries

## Diana Lynn Berthiaume, 58, Salisbury

Diana Lynn Berthiaume, age 58, passed peacefully on August 25, 2025, at the Pines in Rutland.

Diana was born in Ridgewood, N.J., on December 22, 1966, the daughter of John and Rita (Wozniak) Arnott. She grew up in Charlotte, Vt., and graduated from Champlain Valley Union High School in the class of 1985. She went on to attend Roger Williams University and later earned her L.P.N. from the Fanny Allen School of Nursing. Diana began her career in healthcare, working at Porter Hospital and Neshobe Family Medicine in Brandon. She later expanded her professional path, earning her Real Estate Broker's License. After the passing of her father, she stepped into his role as President of Ladd Research. She loved to travel; London, England was a favorite to visit.

She is survived by her hus-



**DIANA L. BERTHIAUME**

band, Vern Berthiaume; a son, Jack Berthiaume; her daughter Katie Berthiaume; her mother, Rita Arnott; and one brother, John Arnott. Her nephew Julian Arnott and niece Johanna Arnott also survive her. In addition, she will be missed by many other be-

loved family members and close friends.

A private funeral service will be held at Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon, followed by a private graveside committal and burial at West Salisbury Cemetery.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, September 7, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Brandon Inn. All who loved Diana are warmly invited to join in honoring and remembering her.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Diana's memory to MD Anderson Cancer Center, where Diana received treatment. Donations may be made online at [www.mdanderson.org/donate](http://www.mdanderson.org/donate) or sent by mail to 1515 Holcombe Blvd, Houston, Texas 77030. Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## Doris Laura Farnsworth, 88, Brandon

Doris Laura Farnsworth, age 88, passed peacefully, with family by her side, on August 16, 2025.

Doris was born in Shoreham on October 15, 1936. She was the daughter of Victor and Juliette (Desautels) Pomainville. She grew up on the family farm in Shoreham. She received her early education in local Shoreham Schools and graduated from Shoreham Academy, class of 1954. Following her marriage to Francis Farnsworth they moved to Norco, Louisiana, where she taught at St. Charles Catholic School for several years. In 1967, they returned to Vermont, where she was employed at the Ayrshire Cattle Breeders Association and later at Brandon Coils for several years prior to her retirement. She had traveled to Louisiana to visit her sister. She enjoyed bingo, traveling to Florida and Canada, and going to the casino.

She is survived by her daughter, Carrie Whitney, and her husband Dennis of Granville, N.Y., and a son, Gary F. Farnsworth & his partner, Carolyn Hooper, of Wilder, Vt.; and one sister, Simone Barbara of St. Rose, La. Five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter along with several nieces, nephews, & cousins who also survive her. She was predeceased by her husband, Francis; a brother Ernest Pomainville; a sister, Rita Davis; and a grandson Shawn Farn-



**DORIS L. FARNSWORTH**

sworth. The family would like to extend their gratitude to her niece, Lynn Pope, who helped with her home health care.

The funeral service will be held on September 5, 2025, at 12 noon, at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor of Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church will officiate. The graveside committal service and burial will follow in St. Genevieve Cemetery in Shoreham.

Friends may pay their respects to the family on September 5, 2025 from 11 a.m. until service time at 12 noon.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to High Peaks Hospice, 1247 Dix Avenue, Hudson Falls, N.Y. 12839.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

## Bus workers contract

(Continued from Page 4)

ity — wrote in a press release that the company ended the lockout because the union is ready to return to the bargaining table.

"From the start, our hope has been to reach an agreement that is fair for employees and affordable for the town, while keeping the focus on what matters most: children arriving at school safely and returning home with care," the spokesperson wrote. "We care deeply about our drivers and want to be sure they feel valued and fairly paid for the vital work they do."

Curtis Clough, president of the Vermont Teamsters Local 597, said the union has "always been available to negotiate with the bus company," even during the lockout.

"We'd love to get back to the table with the company," Clough said. "We've already sent the company multiple letters asking for them to come back to the table and negotiate, so hopefully that bears some fruit."

Lena Melentijevic, spokesperson for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, wrote in a statement that Travel Kuz notified individual drivers and monitors late Monday afternoon that the lockout ended, but the union has not received direct communication from the company about the situation or future bargaining as of Tuesday.

"The company created a stressful situation for our members and the community," Melentijevic wrote in a statement.

"We call on the company to come back to the table and negotiate a fair contract for our members."

Travel Kuz previously told VT-Digger the union's proposal would cause an "unrealistic burden" by expanding company costs by over 40%.

At the Aug. 22 meeting held during the lockout, Clough said, the union adjusted its workers' pay proposal but maintained its benefits request. He said the Teamsters (See *Bus workers contract*, Page 23)

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*In memory of  
our friend  
Doug Newton*



### DOUG NEWTON

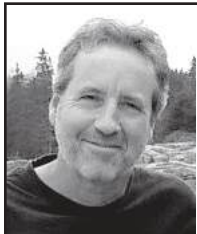
It's so hard to believe that it's been a year since Doug left this Earth and left the rest of us puzzled. I'm sure that I'm not the only one that wonders why when we lose someone like him.

Doug was a powerful man, as strong as an oak tree and as solid as a rock. That is not why we looked up to him. We looked up to him because of his generous and kind nature. We looked up to Doug because if you were his friend and you were hurting in one way or another, he was there to help you in any way he could. I know this because he was there for me many times. And that doesn't get forgotten.

I once heard it said that if you can count all your true friends on one hand then you should consider yourself lucky. Well now, I consider myself lucky just for knowing that Doug was my friend.

I miss Doug as I'm sure many, many others do. Rest in peace, Doug, and if we are lucky, we will all see you again one day.

*Your friend,  
Steve Bryant*



# Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

## How to out-maneuver unreasonably short Vermont summers

Roundabout late August when I grumble about unreasonably short summers, I usually console myself with a petty comparison to chillier Northern Vermont, where they struggle to even grow tomatoes. Now this might not be the most adult response to our abbreviated summers, but at least it gives me a little comfort.

I tried to confirm this recently in a carefully-worded email to my sister-in-law, who lives in those parts. Of course I began with the standard pleasantries. A couple of nice inquiries about the family. And then—woven in as naturally as I could manage—the tomato question.

Admittedly the whole business hung on the emotionally unhealthy hope that her inability to grow a couple of Big Boy Tomatoes might somehow make me feel better down here in lower Vermont. (Which of course I now fully repent of.) But to my astonishment her response was overwhelmingly positive. Not a word of complaint. “I think lots of people around here have little greenhouses so they can extend the growing season!” “I love how easy green beans are to grow!!” She even weighed in on some fall crop ideas. You simply couldn’t count all the exclamation marks.

Which is also to say that she is employing exclamation marks quite differently from me when it comes to summer discussions with my wife. (“I can’t believe summer’s almost over!” “It’s like living in Copenhagen!!”)

It may be hard for me to face, but I’m beginning to conclude that we might have two frames of mind over our short summer season here in Vermont. There are those who bravely make the most of our truncated season. And then there are those of us who, in the quiet recesses

of our minds, guiltily wonder if global warming might come with a side benefit of keeping the boat out an extra week or two. (Which is a thought I am also repenting of.)

Let me just say that this problem hasn’t necessarily kept me awake at night. Nevertheless, a rather troubling angle was recently added when my wife reminded me of another puzzling detail: my sister-in-law is from Southern California. Now, I’m not one to go around trying to

psychoanalyze extended family members. But that someone of her background might find the Vermont summer length acceptable is a mystery I can’t easily walk away from.

One possible explanation I recently read on my porch, in the waning August sunlight, comes from a psychologist

named Dr. Loretta G. Breuning. In an article written for Psychology Today, she suggests that the key to making peace with things outside of your control is all about retraining your mind. Building new “Neural Pathways.” “When the world disappoints your expectations, your brain releases cortisol and it feels like an emergency. You can re-wire your brain to feel safe when you’re not in control...it means building a new neural pathway to replace that old cortisol circuit.”

Now I don’t know about cortisol, but to me this is essentially a new repackaging of an old adage I have subscribed to for many years: If you can’t change your situation, change your attitude. Reading on I learned that the good doctor was basically suggesting a mental exercise to build new habits of mind. She recommends that for 45 days (say, the length of a solid Vermont summer) malcontented thinking might be reversed by forcing an opposite

train of thought. Sure, comparing your short summer to others with even shorter summers might feel good in the moment. But the better option she says for your “Mammal Brain” is to rewrite your mental responses. If an unholy September frost were to materialize, for example, I should probably refrain from angry public monologues and instead remark on what a wonderful opportunity it will be for me to wear my new cardigan.

But perhaps a more plausible theory to explain people like my sister-in-law might have something to do with the intensity of how many Vermonters spend their summers. Like Navy sailors on limited shore leave, some Vermonters just understand how to make the most of the time. One neighbor of mine would fit this exactly. He routinely jogs by my home, shoulders back, training for a 50-mile mountain run(!) In addition, his family performs weekly in Monday night park concerts, he’s teaching his kids how to sail this summer, their garden is the envy of the neighborhood, and his kids are some of the most enterprising fishermen in the area. Clearly these people are not spending their summer sitting idle in lawn chairs.

