

# The REPORTER

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

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75¢

## Otter Valley school district to re-vote budget on April 26

BY GENE DELORENZO/  
ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — Otter Valley Unified Union School District voters will have another opportunity to decide the fate of their district budget via an Australian ballot vote on Tuesday, April 26, which will be preceded by an informational hearing on Monday, April 25. Voters in the six-town district will be asked to cast ballots at each of the town polling stations, or cast

votes with an absentee ballot.

That decision was made this past Monday at the board's regular meeting, at which the board also determined they would hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5 to get public feedback on the budget ahead of the board's April 6 meeting. At that meeting, they will decide the amount of the budget to warned ahead of the vote.

At Monday's meeting the board had a lengthy discussion about the

proposed budget of \$22,710,995 and the reason for its narrow 522-462 defeat. Board members reported that most voters they talked with said they were either confused about why the school budget vote wasn't included in their mail-in ballots along with the town ballots in Brandon and Pittsford or were upset at the school district for not making mail-in ballots available.

That misunderstanding, board members concurred, led to a sig-

nificantly reduced turnout and possibly the budget's defeat. Turnout on this year's school budget was 984 total votes cast compared to almost 3,000 votes cast in March 2021 when the school mail-out ballots through all six communities.

RNESU Superintendent Jeanne Collins again explained that the school district was prevented by state law from sending out mail-in ballots because all six-member

towns did not also send out mail-in ballots for their town races. Of the six OVUUSD towns, Sudbury, Whiting, Leicester and Goshen did not send out mail-in ballots, while Brandon and Pittsford did.

Similarly, because not all towns were willing to handle mail-in ballots for the upcoming April 26 revote, school district residents will either have to vote in person at their respective town polling

(See OV board, Page 6)

## Redistricting bill reconfigures seats for Brandon-Pittsford area

BY ANGELO LYNN

MONTPELIER — The final maps of the redistricting bill, H.722, have been approved by the House and are headed to the Senate, which is expected to pass the legislation which occurs every decade after the new census.

In this revision, the current district of Rutland-6, which is made up of Brandon, Pittsford and

Sudbury, has been divided into three new districts. Brandon will become a single district. Proctor and Pittsford will be joined into a single district. And the towns of Sudbury, Hubbardton, Orwell, Whiting and Shoreham will be merged into a single district.

Rep. Stephanie Jerome said it "was a long and arduous process" (See Redistricting, Page 16)

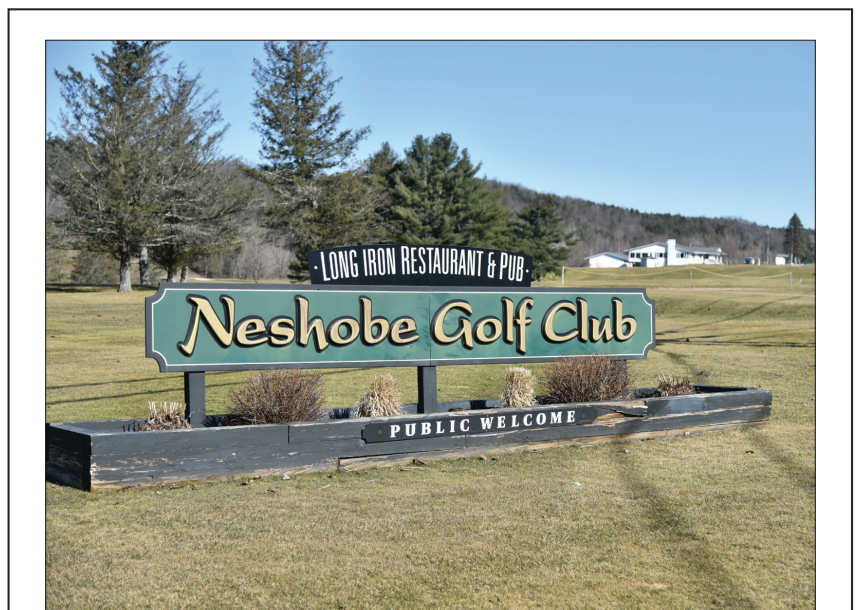
## Public hearing set March 28 for Proctor Marble building plans

PROCTOR — Area residents of the Proctor area are invited to a public hearing at the municipal office building to hear Zion Growers' present its plan to perhaps buy and renovate parts of the Proctor Marble Building at 51 Main Street. The 75,000-square-foot complex was built in 1885 and is currently owned by the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Zion Growers' has been in dis-

cussion with the owners and with town officials to hopefully finance a commercial hemp operation in the building and eventually employ two-dozen or so employees. A sister operation is underway in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The firm would take the raw hemp from area growers and manufacture the material into luxury bedding for horses and other animals, as well as a wood-

(See Proctor hearing, Page 16)



### High Tee

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, the grass is growing, and golfers will soon be out enjoying the fresh air and exercise now that winter is retreating.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

## Wayne Kingsley: A small vegetable farmer who left a big impression



WAYNE KINGSLEY

BY ANGELO LYNN

FOREST DALE — Ask anyone who knew him, and a lot of folks did, and they'll tell you Wayne Kingsley was one of the nicest, most honest, humble, sincere, hardest-working, talkative men they'd ever met. And he was a magnificent farmer, man of the land, who raised the best corn they'd ever eaten.

And it wasn't just locals who knew Wayne, hundreds of visitors from around Lake Dunmore and

Fern Lake knew him as well.

"I've been going to Lake Dunmore for 30 years and known him most of that time," said John Kane, a resident of Massachusetts who has been visiting the area since he attended college. "Naturally, when you'd want corn, you go to Wayne's Farm Stand, not because it was just the most convenient, but because it was the best."

And you'd also go for the conversation.

"We'd get to talking and we'd


have these deep philosophical conversations. It was just magical," Kane recalled. "Here was this classic Vermont farmer, not only because of what he did, but how he looked — sharp angular features, crisp blue eyes, lines on his face that were different from those of the folks I knew. Each one represented like a ring on a tree, of all the seasons. And he knew so much, of farming but of all things. You'd really get a better understanding of yourself when you talked to him."

Kane, who studied photography as part of a college degree at one point, would end up taking some classic black and white photos of Kingsley around the farm on Forest Dale Road — some of which Kingsley hung on his living room walls for years.

(See Wayne Kingsley, Page 3)




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# Cliffs closed for peregrine nesting

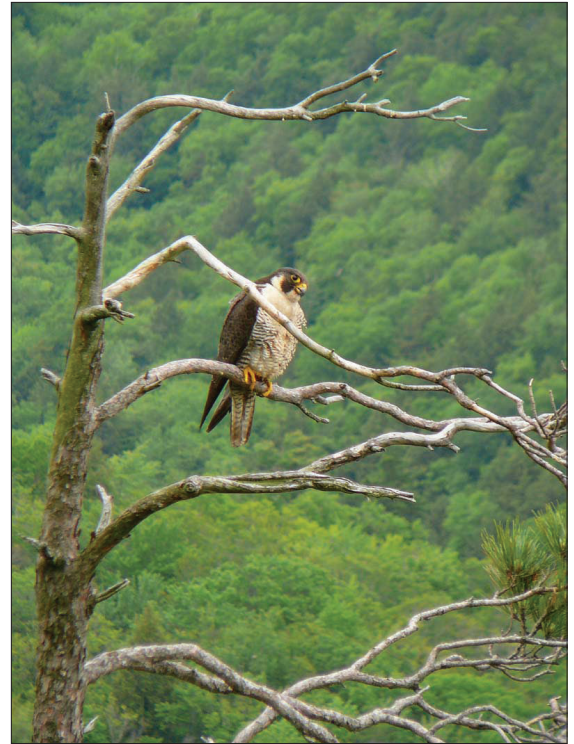
RUTLAND — It's an exciting time of year as migratory birds return to Vermont to nest and raise their young. Peregrine falcons have already returned to their nesting cliffs and can be seen throughout the state. To protect nesting peregrine falcons on the Green Mountain National Forest, Forest Service officials have once again closed access at two prominent cliff sites on the Forest's Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts.

Beginning on March 15, the Rattlesnake Cliff Area (Salisbury) and the Mount Horrid / Great Cliff Area (Rochester) are closed until August 1. The closure, which includes the trails and areas leading to and accessing these cliffs, is intended to prevent disturbance to critical falcon nesting habitat.

Peregrine falcon populations suffered declines due to the use of DDT in the 1940s but have rebounded since their reintroduction in the 1980s. Even though peregrines are now considered a recovered species in Vermont, it is critical to minimize human disturbance to nest sites so that the species' recovery continues.

Across Vermont, 2021 was a successful year for peregrines as 40 nesting pairs produced 68 young that fledged from their cliff nests.

Given the increased participation in outdoor activities, particularly hiking, we all need to respect important habitat and the closures that have helped the peregrine falcon return to our forests. Please adhere to the



**PEREGRINE FALCON** looking over Salisbury's Rattlesnake Mountain. Photo by S Faccio

closure signs posted on the trails leading to the cliff overlooks.

Disturbance of peregrine falcons and/or these nesting grounds is a violation of federal law and may result in a fine up to \$5,000 and 6 months in jail. Please report any harassment of nesting peregrine falcons to

1-800-75ALERT. The Forest Service works with Audubon Vermont, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other non-profit organizations to protect peregrine falcons.

