

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 47

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

\$1



NAMES LOST IN VERMONT

Genealogist Michael Dwyer presents a Christmas story: the Christmas family of Pittsford.

PG. 2



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Red Clover's 5th Anniversary! Friends and fans flocked to Town Hall to try new brews and celebrate with the owners on this milestone.

PG. 21

STAY STRONG

Holding onto sobriety during the holiday season: a guest editorial by Michael Leach.

PG. 4



READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Maclure Library in Pittsford sponsors a children's literacy event at Lothrop.

PG. 3

WORDS MATTER

Words matter: a reflection on the destructive power of language by Steven Jupiter.

PG. 4



CALVIN LADD AS SpongeBob SquarePants in Walking Stick Theater's triumphant production of The SpongeBob Musical this past weekend at Otter Valley. Ladd led a terrific cast that sang and danced their hearts out in a super-fun show with real professional polish.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Definitely not 'just a sponge': OV Walking Stick aces SpongeBob

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—SpongeBob SquarePants is a gloriously silly animated TV show that centers around a relentlessly optimistic, childlike sea sponge that lives in a pineapple in an undersea town—Bikini Bottom—that's

populated by a wacko cast of aquatic characters plus a Texan squirrel. It's a zanier, less political version of The Simpsons, if The Simpsons happened underwater and took its aesthetic cues from 1960s tiki lounges. It's a kitschy flavor that many people

love, some despise, and a bunch simply don't get.

But Otter Valley's Walking Stick Theater gets it. In fact, the company's production of The SpongeBob Musical brought Bikini Bottom to life as only true fans of the show could. This is

not a production you can do in half-measures. Either you're all in or the show will fall flat, and Walking Stick was all in.

From the moment we arrived, to a packed theater, it was clear that Walking Stick meant busi-
(See *SpongeBob*, Page 14)

Brandon Budget Committee reviews Rec and Highway Depts

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Budget Committee, comprising the Selectboard, the Town Manager, and six citizens, met on Monday evening for one of four workshops scheduled in November and December. The first workshop was held on Wednesday, November 8. All budget meetings are open to the public.

The purpose of the workshops is to help finetune the budget that the Selectboard will ultimately put before the citizens of Brandon at Town Meeting

in March 2024 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, which will begin on July 1, 2024 and end on June 30, 2025. The Committee is advisory only; the final proposal will be approved by the Selectboard in one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

The budget for the current Fiscal Year (2023-2024) is \$3,346,150. If the proposed budget for 2024-2025 is approved as it stands now, there will be a 6% increase to \$3,543,035, of which \$3,018,365 would be raised by municipal taxes. Again, this

budget is a proposal that must ultimately be approved by both the Selectboard and the voters of Brandon.

The focus of the Monday workshop was on the Brandon Recreation Department and the Highway and Buildings & Grounds Departments.

Rec Director Bill Moore was on hand to present his department's budget and to answer questions from the Committee.

The Rec Department's budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was \$177,780, against projected

revenues of \$69,750. The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is \$189,880, a 6.81% increase, against projected revenues of \$76,500. The Rec Department brings in revenue from program fees and events, such as Brandon Carnival. The department's revenue, however, does not cover all of the department's expenses.

Mr. Moore compared his department's budget to those of peer towns in Vermont: Pittsford (\$228,135), Bristol (\$349,269),
(See *Brandon budget*, Page 19)



Names lost in Vermont, Part 12: Christmas and Landers

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

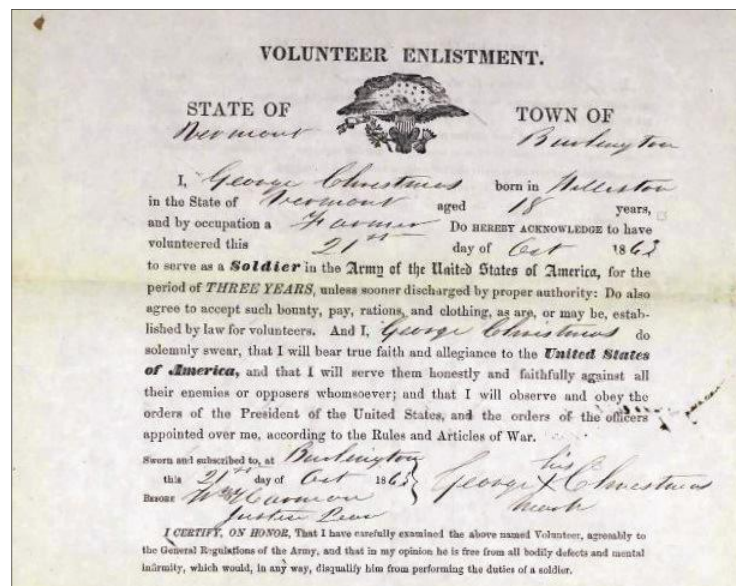
A monument with the name “Christmas” carved at its base in St. Alphonsus Cemetery in Pittsford commands attention. Who was this family? Throughout his long life, did George Henry Christmas Sr. (1847–1928) endure teasing because of his surname? Born in Hinesburg, the seventh child of French-Canadian immigrants who crossed the Vermont border in 1841, he never changed his name—his parents had already done that. George, at the age of three, was baptized at St. Joseph’s Church in Burlington as Julien Noel, son of Francois Noel and Felicité Coulombe, who were married in Yamachiche, Québec, on 23 July 1832. Catholic church records notwithstanding, they would be known in Vermont with the last name of Christmas, a direct translation from French of “Noel.” Frank Christmas, George’s father, lived to be 92!

Among George Christmas’s siblings, Margaret (1835–1918) married Antoine Poreau [Poró] and also settled in Pittsford. With Margaret’s age at death exaggerated to 98 years, newspapers proclaimed her Pittsford’s oldest resident. In fact, she was only 83!

In October 1863, barely sixteen, and not eighteen as he claimed, George Christmas enlisted as a Civil War soldier and signed his declaration with an X. Regimental muster sheets from Company C, 11th Vermont Infantry disclosed that George was only 5’ 2” with brown hair and gray eyes. All told, he spent months of his service ill, with “enfeeblement,” according to hospital records. Nonetheless, George served until the end of the war with an honorable discharge. No surprise that when, years later, he was granted a Civil War pension, his underlying disabilities were chronic di-

arrhea and rheumatism, common afflictions among aging veterans.

Two days before Christmas 1865, he wed fifteen-year-old Kate Landers, their marriage officiated by a Congregational minister in Williston. Along with Kate’s parents, Ambrose and Lucy Landers, the young Christmas family moved to Pittsford where they were all counted in the 1870 U.S. Census. Born in Canada, Ambrose and Lucy Landers had been in Vermont since the early 1840s. Since Landers is not a French name, I suspected changes in their first and last names, obscuring their true identities. Solving this puzzle was not quite as simple as direct translation as “Noel” to “Christmas.” The first clue came in the naturalization record, dated August 30, 1860, wherein Ambrose Landers, age 60, declared he was born in L’ Acadie, Lower Canada [Québec]. At



GEORGE CHRISTMAS’S CIVIL War enlistment document from 1862.

least that gave me a location to search for more records. Recognizing a pattern from other Vermont name changes, I wondered if the name Landers could have been Therien—emphasis on pronouncing the first syllable terre [silent H], the French word for land. My hunch proved correct in discovering the baptismal record of Catherine Therien, daughter of Ambroise [Ambrose] Therien and Clotilde Masse, baptized on 22 September 1850, at St. Joseph’s Church in Burlington. Yes, Catherine Therien became Kate Landers!

Going back a generation, I expected then to find a baptismal record, circa 1820, for Ambroise Therien in the vicinity of L’ Acadie, Québec, but did not find an exact match with full first and last names. Instead, I encountered a baby named Ambroise, a foundling of unknown parents, baptized on 6 August 1820. He literally had been left on the church doorstep. Many Therien families lived in the area, so evidently one of them raised Ambroise to adulthood. A record of

Ambroise and Clotilde’s marriage has not survived; their eldest son Joseph was born in Burlington around 1842. Sometimes name changes do not follow predictable patterns. For example, Clotilde became known as Lucy! They may be the couple, named Ambrose Palmer and Louisa Mosser, married by an Irish priest at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Burlington on 5 March 1848. If so, this was likely a rehabilitation of an earlier non-Catholic marriage.

Ambrose and Lucy Landers ended their days in Pittsford among a tightly knit cluster of French-Canadian families. In 1896, they died less than six months apart from one another. Their handsome double gravestone in St. Alphonsus Cemetery has survived well.