I’ve been seriously pondering this (in my lawn chair) for some time now and I realize that the key to overcoming the short summer season is simply to cram 4 months of stuff into 2 months. It’s basically a way of cheating time. Run not one marathon but two. Back to back. Double the size of your garden. Catch enough fish to fill two freezers.

With any luck, utter exhaustion will effectively blanket any thoughts of how unreasonably short the summer season is. Which may be the underlying Vermont strategy all along.

I’ll be sure to check back with my sister-in-law on this.

Good luck with your tomatoes.

## CDC chaos

(Continued from Page 1)  
really hard for entities that are as heavily funded by federal grants as we are.”

No more than a week after the regional meeting, the federal center’s director, Susan Monarez, was forced out of the position, reportedly due to her objections to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s efforts to change vaccine recommendations. On Wednesday, Monarez’s lawyers posted a letter on X that claimed her ouster was due to her refusal to “rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless directives and fire dedicated health experts.”

The CDC’s chief medical officer, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, the director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases and the director of Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance and Technology all resigned that same day.

On Thursday, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders called for a bipartisan congressional investigation into Monarez’s firing, citing in his statement the dangers to public health posed by what he called a “reckless” and “dangerous” decision.

The regional meeting last week centered on questions of infectious disease epidemiol-

ogy, vaccines, laboratory sciences and emergency preparedness, Arel said. The coalition included all of the New England states except New Hampshire, as well as New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

“There may be times where we are looking to provide more information than maybe the CDC is. But every state is going to need to do its own thing,” she added, explaining that the idea is that the regional coalition could be a source of guidelines and resources for states to act on independently.

Attendees were particularly interested in discussing how states might navigate a situation where the CDC’s vaccine recommendations split from state health officials’ scientific consensus, Arel described.

On Wednesday, the FDA issued approvals for updated Covid vaccines and removed emergency authorizations for their use, which had broadened access to the shots. Kennedy posted on X that the current authorization makes the Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax vaccines available to patients over 12 years old after consulting with their doctors. Still, the end of the emergency designation is expected to make it more challenging for individuals to get the shots without that approval.

In a Thursday email to VT-  
(See CDC chaos, Page 18)

## Fall plants are here!

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# Coming to America

(Continued from Page 2)  
their son Ellsworth, the family made a return trip to Lillestrom in the summer of 1934 to see Christian's father. His mother had died the previous year.

By the late 1930s, they settled in a storefront apartment at 6306 Fifth Avenue in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Christian and Sigrid's active work, as documented in newspaper articles, continued through the 1950s, when they were described as some of the oldest officers still in service. Sigrid also sang solos at meetings. In retirement, particularly at Christmas time, they visited Swedish old age homes.

Having risen to the rank of Brigadier General in the Salvation Army, Christian Fjeld met a tragic end. On the day before

his 72nd birthday, March 5, 1962, he was struck by a car at the intersection of 61st Street and Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn. He succumbed to his injuries two weeks later. Sigrid survived her husband by three years. They are buried in Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, New York.

A common denominator in immigrants coming to the United States is that they sought a better life than the one they left. By contrast, Christian Fjeld came to America with a mission to save lost souls and spent his life in that cause.


[Acknowledgments:  
Dr. George Fjeld,  
Jayne Oliver Fjeld].



CHRISTIAN AND  
SIGRID, ca. 1955.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:  
Brigadier General Christian Fjeld, paterfamilias of our local Fjeld families, ca. 1940; Fjeld brothers, circa 1964. Back: Peter and George. Front: Gus and Karl; Bay Ridge home, second-floor apartment, of the Fjelds for two decades.



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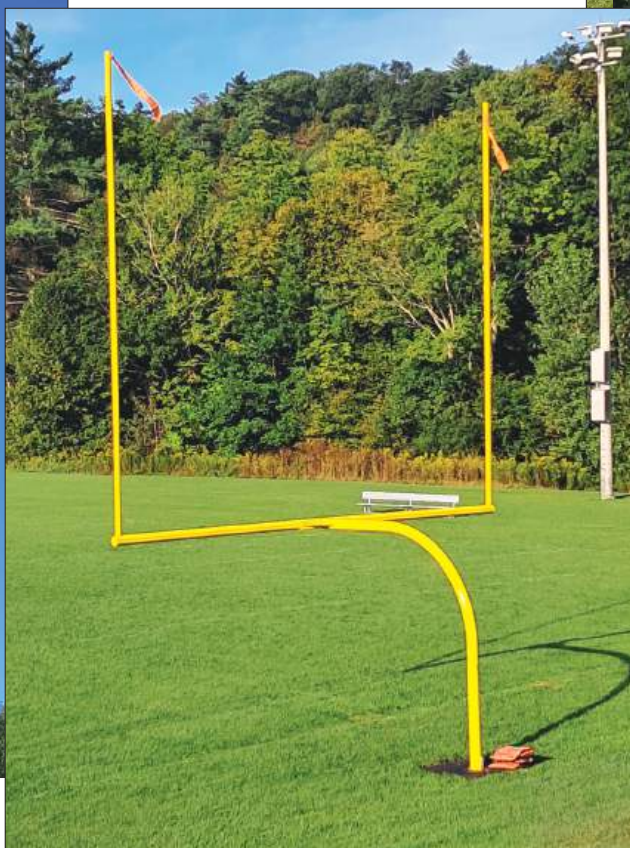
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# MARKOWSKI FIELD GETS A BACK-TO-SCHOOL TOUCH-UP!



The OVFC (Otter Valley Football Club) spent their Labor Day weekend busy on the field. The goal posts at Markowski Field had never had a fresh coat of paint so the club stepped up and made them game ready.

Three days of pressure washing, dragging mats, painting, and putting the finishing touch on with wind flags. They look brand new and are ready for the team this season.

Shout out to Tanner Romano and Naylor & Breen for providing a lift to make this possible. Our sincere appreciation for always supporting local sports and the community.

—Otter Valley Football Club

The school's president announced in a press release that continuing operations at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies was "no longer feasible," and said they would close the Monterey campus in June 2027.

## Middlebury College to shutter its satellite campus in California

BY COREY MCDONALD/  
VTDIGGER

Middlebury College announced on Thursday it would be closing the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, the school's satellite campus in California, after its enrolled students complete their degrees in June 2027.

The school's president, Ian Baucom, said in a press release and accompanying video announcement that continuing operations at the campus in its current state was "no longer feasible." The college's Board of Trustees approved the closure of the satellite, which primarily serves post-graduate students, during a special meeting on Aug. 27.

"I recognize the gravity of this moment," Baucom said in the press release. "I and my senior leadership team made this recommendation after careful deliberation, and the board did not come to this decision lightly."

The college first purchased the



institute and its campus in 2005 from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school focuses on graduate degree and certificate programs in foreign languages and international policy. Baucom called it a "leading global center of international studies."

The closure comes as Middlebury College faces severe financial difficulties. In April, facing a \$14.1 million deficit, the school announced a number of cost saving measures, including reductions to staff and faculty retirement benefits, which sparked faculty walkouts and protests.

At the time, college leadership said that \$8.7 million of the total deficit was due to low enrollment at the Monterey Institute. One faculty member called the institute an "albatross" for Middlebury College that was sinking finances and morale.

Baucom, in the press release, said the decision was "not a reflection on the quality of our programs or our outstanding Mon-

terey colleagues, whose work is far reaching and significant."

The institute experienced steep declines in enrollment following the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving programs at the campus with "unsustainable operating deficits," Baucom said in his video announcement.

All currently enrolled students will be able to complete their degrees. The school will not consider repurposing, leasing, or selling the property in Monterey until students complete their programs in June 2027, Baucom said in the release.

"It bears repeating that this was absolutely a financial decision and not a reflection on the quality of our programs or our exceptional faculty and staff," Baucom said. "It also should not be left unsaid that (the institute's) work to educate students who go on to work in diplomacy, interpretation, arms negotiations, and other forms of service to humanity has mattered."

Eric Mallory, Shop Owner • Chuck Havens, Technician

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# The Reporter

(Continued from Page 1)

received any compensation for their work on the paper and none of us will seek any compensation as we begin to wind things down. All the financial assets of the nonprofit will go to pay our obligations (to our two paid employees, to the printing press, and to The Addison Independent, which has provided essential support services to us).

We would love to see some version of the paper continue. To that end, we'll be holding a public forum on Thursday, September 18 at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Brandon Town Hall. The purpose of the forum is to help the community decide what kind of paper it wants and can sustain.

However, it must be stated that others will need to step up to make this happen. We are happy to help the community think through the possibilities, and to offer our advice and guidance, but the execution of any plan will depend on a new team of community members coming forward to oversee the editorial and operational processes. As happy as we

were to publish The Reporter for the last three years, George and I cannot continue to provide these services ourselves. It's time for new faces, new voices, new perspectives, and new energy.

Predictably, the main issues affecting sustainability are costs and personnel.