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# Marble Valley Grange aids Ukraine

BY ELLEN GARNEAU

Pittsford, VT — Just 25 days after Russia began its invasion of the Ukraine, Marble Valley Grange has organized, collected, and shipped 11,475 doses of Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen to the Ukraine, as requested by their hospitals and tactical units. On February 24, 2022, Russia began its assault on the people of Ukraine. Ten days later, discussion developed at Marble Valley Grange's meeting about how they could help the people of Ukraine.

A Ukrainian shipping company called Meest was found to facilitate the shipping from its warehouse in New Jersey to its warehouse in the Ukraine. Their website also provided a list of most needed supplies, which included Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen. Marble Valley Grange sprang into action, with a deadline of just two weeks so that supplies could be shipped as soon as possible to the people in Ukraine.

Collection baskets were set up at Maclure Library and Keith's Country Store in Pittsford. Local Grange members purchased pain relievers out of their own pockets, and funds were sent in from Grange members as far away as Idaho, which were used to purchase additional pain relievers. New Horizon Pomona also contributed.

Marble Valley Grange met again on March 20 to package the pills




**COLLECTION OF PAIN** relievers are bound for Ukraine.

containing 11,475 doses of Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen, which was sent from Pittsford to the Meest warehouse on March 21 to be shipped by air to the Ukraine. Marble Valley Grange paid for all shipping costs.

The Grange is America's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroot units established in 3,600 local communities in 37 states. Its 300,000 members provide service to agriculture and rural areas on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable rural America. The Grange is a family organization and children are welcome at all meetings and events. Marble Valley Grange meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month at the Maclure Library in Pittsford.

**Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.**



See page 11

# Wayne Kingsley

(Continued from Page 1)

"That day we took the photos was a special day, he really opened himself up and was vulnerable... almost brings tears to my eyes. He had great pride in growing food and having people in the community reap the rewards of that. We miss that in the city. Wayne was truly the first farmer I've ever known — who I could call by his first name and we knew a bit about each other. We'd talk about his crops, of course, and about the weather, but also about the general state of affairs and family dynamic, always there at the farm stand, and with each season — I'd visit fall, spring and summer — there was a new conversation, a new insight."

Kane took the photos in 2008, when Kingsley was 70. Kane was 38 and getting his master's in education, researching archetypes, the people we aspire to be, that level of accomplishment we seek to achieve. "Wayne had that and I always admired his work ethic, the focus, the dedication and passion. He was the definition of a farmer. Never any question about it... that's just who he was. I studied Norman Rockwell, and to me, Wayne had that quintessential look and persona, that farmer, the essence of farming wrapped into this wonderful guy."

Wayne Kingsley, 84, died on Friday, March 4, 2022, after having been ill from cancer that was discovered in the late fall of 2021. He was born in Ticonderoga, N.Y., on Oct. 25, 1937, graduated from Chestertown (N.Y.) High School and received degrees in forestry from Paul Smith's College and

Syracuse University.

He would go on to work in the U.S. Forest Service for over 32 years in timber and fire management in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Vermont. He became a resident of Forest Dale in 1965 when he bought the few acres of land that would become known, since the mid-1970s and for the next 50 years, as "Kingsley's Farm Stand."

But there was more than just farming.

Kingsley was an avid outdoorsman, hunter and trapper, as well as an avid vegetable farmer. He was a co-founder and first vice president of the Vermont Trappers Association.

His neighbor-down-the-road-a-bit Fred Putnam Jr. knew Wayne since the mid-1970s when the two of them worked on the same forest service crew. The two also were on wild land firefighting crews in places as far flung as Virginia and

California. Wayne, who was a few years older, was also "trapping and trading in furs and cowhides," Putnam recalled.

The two men got into separate fields within the forest service, but they stayed in touch and both retired from the Forest Service more than three decades later. During all that time, Putnam said, Kingsley also ran his small vegetable farm and the farm stand.

## WORK ETHIC

That Kingsley had two jobs was no surprise to Putnam.

"Anybody you talk to will talk about his work ethic, which was well over the top; hard to match. Just as was his honesty and integrity. Simply unmatched. He had no false fronts, very genuine. The person he was, was always just there... right in front of you."

It was why, Putnam said, he always managed his farm stand on a code of honor. People picked up the vegetables on their own, put the money in a lock box and, if he wasn't around to visit with, they'd

come back another time to talk.

"He just assumed other people would have his same sense of honesty and integrity," Putnam said, adding that it didn't always work out that way, as Wayne would tell in stories.

"But that overall people responded in kind," Putnam said. "And that's the way he wanted it, and who he was. Just an honest guy to the core with a lot of integrity."

Local artist and author Ashley Wolff was also a close friend of Kingsley's, and who dedicated a children's book to him about a farmer (drawn as Kingsley's favorite dog, Rufus) raising pumpkins. The book was published in 2021 and called "How to Help a Pumpkin Grow," which was dedicated to "a man outstanding in his field."

Wolff, like many others, had (See *Wayne Kingsley*, Page 13)



WAYNE KINGSLEY ASTRIDE his favorite tractor, and pictured in the field above. Photos by John Kane

*Charlotte Bishop*  
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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Edit

Don't put public money in religious schools

BY BILL MATHIS

Clothed in double-speak, some political leaders engaging in political theater claim to advance freedom, equality, opportunity and other verities while their actions testify to the opposite. Take for example Senate bill 219, which would authorize taxpayer funded vouchers to religious schools.

Voucher proponents claim the bill will advance anti-discrimination, encourage compliance with state and federal Constitutions, and prevent future litigation. They base this view on a narrow Montana supreme court decision.

The more likely result would be the abolition of the Vermont school voucher scheme.

An 1869 law is claimed to be the foundation for Vermont vouchers. That rationale requires substantial historical retrofitting. In a small, nineteenth century

rural state this meant that towns contracted with each other to provide for "the convenient instruction of youth." This is a long way from authorizing a religious school choice program. In fact, the common benefits clause of the Constitution prohibits supporting religion with taxpayer money.

The key to the Senate bill is that it proposes "adequate safeguards" be put in place to prevent religious instruction from being provided by publicly funded religious schools. Reasonable people might lift an eyebrow at this reasoning. Any attempt to set guidelines for what is religious and what is not is a wasted trip to a non-existent reality. The IRS basically gave up trying. The court cases are as old as the nation. The debates are as ancient as humankind. In this rhetorical wonderland, they cloud and mystify but do not clarify.

Other unanswered but compelling issues swarm us like black flies.

The prohibitive cost of operating two systems — Under present day interpretations, towns that do not operate schools at all levels or belong to a regional district may provide vouchers to

other schools. Using independent school association counts, and blending elementary and secondary tuition rates, that's about \$130 million of tax money scattered to private schools. If we also picked up the tab for the 2,400 religious school students, that adds another \$33 million to the bill. Proponents naively say they will re-purpose the public school money. That's not likely to happen as the pre-existing schools would still have to operate. The likely result is two expensive but inadequately funded systems, satisfying no one.

The hidden cost of more costs

— We know that a number of private schools require extra payment from parents (which a public school cannot do). How much? We don't know. The costs are hidden.

Economic and social segregation — Brookings researchers concluded that the expansion of vouchers to pri-

mary K-12 schools will primarily benefit affluent families and come at a non-trivial cost to states. The same is true of Vermont. Knowingly increasing inequalities raises legal and moral questions

Free-riders and fiscal exploitation — Let's say a Connecticut couple with two high school children bought a condo in Killington and established a "residence." Thus, they could call down Vermont taxes to subsidize about \$30,000 in school tuition. Thus, the more needy subsidize the wealthy. This raises Constitutional and basic fairness questions.

"School's Choose or School Choice?" — In a book by this name, Welner and Mommandi explain how private schools tailor their student body with standardized tests, outside participation, "lower cost" students and extracted parental support. Unlike public schools, where if you show up, they take you.

The Solution — In addition to the Montana case, there are at least two other cases winding their way through the courts. One of these upheld the South Carolina constitution's "no-pay" clause for private schools. U.S. Supreme

(See Religious schools, Page 5)

*Is there a reason to have two separate but unequal systems? The Vermont system was an effective solution for the nineteenth century but is hopelessly outdated for the twenty-first.*



Ice out

WARMER TEMPS AND longer sunny days have the ice melting on Lake Dunmore well ahead of schedule.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

Legislative Wrap-up, Crossover is past

This was the end of Crossover Week, where the bills generated in the House of Representatives must be voted on and, if passed, then moved on to the Senate. It has been a grueling week for us. We had in-depth Committee meetings, final discussions on the policy and finances of the bills, and long sessions on the Floor of the House. Here is a run-down of the week's important events:

• Helping Ukraine's Children

Working with the White House and State Department, Vermont is donating \$643,000 to help the children of Ukraine - \$1 for every Vermonter. The evening ceremony on the steps of the Statehouse was a moving one, with speeches by the Governor, Speaker of the House, Lt. Governor, Senate Pro-Tem, Eastern Orthodox priest, representative of Save the Children, and performances by Vermont Youth Orchestra. The statehouse was illuminated in blue and yellow, and the event was live streamed to the Ukraine Parliament. It is my hope that every state will make similar donations

to help the people of Ukraine.

• H.722 - Redistricting

The final maps have been approved by the House. Rutland-6 has been divided into three new districts. Brandon will become a single district. Proctor and Pittsford will be joined into a single district. The towns of Sudbury, Hubbardton, Orwell, Whiting and Shoreham will be merged into a single district. It was a long and arduous process to come up with an acceptable statewide plan, and it was voted with a near unanimous vote in the House.