Just west of the Landers cemetery plot is the double-sided stone for George and Kate Christmas. In moving to Pittsford from Williston, they worked hard to attain a higher standard of living than their parents achieved as (See Name lost in Vermont, Page 7)



You are invited!

TREE OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region’s Tree of Remembrance Ceremony is a way for community members to reflect, honor, and celebrate loved ones and friends who have passed away. The event will feature music by the Hospice Trillium Choir, remarks by guest speakers, recitation of loved ones’ names, the lighting of the tree, refreshments, and fellowship.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6 PM

(Snow Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6 PM)

Franklin Conference Room
(located in the Howe Center)
1 Scale Ave. Rutland, VT 05701

Please join us for our first in-person ceremony since 2019.

If you would like to have your loved one recognized during the ceremony, please email jesse.bradley@vnausr.org with the name(s) of your loved ones by 11/24. For event questions, please call Jesse at 802.855.4225.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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GEORGE CHRISTMAS’S VETERAN marker in St. Alphonsus cemetery in Pittsford, exposed by the author for the first time in years.

New books and stories inspire Pittsford children with the Rural Libraries Grant

PITTSFORD—On November 17th, Pittsford children were treated to storytelling from Duncan McDougall and to brand-new books through a Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Rural Libraries grant awarded to Maclure Library.

Duncan McDougall led interactive presentations at Lothrop Elementary School and Maclure’s Sophie Marks introduced children to new books that both the school and public libraries have received through the CLiF grant.

The grant allowed Maclure Library to select \$2,000 worth of new books for the library’s children’s collection, as well as \$500 worth of new books for the school library’s collection, selected by Lothrop librarian Christine

Tate. This allows libraries to update their collections and expand nonfiction and fiction options for their young patrons.

“It’s wonderful to see the kids so enthusiastic about new books,” said Sophie Marks, Maclure Youth Services Librarian. “When Duncan asked how many of them saw a book that they would want to check out, almost everyone raised their hands.”

The grant supports public libraries in New Hampshire and Vermont towns of 5,000 residents or fewer to partner with schools and childcare centers to encourage a community-wide commitment to literacy. The Lothrop Elementary School also receives two storytelling presentations in the fall and spring from a CLiF professional presenter. And in the

spring, all elementary school students get to take home two high-quality books for free as part of the grant.

CLiF works closely with the public librarian to coordinate the grant over the course of one school year. In addition to the new library books, storytelling presentations, and giveaway books, the library also receives a \$250 mini-grant to support programming at the Maclure Library.

“We are thrilled to share our love of reading and writing with this community,” stated CLiF Program Manager Cassie Willner. “After years of disrupted learning, it’s never been more important to ensure all kids in our communities have equitable access to enriching literacy experiences and resources, and why CLiF will

continue to invest in our public libraries and librarians as important partners in our work.”

About the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF): The Children’s Literacy Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire a love of reading and writing among chil-

dren ages 0-12 throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Since 1998, CLiF has served over 350,000 children at higher risk of growing up with low literacy skills in communities across every region of the Twin States. For more information visit clifonline.org.

Corrections

- In last week’s issue, we identified the keynote speaker at the Pittsford Veterans Day ceremony as Eric Strange. His name is Eric Stage. We apologize to Mr. Stage for our error.

- In last week’s issue, the article on the Brandon Police Department budget stated that

the department currently has 6 full-time officers in addition to Chief Kachajian. The correct number is 5. The error was due to a miscommunication from the Department. We apologize for any confusion that may have resulted.



CHILDREN CAME TO Lothrop Elementary on November 17 for a book event sponsored by Maclure Library through a Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF) grant. Top photo: Duncan McDougall led interactive presentations. Bottom photo: Maclure’s Sophie Marks introduced kids to new books that the library had received through the grant. The CLiF grant helps rural libraries promote literacy among children.

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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

Lesson from the past: Words have always mattered

My father's parents were born in a Polish town called Łuków (roughly "woo-cough"), some 75 miles southeast of Warsaw. When I was a kid, any time I asked them about the place they came from, they'd simply say, "It doesn't exist anymore" in the heavy Yiddish accents they never lost. In my youngest years, I imagined that meant it was a magical place, like Atlantis. As I got older, I understood that they just didn't want to talk about it.

The elders in my family did not converse freely with the children. Even my father and his three siblings had scant knowledge of their parents' origins. Growing up, I felt rootless, with absolutely no sense of family continuity. Who were we? Where did we come from? Easy questions for so many other families I knew, who had family heirlooms on their mantels and sepia-toned photos of Victorian ancestors on their walls. I was already in my 40s the first time I even saw a photo

of my grandparents as children. My Uncle Howard once told me he felt like a stork had dropped his family from the sky, a whole clan just appearing in Williamsburg, Brooklyn out of nowhere. But I put together bits and pieces of the story over the years, culled from what I overheard at family gatherings and what I managed to wring out of my father and his siblings.

Aunt Sondra was the one who told me about Łuków. I hadn't even known the name of the place until I was an adult. I learned that my grandmother's family was fairly well off, in a small-town way, but left Łuków en masse for America in the late 1920s, looking for a reprieve from the hostility they experienced even as secular Jews in Poland. My grandfather's family was less affluent—they owned a modest bakery—and rather religious, which tracked with my experience of my grandfather at holidays, in
(See *Words matter*, Page 11)



Deportacja Żydów z Łukowa, 5.10.1942 r.

The REPORTER

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

A community supported newspaper

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Smack, bang, boom?

THIS IS A fox sparrow, one of four seen on Hollow Road recently. Its call note is a distinctive smack sound.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Hold onto your sobriety during the Holiday Season

BY MICHAEL LEACH

The Thanksgiving weekend is the beginning of the holiday season. Most people attend family gatherings, work functions, celebrations, and other festivities. It is that time of year for family and friends to come together and celebrate.

Unfortunately, it is also that time of year when we see increased alcohol use, such as binge drinking and even recreational drug use. Heavy drinking is normalized. Thanksgiving Eve is also known as Blackout Wednesday, the first heavy drinking weekend of the holiday season.

This can pose a challenge for anyone new to sobriety or someone choosing to remain sober during the holiday season. Fortunately, there are practical approaches and valuable tips that you can use to maintain your sobriety.

Statistically, Vermont has done much better than most states. Alcohol-related deaths in the state are average, and under 21 deaths are among the lowest nationwide. Roughly 18.5% of adults over 18 binge-

drink at least once per month. Annually, over 300 deaths are attributed to excessive alcohol use. Many of these positive trends are connected to effective prevention and education.

Thanksgiving does not have to be an alcohol or drug-induced blur, and no one has to give up their sobriety. Consider some of the following information to help you stay sober.

Try coming up with a plan before the holiday weekend arrives. What are you going to do? Where will you go? Who will you spend it with? A little bit of planning can significantly reduce stress. Stress is typical this time of year and difficult to manage, whether financial, traveling, family gatherings, or negative feelings. Having some downtime and a healthy outlet is a good idea.

Moreover, most temptation to drink or use drugs arises because of anxiety, depression, and feeling overwhelmed during the holidays. This time of year can bring about negative emotions like guilt and remorse. Chaos and unpredictability, for example, cre-

ate triggers that often lead to relapse. Identify these triggers and manage or avoid them.

Consider hosting your own Thanksgiving or Friendsgiving gatherings with friends or family. Let people know ahead of time that you are not drinking. When attending any family or friend gatherings, bring non-alcoholic beverages or mocktails or invite a friend as added support. Plan your exit before you arrive if things begin to go sideways.

Hold onto your sobriety this holiday season. Think of all the accomplishments and everything new that is to come. Take this time of year also to create new memories and sober traditions.

Michael Leach has spent most of his career as a health-care professional specializing in Substance Use Disorder and addiction recovery. He is a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant and contributor to the healthcare website Addicted.Org.

Letters to the Editor

Relay for Life has a lot to be thankful for this season

'Tis is the season to be thankful and there are many reasons to be so. The Neshobe School and Friends Relay for Life Team finished a very successful year on August 31. We were awarded a banner by the American Cancer Society for raising over \$20,000. We could not have done this without all of the community participating. Special thanks go to all the team members for soliciting donations, collecting or making baskets, selling raffle tickets, or just for support.