For perspective, it costs roughly \$100,000 per year just to publish the paper in its current physical format, including printing costs and payroll for our part-time graphic designer and part-time operations coordinator. Printing costs have increased substantially in the time we've been managing the paper, putting a significant strain on our budget. And this figure does not include payroll for an editor, business manager, and reporters, as those jobs are currently done on a volunteer basis. Nor does it include the essential support services pro-

vided by The Addison Independent, with whom we have a contractual agreement. If we included those other costs and relied on paid labor, the yearly expense of publishing the paper would be closer to \$200,000. In 2024, our gross revenue was \$95,400.

Even with the generous donations and grants we've received, including \$5,000 from the Brandon Trustees of Public Funds in 2024, we are unable to cover the expense of publication. Over the years, we have done more and more in-house to reduce expenses, though this has in turn greatly taxed our staff. With fewer than 500 paid subscribers, diminishing ad revenue, strained personnel, and increasing costs, a major overhaul is undeniably warranted.

Our costs could be lessened significantly by shrinking the size of the paper, reducing the frequency of publication, limiting coverage to Brandon (with other towns managing their own independent publications), or changing the format to online only. All these options are on the table.

As for personnel, it would be easier to sustain a paper if the editorial and operational tasks were divvied up among teams of volunteers rather than handled by individuals. We are happy to train new teams to carry on the work.

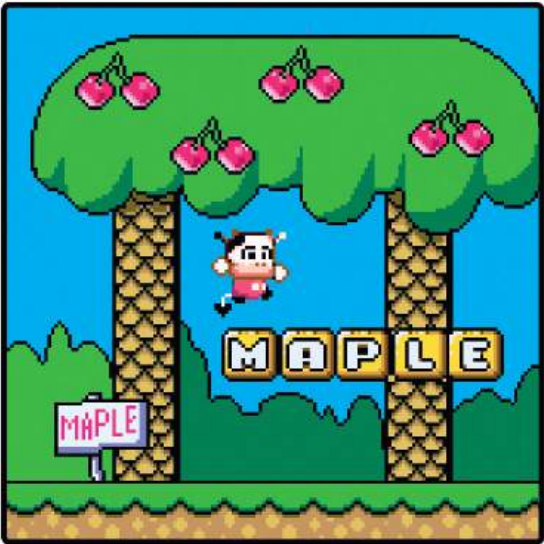
These are some of the choices that the community will need to evaluate as it decides what it wants and can maintain.

We believe that local news is vital to the health and cohesion of small communities like ours. We would not have worked so hard for the last three years if we didn't. We hope there are others in the community who share that belief and will be able to continue providing this essential community service.

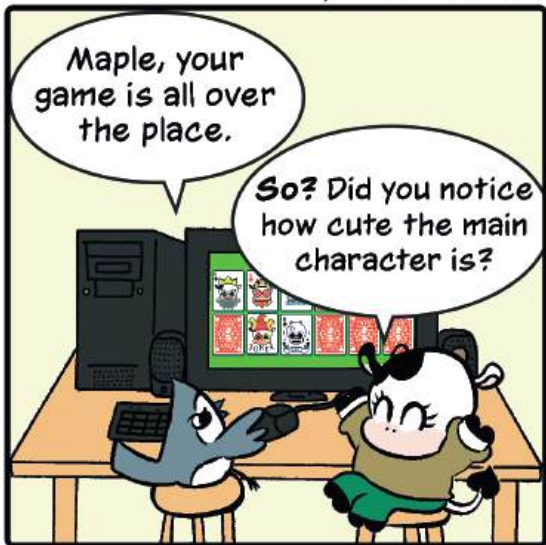
Please join us on September 18, if you can. If you're unable to attend but would like to be involved or offer feedback, please reach out to us at [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com).

*We believe that local news is vital to the health and cohesion of small communities like ours. We would not have worked so hard for the last three years if we didn't.*

## MAPLE THE COW<sup>®</sup> by Matt Aucoin



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**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**

See page 11

## HARVEST SEASON SALE!



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# Calendar of events

## September

### Mondays

#### Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

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!

**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.

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

### Wednesdays

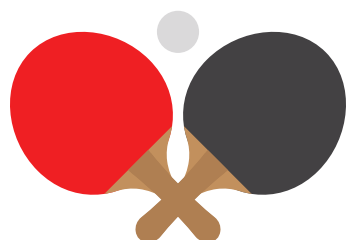
#### Ping Pong

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 mod-

est 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!"



### Free Medical Care for Adults Wednesdays in Sept. from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

A free walk-in healthcare clinic for uninsured or underinsured adults in Rutland County will be offered by the Rutland County Health Partners (formerly Rutland Free Clinic) every Wednesday in September from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at our offices at 204 North Main Street, Rutland, Vt. No appointment is necessary. For appointments or any questions, call 802-774-1082.

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at [www.gmttc.com](http://www.gmttc.com).

#### Friends Zone

Need a safe space to socialize? Come join us at the Friends Zone. Open Wednesdays 2-5 p.m. 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 at [vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto:vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com) or 802 345-4125.

#### Crafternoons

Join us from 12–2 pm at Maclure Library every Wednesday & bring your craft projects & supplies for an after-

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

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

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

Looking forward to seeing you in class!

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

personal practice.

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

## Goings on around town



noon 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 Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth

### 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.

**Sundays****Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal**

Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!

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

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

**Chess**

Join us at The Greenhouse Dispensary on Conant Square in Brandon for a few casual games of 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.

**Wednesday 3rd****Fair Haven Food Truck Frenzy**

Fair Haven's Food Truck Frenzy returns Sept. 3, 5-9 p.m. in the park! Enjoy food trucks, live music by J Michael

Kelley, local artisans, and a beer & wine garden. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, relax on the green, and enjoy great music while you sample everything the event has to offer. Admission: Free! Bring money for food, drinks, and shopping.

Here's just a taste of what you can expect: 80k – The lobster

roll legends, serving up the freshest rolls around. Rollin' Rooster – Crispy, juicy chicken favorites that always draw a crowd. Hound Dogs – Gourmet hot dogs with unique toppings and bold flavors. Hangry Hogg – Rutland's premier BBQ food truck, smoking up the best barbecue you'll find anywhere. The In-Law's Five Buck Truck – Grilled sandwiches and fried comfort foods, perfect for a hearty meal. Michelle Creations & Baked Goods – Freshly baked treats to satisfy your sweet tooth. Little Breakfast – Morning favorites served up all evening long. Mr. Ding-a-Ling – A classic ice cream truck bringing childhood nostalgia (and plenty of sprinkles). The Ice Cream Cart – Scoops of happiness, cool and creamy. The Lemonade Stand – Fresh, cold, and zesty—perfect for a warm night. Creemee & Shake Vendor – Vermont's favorite summer treat and thick, delicious shakes. Right across the street outside the Yoga Studio, you'll find our Beer & Wine Garden.

**Friday 5th****Wing Night & Queen of Hearts Drawing — VFW Post 648, Rutland**

Wings & Queen of Hearts drawing at 6 p.m. Menu: Boneless Wings, 6 wings \$7.50, 9 wings \$11.25, 12 wings \$15.00. Also available: Chicken Tenders, \$6; French Fries, \$3.50; Onion Rings, \$4.50; Mozzarella Sticks, \$6; Zucchini Sticks, \$5; Mushrooms, \$5; & Shrimp, \$6; Philly Egg Rolls! \$6. From 5-7 p.m. at 15 Wales Street, Rutland.

**Saturday 6th****Build Better Friendships Pickleball Learning Clinic — Rutland**

We are excited to introduce pickleball into the lives of everyone willing and able. We will be hosting a Learning Clinic at Monsignor Thomas Connor Park from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (rain location Rutland Racquet Club). The clinic will be staffed by accomplished pickleball facilitators. Clinic participation is by donation; please register for a spot and encourage friends to join. No need for paddles and balls, just be sure to wear athletic shoes, sunscreen, and smiles.

**Town of West Rutland Block Party**

The Block Party will take place on the Town Hall Green and Marble Street from 2:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Marble Street from Campbell to Main Street will be blocked off

to traffic to host the festivities. The day will feature games, craft vendors and food trucks. The musical entertainment will feature: West Rutland's Rock Lab, Extra Stout Irish Band, Tony's Polka Band and Satin & Steel. The event will be topped off with an evening fireworks display. Admission is free. Bring a chair and your dancing shoes.

**Saturday 6th  
Sunday 7th****Build Better Friendships Pickleball Tournament**

The 4th Annual Rotary Club of Rutland Build Better Friendships Pickleball Tournament is a non-sanctioned competitive play tournament in the round-robin format that aims to support all levels of play. Proceeds will support the Rotary Club of Rutland's grant program to aid food insecurity and charitable donations within the Rutland Region. Each round robin winner will receive prizes from our sponsors, local supporting businesses and Rotarians.

\$30 per player, per event.

Same Partner Round Robin Doubles: Saturday, September 6. Switch Partner Round Robin Doubles:

Sunday, September 7.

Round robin is a competition in which each player meets all other players in the pool. A round robin is different than an elimination tournament, as no player is eliminated after a certain number of losses. Player ability level is requested at registration to allow for matching players in equal level of play within the pool of registrants.

On the 6th at 11 a.m., and the 7th at 5 a.m. at Vermont Sport & Fitness Club, 40 Curtis Avenue, Rutland.