• H.703 - Workforce Development Bill

This bill focused on expanding Vermont's workforce in the areas of Career & Technical Education, Nursing, Healthcare, Mental Health, Corrections, Forest Economy and Childcare. This bill will be voted on by the House and then the Senate. I am proud of the work we did on this to help get Vermonters get back to work, providing training, scholarships and forgivable loans to incentiv-

ize advanced skill sets, certifications and better pay.

• H.606 - Building Community Resilience and Protecting Biodiversity

This bill sets a goal of conserving 30% of our lands by 2030 and 50% by 2050 by making investments in climate adaptation and mitigation for both human and natural communities. Conserving an intact connected landscape will benefit our economy in the short and long term. Open space and access to the outdoors are essential to both working lands and outdoor recreation economies. Conserving these spaces will also reduce the significant economic impacts from climate stressors, like flooding and drought, while helping to reverse biodiversity loss.

• H.572 - Helping Schools Cope with the Workforce Crisis

H.572 will help Vermont schools struggling to hire and retain teachers. This bill makes it feasible for retired educators to return to work for up to a year (See Legislative Wrap, Page 7)

# Letter to the Editor

## Vermont Senate on course to hand a weapon to the religious right

Vermont has a proud history of providing high quality, equitable public education for children in our communities. It's why our equity gaps are narrower than in many states. It's why many communities fight hard to keep their public schools.

Recently, conservative national litigation groups have targeted Vermont. One of these groups is the Alliance Defending Freedom, which the Southern Poverty Law Center describes as a hate group. The apparent goal is to redefine "religious freedom" as the right to use taxpayer-funded vouchers to promote religion, including in schools that won't hire or serve LGBTQ individuals and otherwise discriminate.

So far, they've succeeded. And, these lawsuits underscore the extent to which Vermont is drifting away from our core values of democratic fairness and fiscal frugality.

Vermont's constitution requires the state to maintain a "competent number of schools" in each town "unless the general assembly per-

mits other provisions for the convenient instruction of youth." This governmental obligation is "instituted for the common benefit" of citizens, not the particular advantage of a subset of that community.

For rural communities with populations too small for a robust public school, at least at the high school level, Vermont statute provided for payment of tuition for a public education replacement.

Vermont's current voucher model was birthed in 1991. Before that, tuition students enrolled in public schools in neighboring districts or in "public schools without school boards," as Vermont's academies were described in statute. The state allowed funding of academies through tuitions, to advance the public purpose of education for the common benefit. Academies conformed to most standards and rules for public schools.

In 1991, this changed. The legislature revised statute to remove references to academies as public

(See Letter cont., Page 7)

# Religious schools

(Continued from Page 4) court Justice John Roberts also said there is no requirement for a state to fund private schools. Peter Teachout questions whether we can constitutionally allow private education at public expense. Can our system pass the requirements of our own Constitution?

Is there a reason to have two separate but unequal systems? The Vermont system was an effective solution for the nineteenth century but is hopelessly outdated for the twenty-first. Computers, communication, transportation and the courts have all evolved. The litany of problems occasioned by trying to design, implement and maintain "adequate safeguards" is not reasonable and the bureaucratic overhead is beyond our will or capacity. The

real Rubicon is not about religion, it is about what we want to be as a people. It is about nourishing and embracing the commonwealth.

Education does not exist for the provision of benefits to a particular group. It exists to form and strengthen the commonwealth. It is to advance the democratic ethos of a civil society. It is time for the private schools that directly or indirectly receive public monies to follow the laws and the ethos of the public commonwealth.

*This week's writer is Goshen's William J. Mathis, who served as a Vermont school superintendent, managing director of the National Educational Policy Center, vice chair of the state board of education and taught Educational Finance at UVM.*



# 'Meaning of Life'

BY VICTOR NUOVO  
Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

## The problem of Evil

What is the problem of evil? The fact that there is evil, that bad things happen, is undeniable. But this doesn't constitute a single problem, rather a host of problems and in some cases, although not always, solutions.

In the midst of a pandemic, epidemiologists were faced with a problem. What caused it? And having discovered that, other medical scientists developed vaccines to prevent its spread, or at least to mitigate its worst effects along with

medicines to treat those who have contracted it. Similarly, the climate crisis is evil; brought on by our profligate economic and industrial practices, and the lifestyle of the so-called developed world. We know what caused this crisis, and we know what can be done to meet it. There are a host of problems here also, but they are not so insurmountable that they can't be effectively met. To begin with: Follow the

science. Wear a mask in public places. Stop using fossil fuels. Exercise. Be kind.

But the problem still remains: Why is there any evil at all? Earthquake, wind, and, fire; old age, illness, death, global warming, tyranny, war, genocide, crime and punishment, jealousy, envy, hate, resentment, cruelty. The list is endless. Who would deny that this would be a better world if such things never happened?

"Why is there any evil at all?" is twin to another fundamental question: "Why is there anything at all, why not nothing?" They are inseparable, as the philosopher G. W. Leibniz (1646-1716) well knew. The answer he gave to the latter question gave rise to the former.

For all we know, "Life, the universe, and everything" might have just happened to come into being; in the beginning there was nothing; and behold, in this vale

of nothingness something just popped into being, this tangible universe just came to be, uncaused and for no reason. Before there was nothing, and Voila! suddenly there is everything!

Leibniz was sure that this could not happen. There had to be some cause, some reason for the world to begin to be. And that cause and reason is God. And therein lies the root of the problem of evil. For if a world without evil is conceivable, it must be possible, and surely it is desirable to anyone with a good will who possesses the power to create a world. Therefore, the fact there is evil leads to the conclusion that if God made this world, which is evidently full of evil, then either he, she, or they did not know how to do better, or saw no need to do better, or would not to do better.

But this is inconsistent with the divine nature as Leibniz, and theists generally believe. God is supposed to be omnipotent, omniscient, and wholly good. Yet the existence of evil gives reason to doubt this; it leads us to think either that God was not able to create a world without evil, or did not know how, or did not

(See Problem of Evil, Page 7)

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## Letters to the editor

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

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

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

Send your Letters to the Editor by Fridays before 5 p.m. Brandon Reporter, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to [news@brandonreporter.com](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com)

# Obituaries

## Wayne Vetter Kingsley, 84, Forest Dale

RUTLAND—Wayne Vetter Kingsley, age 84, passed away Friday, March 4, 2022, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Wayne was born in Ticonderoga, N.Y. on October 25, 1937. He was the son of Dell and Irene (Vetter) Kingsley. He was a graduate of Chestertown, N.Y. high school (1955). He received his degree in forestry from Paul Smith College. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Syracuse University.

Wayne worked for the United States Forest Service for over 32 years. He had worked in timber and fire management in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. He has been a resident of Forest Dale since 1965. He was well known for his “Kingsley Farm Stand,” which was there in various forms since the late 1970s.

He was a co-founder and first



**WAYNE V. KINGSLEY**

Vice President of the Vermont Trappers Association. He was an avid outdoorsman, hunter and trapper, as well as an avid vegetable farmer. He belonged to the Christian Fellowship Church in Forest Dale.

Wayne was preceded in death by his son, Wayne “Bart” Kingsley

(2006). Surviving is his daughter, Sheila Kingsley; a son, James Kingsley and his wife Jeanne, and their children, Sarah Rollman (Kyle) and Benjamin Kingsley (Ellie); his brothers, Larry Kingsley and Ronald Kingsley, as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The memorial service “In Celebration of His Life” will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022, 10 a.m. at the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church. The Rev. Barry Tate, pastor will officiate.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to: the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church, 1895 Forest Dale Road, Brandon, Vt. 05733 or to the Vermont Trappers Association, P.O. Box 451, Vernon, Vt. 05354.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## Shirley A. Smela, 67, Brandon

BRANDON — Shirley Smela died on March 20, 2022, the first day of spring, from the debilitating effects of frontotemporal dementia. She passed peacefully at the Wintergreen Residential Home in her adopted town of Brandon while in hospice care.

Shirley was born in Middlebury at Porter Hospital on April 6, 1954, the daughter of James and Ora (Harris) Ellis. She grew up in East Middlebury and graduated from Middlebury Union High School in 1972.

She worked in a variety of capacities at the Brandon Training School for eighteen years, where she cared for residents with the same unselfish attention she gave to everyone she met.

Shirley is survived by her husband of 34 years, Greg Smela, whom she married on May 21, 1988 at the Methodist Church in East Middlebury, and her son Matthew of Castleton, Vt.; her sisters Muriel Landis and husband Lowell of Washington, Vt.; Linda Babbitt and husband Ken of Salisbury, Vt.; Candace Torrey and partner Glenn Ellifritz of Oakland, Md.; along with numerous cousins, nephews and nieces throughout Vermont. Through her marriage she gained a new family who loved her as their own. She was predeceased by her parents.

She called Vermont home but her family took a fifteen-year detour to the Washington, D.C., area in 1993, where she was a full time mother who mentored other children at the local elementary school and volunteered for a variety of school-related groups. After a time, she began



**SHIRLEY A. SMELA**

working as a pharmacy technician after completing the certification process and continuing to do what she liked best: helping people.

She moved back to Vermont in 2008 as her family built a house in Cornwall, where she loved working in her gardens and helping her husband keep bees and chickens. She loved watching the wildlife in the area and traveling around Vermont, enjoying the scenery and the people she met. She worked part-time at Porter Medical Center where she enjoyed helping people until her retirement in 2016.