At the Rutland County Relay for Life event in June, we had an awesome basket raffle. We sold tickets there as well as before the event, as our generous supporters know. Thank you to New England Woodcraft, Jane Fjeld of Interior Home Solutions, Neshobe Golf Club, Cheryl Sanderson of Cross Creek Ranch, Patty Smith of Brandon Auto Sales, Matt Trombley of 3rd Alarm Charters, Blue Seal, The Bookstore, Carr's Gifts, Cafe Provence, Gourmet Provence, Brandon House of Piz-

za, Brandon Flower Shop, Wood's Market, Constance & Virgil's, Junction Store & Deli, VT Tap House, Mae's, Tracy and Harriet Wyman, Paul and Bev Desforges, Carol Daley, Chris Wetmore, Cheryl Brutkowski, Patrick and Diane Eugair, Hannaford, Maple Meadow Farms, and anyone else I may have omitted from the list. We could not have done it without you! We also hosted a spaghetti supper at the Basin Bluegrass Festival and sold breakfast sandwich-
(See Relay for Life, Page 23)

Beautifying Brandon was fun for all involved!

Oh, my heck, what a great time we had on Saturday with all the folks volunteering to help the Downtown Brandon Alliance get the holiday decorations up for the season. As the president of the DBA, I just want to give everyone that came out and helped a big giant THANK YOU! Not only did we get the decorations up in town, but we also put away all the flowerpots that

bring so much color to downtown in the spring and summer. It is always such fun doing these events because we get friends that come every year to help plus new volunteers, which means new friends. Brandon is such a delightful town to call home, with wonderful people that are willing to take a few hours out of their day to make our town even more homey, and a few more hours to share

pizza (thanks BHOP), beer (thanks Red Clover), and laughter after the work is over. So, one more big thank you to all that came out and helped. I hope you had as much fun as I did, and I wish you and yours a most wonderful holiday season. And Happy Holidays to all from the Downtown Brandon Alliance!

Devon Fuller, President, Downtown Brandon Alliance

"We are all God's children" is a call to action

We are hostage to our parochial thinking, to thinking that some lives matter more than others. Are the lives of Americans any more valuable than the lives of Israelis? Or the lives of Israelis any more valuable than the lives of Palestin-

ians? Or the lives of Palestinians any more valuable than anyone else's? Devaluing the lives of others is a prelude to prejudice, racism, violence, and war.

"We are all God's children" is the recognition and saving message of

religions around the globe. Actually relating to one another as brothers and sisters has been our perpetual challenge. As an interrelated human family and interdependent human community, we must mature
(See Call to action, Page 5)

Call to action

(Continued from Page 5)

beyond sectarian, tribal, nationalistic, us-them thinking, lest animosity, blame, oppression, and war continue to tear us apart.

The call of Life goes forth to recognize the sacred dignity of everyone, even when others don't, and to assure our brothers and sisters that we mean no harm and will do no harm. Let our interests and efforts promote one another's well-being and thereby foster mutual security. And given their influence, we must also guard against leadership that preys upon fears and stokes hostilities, leadership that betrays the

good of people and undermines unity and peace.

Taking sides that are biased and exclusive is to submit to a spirit of strife. As we remember our common humanity and our sacred dignity, we can transcend self-righteous thinking and its divisiveness. Let us repent of recourse to violence in word or deed, and work toward the reconciliation and equitable justice that is in the best interest of all.

May we be free enough to do so.
*Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman
United Methodist Church of Brandon*

Thank you for creating a grand downtown Wonderland

A big thank you to all the elves that beautified Brandon with lights and garlands for Christmas. I drove downtown last night, and it was

truly magical. Kudos!

*Jessica Doos
Brandon*

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Member's Holiday Party
'Tis the season to come together, celebrate, and share some holiday cheer! We are excited to invite all members to the Neshobe Golf Club Member's Holiday Party, an event that promises a wonderful evening of festivities, good company, and delectable treats.

Date: December 2nd
Time: 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

This year, we're making the celebration extra special by extending a warm welcome to your guests. Members may bring their friends, family, and loved ones to join in the merriment and make this gathering a true holiday delight.

Party Highlights:
Complimentary Hors d'Oeuvres: Delight your taste buds with an array of mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres. Our culinary team has prepared a selection of savory and sweet treats to satisfy your palate.

Cash Bar: Enjoy your favorite libations with a fully stocked cash bar. Toast to the holiday season and make memories with fellow members and their guests.

The Member's Holiday Party is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect with friends, and make new ones as we celebrate the joy of the season. It's our way of expressing our appreciation for your continued support and camaraderie throughout the year.

The golf course is OPEN!
Tee times available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
<https://neshobe.com> • (802) 247-3611

Daniel Banyai agrees to official inspection of Slate Ridge

An agreement signed Friday heads off the possibility of an arrest warrant by letting officials inspect Banyai's property next week

Daniel Banyai plans to allow the town of Pawlet to inspect his property, the paramilitary weapons training facility Slate Ridge, in an agreement that staves off the possibility of a new arrest warrant — for now.

The new accord, reached Friday, came the same day the state environmental court could have decided to renew an arrest warrant for Banyai. Instead, both parties agreed to an inspection of Banyai's property on Nov. 27, and if the property is not in compliance with court orders, the parties asked the court not to allow Banyai's arrest until at least Nov. 29.

The agreement is the latest development in a multi-year saga in which the town of Pawlet has asked the environmental court to require Banyai to remove buildings from his property.

In July, Thomas Durkin, the environmental court judge overseeing the case, issued an arrest warrant for Banyai, declaring him in contempt of a March 2021 order to dismantle unpermitted structures on his property. The

court has also ordered Banyai to pay more than \$100,000 in fines.

Banyai later contended he had complied with the court's requirements, submitting photographs to the court, though he did not allow Pawlet officials to inspect his property. Meanwhile, he appealed the case to the state supreme court, and his arrest warrant expired without Vermont State Police or the Rutland County Sheriff's Department executing it within the 60-day period that it remained active.

Durkin initially declined a request from Pawlet's attorney to renew the arrest warrant, citing Banyai's appeal to the supreme court. But after that court gave the lower court express permission to renew the warrant, Durkin indicated he planned to reconsider on or after Nov. 17.

The 11th-hour agreement between Pawlet and Banyai outlines a possible end to the extended legal battle between both parties. The signed stipulation invites the environmental court to participate in the site inspection.



Local dog among fastest in nation

Rutland County is home to one of the nation's fastest dogs. Hozzy became the third-fastest swimming dog in the nation recently, after competing against hundreds of other dogs in the Ultimate Air Games Dog Dock Diving Competition in Lebanon, Tennessee held Sept. 28 through Oct. 1, 2023. A total of 230 dogs from across the United States attended the annual competition.

Hozzy is owned by Cristina Kumka and trained by various obedience, scent and agility coaches at Warner Brook Kennel in Pittsford. His dock diving coach is Jeff Leonard of Rutland and he primarily swims laps on Lake Hortonia in Sudbury where he lives. Hozzy was first evaluated by malinois trainer Nate Whitehorne who

determined Hozzy had a mild temperament and would be a good companion animal.

Hozzy, a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois adopted out of NJ as a puppy, came in third place with a time of 5.47 seconds in the game of "Chase-It" - where dogs from around the country were timed as they swam 35-feet across a pool.

Hozzy missed a top 2 position by only a tenth of a second or less - bested by a lab mix from Georgia with a 5.31 second swim and another malinois from New York with a 5.43 second swim.

How did he do it? Hozzy excels at endurance snowshoeing and hiking with Cristina and is a member of the Endurance Society, a Mendon-based racing company owned by Andy

Weinberg. When he isn't jumping or swimming, Hozzy enjoys cold weather sports.

"This type of dog was first bred in Belgium to excel at herding animals but when brought to America in the early 1900s, the Malinois soon started outpacing the German Shepherd in military ownership and operations," said owner Cristina Kumka, a teacher at Stafford Technical Center.

"What people don't realize is how sensitive and affectionate they are. They can make great family pets if trained and worked properly and consistently," she said.

Coach Leonard frequently refers to Hozzy as a "lab in a malinois body" because he gets along swimmingly with all other dogs.



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Names lost in Vermont

(Continued from Page 2)
immigrants. Starting as a farmer laborer, George later worked in marble quarries and then became a blacksmith. He and Kate eventually owned their own home and enjoyed retirement.

dren who lived to maturity. For reasons unknown to me, George Sr., after his wife Kate's death, went to live in Underhill, Vermont, with his nephew Charles Christmas. That is where he died, his body brought home to Pittsford for burial. George's

George Christmas Jr., whose



LANDERS DOUBLE HEADSTONE in Pittsford.

name appears on the other side of the stone, was the only one of George and Kate's three chil-

family honored his Civil War service. In 1975, grandson Raymond Christmas applied suc-



THE CHRISTMAS FAMILY home in Pittsford.

cessfully for a military marker to be placed on George's grave. My first trip to the Christmas lot failed to find the marker. Taking advantage of an unseasonably

warm November afternoon, I returned to the cemetery, looking carefully around the large Christmas stone. Noticing an indentation partially filled with

dried grass clipping, I found the sunken marker!