**Sunday 7th****Explore "The Power of Landscape" — Pawlett Historical Society**

Join the Pawlett Historical Society at 1 p.m. at the Chapel at the Mettowee Valley Cemetery at 167 Cemetery Hill Road, Pawlet, Vt. for a thought-provoking and visually rich presentation by New York Times bestselling author M.T. Anderson, as he explores the deep connections between our sense of landscape, identity and values. His talk, "The Power of Landscape" invites us to reflect on what makes scenery meaningful—and why it matters, especially as Vermont reconsiders Act 250, the legislature that has helped shape our state's rural character.

The talk will look into the history of our attitudes toward landscape, traditional New England landscape painting, and the work of some contemporary Vermont artists to discuss how different societies have found the sublime in their surroundings—and what that might mean in the future.

After the talk, join us for free ice cream sundaes. The event is free, open to the public and accessible to those with disabilities.

**Monday 8th****From Forest To Woodshop: An 8-Week Woodworking Intensive**

Spend your fall making something real in Vermont. This intensive program in wood furniture and products is a perfect gap year experience or career-changing accelerator.

HatchSpace is pleased to launch full-time, 300-hour intensive program in wood furniture and products innovation starting in the fall of 2025. Our woodworking immersion program is rooted in an integrated approach of study from forest to woodshop and offers participants the opportunity to study wood as a material, as well as methods of manipulation that support furniture and product design through sourcing, designing, drawing, cutting, sawing, joining, bending, and gluing.

Delivered in downtown Brattleboro, surrounded by some of the world's finest hardwood forests, students will gain not only the knowledge of fundamental woodworking practices, but also an awareness of the interconnected field of sustainable forestry.

Through project-based assignments, field trips and a rotating roster of expert instructors, students will develop essential woodworking and design skills. They will also gain hands-on experience with a variety of tools, from hand planes to CNC machines, and milling equipment to laser cutters. Generous scholarships are available and students leave with a Certificate of Completion. Learn more and apply at <http://www.hatchspace.org/intensive>.

**Thursday 11th****Rutland Fall Job Fest**

Join us at Depot Park in Rutland for the Rutland Fall Job Fest on Sept. 11! From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can meet employers and partner state agencies to take the next step on your career path. Polish your resume and come out! This event is completely free.

Sponsored by the Vermont Department of Labor, Cata-mountain Radio, and HireAbility Workforce Partners. If you have questions, call 802-786-5837. If you need special accommodations to attend this event, contact labor.communications@vermont.gov by 9/4/25. Requests received after that date cannot be guaranteed, but every effort will be made to provide the accommodation requested.

Americans for Prosperity claims its mission is to make Vermont more affordable. But its founding and financing by some of the world's richest oil men and a history of spreading climate disinformation has raised doubts.

## How a Koch-funded campaign is trying to reverse climate action in Vermont

BY AUSTYN GAFFNEY/VT-DIGGER

*This story is a partnership between VTDigger and Grist.*

For about two decades, Americans for Prosperity, the conservative political network, has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into stalling climate action nationwide. Founded by Charles and David Koch, the libertarian oil billionaires behind Koch Industries, the group

has local chapters that block renewable standards, clean car rules and carbon pricing at the state level. For decades, it's been a bulwark of climate science denial that has shaped the modern-day Republican party. After notching wins against climate policy in states like Ohio and Kansas, the group is now testing its playbook in one of the bluest states in the country: Vermont.

In March 2023, the group

launched its Vermont presence as part of its 50-state strategy to involve Americans for Prosperity in traditionally more progressive states like California and New York. In the two and a half years since, the group has spent tens of thousands of dollars launching mail and digital campaigns targeting the state's energy legislation like the Affordable Heat Act. It has also testified in favor of repealing laws like the Global Warming Solutions Act.

The work in Vermont is being led by Ross Connolly, the group's 34-year-old northeast regional director. Connolly, who grew up in New Hampshire, where he now lives, has said that his work in Vermont was focused on deregulating state government and helping residents realize their American dream. On a recent podcast, he called Vermont "bizarro-New Hampshire." He later said that was due to its geographic upside-downness along with its politics, which zigged to the left while New Hampshire zagged to the right.

"I could talk endlessly about all the good things New Hampshire's doing and all the bad things that Vermont has done," Connolly said on the podcast, 802 Scoop. Vermont's Republican governor, Phil Scott, "has been a great champion for Vermonters here, but there's a lot more work to do here than New Hampshire."

In July, the group launched an

affordability road show, and in a media release, Connolly wrote that "the state's progressive majority has chosen to inflate taxes and increase regulations" and "advance their own radical agenda." He expressed gratitude to Scott for his "continued commitment to Vermonters despite the progressive majority."

Vermont, often the first to go blue on national election nights, has served as a testing ground for national legislation like the right to same-sex marriage and now a law to hold oil companies accountable for their pollution. Perhaps one of its best-known exports, U.S. senator and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., has a long history of opposition to Koch-backed groups like Americans for Prosperity. He was a vocal opponent of the Citizens United case, which opened up election influence to the billionaire class.

"So many groups on the right, center-right, don't get involved in the northeast outside of New Hampshire or Pennsylvania," Connolly said in an interview before an event the group hosted at a golf course this month in Rutland, Vermont. "If we don't fight for people in those areas we're never going to make any sort of difference."

But well-funded campaigns like the ones Americans for Prosperity has launched in Vermont — with a total of \$186 million at the national group's disposal, according


to its 2023 nonprofit filings — are unfamiliar for the small state, where grassroots politics have long ruled. The annual tradition of Town Meeting Day, for example, marks a regular practice of direct democracy at the local level.

Americans for Prosperity claims its driving mission is helping Vermonters afford to live in the state. But its founding and financing by some of the richest oil men in the world, and a history of spewing climate disinformation, casts that in doubt.

Americans for Prosperity is one of the first conservative dark money groups to enter Vermont politics in a big way. Other high-profile groups have often supported liberal causes, and those groups were often funding candidates. Americans for Prosperity doesn't directly fund candidates; its nonprofit status means it seeks to influence policies and elections through other means like mailers, ad campaigns, and in-person meetings. AFP-Action, an associated super PAC, does spend hundreds of millions on federal elections in support of right-wing politicians, but has not yet invested in a Vermont candidate, according to Connolly.

In Vermont, Connolly said Americans for Prosperity aims to help make the state more moderate. Its arrival comes on the heels of an election where Vermont lost more (See Koch Industries, Page 15)

### Restaurant guide



**Café Provence**

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

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

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

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PEOPLE LISTEN DURING a legislative wrap-up sponsored by Americans for Prosperity at the Rutland Country Club on Tuesday, Aug. 12.  
Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

# Koch Industries

(Continued from Page 14)

Democratic seats than any other state in the nation, and the state is struggling with rising housing, health care, and education costs, which makes their affordability message especially salient.

The organization has been planting seeds in Vermont, especially when it comes to energy policies it hopes to see repealed. And as the group has repeatedly said on podcasts, during panels, and in an interview with VTDigger, it plans to root here permanently.

Over the summer, the group organized about half a dozen speaking events, including in Rutland. Four legislators spoke at the panel event, including three first-term Republican legislators from the Rutland region: Rep. Todd Nielsen, Rep. Chris Keyser, and Sen. Terry Williams, who joined the legislature in 2023 and serves on the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

While organizers expected 30 people in Rutland, about 15 came, including local officials and former legislators.

Williams said he was expecting more. He heard about the group two weeks earlier when Rachel Burgin, the organization's northeast regional deputy director, contacted him. Burgin, who lives in Georgia, is one of three lobbyists registered in the state through 2026, along with Con-

nolly and Lauren Schley, whose LinkedIn page says she works for Americans for Prosperity out of Washington, D.C.

No one who works for Americans for Prosperity on Vermont issues lives in Vermont, Connolly said, though he noted one person in the national office lives in the state.

Sen. Anne Watson, D/P-Washington, said groups like Americans for Prosperity opposed the energy transition because it undercut the profits of its oil tycoon founders.

"Vermonters need to be savvy about that," Watson said, "and recognize when outside influence is coming in to try and affect our policies and our elections."

AFP sets its sights on energy policy

While the group first arrived in the state in 2023, it launched its first campaign last summer by attacking a first-of-its-kind climate policy — Act 18. The law studied the feasibility of a clean heat standard, which was intended to lower fossil fuel emissions from thermal energy sources like heating oil commonly used to warm Vermont homes.

"We focused on it because we came here and heard from Vermonters, and that was the one thing we heard across the board, was the concern on energy costs, and if that bill was implemented the amount of money that would cost the state and ratepayers," Connolly said.

Supporters of Act 18 said the law was intended to regulate price-volatile fossil fuels and speed up the transition to cleaner sources

like electric heat pumps. In a press release last year, Vermont House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, wrote the cost of heating oil had jumped from \$2 per gallon in 2020 to \$5.87 per gallon in November 2022.

"The goal of the Affordable Heat Act is to help insulate Vermonters from fossil-fuel price swings, and to make it easier and more affordable for them to transition — if they want to — to more sustainable energy sources," Krowinski wrote.

But Americans for Prosperity opposed Act 18 and in May 2024 launched "a major five-part mail and digital campaign" that initially cost more than \$63,000, according

to the group's disclosures. Another group within the state, Vermonters for Affordable Heat, supported by the state's locally owned fuel dealers, spent around \$11,300 on postcards and a petition opposing the law.