Her final move to her favorite home was in 2015 when she retired to Brandon, what she called “the most wonderful town in Vermont.” She loved the people she met, the neighbors and shops, and caring for her kitties in her house on High Street, which she decorated with art from the local artists she admired. A member of the Brandon Forestdale Lions Club, Shirley was proud of her work helping the club provide vision screening to elementary school students. She

also volunteered as a docent at the Stephen Douglas House, where she was able to continue her life’s work: enjoying everyone she met. She continued to love her Boston Red Sox, Lake Dunmore, music, reading, gardening, and lazy afternoon drives around the state. Every day was Christmas in her mind.

In her final years she was cared for by her husband until her condition required a move to a care facility that was close to her beloved home. While there, she continued doing what she was known for, that is, loving everyone she came in contact with. The old phrase “A stranger is a friend you haven’t met yet” could have been coined with her in mind as she lived her entire life in a manner that brought joy and happiness to all she encountered.

And this is why the world has become a bit more sad. Shirley had the biggest, kindest heart of anyone and had nothing but good to say about anyone. She couldn’t understand anger, nor could she express it as “there isn’t any time to waste” on such a thing. She was the kindest soul anyone ever encountered.

Her family thanks the caring staff at Wintergreen in Brandon, Dr. Mei Lei Frankish, the caretakers from Bayada Hospice, and the wonderful staff at Project Independence/Elderly Services in Middlebury for their support.

A private memorial will be held in the autumn when the colors change, for that was Shirley’s favorite time of year. (She absolutely did not like March and mud season!) In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to Project Independence in Middlebury, Vermont.

# OV board

(Continued from Page 1)

places or ask their town clerks for an absentee ballot, if they won’t be present on that day.

In a Monday interview with Supt. Collins and Brenda Fleming, director of business and finance for the district, both said the district and board would attempt to answer all the public’s questions about the budget over the next two weeks ahead of April 5 meeting soliciting community feedback. Specifically, they hope to answer questions like:

- What does this budget buy?
- What is budget’s impact on the tax rate and how does that compare to others?
- What happens if the next budget doesn’t pass?
- What adjustments to the budget — increases, decreases or keeping it the same — will there be?
- What impact has the pandemic had on student learning and costs to the district?

As well as other questions the public might raise.

Plans are being made to address those questions and others in a Question-Answer format in The Reporter in upcoming issues in mid-April.

Fleming did say that the budget is not “buying a lot of new,” but cast the budget as fairly conservative amount to cover the district’s needs. Fleming noted the district spends \$1,000 less per pupil than the statewide average, and while school spending was up in this year’s budget, the district-wide tax rate is down 5.5 cents compared to the prior year.

District voters who have questions about the budgets are encouraged to go to the district’s website and connect with the Let’s Talk function by simply clicking on the button or send a text message to: 802-243-0461. You can also share your thoughts via email at mesu.vt@k12-lets-talk.com

The board also must find candidates for three open board seats. They may either appoint people to fill those seats for one year, or wait until the special election on April 26 if candidates step forward in time. Both processes, Collins said, normally take at least two months. The vacant seats are: one year remaining of a three-year term representing Leicester; a three-year term representing Pittsford; and one year left of a three-year At-Large term.

### OTHER BUSINESS

In other business at the Monday meeting:

• Laurie Bertrand was confirmed for another term as board chair, Derek Larson was named as the vice-chair, and Barbara Ebling as appointed as clerk. Mike

Lufkin, Barbara Ebling, and Laurie Bertrand were also elected to the RNESU Board, while Kevin Thornton was named as the representative to the Tech Center advisory board at the Stafford Technical Center.

• A presentation was made by State Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, who serves on the House Education Committee, and Rep. Stephanie Jerome, D-Brandon, of the House Commerce Committee on school issues. In particular, they focused on Act 173, the special education funding bill. They speculated that based on fiscal year figures from 2020 and 2021, the public should expect \$4 million to \$6 million to be spent on special education funding in 2023. They indicated that \$25-\$40 million dollars would be spent on free meals (breakfast and lunch) statewide for students.

Rep. Jerome explained that they would be a total “re-write” of Chapter 11 regarding formation of union school districts, which would include the process of district towns withdrawing from a school districts as Ripton and Lincoln have recently done. This would be the first total rewrite of Chapter 11 since it was written in 1967, she said. She also mentioned that pending legislation involving school mascots as well as funding for private schools was working its way through the legislative process.

To help relieve teacher shortages in schools across the state, Rep. Conlon explained that pending legislation would allow Vermont retire teachers to be able to return to work without losing any pension benefits, which is not currently allowed under Vermont law. This is being passed because of the shortage of teachers many schools are facing.

• Three representatives (James Kalb, Susannah White, and Joanie Wisdahl) presented information regarding the Edmentum Assessment, a Panorama SEL (Social Emotional Learning) tool. A recent study attempted to answer the following questions:

How are students doing?  
How valid and reliable are the results?

How are we doing on equity?  
Mr. Kalb displayed several charts that indicated where Otter Valley students are grading out in several categories to meet certain criteria. The board recommends readers contact a board member for further information about the study and its outcome. Further information about the study can be found on the school district’s website.

# Problem of Evil

(Continued from Page 5)  
 choose to create a world without evil. Leibniz' way out of this dilemma is to claim that God did the best that could be done. He, she, or they created the best of all possible worlds. A better world than this is not possible; and even Omnipotence cannot not do what is not possible.

As I remarked in a previous essay in this series, this led Voltaire to satirize Leibniz in the character of Dr. Pangloss, in *Candide*, who took consolation in every misfortune in the refrain, "Everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds." Which is biting satire indeed, but misses the profound philosophical problem.

For what is the alternative? There is reason to wonder about existence, just that there is anything. I and the world that I live

in just might not have been. Plato believed that philosophy begins with wonder. In the middle of the night you may lie awake dreaming of a love song that haunts your memory, and wonder why you do this; or you may wonder they there is anything at all, or why your dream is not more real than your waking thoughts, or whether dreaming and waking are just different states of being. Or the voice of harsh realism may interject, telling you that there is no reason for anything. Everything happens, although there is no need or reason that it does. Chance and necessity are the cause of our existence; and these same blind, purposeless causes will cause your existence to end. And that's all the wisdom that's needed to settle your mind.

But if this doesn't settle your mind, then you must go with

Leibniz, and conclude that this indeed is the best of all possible worlds. And then, in the remaining quiet of the night, you can wonder about the problem of evil. And maybe read some Leibniz.

*Postscript 1: Leibniz also supposed that rational beings like you and me are free; and that as free agents, the evil that we do is our fault and not God's. I will consider this problem in next week's essay. Stay tuned.*

*Postscript 2: Leibniz' published his reflections on the problem of evil in a book entitled *Theodicy*, which, by the way, is the theme of John Milton's poem *Paradise Lost*. They're both worth reading; both Milton and Leibniz were theists and desired "to justify the way of God to man". But there are reasons to doubt that either succeeded.*

## Letter cont.

(Continued from Page 5)  
 schools and allowed them to choose to become public schools (as Belows Free Academy did), public school approved "independent" schools (as Thetford Academy did), or private "independent" schools (as did the rest). Academies that became "independent" schools, although still dependent on tax dollars, were allowed to abandon a public mission and take taxpayer funds to a private mission- an astonishing potential transfer of public resources to private purposes.

Every time a public good is privatized, people lose democratic rights over that good. Forced payment of vouchers to religious schools brought that to a head, revealing how far vouchers moved us away from our core Vermont values.

As Justice Roberts wrote last year, "A state need not subsidize private education, but once a state decides to do so, it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious."

By abandoning our constitutional commitment to common benefits, the legislature turned school budgets into vending machines for private interests. Taxpayers statewide fund community public schools, but now, school budgets also are com-

pelled to fund programs that undermine both unity and affordability.

Your tax dollars support private schools that use test scores, interviews, discipline records, religious faith pledges, and fees to pick and choose who to accept, effectively taking public dollars but refusing to educate the public's children. They exploit equity gaps to amplify inequity, and concentrate kids who "aren't a good fit" in other schools. One excluded a child for vaping.

Your tax dollars fund a private school that states its programs are ill-suited to students with disabilities, and which promises to help students "seek God through Jesus Christ and his Church" by weaving faith into all aspects of life at the school.

Your tax dollars support a for-profit "therapeutic" school whose official progress report provided a grade on this proficiency: "Don't be an a\*\*hole." Leadership at another school asserted the right to disenroll children with objectionable parents - in this case, anti-CRT, anti-mask parents.

Under newly proposed state board rules, private schools still can choose which students with disabilities they'll enroll. That's a bitter pill for children who aren't allowed to

follow friends to the school of their choice.

Vermont's voucher system - like voucher systems in Florida and Indiana - is undemocratic.

What evidence we have suggests that when schools choose their students, "choice" becomes expensive sorting of kids, not better performance. Even Milton Friedman, the granddaddy of vouchers, acknowledged "In small communities and rural areas, the number of children may be too small to justify more than one school of reasonable size, so that competition cannot be relied on to protect the interests of parents and children."

Legislation currently pending in the Vermont Senate doesn't provide this protection, and may make matters worse. By focusing on what private schools CAN'T do with tax dollars (teach religion), rather than what they MUST do (provide a high quality, equitable public education), the current bill risks handing the US Supreme Court the case it needs to redefine "religious freedom" as the freedom to use tax dollars to discriminate. And anyway, protections don't apply out of state.