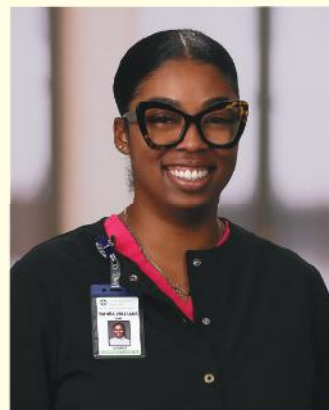
Our area cemeteries will continue to tell stories of names lost in Vermont.



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Jordan Gray, DDS

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Maclure Library, Lothrop Elementary School and Pittsford Village Farm



Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

Crossword & Sudoku on page 17

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Gifts Galore!

OTTER VALLEY HIGH School (top) and Lothrop Elementary School (bottom) were the sites of craft and gift fairs this past weekend. Local vendors offered jams, cheeses, honey, syrup, knitted goods, woodworking, and so much more. Keen shoppers snagged great deals on wonderful holiday gifts for family, friends, and even themselves!

Photos by Steven Jupiter

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



2016 NISSAN FRONTIER
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2019 TOYOTA TACOMA
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The path less taken

NOTHING LIKE A quiet walk on a foggy fall morning in Vermont.

Photo by Steven Jupiter



Holiday AUCTION

The Friends of The Brandon Library
will host our annual live auction
Sunday, December 3rd, 2023
Brandon Town Hall Auditorium

Each year we greatly appreciate the generosity and support of our local artists, craftspeople, and the community. We are pleased to exhibit and promote your creations and donations, which benefit our Library activities.

All submissions must be delivered to the Town Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST FROM 3PM TO 6PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND FROM 2PM TO 6PM

Kindly include your name, a description, and value of item.

RSVP / QUESTIONS

b_torstenson@comcast.net

802-247-6778

TOGETHER WE CAN



YOUR GIFT WILL HELP US INSTALL PERMANENT LIGHTING ON MARKOWSKI FIELD AT OTTER VALLEY

Light Up The Valley is a fundraising campaign run by the Otter Valley Football Club with the goal of installing permanent lights on Markowski Field. In addition to football, the aim is to benefit our greater Activities Community through night games for as many sports as possible, theater events, graduation activities, and more!

OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB IS A NONPROFIT 5013C. YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OTTER VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Yes!

Count me in.

Donation Amount: _____

Name/Business: _____

Address: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send form and check to: OV Football Club, PO Box 16, Brandon, VT 05733

Questions? Please email OVFC2023@gmail.com

Mim's Photos
Like all things vintage?
are on page 16!

REAL ESTATE



Stylish home in great condition. Woodland Park custom build, featuring a bright and crisp interior with a vaulted ceiling in the kitchen, dining, and living areas and a roomy loft above the bedroom. The open layout and large window banks really connect the house to its country setting. The home is sited on a private 15.44 acres with a small pond and stream, and panoramic views of the surrounding woods. A detached one-car garage provides additional storage. Close to Lake Hortononia and Lake Bomoseen with quick access to Route 30. \$205,000



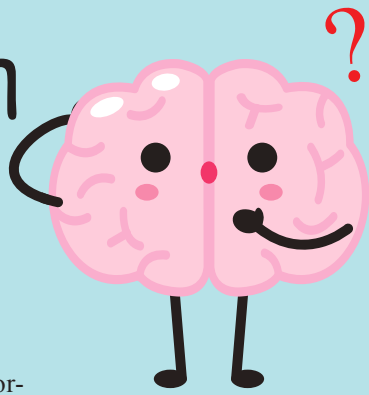
802-236-9112 • Wendy@RoweRealEstate.com
RoweRealEstate.com

OUR CREATIVE KIDS



STUDENT: Hattie D
GRADE: 1
TITLE: Rainbow Shapes
MEDIUM: Crayons

Brandon Brain Buster



At a certain florist, orchids cost \$6 each, lilies cost \$3 each, and daisies cost \$0.25 each. Wilbur spends exactly \$100 on an order that contains only these three flowers. If he buys the maximum possible number of orchids, how many flowers did he purchase in total?

(Assume that there is an infinite supply of all flowers.)

- A) 18
- B) 19
- C) 20
- D) 21
- E) 22

Answer on pg. 21

MAPLE the COW™ by Matt Aucoin



Words matter

(Continued from Page 4)

his tallis and yarmulke, reciting Hebrew prayers at machine-gun pace.

As a youth in Łuków, my grandfather was desperately in love with my grandmother, who wouldn't give the baker's son the time of day. When she and her family left Łuków for New York, my besotted grandfather followed, leaving his own family behind in Poland. He never saw them again. According to family lore, at some point in the early 1940s, after he and my grandmother (who finally gave in) were already married with four kids, he received a phone call from Europe that sent him to lay immobile on the sofa for days. His family was gone. The only relative to survive was his brother Nathan, who had somehow managed to escape the Nazis that took over Łuków. To my grandparents, Łuków had effectively ceased to exist.

For my 50th birthday, in 2018, my husband arranged a trip to Poland to trace my ancestry. Łuków, in fact, still existed and we found it on the map. I'd be the first in my family to set foot there since the 1940s. As we drove through the Polish countryside, we remarked on the similarity to Vermont's rolling hills and winding roads. An ancient wooden sign, in an ancient apple orchard, pointed the way on the final stretch and I wondered how many times my ancestors must've passed that very spot, maybe even ate apples off those trees.

Łuków was ugly. There was no denying it. It wasn't some quaint European village with cobblestone streets and charming houses. It was a jumble of Soviet-era concrete, soulless and dehumanizing. There were just a few traces of the town my grandparents would've known, among which were a Baroque

church and an old building across the street from it that now houses the local history museum. We'd heard there was still a Jewish cemetery in town and had already driven around fruitlessly searching for it. Maybe the history museum could help us. It was worth a try.

The museum was closed, but we rang the bell and a young woman came to the door. She didn't speak much English, so we used the voice function on the Google Translate app to ask in Polish where the cemetery was. She signaled for us to wait a minute. She came back with another woman who turned out to be the museum's director. She spoke serviceable English and explained where the cemetery—really, a memorial to what used to be the cemetery—was located but

Jewish community of Łuków.

Photographs of old Łuków and its Jewish community filled the walls of a few rooms. Artifacts were arranged in display cases, including the Torah from the synagogue where my grandparents would've prayed. Perhaps my grandfather had once touched this scroll, I thought. It was a strange sensation



ŁUKÓW AS IT looked before the Nazis destroyed the town in the 1940s. In the background, with the arched windows, is the old synagogue, one of the first buildings to be demolished. We must keep the lessons of the past in mind.

also generously invited us in for a private tour of the museum, which, she said, had an exhibit on the lost

to see, even if just in photos, where my grandparents came from, the actual buildings and houses they

would've seen every day.

But there was one photo that stopped me in my tracks. It was of a Jewish man on his knees in the street, staring straight ahead, his face frozen in fear. A German soldier stood beside him, smiling casually at the camera as if there were nothing unusual about the scene. The museum's caption translated as "Deportation of the Jews of Łuków, October 5, 1942."

I don't know who that Jewish man was. But he was someone, a human being, whom some other human being decided had no right to exist. In fact, to that German soldier, to the regime he represented, that Jewish man was not even human. He was "vermin." That's the word that Hitler and the Nazis used to describe the human beings they believed were "poisoning" their land. The man on his knees was almost certainly killed. The vast majority of Łuków's Jews died at the hands of the Nazis. I would learn that my grandfather's sister was shot in the back as she tried to run away. She died in the street. Except for Nathan, I don't know what ultimately happened to the rest of my grandfather's family other than that they didn't survive.

The Nazis didn't just kill the Jewish population of Łuków; they attempted to erase all traces of them. They even ground up the

headstones in the Jewish cemetery and used the rubble to make roads for their troops. I was stunned by the viciousness of that act. The few Jewish headstones that remained after the war were fashioned into a memorial—the one we had originally sought when we arrived in town. We finally found it after we left the museum, hidden from view behind the parking lot of a convenience store. The ground around it was littered with empty beer cans presumably left behind by .

Language is powerful. The words we choose matter. When leaders use words like "vermin" and "poison" to describe other human beings, there's a purpose behind it and it's never benign. It doesn't matter who says it; it's wrong. It's dangerous. It can lead to terrible things.

Last week, I heard those words in a political speech given by an American political leader. Like that photo in Łuków, they stopped me in my tracks. There is no justification for that language, ever. And when we hear it, we must resist it and keep in mind that those who use it do so for malign purposes. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to it. Those words open a path to brutality and barbarism. And we'd be wise to recognize where it can lead before we get there.