Liberal groups spent much more money in support of the law, but that money largely came through super PACs, political action committees that can raise unlimited sums of money to fund campaigns but cannot coordinate directly with parties or candidates. The out-of-state Green Advocacy Project, a Washington, D.C.-based pro-clean heat group, contributed three times that — \$180,000 — to a Vermont super PAC to boost candidates supporting the program.

Within Vermont, the super PAC Vermont Conservation Voters, part of the national League of Conservation Voters, spent almost \$218,500 on pro-clean heat mailers, ads and videos, endorsing candidates with environmental records the group supported. While it supports election reform that wouldn't allow for super PACs, the organization's political director Justin Marsh told VTDigger in November that the growing presence of Americans for Prosperity was the reason they spent more than in past election cycles.

Legislators, local officials and advocates who spoke to VTDigger said they weren't aware of any other

conservative out-of-state group like Americans for Prosperity spending tens-of-thousands of dollars to influence Vermont politics.

Other groups like the Ethan Allen Institute, part of the State Policy Network, another Koch-affiliated group, have occasionally run conservative advertising campaigns in the state, according to Ben Walsh, climate and energy program director at Vermont Public Interest Research Group, an environmental advocacy organization. But that group has far less funding and is not concentrated on climate policies, he said.

"I imagine a group like AFP with long and well-documented ties to the fossil fuel industry has a real interest in making sure policy that's good for clean energy and bad for fossil fuels is not enacted, and if anything, it's a little surprising that they didn't show up sooner," Walsh said. "But now that they're here, they're making it very clear that anything good for the transition to clean energy is something they oppose."

In March 2025, a month before Americans for Prosperity settled a lobbying violation with the state, the political advocacy group launched a second state-wide mail campaign, spending \$13,425 between March 13 and June 12, according to lobbying disclosures.

The mailer said Vermonters (See Koch Industries, Page 19)

*Connolly said his group was also against the Climate Superfund Act, which charges oil companies for greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 and 2024.*

## Kevin Sandwich - 10am to 3pm Weekdays





# 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!



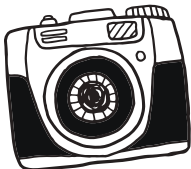
E-mail  
[kate@brandonreporter.com](mailto:kate@brandonreporter.com) if you can identify  
someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080

## Recognized



Susan Larock identified Ruth Croteau standing on the left in this photo and Mary McCallam on the right, both of Forest Dale. Terry Ferson also recognized Ms. Croteau.



Betsy Quigley recognized Eleanor Bettinger in this photo. Ms. Bettinger opened Country Cottage Yarn Shop on High Street in the 1980s, which she ran for many years. Ms. Quigley remembered fondly, "It was a lovely shop with fabulous yarn for all levels of knitters!"



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fairly large
- 6. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 9. Cover the entirety of
- 13. Leafy appetizer
- 14. Showy ornament
- 15. Norse personification of old age
- 16. Athletes
- 17. Closes tightly
- 18. Attack via hurling items
- 19. Where the reserves stand
- 21. Sword
- 22. Begat
- 23. Damage another's reputation
- 24. Northeast
- 25. Turf
- 28. For each
- 29. Hours (Spanish)
- 31. Western state
- 33. One who offers help
- 36. Flanks
- 38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 39. Free from drink or drugs
- 41. Tunnels
- 44. Mature
- 45. More dried-up
- 46. News organization
- 48. Steal something
- 49. Forms one's public persona(abbr.)
- 51. Female fish eggs
- 52. Small petrel of southern seas
- 54. Edible starches
- 56. Historical
- 60. In a place to sleep
- 61. Horse grooms
- 62. Off-Broadway theater award
- 63. Chinese dynasty
- 64. Resembling a wing
- 65. Small projection on a bird's wing
- 66. Of the Isle of Man
- 67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)
- 68. Plate for Eucharist

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Vipers
- 2. Ancient city in Syria
- 3. Slog
- 4. Emits coherent radiation
- 5. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 6. Bleated
- 7. Monetary units of Afghanistan
- 8. Tooth doctor
- 9. One who takes apart
- 10. Commoner
- 11. Beat poet Ginsberg
- 12. Cave deposit material
- 14. Home energy backup
- 17. Begets
- 20. Face part
- 21. Frocks
- 23. Hill or rocky peak
- 25. Giving the impression of dishonesty
- 26. About ear
- 27. Male parents
- 29. Popular grilled food
- 30. Vaccine developer
- 32. Not conforming
- 34. Polite address for women
- 35. 1970 U.S. environmental law
- 37. Astronomical period of 18 years
- 40. One who fights the government
- 42. Center for Excellence in Education
- 43. Watches discreetly
- 47. An electrically charged atom
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Arabic given name
- 52. Popular pie nut
- 53. City in Zambia
- 55. Species of cherry
- 56. John \_\_\_, British writer
- 57. Be next to
- 58. Make angry
- 59. Give birth to a lamb or kid
- 61. Unhappy

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42			43		44			
		45					46		47		48		
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

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 .

	1				7	8	3	
	6	7					9	
	2		3					6
4			7	9	3			
		1	5					
	5							
				2	4			8
6			1	3				
		9					4	

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

N	E	L	P		N	A	D	X	N	V	W			
V	T	N	T	V	W	V	T	V	O	V	I	L		
E	I	B	O	S	E	C	A	S	D	E	B	V		
A	H	V	D	N	E	D	E	T	S	O	D	V	S	
			N	O	I	R	P		E	O	R	U	P	
B	V	N		I	P	U	H	E	R	E	S			
E	P	I	R	S	B	W	O	C	V	T	V	C		
H	E	B	O	S	W	V	T	S	E	D	I	S		
	N	V	T	I	R	V	W	V	S	H	V	T	N	
		S	V	H	O	H	H	E	P	E	D	O	S	
E	N		H	V	T		D	E	B	I	S			
H	E	B	V	S		S	E	N	I	T	E	D	I	S
T	T	E	P	S	T	V	E	S		S	O	H	P	
I	T	T	E		D	N	V	G		D	V	T	V	S
N	V	D	S		D	D	B		E	T	L	W	V	

2	4	1	5	7	9	6	3	8
7	5	6	8	3	1	2	4	9
8	9	3	4	2	6	5	7	1
6	8	9	2	1	4	3	5	7
3	7	4	9	8	5	1	6	2
1	2	5	3	6	7	9	8	4
9	1	7	6	4	3	8	2	5
4	6	2	1	5	8	7	9	3
5	3	8	7	9	2	4	1	6

The Rutland County Humane Society Needs Foster Homes!

RGHS is currently seeking foster homes for dogs and cats. As the shelter works to provide the best possible care for every animal, foster homes play a vital role in helping dogs thrive outside the kennel environment. Fostering is a short-term, rewarding way to make a big difference. RGHS provides all necessary supplies, including food, bedding, and veterinary care, so fosters can focus on giving love and a safe, temporary home. If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time. By opening your home, you're helping dogs and cats decompress, build trust, and get one step closer to finding a forever family. To learn more about fostering or to sign up, please call RGHS at 802-483-6700 or stop by the Adoption Center Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Help give an animal the fresh start they deserve and become a foster today.

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



MEET KEEGAN - 2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. TIGER.

Keegan is a big, handsome boy with a bold personality and a soft side, once you've earned it! He can be a bit spicy at first, so he's looking for a patient, understanding home where he can settle in at his own pace. Once he feels safe, Keegan becomes a loving and loyal companion. Keegan needs to be the only cat as he prefers to run the house solo. He enjoys affection, but he's got preferences! Head and chin scratches only, please, no belly or booty rubs for this guy. If you're looking for a confident cat with a little sass and a lot of love to give (on his terms), Keegan might just be your perfect match.

MEET PINKY - 3 1/2-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG MIX. TAN AND WHITE.

Pinky is a sweet, smart, and spirited 3 1/2-year-old Cattle Dog mix who's come a long way thanks to the dedicated staff at RGHS. When Pinky first arrived, he was unsure around strangers and overwhelmed in the shelter setting. We hit pause on his adoption journey to give him the time, patience, and support he needed to build confidence, and it's paid off! He will continue to need proper socialization and an active family, but he has come a long way, and we are so proud of him! Pinky has been working hard on his reactivity. With treats and an engaging handler, Pinky is all ears (literally!). Pinky needs a home without other dogs, and with older kids who respect his space. He would do best with a family who knows the breed and can keep his brain engaged, and plenty of exercise.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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

# OFF THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



### New large-print books donated by Brenda Whittaker

### We are all Guilty Here by Karin Slaughter, donated in memory of Ann Livak

When two teenaged girls disappear on the night of fireworks, the town ignites. For Officer Emmy Clifton, it's personal. She turned away when her best friend's daughter needed help—and now she must bring her home. But as Emmy combs through the puzzle the girls left behind, she realizes she never really knew them. Nobody did. Every teenage girl has secrets. But who would kill for them?