Vermont legislators can fix this by going back to Vermont values of neighborly fairness and frugality. Treat public education and public education dollars as a common benefit, not a fight for private advantage. And, don't use school budgets to create gated communities, including in out-of-state prep schools and private schools that close taxpayer-funded doors on their children.

Rebecca Holcombe  
 Former Vt. Secretary of Education



## Blowin' in the wind

IDLE DOCKS AND a flag waving briskly in the breeze beckon the warmer days of summer.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

## Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 4)

without giving up their pension benefits. Teachers must hold an active license, and both the teacher and employer must continue to make contributions to the pension and OPEB. This bill supports our struggling schools by giving them an option to put a needed experienced educator in a classroom. Our students will benefit from the stability of an experienced teacher when their classroom teacher is out on leave. The bill will then move to the Senate.

• H.715 - Clean Heat Standard

Greenhouse gasses from heating homes and businesses account for one-third of our carbon pollution. The Clean Heat Standard (CHS) will reduce carbon emissions and transition our economy away from reliance on fossil fuels. CHS sets out a process to provide us with heating options that are affordable, efficient, less polluting, and less price-volatile,

than fuel oil or propane. It helps low-income residents, who pay the highest percentage of their household income on heating bills, helping them transition to clean heat. Fuel sellers will be required to obtain "clean heat credits" in proportion to their sales. The number of required credits increase gradually over time and are obtained by helping customers reduce carbon pollution by weatherizing or switching to less-polluting fuels. H.715 now moves to the Senate.

You can follow along with Committee meetings and House proceedings on the Vermont General Assembly website: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>. As always feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about legislation.

Take care and stay healthy!

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome  
 (Brandon-Pittsford-Sudbury)  
[www.stephaniejeromevt.com](http://www.stephaniejeromevt.com)  
[stephaniejeromevt@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniejeromevt@gmail.com)



**ANGLERS CAN IMPROVE** their chances of success by fishing their fly, lure or bait slowly along the bottom when Vermont's trout season opens on April 9.

## Vermont trout season opens April 9

MONTPELIER — Vermont's trout fishing season opens Saturday, April 9.

Despite lingering snow cover in some areas of the state, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says anglers can still have fun and be successful early in the season if they keep a few strategies in mind.

"Just like any other time of year, anglers fishing early in the spring should adjust their tactics based on conditions," said State Fisheries Biologist Shawn Good. "Trout will become more active with warmer water temperatures. If you can find a good location and present your bait or lure without spooking the trout, you'll have a good chance of catching a few fish, and enjoy a nice day outside."

Good adds that finding a small to medium low-elevation river or stream that is not too

murky from spring runoff can be key. Trout are coldblooded and may be slow to bite especially with low water temperatures, so it is important that they can also see your bait, lure or fly.

Larger baits can often be more effective for enticing early-season trout into biting. Spinners should try nightcrawlers, egg imitations, or bright colored spoons and spinners. Fly anglers may find success in the early season by drifting large, more visible flies such as woolly buggers, streamers, or San Juan worms along the bottom in slower pools and runs.

Trout will often hold close to the bottom in the deeper areas of streams during high flow conditions to conserve energy. Choose locations and tactics that allow you to fish using a slow retrieval right along the bottom. Focus on deep holes behind cur-

rent breaks created by big boulders, downed trees or log-jams where trout may be resting. If possible, approach the hole from downstream as trout will often orient themselves facing the current.

While Vermont offers excellent and diverse fishing opportunities for wild trout, stocking also occurs in many lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers where wild trout populations are low or absent. This generally happens in April and May each year once the ice has melted and following spring runoff.

"Early in the season, like on opening weekend, you'll probably have more success if you focus on waters known to hold wild trout," said Good. "Despite unpredictable weather during early spring, each year anglers report catching impressive trout during opening weekend."

## Learn to hunt wild turkeys with VT Fish & Wildlife

If you would like to learn how to effectively hunt wild turkey gobblers in the upcoming spring hunting season, consider attending the turkey hunting seminars being offered by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and volunteer instructors on March 26 and April 2.

Learning to Hunt Spring Turkeys, designed specifically for new hunters, will be held on Saturday, March 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the North Country Sportsmen's Club in Williston. This seminar will cover turkey

biology, effective turkey calls, how to pattern your shotgun, how to butcher your turkey, and lots more. Lunch is provided, and all participants will go home with a new turkey call.

Learning to Call Spring Turkeys will be held Saturday, April 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mendon Fish and Game Club in Pittsford. Participants will learn and practice turkey calling with plenty of opportunity to ask questions about turkey hunting. A panel of National Wild Turkey Federation volun-

teers and expert turkey hunters will provide instruction. Participants are urged to bring their own turkey calls.

For more information about the seminars, contact Nicole Meier at [Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov](mailto:Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov) or call 802-828-1193.

Registration for all upcoming seminars is available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website at this link: <https://register-ed.com/programs/vermont/133-vermont-fish-and-wildlife-seminars>.

## OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE SPRING 2022

### VARSITY BASEBALL (16)

|      |   |   |       |
|------|---|---|-------|
| 4/2  | Pioneer Regional School, MA (Scrimmage) | A | 12:00 |
| 4/14 | Burr & Burton                           | H | 4:30  |
| 4/16 | Bellows Falls                           | H | 11:00 |
| 4/19 | Bellows Falls                           | A | 4:30  |
| 4/21 | Mt Abraham                              | H | 4:30  |
| 4/23 | MAU                                     | A | 11:00 |
| 4/26 | Fair Haven                              | H | 4:30  |
| 4/28 | Stratton                                | H | 4:30  |
| 4/30 | Springfield                             | A | 11:00 |
| 5/3  | Windsor                                 | H | 4:30  |
| 5/5  | Hartford                                | A | 7:00  |
| 5/10 | Rutland                                 | A | 5:00  |
| 5/12 | Green Mountain                          | A | 4:30  |
| 5/17 | Windsor                                 | A | 4:30  |
| 5/21 | Brattleboro                             | H | 11:00 |
| 5/26 | Hartford                                | H | 4:30  |
| 5/28 | Fair Haven                              | A | 11:00 |

### VARSITY SOFTBALL (16)

|      |                        |   |       |
|------|------------------------|---|-------|
| 4/9  | Middlebury (Scrimmage) | H | 11:00 |
| 4/11 | Vergennes (Scrimmage)  | A | 4:30  |
| 4/14 | Burr & Burton          | H | 4:30  |
| 4/19 | Springfield            | H | 4:30  |
| 4/21 | Mt Abraham             | H | 4:30  |
| 4/26 | Fair Haven             | H | 4:30  |
| 4/28 | White River Valley     | H | 4:30  |
| 4/30 | Springfield            | A | 11:00 |
| 5/3  | Windsor                | H | 4:30  |
| 5/5  | Hartford               | H | 4:30  |
| 5/7  | West Rutland           | A | 4:30  |
| 5/10 | Rutland                | A | 5:00  |
| 5/12 | Green Mountain         | A | 4:30  |
| 5/17 | Windsor                | A | 4:30  |
| 5/21 | Brattleboro            | H | 11:00 |
| 5/24 | MAU                    | A | 4:30  |
| 5/26 | Hartford               | A | 6:30  |
| 5/28 | Fair Haven             | A | 11:00 |

### VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE (12)

|      |                             |   |       |
|------|-----------------------------|---|-------|
| 3/26 | Rutland (Scrimmage RUT/MAU) | A | TBA   |
| 4/7  | Montpelier                  | A | 4:00  |
| 4/12 | Mt Abraham                  | A | 4:00  |
| 4/19 | Rutland                     | A | 4:00  |
| 4/23 | Hartford                    | H | 11:00 |
| 4/25 | Randolph                    | H | 4:00  |
| 5/3  | GMVS                        | H | 4:30  |
| 5/9  | BFA-Fairfax                 | A | 4:30  |
| 5/11 | Mt Abraham                  | H | 4:30  |
| 5/14 | BFA-Fairfax                 | H | 11:00 |
| 5/17 | Randolph                    | A | 4:30  |
| 5/21 | Brattleboro                 | A | 11:00 |
| 5/26 | Stratton                    | H | 4:30  |

### UNIFIED BASKETBALL (7)

|      |               |   |      |
|------|---------------|---|------|
| 4/1  | Mill River    | A | 4:00 |
| 4/7  | Middlebury    | A | 4:00 |
| 4/12 | Mill River    | H | 4:00 |
| 4/26 | Rutland       | A | 4:00 |
| 4/28 | Burr & Burton | H | 4:00 |
| 5/3  | Rutland       | H | 4:00 |
| 5/5  | Middlebury    | H | 4:00 |

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# Calendar of events

## March

### Mondays Thursdays:

**Brandon Public Library Second Story**  
This is a program started to keep the library a quiet place to work even throughout the after-school rush. The Second Story is open from 3:30–5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday throughout the school year. It's a fun place to chill after school with board games and computers.

### Tuesday:

**Chess Club**  
Join us every Tuesday evening for a fun night of chess from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland.