Calendar of events

November

Mondays

Brandon Rec offers Aikido classes

Come to Brandon Town Hall for Youth classes at 5 p.m., and adult classes at 6 p.m. Beginners and spectators welcome. Visit www.aikidovermont.org for more information, including fees.

Tuesdays

Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2–5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12–3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon. Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hzhfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Pins & Needles Craft Club at the Brandon Free Public Library

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

Wednesdays

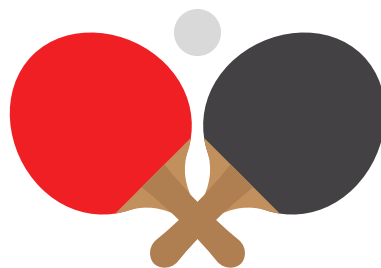
Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

Every Wednesday beginning December 6, 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 Wednesday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in



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 reaping 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 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 email list. \$15/class

Thursdays

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join Ariana at 10:30 a.m. for a story and a craft. Age 7 and under recommended. Stay for a cup of coffee!

Ukulele Group

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

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

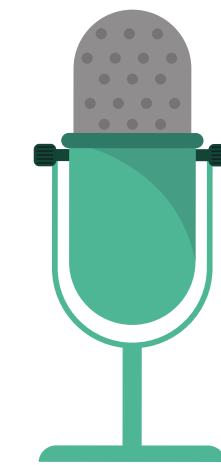
Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

Chaffee Arts Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3–5
From 11am–Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland



Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

Come join us weekly to share projects from noon – 2:00 p.m.

VTSU Ca

The VTSU Jazz celebrating the Mus Monk! One of the Monk was an inc poser and pianist. T will feature his mu on Tuesday, Nov PM in Casella The Castleton Campus.

Holiday Market at The Soda Plant!

Nov. 25, 10:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m.

The Soda Plant (<https://www.thesoda-plant.com/>) & Local Maverick (<https://www.localmaverickus.com/>) are joining creative forces to host a Holiday Market on Small Business Saturday!

Join us for a day of family friendly festivities! Meet local makers, artists, & entrepreneurs while you do your Holiday Shopping! Explore more than 30 local businesses! Come have fun while supporting our local community!

Happenings: There will be festive activities, special holiday gifts, themed drinks & cocktails, a DJ, and so much more!

Where: The Soda Plant - 266 Pine Street, Burlington Vermont

Prizes: You do not need a ticket for this event, but register here to stay up to date with the event and be entered to win gift cards to local shops and Maverick Market!

Participating Businesses:

- * Abby Huston Designs
- * ALICE & THE MAGICIAN / Guinep
- * ALKAME CO
- * Beanza Design



- * Brio Coffeworks
- * Camielle Josephine Studio
- * Democracy Creative
- * Explore Designs
- * Jennifer Kahn Jewelry
- * Pitchfork Pickle
- * Private Eyez Studio
- * Rackk & Ruin
- * Revival Studio
- * Slow Process
- * Soapbox Arts
- * Stash Fabric
- * The S.P.A.C.E. Gallery (They will be having an artist market within their gallery!)

- * Thirty-odd
- * Venetian Cocktail & Soda Lounge
- * And more!

We can't wait to see you!

the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, visit our club's website at www.gmttc.com.

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

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

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.

Castleton Jazz Ensemble Concert November 28th

The ensemble is celebrating the pioneers of Bebop, a credible jazz combination. The Jazz Ensemble will perform music at their concert on November 28th at 7:00 p.m. on the VTSU

Tickets for the performance are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free for VTSU faculty, staff, alumni, and students. Tickets can be reserved in advance at the Casella Box Office by calling 802-468-1119 or purchased at the door up to an hour before the performance. All seating is general admission.

Play with whoever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

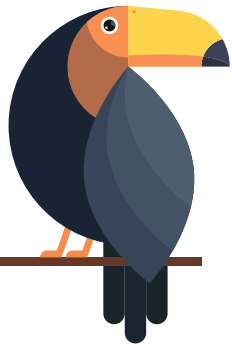
Sundays

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."



Wednesday 29th

The Birds of Costa Rica at Grace Church (Rutland)

Professor emeritus Michael Blust will present The Birds of Costa Rica at Grace Church (Rutland) Conference Room 6:30 p.m. Free to all. Sponsored by Rutland County Audubon. Any questions, please email birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org

Local Covered Bridges from a Local

Covered Bridge Builder

A presentation by Nick Strom-Olsen on Nicholas M. Powers. Wednesday, at 6 p.m. at the Proctor Free Library.

December

Saturday, 2nd

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar, Orwell

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar featuring local artists and crafters with wonderful items for sale, raffles, flea market, baked goods, lunch.

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar—Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. –2 p.m. at the Orwell Town Hall on Main St. in Orwell.

Beautiful handmade gifts and crafts, Christmas decorations, ornaments and wreaths, quilt raffle with many wonderful prizes, basket raffle, silent auction, flea market treasures, baked goods. Hungry? Have some delicious soup, chili, sandwiches. Something for everyone - come and enjoy the festive holiday event!

Leave the Light on, Analog Cycles

A photography exhibition exploring the journey from deep postpartum depression to a new conception of hope and healing

'Leave the Light on', a solo photography show by Tim Farrell, traces the artist's recent journey from deep Postpartum depression to a new conception of hope and clarity. Farrell mixes digital and analog photography techniques to plumb the symbolic depths of isolation, despair, hopefulness and the healing abilities of therapy and community. 'Leave the Light on' opens Saturday, December 2nd at Analog Cycles in downtown Poultney. Refreshments and conversation from 5pm-8pm.

The show will run thru Dec 24th.

Prints and other goods for sale range in size and price from 15\$ to 150\$

To preview Farrell's work, head to <https://www.timjfarrell.com/shows>

Analog Cycles, 188 Main Street, Poultney, 05764

Sunday, 3rd

Science Pub Comes to Brandon Inn

Come join old and new friends at Science Pub, a popular free community events, now in its 13th year, to learn, chat, eat and drink.

Presenter: Jonathan Spiro, Historian and Immediate Past President, Castleton University

Cracking the Code: The story of how a book-burning bishop, a chain-smoking painter, a French shell collector, an English knight, a twelve-year-old genius, and a Siamese cat deciphered Mayan hieroglyphics.

The Maya of Central America created a rich and elaborate form of writing. But the ability to read it was lost with the conquistadors, and after centuries of effort, frustrated scholars were ready to give up. In the last few decades, we have finally begun to crack the code. In this intriguing episode of Science Pub, we'll trace the epic 500-year effort to understand Mayan hieroglyphics and reveal the true nature of their extraordinary civilization.

No reservations needed except for dinner. Contact mlmolnar3@gmail.com

Holiday Club Square Dance with Don Bachelder

Dance to Don Bachelder and celebrate the holidays with the Cast Off 8's. 1-2 p.m. Adv dancing, 2-4:30 p.m MS and Plus. \$10 + \$2 Adv. 50-50 raffle, door prizes, refreshments.

Trinity Church, 85 West Street, Rutland, 05701.



Friday, 8th Saturday, 9th

Rutland Youth Theatre presents: Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr. Three shows! Friday at

Christmas Eve 1912 at Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home

Nov 30 at 10:00 a.m –Jan 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

In December, Hildene will be decorated to evoke Christmas Eve - \$6; Free for Children 5 yrs. and under & Members of Hildene.

1912—one of a handful of years that the Lincoln Family spent the holidays in residence at their Vermont home.

Step back in time and enjoy Christmas at Hildene! Throughout the month, the home will be decorated to evoke Christmas Eve 1912—

one of a handful of years that the Lincoln Family spent the holidays in residence at their Vermont home. On weekends, musicians will get you into the spirit as they play the family's piano and organ.

Christmas Eve 1912 Home Tour included with admission to Hildene:

Adults-\$23; Youth (6 to 16)



2nd day admission (with receipt): Adults & Youth - \$7.

Includes Self-Guided tours of gardens, Hildene Farm, Pullman railcar "Sunbeam," and approximately 12 miles of walking trails.

Please note: We are a pet free, idle free and smoke free campus. Thank you for understanding.

Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home- Welcome Center

1005 Hildene Road, Manchester, 05255

\$23.00

7 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. & 7p.m. Adults: \$15 + tax/fees Children under 18/Seniors over 65: \$10 + tax/fees

Come along with us as we take you to a "world of pure imagination, as Rutland Youth Theatre performs Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Jr., a musical based on the timeless children's book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

In Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR., a world-famous reclusive candy man named Willy Wonka announces that he will offer the tour of the lifetime through his secret chocolate factory to five children who find a golden ticket in one of his world-famous candy bars. One ticket-holder will also win a lifetime supply of chocolate.