### Kiss Her Goodbye by Lisa Gardner, donated in memory of Marie Butterfield

Recent Afghan refugee Sabera Ahmadi was last seen exiting her place of work three weeks ago. The local police have yet to open a case, while her older, domineering husband seems unconcerned. Sabera's closest friend, however, is convinced Sabera would never willingly leave her three-year old daughter. At her insistence, missing persons expert Frankie Elkin agrees to take up the search through the broiling streets of Tucson. Just in time for a video of the young mother to surface—showing her walking away from the scene of a brutal double murder.

### The Violet Hour by Victoria Benton Frank, donated in memory of Yvonne Churchill

Violet Adams is the perfect, youngest child in a family of loud, passionate women on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. Aly Knox, Violet's best friend, is a young influencer still struggling with the loss of her mother and adjusting to joining Violet in Southern living. With her best friend's help, Violet is determined to break out of her shell—and who she thought she was—no matter what. And what better place to look for success, meaning, and possibly love than the Lowcountry of South Carolina?

### New DVDS

### The Phoenician Scheme (Rated PG-13)

During the final stages of a vast, decades-long project, the ruthless and unscrupulous Anatole "Zsa-zsa" Korda survives a sixth assassination attempt and must appoint a successor: his long-estranged daughter Liesl—a nun. With personal tutor Bjorn in tow, the trio set off on a globetrotting adventure to achieve Korda's epic mission.

### Thunderbolts

(Rated PG-13) After finding themselves ensnared in a death trap, an unconventional team of antiheroes must go on a dangerous mission that will force them to confront the darkest corners of their pasts.

### DID YOU KNOW?

We have Sensory-Friendly Art time on the first Saturdays of the month from 1-3 p.m.! We'll provide a quiet space and art supplies. Recommended for kids ages 5-12.

### Westworld (Season 4)

After Dolores sacrificed herself to free humankind from the grip of an artificial intelligence. Season Four picks up seven years after the protracted war. Humanity is finally free...or so it seems. Maeve and Caleb suspect that Hale and the Man in Black are seeding a conspiracy to regain control.

### Penguin Lessons (Rated PG-13)

In 1976 Argentina, on the eve of a political revolution, a teacher and his students at an exclusive boys school are enlightened by an unusual guest—an orphaned penguin.

### The Old Oak (NR)

The Old Oak is a special place. Not only is it the last pub standing, but it's also the only remaining public space where people can meet in a once thriving mining community that has now fallen on hard times after 30 years of decline. The pub becomes contested territory after the arrival of Syrian refugees who are placed in the village without any notice.

A new law requires all districts to prohibit students from using cellphones in schools starting next school year. Many are implementing restrictions now.

## As classes begin again, more Vermont schools are restricting cellphone use ahead of statewide ban

BY COREY MCDONALD/  
VTDIGGER

Kate Grodin, co-principal of Winooski Middle and High School, describes the cafeteria for high school students at the Winooski Middle and High School as quiet. That is, compared to the "vibrant place of conversation" that is the middle school cafeteria.

The difference, she said, is due partly to the school's policy limiting cellphone use for grades six through eight, while students in grades nine through 12 are allowed the use of cellphones during lunch or study hours.

But that will change this year. Winooski, like many other school districts around the state, has adopted a district-wide policy banning the use of cellphones or personal devices, often called a "bell-to-bell" ban, across all grades.

The change follows the passage of Act 72, which requires Vermont schools to adopt policies by the 2026-27 school year prohibiting students from using

cellphones and other personal devices like smartwatches from arrival to dismissal. The law brings the state in line with 25 other states in the country that ban or restrict the use of smartphones in schools.

But many students will begin the school year Wednesday at schools with new, or strengthened, policies around cellphone bans ahead of the state law's deadline.

"We're really trying to lead with this idea that our time together, it's sacred," Grodin said in an interview. "And we want to really support that as much as we can, which is why we're falling in line with the policy a year early."

Act 72 goes a step further than other state laws, and includes a provision barring schools from using social

media platforms to communicate with students, and from otherwise requiring students to have social media accounts to engage in academic and extracurricular activities. That provision (See Cellphone ban, Page 21)

*"A lot of the challenge of that just speaks to how addictive phones are. If it's in your pocket, it's distracting you, because it's buzzing every five seconds."*

— Jess Deane, the assistant principal at the Harwood Union Middle and High School

## CDC chaos

(Continued from Page 7)

Digger, Vermont Department of Health spokesperson Kyle Casteel added that what qualifies as an underlying condition to make someone eligible for the vaccine, and how it is proven to someone administering the vaccine, remains unclear.

The CDC is still expected to issue a recommendation for who should receive those vaccines. In June, Kennedy replaced the vaccine panel at

the CDC with vaccine skeptics, and many worry that the panel's recommendation may further limit access to Covid immunization when it meets in mid-September.

"The approval of this fall's COVID vaccine has not followed the typical approval process, and we are still assessing recommendations and potential impacts so we can provide guidance to Vermonters about who can get the vaccine and

where," Casteel wrote. "We are working to reduce any access barriers as much as we can and will keep sharing information as it becomes available."

He added that the state will continue to communicate with counterparts in other states to inform how to move forward with the confusion surrounding the federal directives.

Officials at the coalition meeting discussed areas of collaboration in which states can

find efficiencies by acting as a larger group — such as buying bulk lab supplies as a region, which would bring cost savings to Vermont as a small state. When the loss of federal funding reduces resources for the state Department of Health, those savings can make a big difference, Arel said.

Other ideas for collaboration would leverage regional cooperation in less tangible ways — like brainstorming and co-

ordinating messaging, public information campaigns or collectively strategizing on how to overcome public health challenges as they arise.

The collaboration Arel described is still at the stage of laying the groundwork and relationships for when the need to collectively act arises: "We don't want to get out ahead of anything," she said. "A lot of it has been making those relationships stronger."

# Koch Industries

(Continued from Page 15)  
should call their legislators and ask them to repeal Act 18, claiming the law “guarantees energy price hikes across the state,” according to a media release. The associated mailer, sent to Vermont households this spring, stated “Vermonters want Energy Abundance. Vermonters are responsible. They do not need Government mandates.”

If it had moved forward, Vermont’s clean heat standard would have been the first in the nation. But lawmakers never passed the program, largely because a Public Utility Commission report found the program would be too expensive to implement without help from other states in the region.

“Vermont was considering this first-of-its-kind clean heat standard that would hold fossil fuel companies to a standard of actually reducing carbon emissions in a way that the electric utility sector has had to do for decades,” said Elena Mihaly, vice president for the Vermont chapter of the Conservation Law Foundation, a clean energy advocacy group based in New England. “They were trying to nip it in the bud here in Vermont before it got out.”

Connolly said his group advocated for the full repeal because progressive legislators were trying to wait it out until they had a majority again and “could force it down the throat of Vermonters when Vermonters don’t want this policy at all.”

Watson, chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, which is in charge of the bill, said that while she wasn’t necessarily saying the clean heat standard should move forward, she disagreed that Vermonters didn’t want effective clean energy policies.

“We know Vermonters care about climate change, and they care about affordability,” Watson said. “Both of those things are met by advancing renewables and renewable energy sources in the state because the vast majority are cheaper than their fossil fuel counterparts.”

Because the clean heat standard never became a law, it doesn’t impact Vermonters’ utility bills. But Americans for Prosperity has re-

peatedly said the state’s energy policies, including laws like the Global Warming Solutions Act, have “without a doubt” driven costs higher for consumers.

The group is also against federal subsidies for energy programs that could lower energy costs for low-income Vermonters. In the days before the Rutland event, the state lost \$62.5 million promised for solar programs after the “One Big Beautiful Bill” axed federal clean energy initiatives.

“We believe those subsidies should have ended,” Connolly said of Solar for All. Upon the passage of the Trump omnibus bill that withdrew the funding, the national group threw a party called the One Big Beautiful Bash.

Instead of renewables, Connolly said the region needed more nuclear energy, such as small modular nuclear reactors, which have yet to be developed anywhere in the U.S., as well as the expansion of natural gas pipelines.

“We should look at all the options on the table,” Rep. Zachary Harvey, R-Castleton, said of natural gas and nuclear power, after speaking at the event.

Connolly said his group was also against the Climate Superfund Act, which charges oil companies for greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 and 2024. The law applies a “polluter pays” mindset to climate recovery, potentially giving Vermont resources to build back from disasters like recent devastating floods.

“If your concern is climate change, that does absolutely nothing to solve climate change,” Connolly said.

“It’s sort of petty type politics where it’s like, we’re going after Big Oil and punishing them,” Connolly continued. “Vermont isn’t going to bankrupt ExxonMobil or any of these companies. You’re just going to drive them out of your state and drive energy costs higher because of it.”

On podcasts, in interviews and during speaking events, Connolly has repeated the same talking point: Vermont isn’t going to solve climate change. Harvey agreed, and said the Rutland event wasn’t about

climate denialism, noting Williams told the room, “We agree there’s climate change.”

“We’re not denying climate change exists,” Connolly told VT-Digger. “We’re saying the way we’re going about it in this state is hurting people, and we should put people first and solve the problem in a more reasonable and moderate way.”

‘Kingpins’ of climate science denial

Connolly’s acknowledgment of climate change may be a made-for-Vermont approach, but that tone doesn’t match the two decades of action Americans for Prosperity has taken to sow disinformation about climate science.