### Thursdays:

**Open Mic Nights**  
The Clear River Inn & Tavern in Pittsfield hosts weekly open mic nights. Sign-up starts at 8:00 p.m., the show is from 9:00 pm–10:00 p.m.. 2614 Route 100 Pittsfield, VT 05762

### 24:

**Ukrainian Art Poster Exhibition**  
Eleven original Ukrainian art posters from the early 1990s are on display at the Calvin Coolidge Library. Local artist Bill Ramage will be giving a gallery talk about his visit to Ukraine and the artists he met there who brought these posters to the United States on a reciprocal visit. Following the exhibit, the posters will be sent to the Rennett's Gallery in New York City to be auctioned. All funds raised through the auction will be contributed to the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

### 25:

**Artist Talk at the Chaffee: Jason Bemis**  
On March 25th from 5:30–7 p.m. Bemis, who has a solo feature gallery in our current exhibit, will host an artist talk at Chaffee. Jason will be sharing his creative process derived from nature, and how the science of color affects both the creation of art and our perceptions of the art!

### 26:

**Free Clothing Giveaway**  
It's that time of year again! The Annual Free Clothing Drive hosted by Revive Church. This event is free to all and it is first come first serve. We have clothing for all ages from infant to Adult men's and all in between. If you are in need of some lightly used clothing please feel free to come on down on March 26th from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. \*\*If you would like to donate lightly used clothing please feel free to drop them off at Revive Church. Look for the silver trailer with the orange side door to drop them off anytime.\*\* Located at Revive Church 799 South Main Street Fair Haven VT, 05743.

### 26 27:

**Maple Open House Weekend at Baird Farm!**  
Come celebrate the Vermont Tradition of Maple Sugaring from 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Tours throughout the day of our sugarhogs, Boiling demo in the main building (weather permitting), Free Rosemary Waffles and Coffee, Outer Limits Brewing serving maple themed beer, Come Alive Outside (Sat and Sunday) Fun outdoor maple themed activities, Tabling and Grass-fed Beef Raffle by our collaborating farm partner Jamie Hamilton of Hamilton Cattle Company, Maple Themed Giveaway, Maple Syrup tastings as well as sampling of value added maple products (including maple ketchup and maple hot sauces), Availability to purchase any of our maple products, Baird Farm merch, and other items in our farmstore.

### 30:

**Hiplet**  
The Casella Theater - Fine Arts Center at Castleton University presents Hiplet™. The Hiplet Ballerinas are a performance group based out of the Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center. Specifically designed to make Ballet accessible by all, Hiplet™ is a fusion between classical pointe technique, hip-hop, and a variety of other urban dance styles. After going viral on Instagram in 2016, Hiplet™ has received recognition worldwide, with appearances in Germany, France, Spain, South Korea, and Hong Kong. Tickets: Free for Castleton students, \$5 for Castleton staff and faculty, and \$10 for the general public. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling the Fine Arts Center Box Office at (802) 468-1119 or starting one hour before the performance in-person at the Box Office.

### March April 8:

**"Art Connects Us" Annual Student Exhibit Opening**  
The Chaffee Art Center is proud to again showcase young artists from the Vermont schools and homeschoolers in grades Pre-k-12 for this Annual Student Exhibit. The showcase opening is March 5th 1pm-3pm. The Chaffee take great pleasure in presenting the opportunity for these talented young people to be inspired by seeing their work, and the works of others, displayed in our 1890's historic mansion professional gallery. A special thank you to all of the teachers, parents, family and friends who encourage young artists to explore the arts, as well as to the artists who continue to amaze and inspire. Chaffee Hours: Wednesday- Friday 12pm-4pm, Saturday 10am-2pm.

## Birth Announcement

A daughter, Hope Rose Busko, was born at Rutland Regional Medical Center on March 20, 2022 to Jodie Woodside and Matthew Busko of Brandon.



**Meet Sadie!**  
Our Circulation Manager



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#### BRANDON

- THE BOOKSTORE - Conant Square
- BRANDON DISCOUNT BEVERAGE - Conant Square
- CARR'S GIFTS - Center St
- CHAMPLAIN FARMS - Grove St
- CAFE PROVENCE - Center St
- HANNAFORD'S - Supermarket Dr
- JIFFY MART - Grove St
- JIFFY MART - McConnell Rd
- JUNCTION GROCERY - Forest Dale Rd
- MAE'S PLACE - Park St
- UNION STREET GROCERY - Union St
- WALGREEN'S - Union St

#### CHITTENDEN

- WOODEN BARREL - Chittenden Rd

#### LEICESTER

- CHAMPLAIN BEVERAGE - US Rt 7

#### MIDDLEBURY

- PARIS FARMERS UNION - Rt 7 S Middlebury, VT

#### PITTSFORD

- CHAMPLAIN FARMS - US Rt 7
- KAMUDA'S - Arch Street
- KEITH'S COUNTRY STORE - US Rt 7 - ALL LOCATIONS!
- MAPLEFIELDS - US Rt 7

#### PROCTOR

- FRANKLIN'S RESTAURANT - Willow St
- WEST STREET MARKET - West St

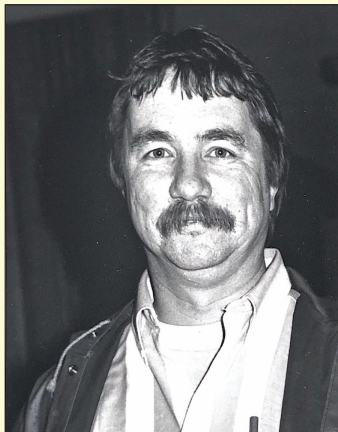
#### WEST RUTLAND

- CENTER RUTLAND SUNOCO - West Rutland, VT



# 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!



Brud Leedom also identified the gentleman pictured here as John Fesko, who worked at the Brandon Training School. Brud says he believes John is no longer in the area.

## Recognized



Brud Leedom emailed us to identify two photos printed on the Mim's page in the March 16th edition. The couple holding the baby are Debbie and Jerry Greeno. Brud says, "I believe they still live in the area."



Marcia King emailed to identify Patty and Brock Ketchum in the photo printed in the 3/16 edition.

Pat Ketcham also called to identify herself as the bride in this photo, with her groom, Brock Ketcham. Pat's name was Pat Germond and she lived in Sudbury at the time. Brock Ketcham who lived in Whiting. Brock and Pat Ketcham were married in the Sudbury Church on August 2, 1975. They lived in North Carolina, Bennington, Vermont and then in Brandon. They were married 39 years. Pat still lives in Brandon.

E-mail [ads@brandonreporter.com](mailto:ads@brandonreporter.com) if you can identify someone in these photos. Or call us at 247-8080

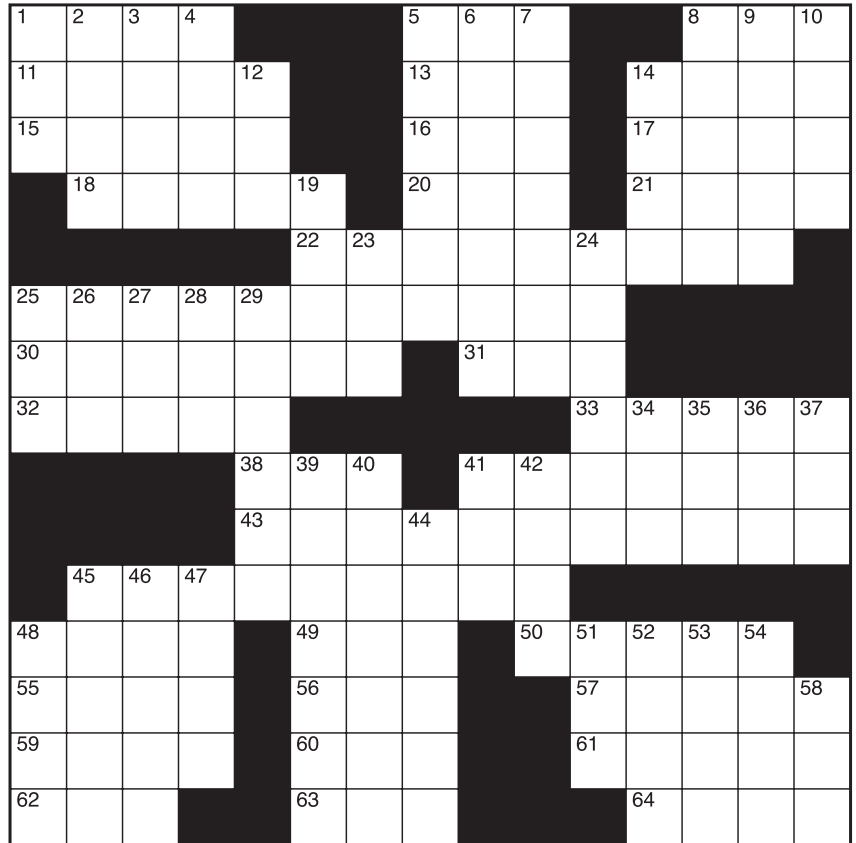
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. One who regrets
5. Time zone
8. Subway dweller
11. Bend in a river
13. Alias
14. Isodor \_\_\_, American Nobel physicist
15. Very (music)
16. Zero
17. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
18. Competitions
20. Unwell
21. Puts in place
22. Gets rid of
25. Allows light to pass through
30. Climbed quickly
31. We all have it
32. There's a North & South
33. Emaciation
38. Supervises flying
41. Very dark colors
43. Unwanted
45. Grants
48. Three visited Jesus
49. Wife of Amun
50. Broadway actress Daisy
55. A Spanish river
56. I (German)
57. French opera composer
59. Six (Spanish)
60. Last letter
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Noah had one
63. Make a mistake
64. Tall plant