Against all odds, an impoverished but sweet-natured boy named Charlie Bucket wins a golden ticket. He and his fellow tour members — the spoiled-rotten Veruca Salt, gluttonous Augustus Gloop, gum-chewing Violet Beauregarde and television junkie Mike Teavee — spend a day traveling with the mysterious and marvelous Willy Wonka and his crew of Oompa Loompas through the fantastical factory.

Pittsford Senior Group Basket raffle

Nov. 25, 9:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.

Basket Raffle to benefit Pittsford Senior Group. Saturday, November 25th from 9-12. Pittsford Congregational Church, 121 Village Green, Pittsford, VT.

The children encounter marvelous sights and tastes along the way, including giant nut-selecting squirrels, fizzy lifting drinks, Everlasting Gobstoppers, and a chocolate river.

But each stop proves to be a test, as only one can go on to win the Wonka prize.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. is adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald. The show features lyrics and music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, including beloved songs "The Candy Man," "I Want It Now!", and "Pure Imagination" from the classic film Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

Paramount Theatre, VT, 30 Center Street, Rutland

*Goings on
around town*

SpongeBob

(Continued from Page 1)

ness. The set design was superb, created by Walking Stick's director/designer Jeff Hull and his theater design class. The audience was immediately immersed in a different world. Hull and his crew captured the show's go-go luau aesthetic perfectly. Even the program was a cut above Walking Stick's usual, mimicking a Broadway Playbill replete with cast photos and bios.

The orchestra, led by OV's Patrick Roberts, delivered the score with professional polish and real musical joy. The pit had a great sense of campy melodrama without ever overwhelming the onstage action. The music itself was composed by a wide range of supremely talented songwriters, including David Bowie, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, and Sara Bareilles, to name just a few.

And the costumes, by Kelly Connaughton, were dazzling. Throughout the entire production, everyone who walked onstage added to the visual impact of the scene. The costumes were bright, colorful, purposeful, and witty, particularly the four-legged ensemble sported by Squidward Tentacles, one of SpongeBob's undersea neighbors. Squidward's Act-II dance scene was one of the visual highlights of the evening because of the costume and, of course, because of Michaela Newell's outstanding choreography, which was crisp and fun.

The storyline itself isn't the point of the piece. Bikini Bottom

is threatened with destruction and SpongeBob must find a way to save the town and neighbors he loves. There are obstacles and setbacks but, ultimately, he prevails. In the process, he comes to value himself as more than "just a sponge." The bare-bones plot is essentially an excuse for antics, songs, and laughs.

The real power in the production, however, came from the performers. From the leads to the chorus, the actors lost themselves in their parts. Everyone gave 120% in a show whose frenetic pace requires 110% at a minimum. It's mostly non-stop slapstick action from the minute The Pirate (enthusiastically played by OV teacher Cam Perta) introduces the show to the minute the entire cast of thousands fills the stage at the end.

While the entire ensemble pulled its own weight, there were several standout performances.

Calvin Ladd delivered a dynamic SpongeBob, capturing the squeaky voice, awkward mannerisms, and exuberantly goof-ball personality of the character. He sang with polish and confidence and never let the energy flag. The performance made the show and gave the cast a solid core to swirl around.

Jordan Bertrand played Patrick Star, SpongeBob's best friend, with the requisite dimwitted bravado. It takes smarts to play dumb convincingly and Bertrand pulled it off with lots of laughs. A conflict between Patrick and SpongeBob provides much of the key drama in the show and



Bertrand successfully navigated the journey from friend to foe to hero.

Sophie Moore sparkled as Sandy Cheeks the scientist squirrel, the sole land animal to reside in Bikini Bottom (thanks to oxygen tanks). Sandy Cheeks is the brains of the town, ultimately providing the plan that saves Bikini Bottom despite mistreatment from her neighbors, and Moore played the tenderhearted egghead persuasively.

As the ill-tempered and vain Squidward Tentacles, Dillon Ladd mimicked the nasal voice to perfection and had one of the best numbers in the show: "I'm Not a Loser." The scene had a besequined Ladd doing a four-legged tap dance that culminated in a Rockettes-style kickline. It was an exhilarating display. A senior this year, Ladd has been in many Walking Stick productions and this was an excellent performance to cap his time at OV.

Bryce Connaughton and Sal-

ly O'Brien were delightful as Plankton and Karen, green- and purple-haired villains who unsuccessfully plot to hypnotize the town into liking their unpopular restaurant during the panic over impending disaster.

Ian Miner and Elyse Singh got lots of laughs as Mr. Krabs and his daughter, Pearl, a zoologically mismatched father and daughter (crab and whale, respectively). Miner used his lobster-claw hands to great comedic effect. And one of the best running gags in the show had everything shake when Pearl walked anywhere on stage.

And Emil Dardozi did a terrific job with the heard-but-not-seen French Narrator, a device straight from the TV show

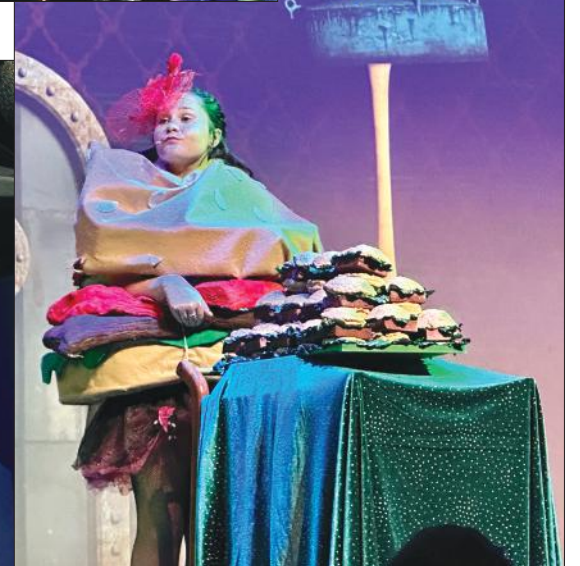
meant to imitate the voiceovers of famed oceanographer Jacques Cousteau. Dardozi nailed both the accent and the dry, affectless tone.

And kudos to the rest of the cast, all of whom contributed to the success of the show, no matter how small their parts. The choral and dance ensembles were always sharp and provided excellent support for the leads.

Director Jeff Hull has a well-earned reputation in the world of high-school theater, consistently turning out excellent shows with Walking Stick, but The SpongeBob Musical represents a new high for the troupe, surpassing expectations of a small-town high-school theater program.

Well done, folks.





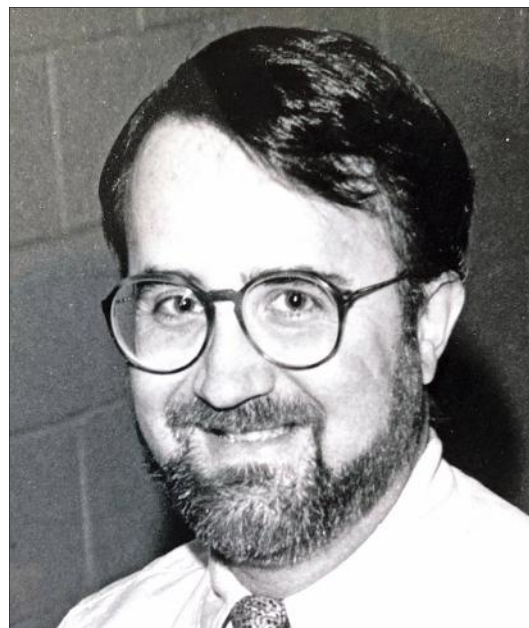


Mim's Photos

Can you identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives? Let us know!



Recognized



Michael Dwyer checked in to say, "Well, I do recognize myself after 30 years! Mim took the picture in March 1993."

Terry Ferson backed Michael up and confirmed that this photo is indeed of Michael Dwyer who was the American Studies teacher at OVUHS for quite some time. Michael is now the minister of the Pittsford Congregational Church.

Sue Wetmore offered further agreement that this photo is of Michael Dwyer.



Terry Ferson also recognized this woman as Thomasina "McKeigan" Marcoux who lived in Brandon. Terry was not sure when the photo may have been taken.