It was founded in 2004 by libertarian billionaires Charles Koch and his late brother David Koch, who died in 2019. They amassed wealth through Koch Industries, an oil refinery and pipeline conglomerate that has siphoned up many other companies since their father created the business in the 1930s, profiting through deals with the Stalin and Hitler regimes, according to Dark Money, a book by Jane Mayer.

Together, the Koch family grew their worth to more than \$141 billion. After years among the top ten richest people in the world, David Koch’s family and Charles Koch now rank 21st and 22nd, according to Fortune.

They’ve used this wealth to remake the national GOP into the party of climate denial, after gov-

ernment regulation of pollution and a push for renewables threatened their oil empire. In 2008, they began the “No Climate Tax Pledge,” asking officials to vote against spending money to fight climate change without equivalent tax cuts. By 2013, 411 officials had signed, including a quarter of senators and a third of representatives, along with other leaders like U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi.

In that era, Greenpeace called the brothers the “financial kingpin of climate science denial and clean energy opposition,” partnering with and then outspending better-known oil corporations like ExxonMobil. During the first Trump administration, they launched local campaigns through Americans for Prosperity to roll back car emissions standards.

Under Americans for Prosperity, and a host of other front groups, the brothers have long denied the threat of climate change, and have gone as far as to say that a warming world would benefit people. David Koch told a reporter in 2010: “The Earth will be able to support enormously more people because far greater land area will be available to produce food.”

The consensus of the international community says otherwise. A warming atmosphere increases food and water insecurity for much of the planet, and causes increasingly dangerous weather events like heat waves and floods. In the two decades since Americans for Prosperity’s founding, more than

half a million people were killed by the world’s 10 deadliest extreme weather events so far. All those events were made worse by the burning of fossil fuels, according to a report by World Weather Attribution, an academic outfit based at Imperial College London that scientifically quantifies how climate change influences extreme weather.

And while the Koch brothers have publicly clashed with President Trump, they have benefited enormously from his elections, earning more than \$1 billion per year from the first Trump administration’s tax bill. They plan to extend tax cuts and roll back regulations, including in the energy industry, through Americans for Prosperity’s work under the second Trump administration, according to a 2025 plan obtained by The Guardian.

Their networks have also heavily influenced both Trump teams. Under the first, about 50 administration officials had ties to Koch networks, including Energy Secretary Rick Perry and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Today, key figures like Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have worked closely with and donated large sums to both Americans for Prosperity and other Koch-affiliated groups.

The summer campaign in Vermont comes as the second Trump administration launches an unprecedented attack on climate and clean energy policies that gained traction (See Koch Industries, Page 20)

*“While Americans for Prosperity spent thousands of dollars on a recent mailer to spread misinformation about our legislators’ priorities, they misspelled their own website,” Hanlon said in a text message. “They can’t get their own website right, so it’s no surprise their claims don’t add up.”*

—May Hanlon, executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### ARIES March 21–April 20

You might be anxious to say what’s on your mind this week, Aries. Words are on the tip of your tongue and you aren’t afraid of letting them fly. Expect some feedback from others.

### TAURUS April 21–May 21

Make sure you are taking care of yourself as well as you are taking care of others, Taurus. Handle any tasks that require a lot of brain power first, then move on to something fun.

### GEMINI May 22–June 21

Do your thing this week and don’t worry about how others feel about it, Gemini. Take control of an issue when you see that something needs to get done.

### CANCER June 22–July 22

You are thinking clearly this week, Cancer. Do your best with the tools you are given

right now. You might need to direct others, but generally let them do their own thing.

### LEO July 23–Aug. 23

You do not need an invitation to speak your mind, Leo. Express yourself how you see fit and give others plenty of opportunity to have their say as well. The conversation will flow.

### VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, there is a great deal of power behind your thoughts, so use it wisely. Take this energy to work and see if you can channel it to your professional benefit.

### LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Libra, you are not going to meet new people if you stay indoors all of the time. Get out there and try something new. You can bond with others over an activity or a hobby.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, don’t waste your time this week by tiptoeing around. Throw caution to the wind and engage in activities that will provide solid opportunities for growth.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

A powerful force is guiding your actions this week, Sagittarius. Utilize this as motivation to complete an important task.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Be confident in your thoughts and actions, Capricorn. If you don’t believe in what you are saying, how can you convince others to back your efforts?

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, someone is bound to say something meaningful to you if you keep an open ear to all conversation around you. Speak less and listen more for the time being.

### PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

Pisces, ideas and influences from others can transform your thinking. That can help propel you out of the pattern of actions that may be holding you back.



### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 5 Freddie Mercury, musician (d)
- Sept. 6 Jane Curtin, comedian (78)
- Sept. 7 Leslie Jones, comedian (58)
- Sept. 8 Bernie Sanders, Vermont Senator (84)
- Sept. 9 Otis Redding, singer (d)
- Sept. 10 Mary Oliver, poet (90)
- Sept. 11 Mungo Park, explorer (d)

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## VT Supreme Court rules in state's favor in Meta lawsuit appeal

BY THEO WELLS-SPACKMAN/VTDIGGER

The Vermont Supreme Court ruled Friday that the state has jurisdiction to pursue a case against Meta for targeting teen users of its subsidiary Instagram, upholding a lower court decision.

The state's suit, filed by Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark in October 2023, alleged the tech giant had engaged in unfair and immoral practices in Vermont, and violated the Vermont Consumer Protection Act by knowingly misrepresenting its platform's potential to cause harm to young consumers.

On Friday, the state Supreme Court ruled in favor of the state regarding the issue of jurisdiction.

"A company that reaches out and purposefully avails itself of a forum state's market for its own economic gain can expect to be hauled into court in that jurisdiction to account for its conduct," Friday's decision states.

"We are pleased with the Court's decision, which allows our lawsuit against Meta to proceed in Vermont, where it belongs," Clark wrote in a statement to VTDigger Friday.

"This is an important step in our effort to hold Meta accountable," the statement continued. "Our children deserve better, and my office will proudly take this case to trial to protect Vermont's kids — the future of our state."

Meta, for its part, has argued the state lacks jurisdiction for its complaint, and that the company's online contacts with the state were not made in or aimed at Vermont in

particular.

The original suit, which the Vermont Supreme Court did not weigh in on, alleged the company "intentionally designed Instagram to be addictive to teens, that Meta did so to increase advertisement revenue despite knowing the resulting negative effects on teens, and that Meta failed to take meaningful action to mitigate these harms while both actively minimizing and withholding its relevant internal research findings to maintain teens' engagement with the application" according to Friday's decision.

Clark sought a permanent injunction against the company in Vermont, prohibiting it from engaging in deceptive practices. The lawsuit also asked for \$10,000 in civil penalties for each violation of the Vermont Consumer Protection Act, with violations defined as "each instance in which a Young Person accessed the Instagram platform in the State of Vermont."

The state's 2023 complaint cited internal Meta documents in its allegation that the company studied Vermont teenagers in an effort to increase their engagement with the platform. Clark filed the lawsuit in coordination with over 40 other attorneys general who sued Meta the same day in state or federal courts.

"We are suing to hold these corporations accountable for Instagram's contribution to the mental health crisis that is gripping teens across the country," Clark said at the time it was filed.



REP. CHRIS KEYSER, R-Rutland City, speaks during a legislative wrap-up sponsored by Americans for Prosperity at the Rutland Country Club on Tuesday, Aug. 12. Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

## Koch Industries

(Continued from Page 19)

under the Biden administration. Along with deleting climate information and reports from federal websites, the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy have spent six months deregulating fossil fuels and slashing clean energy projects.

Most of that work was outlined by another source of environmental skepticism that received funding from the Koch brothers: the Heritage Foundation, responsible for creating Project 2025, the unofficial blueprint for the second Trump administration. It includes the breakup of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the nation's premier climate science agency, calling it "one of the main drivers of the climate change alarm industry." Trump's 2026 budget proposal eliminates the agency's research arm responsible for helping the country adapt to climate change.

'Here to stay'

Vermont Democrats have made the most of Americans for Prosperity's slip ups.

On an August mailer, Americans for Prosperity had misspelled their URL — GreenMountainProsperity.com — instead printing Greet-MountainProsperity.com. Around midnight on Aug. 8, May Hanlon, the 26-year-old executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party, spotted the error and bought the misspelled web domain for \$12.19.

Now, when users visit the website, a two-minute video pops up in which Hanlon calls the Americans for Prosperity mailer "sloppy" and "full of false claims about what Democrats are doing in the state legislature." Visitors are redirected

to a webpage about Democratic wins during the 2025 legislative session, emphasizing affordability concerns like housing.

"While Americans for Prosperity spent thousands of dollars on a recent mailer to spread misinformation about our legislators' priorities, they misspelled their own website," Hanlon said in a text message. "They can't get their own website right, so it's no surprise their claims don't add up."

Months earlier, the Virginia-based group was fined thousands of dollars for violating Vermont law on a mailer asking Vermonters to contact their legislators to repeal Act 18. That mailer said the campaign was "Paid for by Americans for Prosperity Vermont." But that group was not registered in the state.