## CLUES DOWN

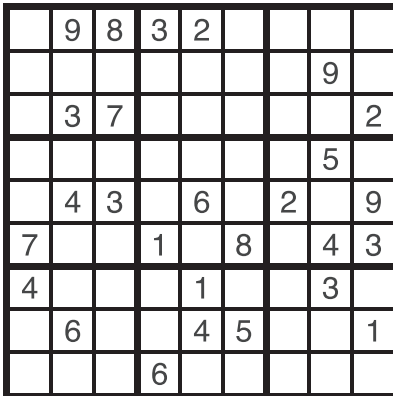
1. Computer memory
2. "Et \_\_\_": "And wife" (Latin)
3. Ancient Syrian city
4. College army
5. Cassava
6. Talented
7. Capital of Estonia
8. Finger millet
9. In a way, assists
10. Men's fashion accessories
12. Misery
14. Skin disorder
19. Selling at specially reduced prices
23. Good friend
24. Stationary portion of a generator
25. Expression of disappointment
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Where birds fly
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Chaotic states
34. Comedic actress Gasteyer
35. Kids' dining accessory
36. Snake-like fish
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. Assign lifelike qualities to
40. One who cites
41. Midway between east and southeast
42. North wind
44. One or the other
45. Cavalry sword
46. Of the Hungarian language
47. Life stories
48. Flat tableland with steep edges
51. Swiss river
52. Plant that makes gum
53. French cleric
54. One point east of northeast
58. Free from



# Sudoku

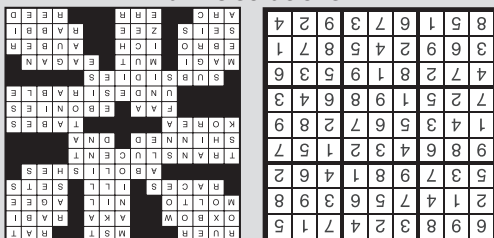
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number must appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out where to fill in the missing numbers by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers that are filled in, the easier it gets to solve.



Level: Intermediate

## Puzzle solutions



## Redeemable Bottles and Cans Help the Animals at RCHS!

Did you know that you can drop off your redeemable bottles and cans at the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS), as a way to help the animals? Thanks to some of our generous volunteers, we have a dry and secure shed for supporters to drop off redeemable bottles and cans. GE volunteers and 4 handy RCHS volunteers made it a reality for us. The shed is located at the back of the shelter at 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford. Or, if it's more convenient, you can drop the bottles and cans at Green Mountain Bottle Redemption in the Howe Center in Rutland. Just let them know they're for RCHS! Those nickels all add up, so please drop off your redeemables! If you have any questions, please call RCHS at 802.483.6700. The animals appreciate your generous donations!

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

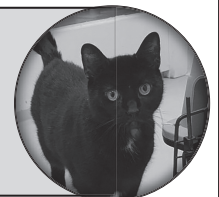


#### BRODY - 1-YEAR-OLD, NEUTERED MALE. GERMAN SHEPHERD MIX. BROWN AND WHITE.

My name is Brody and I was adopted from here as a puppy. I was brought back on February 17 because my previous family was no longer able to care for me. I am a total sweetheart and I love people. I have done great with other dogs and really enjoy time with the family. I am looking for an active family to take me for walks and hikes, and also teach me obedience as I love to please. If I sound like the right companion for you, please call the Adoption Center at 802-483-6700 to schedule a time to meet me.

#### MIDNIGHT - 4-YEAR-OLD, SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. BLACK.

I am as mysterious as my name suggests. When you first meet me, you will find that I am incredibly timid, aloof even. But there is no need to be shy because if you reach out to me gently, I'll give your hand a sniff and maybe even a nuzzle. I have opened up a little bit here, and I am a very loving cat who enjoys being pet! I just need a little bit of time and patience. I'm not a fan of overstimulation, so a home without other animals would be perfect for me.



## RUTLAND COUNTY

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# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

## Juvenile Graphic Novels

### The Aquanaut: A Graphic Novel by Dan Santat

Ever since her father was lost at sea, Sophia has been moping around Aqualand, the marine theme park her dad and uncle created. But Sophia's world is turned upside down when an "aquanaut" breaks into the park's research lab. To her amazement, Sophia discovers that the aquanaut is not what it seems -- inside lives a band of four goofy sea creatures!

## Adult Fiction

### Artificial Condition by Martha Wells

It has a dark past -- one in which a number of humans were killed. A past that caused it to christen itself "Murderbot". But it has only vague memories of the massacre that spawned that title, and it wants to know more. Teaming up with a Research Transport vessel named ART (you don't want to know what the "A" stands for), Murderbot heads to the mining facility where it went rogue. What it discovers will forever change the way it thinks...

### The Starless Crown by James Rollins

A gifted student foretells an apocalypse. Her reward is a sentence of death. Fleeing into

### Did you know?

Our crafting group, Pins and Needles, is resuming meetings beginning April 5 from 5:30-7:00! It's BYOC (Bring Your Own Crafts), so join us and enjoy a time of crafting and socializing.

We'll be reading "Summer of '49" by David Halberstam for our next Book Discussion on April 5 at 6:00. We have copies available, so stop by to pick one up!

the unknown she is drawn into a team of outcasts: A broken soldier. A drunken prince. An imprisoned thief. On the run, hunted by enemies old and new, they must learn to trust each other in order to survive in a world evolved in strange, beautiful, and deadly ways, and uncover ancient secrets that hold the key to their salvation. But with each passing moment, doom draws closer.

## Young Adult Fiction

### Lakelore by Anna-Marie McLemore

Everyone who lives near the lake knows the stories about the world underneath it, an ethereal landscape rumored to be half-air, half-water. But Bastián Silvano and Lore Garcia are the only ones who've been there. Then the lines between air and water begin to blur. The world under the lake drifts above the surface. If Bastián and Lore don't want it bringing their secrets to the surface with it, they have to stop it, and to do that, they have to work together... and working together means trusting each other with the very things they're trying to hide.

## Magazines

### Smithsonian

Unsung Hero Pearl Kendrick Led the Brilliant Effort Against Whooping Cough

### Practical Homeschooling

10 Top Tips for Teaching Your Kids to Study with Style!

### Consumer Reports

Best Cars of the Year: Top Picks for 2022; How to Decide if a Hybrid, Plug-in Hybrid, or Fully Electric Car is Right for You.

### The following large-print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

"The Lightning Rod" by Brad Meltzer, in memory of Arthur E. Sawyer  
 "Shadows Reel" by C.J. Box in memory of Tom P. Whittaker

# Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Last week Brandon police responded to an attempted suicide, and untimely death and a request for a welfare check. A concerned family member at a residence on Franklin Street requested a welfare check on the evening of March 14 for a relative that was recently kicked out of a drug and alcohol program and may be residing in Brandon. Contact was made with the male, who indicated that he was fine, and the complainant was advised of the outcome of the welfare check.

Early in the morning of March 17 police responded to an untimely death report at a North Street residence. A few hours later a report of an attempted suicide came in from a residence on Franklin Street. The citizen in questions was transported for a mental health evaluation. Police also:

### On March 14

- Assisted a woman who came into the Brandon Police Department to speak with an officer regarding an incident that occurred with her son in Rutland City.
- Served a temporary restraining order to a male on Country Club Road.
- Conducted a directed patrol on Forest Dale Road for speed enforcement. No vehicles were stopped.
- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.
- Conducted a property watch at the Brandon Senior Citizen Center on Forest Dale Road.
- Took fingerprints for licensing
- Were called out for 911

hang up to a vacant building. No response was required.

### On March 15

- Conducted property watches at Fisher Electric on Franklin Street, Junction Store and Deli on Forest Dale Road, Brandon Discount Beverage at Conant Square, and Forest Dale Grocery and Deli on Furnace Road. All buildings were secure.
- Made three traffic stops for defective equipment, one on Newton Road and the others on Franklin Street. Warnings were issued for all three.
- Conducted a stationary directed patrol in downtown Brandon on Center Street. No vehicles were stopped in patrol area.

### On March 16

- After setting up speed enforcement on Grove Street, made six traffic stops, for speeding. Three operators were issued tickets for speeding violations. Three were issued warnings. One operator was issued a ticket for driving without a license.
- Conducted a directed patrol on Forest Dale Road for speeding and issued two warnings.
- Responded to an ATV incident on Deer Run Road. Operator was issued warning for operating on roadway.
- Responded to an alarm at a Richmond Road property. Alarm was false.
- Found hypodermic needles on a lawn on Center Street during a foot patrol. Needles were discarded accordingly.
- Conducted a walk-through of Otter Valley Union High School to meet with the staff (See Police report 13)

# WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, a fantastic investment opportunity comes your way but there is a lot of red tape that could get in the way if you let it. Work through all angles to make things happen.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, idolizing someone can have its plusses and minuses. You may have a picture of a person that is impossible to live up to. Temper your expectations.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, a rigid schedule may work for some, but not everyone. Incorporate a little flexibility into your life and others may be flocking to your laid-back style.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Talk to someone about a creative idea that you have had, Scorpio. This person may offer valuable feedback that can guide you as you try to flesh out your idea into something tangible.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, you may be interested in having a lot of fun, but someone keeps throwing a wet blanket on your ideas. Don't let it derail your plans.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

It's easy to give opinions and pick sides, but don't get pinned down to a particular position until you've tried several different options, Capricorn. Then you'll have a good idea.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Others may not understand the way you manage money, Aquarius. But you have a clear understanding of your particular brand of logic.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, friends are a strong presence in your life right now and you are very grateful for all that they provide you. Let them know.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 24 David Suzuki, academic, environmentalist (86)
- March 25 Aretha Franklin, singer (d)
- March 26 Anais Mitchell, singer-songwriter (41)
- March 27 Sarah Vaughan, singer (d)
- March 28 Mario Vargas Llosa, writer (86)
- March 29 Astrid Gilberto, singer, Jazz musician (82)
- March 30 Vincent Van Gogh, painter (d)

### ARIES March 21-April 20

Spending time alone could be good for you this week, Aries. While working toward your goals, you also are enjoying some much-needed peace and quiet.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Your friends may be pushing you to move forward since you seem to be stuck in the past, Taurus. Don't stay stagnant for too long or you may lose motivation for change.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

A collaboration with someone close to you yields surprising results, Gemini. You may have been looking for inspiration for some time and finally found it.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, a longing for adventure points you in all sorts of different directions over the next few days. You have to try on a few different hats to find the right fit.