E-mail ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify someone in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Happiness
16. Military branch
17. ___, denotes past
18. Middle Eastern city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to Pa
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Decrease light
28. Valley in the Osh Region
29. "To ___ his own"
30. Absence of difficulty
31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church
33. Trims by cutting
34. Impact
38. Military member
39. A French river
40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. Musician Clapton
45. Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Narrow valley
51. A way to disentangle
53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)
54. Recommending
56. Genus of legumes
58. Friend to Larry and Curly
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer
64. Denoting passerine birds
65. Separate by category

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographic equipment
4. Confirms a point
5. Developed over time
6. Not the leader
7. ___ Lang (country singer)
8. Adults need one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. Cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. Trigraph
27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
29. ___ route
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Tasty snack
35. Part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. Of I
40. City in Utah
41. Football players in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. A "nightmarish" street
45. Performers
46. Slang for cut or scrape
47. More breathable
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home to college's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of mackerel family
55. Zero
57. ___ and behold
61. The Palmetto State
62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11					12						13	14	15	
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60					61	62					63			
				64							65			

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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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

RCHS Offers Tips for Walking Your Dog in The Dark

The Rutland County Humane Society wants you to remember that daylight savings mean earlier sunsets are coming and more dog walks at dusk and after dark. With reduced visibility can come safety concerns for you and your pup. Make sure you and your dog are visible. Avoid dark clothing, and use reflective safety gear (especially for darker dogs). Stick to your usual routines. Explore new routes only during daylight hours! Keep your dog on a leash. Even if your best friend aced dog training school, it's easy to get spooked by nocturnal animals such as skunks. Check to ensure your dog has an up-to-date ID tag on or is microchipped so you can be reunited if he or she does get loose. If your dog goes missing, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Adoption Center at 802.483.6700 or check our lost and found page on www.rchsvt.org to see if we have your pup.

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

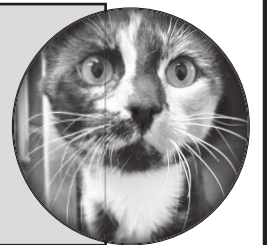


MEET DAISY - 8-MONTH-OLD. FEMALE. COONHOUND. BLACK AND TAN.

Daisy is a total gem! She is sweet, charming, and loves everyone. Daisy was brought to us as a stray. We don't have any history on her, but she has a very easy-going demeanor, and seems to enjoy the dogs here.. Daisy is still a pup, but very smart! She already knows how to "sit", and "shake" and takes treats gently. She loves her walks and time outside and soaks up all the affection you will give her. She thinks she is a lap dog, and is finding toys to be pretty fun! She is currently available as a foster-to-adopt. If you think Daisy would be a good addition to your family, stop by and meet this sweet girl. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 am-4 pm.

MEET MAPLE - 1 YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. TORTI.

Maple is a beautiful girl that is ready to be spoiled! Maple came to us on October 19th as a stray from Rutland. Therefore, we have no known history on how she will do with children or dogs. When she came to us, she was a nursing mom! Her babies are now weaned off her and she is ready to leave motherhood behind! She is now ready to live the life of luxury! She is sweet as pie and loves attention. You can often find her rubbing her head against the cage to get attention. She has all the love in the world to give! She is overall just a cool cat with an awesome personality. If this cuddle bug sounds like the cat for you, please stop by to visit with her. The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.



RUTLAND COUNTY

HUMANE SOCIETY

802-483-6700 • WWW.RCHSVT.ORG

765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN

TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM

11AM-4PM.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS




Adult fiction

Next Door Nemesis by Alexa Martin

When Collins Carter returns home, she finds herself butting heads with Nate Adams, the HOA president. Determined to make some changes, she decides to run for HOA president herself. From secret board meetings to vicious smear campaigns whispered over backyard fences, Collins and Nate sink to levels their sleepy suburb has never seen before. But as hate turns into love, these two enemies are forced to reckon with the feelings they've ignored for years.

System Collapse: The Murderbot Diaries by Martha Wells

Following the events of Network Effect, the Barish-Estranza corporation has sent rescue ships to a newly colonized planet in peril, as well as additional SecUnits. But if there's an ethical corporation out there, Murderbot has yet to find it, and if Barish-Estranza can't have the planet, they're sure as hell not leaving without something. If that something just happens to be an entire colony of humans, well, a free workforce is a decent runner-up prize. But there's something wrong with Murderbot: it isn't running within normal operational

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Holiday Auction is coming up at the Town Hall Auditorium, December 3 at 1:30 p.m. If you're interested in donating items, please contact Bobbi Torstenson via BFPL at 247-8230.

parameters. ART's crew and the humans from Preservation are doing everything they can to protect the colonists, but Murderbot has to figure out what's wrong with itself, and fast!

A Power Unbound by Freya Marske. Book 3 of The Last Binding series

Jack Alston, Lord Hawthorn, would love a nice, safe, comfortable life. After the death of his twin sister, he thought he was done with magic for good. But with the threat of a dangerous ritual hanging over every magician in Britain, he's drawn reluctantly back into that world. Now Jack is living in a bizarre puzzle-box of a magical London townhouse, helping an unlikely group of friends track down the final piece of the Last Contract before their enemies can do the same.

DVDs

Barbie (rated pg-13)

When Barbie begins to

suffer an existential crisis in her perfect world, she takes a journey to the real world to help the child who's been giving her thoughts of death and other things. Only it's not a child, but an adult woman, and the journey will change her in ways she can't imagine.

The Blackening (rated R)

When a group of Black friends who reunite for a nineteenth weekend getaway, they find themselves trapped in a remote cabin with a twisted killer. Forced to play by his rules, the friends soon realize this is no game. This film skewers genre tropes and poses the sardonic question: if the entire cast of a horror movie is Black, who dies first?

Golda (rated pg-13)

A ticking-clock thriller set during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Helen Mirren) must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet, and a complex relationship with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (Liev Schreiber) with millions of lives in the balance. Her tough leadership and compassion would ultimately decide the fate of her nation.

They did not go quietly into the night, er, the police car

November 13

- Brandon Police Department (BPD) performed a welfare check on an elderly male on North Railroad Avenue who was said to appear very sick and weak. It was later found that the man had been transported to the hospital the previous day.

- BPD helped mediate a neighbor dispute on Franklin Street.

- BPD assisted Middlebury Police Department in locating a suspect from a retail theft in Middlebury that occurred earlier in the morning. The subject was located in Conant Square and advised to pay for the stolen item or face charges.

- BPD received a complaint on Furnace Road concerning drug paraphernalia that had been left in the area. The responding officer located the materials and disposed of them accordingly.

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road for traveling left of center. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for an unregistered vehicle. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for defective taillight. As a result of the stop, it was determined that the operator had a criminally suspended license. John Buckley of Jamaica, VT was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court on 2/12/24 at 10 a.m. for arraignment.

November 14

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective taillight. Warning issued.

- BPD conducted a welfare check on Long Swamp Road. Subject of check was found to be safe and sound.

- Directed traffic enforcement on Union Street.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Paint Works Road for defective head- and taillights. Warning issued.

- Officers investigated two unoccupied vehicles in the lot of Brandon Lumber. No sign of the owners was detected.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for failure to maintain travel lane and failure to display license plate. Warning issued.

- BPD responded to a report of an intoxicated male acting disorderly at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. Gary "Ryan" Atwood of Brandon was taken into custody and transported to

Brandon Police Report

Marble Valley Correctional Facility. While officers attempted to place Atwood compliantly into the back of the police cruiser, he resisted and damaged the cruiser's door, window, and interior by kicking and spitting. Atwood ejected saliva onto the faces of two BPD officers before being placed into a spit hood and transported from the scene. Vermont State Police assisted with the transport because BPD did not have cruisers with interior partitions. Atwood was issued a citation for 11/15/23 at 12:30 p.m. to answer to the charges of Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer (x2), Unlawful Mischief, Resisting Arrest, and Disorderly Conduct.

- BPD responded to the area of Champlain Farms on Grove Street for a report of a domestic disturbance between a man and a woman.

November 15

- BPD received a complaint of an erratic operator coming into Brandon from Salisbury on Route 7. Officers located the vehicle and as a result of the investigation, Gerald Seney, Jr. of Brandon was arrested for DUI-First Offense, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest. Seney was released on a citation to appear at the Rutland Superior Court on 12/4/23 at 10 a.m.

November 16

- BPD investigated a larceny that occurred on North Street.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for equipment violation. Warning issued.

- Officers documented a non-reportable vehicle accident on Grove Street.

- BPD made contact with individuals in a vehicle after a caller had reported perceived drug activity in the car. Responding officers found no evidence of drug activity upon investigation.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for a vehicle that ran a red light and then blocked the intersection. Warning issued.