Vermont law requires that a lobbying advertisement like a mailer contain the name of the entity that paid for it, according to an email sent by the Vermont Attorney General's Office, which responded to a formal complaint by Jim Dandeneau, the former executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party.

In a settlement with the state on April 29, Americans for Prosperity agreed to stop using that name and paid a \$3,000 fine.

"We don't really comment on legal things," Connolly said of the settlement. "That has been resolved. It was just, I think, a miscommunication. We changed our disclaimers. No problem."

He said the fine didn't reflect the work the group was doing in Vermont, where he said it has had over 5,000 Vermonters take direct action like mailing letters or making calls since 2023.

"That mailer was received very positively, again focusing on the moderation of the legislature and the issues that Vermonters care about," Connolly said. "Little disputes in election law are not top of mind for Vermonters."

Harvey, a first-term legislator appointed by Gov. Scott in January, said Vermont needs groups like Americans for Prosperity to revitalize voters. He first met the lobbyists during a dinner in Stowe early in the 2025 legislative session, and said even though the group came from out of state, they'd made an effort to get to know legislators and were committed to policies he supported.

For Connolly, a rightward transition in his politics came during college, when he read *Road to Serfdom* by Friedrich Hayek, a book that argues government planning can lead to tyranny and also radicalized Charles Koch's politics, according to Dark Money.

After graduating, Connolly worked for Republican campaigns before joining Americans for Prosperity in 2013. The group has since expanded to 37 state chapters, but the only chapter across six New England states is New Hampshire.

Connolly ran that state's chapter before taking on the entire New England region. Down the road, the nonprofit could establish a chapter in Vermont, which would give it infrastructure and full-time staff and enable a permanent presence in the state.

"We promise we will be here for the long term," Connolly told the audience at Rutland. "We at AFP are not going anywhere."

Ethan Weinstein and Shaun Robinson contributed reporting.

# Cellphone ban

(Continued from Page 18)

vision took effect immediately after Gov. Phil Scott signed the law in June.

Winooski is not alone in moving forward with a ban on cellphone use ahead of the deadline set by the state. The Champlain Valley School District, the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, the Montpelier Roxbury School District, and the Woodstock Union Middle and High School also have instituted new policies this year banning personal devices during the school day.

Other districts, like the Harwood Unified Union School District and the Lamoille South Supervisory Union, are entering their second year phone-free.

The Vermont Agency of Education will begin working with stakeholder groups this fall to draft a model policy in line with the new law, said agency spokesperson Toren Ballard. But he pointed to guidance published by the agency in February “for schools that intend to regulate student cellphone use in the meantime.”

Jay Nichols, the executive director of the Vermont Principals Association, said the ways schools are going about their bans are “really a gamut.” Some schools are offering pouches for students to keep their phones in during the day, while others are telling students to keep them turned off and in their lockers.

“But I think what we’re going to find is that schools are going to be in a really good place to do this,” he said, “and there’s essentially a whole bunch of pilots to kind of learn from.”

“The best thing we’ve ever done”

The Harwood Unified Union School District for years had a policy that phones were expected to be kept away during class time, except at the direction of the teacher, according to Jess Deane, the assistant principal at the Harwood Union Middle and High School.

But those policies were “largely ineffective,” she said. Teachers spent much of their time asking students to put their phones away.

“A lot of the challenge of that just speaks to how addictive phones are,” Deane said. “If it’s in your pocket, it’s distracting you, because it’s buzzing every five seconds.”

During the 2023-24 school year, staff and faculty at the school, with input from the community, decided to create a cellphone ban for the following year. The district used its remaining federal Covid relief funds to purchase Yondr pouches, a container specifically for cellphones that can be locked and unlocked magnetically, for each student.

The feedback was almost universally positive, said Deane and Michael Leichter, the Harwood district superintendent.

“What we thought could be a lot of controversy and issues turned into a lot of people and students who were appreciative of the ban on cellphones during the school day,” Leichter said.

Students were paying attention again, and teachers were ramping up the difficulty level of their courses to match the newly found engagement.

“The overwhelming staff feedback at the end of the year in our reflections was like, ‘This was the best thing we’ve ever done,’” Deane added.

The school saw improvement across the board. Students checked more books out from the school library, overall grades improved, and instances of bullying and harassment decreased, Deane said.

During the 2023-24 school year, Deane said there were 21 ninth-grade students who were failing three or more classes. The next year, when the cellphone ban was put in place, only two ninth-grade students were failing three or more classes, she said.

“We’ve had some measurable gains,” Leichter said. “Now, while we can’t say definitively that it’s because of cellphones, there’s been a lot of evidence that would suggest that that was a big piece of it.”

Other schools hope to replicate that success. Adam Bunting, the superintendent of the Champlain Valley School District, said the district will offer



**SAM BLAIR DEMONSTRATES** the use of a magnetically-sealed cell phone pouch at Harwood Union High School in Duxbury on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

students similar pouches that students can keep their phones in during the day but will not require they use them, yet.

Bunting describes his district’s policy as less of a ban and more “symbolic.” Students are expected to keep their phones put away for the entire day, rather than only during class time like the previous school year, but they will not be required to turn them in at the beginning of the day.

“We are going to kind of err on the side of trust first. We don’t feel like we need to start by locking (phones) away,” he said. “That plan may work and it may not, but we want to start there.”

The new state law, and the districts getting ahead of it, mark a growing reexamination of the emotional and cognitive impacts of smartphones and social media on teens in particular.

Rep. Angela Arsenault, D-Williston, who spearheaded the initiative in the Legislature last session, said she’s not surprised districts are moving ahead with their own policies before the law requires it.

“There’s just a greater awareness of what these products are actually doing to us,” she said. “And so there is more willingness to react in ways that feel very relevant and most protective of kids.”



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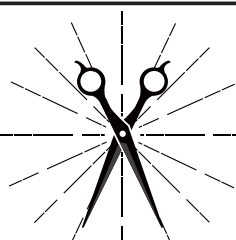
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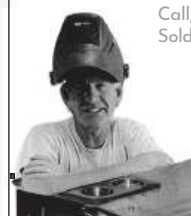


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# Bus workers contract

*(Continued from Page 6)*  
Local 597 is asking for a contract pay package similar to bus drivers represented by the Teamsters in other states, particularly in New Hampshire.

Clough said the company has repeatedly delayed workers' pay, retirement matches and health care premiums, and has asked the union

to agree to concessions such as limiting family and medical leave, barring drivers from taking on extra hours and canceling bus monitors' pay guarantees.

The Vermont Teamsters Local 597's want a fair contract that ensures members have what they "need to afford to live in the community and afford their health

care," Clough said.

Windham Southeast Supervisory Union's Superintendent Mark Speno wrote in a Tuesday statement that he is glad the drivers and monitors are able to return to work while a handful of replacement drivers continue to fill in for some routes.

The supervisory union is hope-

ful the contract negotiations settle soon and the bus company makes improvements to the routing and communications systems, according to Speno.

"My expectation is that there is a contract settlement that recognizes support and balance within very few days, so we can all move forward," Speno wrote.



**Stopped in its tracks**  
DALE CHRISTIE SENT us this sweet photo, taken on West Street in Proctor.



**SCHOOL BUSES ARE** parked outside Mt. Mansfield Union High School in Jericho on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.  
Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

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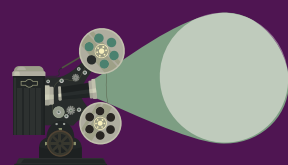
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# Upcoming events around Brandon

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A fun day of food, activities, quests, pony rides, and more! \$10 per person, [www.southernvtrenfaire.com](http://www.southernvtrenfaire.com)



## Friday Night Frights!

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31! 7:30 p.m., Barn Opera, Pearl St, Brandon

Your favorite Horror movies on the big screen for you! Join our email list at [www.barnopera.com](http://www.barnopera.com), [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com) or by emailing [wright@barnopera.com](mailto:wright@barnopera.com) to learn what the movie will be! Tix available online at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)

## Halloween Masquerade Ball!

Oct 18, 8-11 p.m., The Barn on Pearl Street in Brandon

An adult party with great music, an outdoor fire pit, Fairly Buzzed bartending, a lounge and amazing dance floor! Prizes for the best costumes! 18+ only, and be sure to bring your ID if you want to drink! Tix available at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)



## Eagle Feather Pow Wow

Sept 19-21, Estabrook Park, Brandon

An all tribe gathering with music, dance, food and more! Contact Peggie Rozell for more information!



## Harvest Fest!

Oct 5, 1-4 p.m. Estabrook Park, Brandon

A celebration of the harvest! Buy and dress your own leaf person! (\$20 per scarecrow, including dressup!) Music by Cry Baby! Pony Rides, a Wagon ride, photo ops, amazing vendors! Don't miss it!



## Spooksville!

Oct 24, 5-6:30 p.m., Estabrook Park

A fun trunk or treat for kids- please be in costume! We open at 5! more info at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)

## Not so Scary Halloween Party!

Oct 26, 1-3 p.m., The Barn on Pearl Street

Halloween should be fun, not too scary for our little kids! This is an easy, drop in afternoon with family friendly decorations and music, maybe a short kids Halloween movie and games! We are currently building this event so more details soon at [www.colleenwrightevents.com](http://www.colleenwrightevents.com)