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# Brandon police

(Continued from Page 12) and kids.

- Made two routine business checks, one on Union Street and one in Conant Square. At St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Conant Square the door found to be unlocked. The Building was secured from the inside.
- Took fingerprints for a license and for employment.

## On March 17

- Responded to a request to issue a trespass order by one of two neighbors in a dispute on High Pond Road.
- Made traffic stops on Marble Street, Center Street, Grove Street/Lovers Lane, Grove Street/Arnold District Road, and Franklin Street. Warnings were issued for incomplete stop, merging into roadway, defective equipment, and speeding.
- Conducted two foot patrols on Center Street for bar checks.
- Took fingerprints for licensing
- Conducted a property watch at New England Woodcraft on North Street. Business secure.

## March 18

- Responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Franklin Street of juveniles smoking marijuana. Consent search revealed marijuana which was destroyed roadside and a diversion ticket was issued.
- Issued a final restraining order to a reswidant on Country Club Road.
- Made three traffic stops, two for failure to stop, one on Conant Square and one on Park Street; and one on Grove Street for operating with a suspended license and misuse of plates, for which a ticket was issued.
- Conducted property watches at Heritage Family Credit Union on Franklin Street, Union St. Grocery on Union Street, State Garage on Robert Wood Drive, and at Brandon Florist Shop on Grove Street. All were secure.
- Checked for underage bar patrons while on foot patrol on Center Street.
- Began background investigations for two police officer candidates, one full-time and one part-time.
- Took fingerprints for a coach.

## On March 19

- Assisted citizens with a property line dispute on Maple Street.
- Made two traffic stops, one in Franklin Street for passing and one on Union Street for defective equipment. Both opera-

tors were issued warnings.

## On March 20

- Police responded to an alarm at Junction Store and Deli on Forest Dale Road. Keyholder advised them that it was a false alarm.
- Repsponded to a 911 hangup 89 Robin Bird Lane, where everything was found to be alright, and another on Deer Run Road, where no response was needed
- Assisted with a property ownership dispute on Franklin Street
- Returned lost property to owner of Forest Dale Road.
- Made a traffic stop on Route 7 for speeding and issued a warning.

# Wayne Kingsley

(Continued from Page 3) fond remembrances of Kingsley and many stories, but summed up the feelings of many when she wrote, "Here on Lake Dunmore, Wayne will be deeply missed. He was a great neighbor and friend."

After learning of Kingsley's death, another lake friend, Mark Evans, posted on social media: "A very sad note that Wayne Kingsley passed away last Friday. Kingsley's Farm Stand was an institution in Forest Dale. Loved by many and known for much more than his delicious corn, he will be missed by all who knew him. For those of you who stuffed dollar bills into the box to pay for plants, fruits and vegetables, our region is less rich with the passing of

Wayne.... He will be missed."

Others added their voices:  
 • "He was a treasure," Jon Freeman.  
 • "I was saddened to hear the news last week. And of course last year when Jon (Wood) passed, he was so instrumental in the growth of sustainable farming in Vermont. The community is going to be different without our two favorite farmers! They, of course, were more than just farmers; for so many they were friends to share a little of life and enjoy the neighborly conversation," Chip Paison.  
 • "Man, he will be missed!!!! The end of an era. What he gave to the community was exceptional," Bruce Acciavatti/Wonder Walks.

• "That is so sad. I used to chat with Wayne about 'life, the universe and everything.' And, of course, buy his corn, vegetables, and spice starts. He was a good person... my heart goes out to his family and close friends," Rebecca Holmes.  
 • "OMG, just so SAD to hear! Thanks for the post, broke my heart, he was an Institution. Many, many happy memories there with him. Gosh, RIP, Farmer Wayne," Regina Styles.  
 A memorial service "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on Monday, April 4, 10 a.m. at the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church. The Rev. Barry Tate, pastor, will officiate. See his obituary on Page 6.

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## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**HOME CARE** - Provider needed for elderly independent individual with special needs. Care for the individual in your home. Per Diem Respite Position in Brandon - Weekly/ weekend hours available. Flexible Employer. Competitive hourly and overnight rates. Call for more information -

802-398-5657 or respite2022@yahoo.com

**CAMP KEEWAYDIN IS** - looking for a Trailer-Van Inspector to fill out a checklist of items related to equipment usage. No experience necessary, M-F with some Saturdays through October. Email lee@keewaydin.org or call 802-352-4447

### TOWN OF PITTSFORD ASSESSOR CLERK (SEARCH REOPENED)

The Town of Pittsford, Vermont (pop. 3,000) seeks to hire a part-time (approx. 5-8 hours weekly) Assessor Clerk at the hourly rate of \$18.00 to \$30.00, commensurate with education, training and relevant experience. This is a new position intended for a person interested in assessment work and developing, through additional training and experience, into a Town Assessor. This is an opportunity to play an important role in town government and to also acquire assessment skills including, but not limited to, tax mapping, processing zoning permits, processing sales transfers, reading deed references, data entry and generating the grand list from which our property taxes are based. This position will be supervised and training will be provided by the Town's contract Assessor, Lisa Wright.

Please submit your cover letter describing your interest and applicable qualifications, together with your Employment Application and/or resume, to the Pittsford Town Manager by **April 29, 2022** via email at [manager@pittsfordvermont.com](mailto:manager@pittsfordvermont.com), or mail to Town Manager, Town of Pittsford, P.O. Box 10, Pittsford, VT 05763.

*The Town of Pittsford is an equal opportunity employer.*

## Coolidge named to Dean's List

Gracie Coolidge, a freshman at Northwestern University in Illinois, was recently named to the Dean's List at that school. She is the granddaughter of Susan Boswell, who lives in Brandon.

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### TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Fair Haven, VT is seeking qualified applicants for the position of town accountant. This is a full-time exempt position with benefits.

This is an exempt position that oversees the maintenance of comprehensive accounting records for the town. This position is responsible for developing and managing financial management systems and practices for all departments, assuring orderly flow of receipts and expenditure monitoring including cash flow, processing payroll and account payables.

The position is the primary financial advisor to the Town Manager, and is the liaison with the Town Treasurer.

An associate's degree in accounting plus two years' experience in municipal government is preferred.

Salary ranges from \$30,000 - \$52,000.  
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A complete job description is available at the Fair Haven Town Office.

Send a cover letter and resume by March 31, 2022 to:  
Town Manager, 5 North Park Place,  
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### Like all things vintage?



# Mimi's Photos

are on page 10!

# Proctor hearing

(Continued from Page 1)  
 based product for building uses. It would not be in the business of producing cannabis products.  
 As part of the plan, Zion Growers and The Preservation Trust of Vermont fully intend to keep the Vermont Marble Museum intact and refurbish the exterior

and interior parts of the building to make it more presentable to visitors. Years ago, the museum would routinely attract up to 1,000 visitors on a busy summer day at the height of the tourist season. At that time, bus tours throughout Vermont were popular and the Vermont Marble Museum

was a highlight of those tours.  
 The public hearing on the proposed project will begin at 6:05, just after the start of the next regularly scheduled selectboard meeting, Monday, March 28 at the town office.

# Redistricting

(Continued from Page 1)  
 process to come up with an acceptable statewide plan, but it was approved with a near unanimous vote in the House.”  
 Rep. Jerome said she would be running for election to the single seat representing Brandon in the next election. Rep. Butch Shaw, R-Pittsford, said he never makes

“a decision about his political future until much later in the legislative session,” but was quick to add he was “very happy with the new Pittsford-Proctor district.”  
 Rep. Jerome said that while she “truly enjoyed representing all three towns for the past six years,” it did mean that she and Rep. Shaw represented 8,200 constituents in those communities, compared to the 4,100 people just in the town of Brandon. “Every town has its own unique culture and character,” she said, adding it was a thrill to get to know all three communities and serve those voters.  
 What are the benefits of the new redistricting?  
 “From the perspective of constituent service, serving a more refined district allows you to be more focused on the needs of those particular constituents,” she said, but also emphasized that she and Rep. Shaw had worked well together, as does the entire Rutland delegation, so nothing is lost in the change.  
 “It’s going back to what it used to be before it changed in the last redistricting,” Rep. Jerome added, recalling that Rep. Bob Woods had served the town of Brandon as its representative for years.

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