November 17

- BPD responded to a domestic disturbance on Franklin Street. The parties were separated. (See Police report, Page 19)

SPREAD THE WORD!
Have an event to add to our calendar?
EMAIL US AT NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM

Nov. 25th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Neshobe School!
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
SHOP LOCAL

Food available by Neshobe Cafe!
Boutique, Beautiful People Scentsy, Small Town Knits, Heather Curavoo, Blanche Welch and many more.
SANTA comes at noon!
Free admission! Benefits the Neshobe School PTO

Holiday Photographs by Heather Lynne- contact her on FB for your appointment.
Vendors include: LAM Designs, Vermont 3D, Luxe Booth and Beauty Bar, Roka Jewelry, HillMark, Heather Bourne Colorstreet, Aspen's Creative Touch, Goalie Mom Designs, Carrie Turner, The Basin

Graphic by Little things studio

Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
rated.

- Jeffery P. Preseau was arrested during the course of a domestic disturbance investigation on High Street on an outstanding warrant out of Addison County. Preseau was cited to appear in Addison County Superior Court on 11/17/23 at 12:30 for failure to appear at a previous court appearance.
- BPD investigated an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a child. BPD was able to determine that the alleged abuse had not occurred, and the case was closed as a result.
- Officers were dispatched to a residence on Franklin Street to attempt to serve a Notice of Hearing. Officers were unable to locate the individual at the address.
- BPD is investigating a report of threats made over Facebook Messenger.
- Property watch at a business on Conant Square.
- Property watch at a business on Forest Dale Road.
- Officers conducted a stationary patrol at two different locations on High Pond Road in an attempt to locate a suspect who had fled the scene of a shooting incident in a vehicle in Orwell. The vehicle was ultimately stopped by responding

troopers.

November 18

- Officers assisted Vermont State Police with a domestic disturbance with a report of shots fired on Capen Hill Road in Goshen. Troopers arrived on the scene and BPD continued to assist until the scene was secured.
- Vehicle stop on Center Street for failure to obey a stop sign. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop for speeding on McConnell Road. Ticket issued.
- Vehicle stop for cellphone use on Franklin Street. Ticket issued and registration plates were seized for misuse.
- Officers responded to a domestic dispute on Grove Street where the parties were found to be arguing in front of children.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to obey traffic light. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on McConnell Road for failure to maintain travel lane. As a result of the stop, it was determined that the operator had a criminally suspended license. Dominick Popp of Rutland City was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court on 2/5/24 at 10 a.m.
- Traffic stop on Franklin

Street for defective equipment. Operator was issued a VCVC.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. The operator was issued a VCVC.

November 19

- Vehicle stop on Richmond Road for defective equipment. Warning issued.
- Property watch at a business on Union Street.
- Property watch at a business on McConnell Road.
- Police investigated a suspicious vehicle on Railroad Avenue. Officers spoke with the operator and no illegal activity was noted.
- Directed patrol on Florence Road.
- Vehicle stop for driving in the wrong lane on Pearl Street. Ticket issued.
- BPD assisted Brandon Rescue on Sandy Meadow Drive. The patient was transported to the hospital.
- Directed patrol on North Street.
- Property watch at a business on Furnace Road.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Warning issued.

Brandon budget

(Continued from Page 1)
and Windsor (\$287,294).

“We’re a pretty lean rec department,” said Moore, noting that Brandon’s rec budget was the lowest of the four towns. “We’re not extravagant. We offer a lot for the size of our town. We have special events and sports for less than Bristol’s budget.” Other towns, such as Bristol, also have facilities (e.g., pools, gyms, and studio space) that Brandon does not offer. Bristol does not offer youth sports through its rec department.

The bulk of the discussion regarding the rec department revolved around the fact that roughly half of all the department’s unique users from February 2020 to November 2023 were from towns other than Brandon. Most of the non-Brandon users were from neighboring communities, such as Pittsford, Whiting, Rutland, Leicester, Middlebury, Proctor, and Sudbury. These non-residents come to Brandon to take advantage of rec programs that aren’t offered in their hometowns.

Town Manager Seth Hopkins remarked that certain programs, particularly youth sports, wouldn’t have enough participants if they were limited to Brandon residents.

Non-resident users pay higher program fees than resident users but the question that seemed to vex the Committee was exactly how much more they should be paying. The Committee recognized the importance of drawing outside users to Brandon but also felt that non-resident users should shoulder more of the department’s expenses.

Selectboard Chair Tracy Wyman asked whether it would be possible to charge towns for the use of Brandon Rec Programs. Mr. Moore replied that the voters of those towns would have to approve appropriations for the purpose. Mr. Hopkins cautioned against asking small communities with “carefully balanced budgets” to find extra money for Brandon Rec.

It was also suggested that the surcharge paid by non-residents might be raised to a flat 20% above the resident rate.

Committee members noted that Brandon’s rec department made Brandon an attractive place to live and helped buoy the town’s economy.

“The rec department really is an economic development program,” said Mr. Hopkins.

The Committee then turned its attention to the Highway Department.

The Highway Department’s budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was \$824,520 and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is \$881,580, a difference of \$57,060 or 6.9%.

The department currently has 4 full-time crew members with no plans to hire additional workers. Highway Foreman Shawn Erickson is slated to retire in February and be replaced by Jeremy Disorda, who is currently being trained for the position.

Town Bookkeeper Jackie Savela noted that health insurance costs have increased. And the town has purchased a \$2,000 annual subscription to GovPilot management software, which will help the town keep track of the value of the labor and equipment used in FEMA-reimbursable projects.

It was also noted that several line items, such as guardrails, had been budgeted for in previous years with no record of any money having been spent on those items. Ms. Savela suggested that the money may have been spent but categorized inaccurately when logged by the department.


Board members also expressed concern about items that appear as expenditures in the budget but for which no money has been earmarked, such as asphalt for paving.

The reason for these discrepancies is that the money for the expenditures comes from sources other than municipal taxes, such as the 1% Local Option Tax or ARPA funds. The expenditures must be accounted for, but the budget is meant to determine how much money must be raised by municipal taxes and not how much money the town will ultimately spend.

Buildings & Grounds, which currently has only 1 employee, envisions a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget of \$259,430, an increase of \$33,640 or 14%. Much of the increase in the department’s budget stems from a recent mandate from the state to test the town landfill for PFAS or toxic “forever chemicals.”

The Committee also discussed the possibility of hiring a part-time gardener at \$13,000 per year to help with the proliferation of public gardens around town, including the bioswales on Park and Pearl Streets, which have been the subject of much concern among the Selectboard recently.

The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

Seek advice on how to do so, if necessary.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23
Leo, there is a strong desire for romance surrounding you. Whether you want to spice up a current relationship or are seeking a new one, this is the week to put out feelers.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Look into all of the facts surrounding an offer to increase your income, Capricorn. It could be too good to be true, or it might be a legitimate deal. You need to sort things out.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Virgo, enjoy a unique chance to spend quality time with someone you love. Enjoy the experience in the moment and resolve to spend more time together.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Aquarius, this week you may encounter someone who is very interested in you. The resulting attention can be quite flattering. You’ll need to decide if it should go further.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23
An unexpected meeting with a friend and subsequent conversation could leave you feeling a little shaken, Libra. You will learn things that give you a new perspective.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Situations that arise this week could have you feeling stressed, Pisces. Find ways you can separate yourself from certain situations that rile you up, even if it means a five-minute break.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22
You could experience a desire to make sudden changes to your home life, work situation or even a relationship, Scorpio. Stagnation has set in, but now is not the time for big moves.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Sagittarius, if a message arrives from someone who lives far away, you may be prompted to hop in the car or on a plane and visit that person. An impromptu trip could be fun.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 24 Scott Joplin, composer (d)
- Nov. 25 Percy Sledge, singer (d)
- Nov. 26 Tina Turner, singer (d)
- Nov. 27 Jimi Hendrix, guitarist (d)
- Nov. 28 Randy Newman, singer-songwriter, pianist (80)
- Nov. 29 John Mayall, guitarist, composer (90)
- Nov. 30 – June Pointer, singer (d)

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Stick Season is upon us!

AN AMBITIOUS BEAVER takes a pause to regroup after a monumental gnaw (top). Though not as appreciated as the leafier seasons, stick season has an austere beauty of its own (middle and bottom).
Photos by George Fjeld and Steven Jupiter

Restaurant guide




Robert's
Café Provence

From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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RED CLOVER ALE COMPANY TURNS FIVE, TO MUCH FANFARE!

!BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—With great brews, fantastic crowds, and a multitude of events, the Red Clover Ale Company celebrated its fifth anniversary last weekend! Beginning on Thursday at its weekly Open Mic, owners Pete, Andy and Riker released their 5th Anniversary Double IPA. It is delicious! A multitude of local musicians played and the music was, as usual, excellent. Mari of La Catrina 802 supplied the crowd with homemade Baja-style Mexican tacos.

Friday night featured local favorites Bloodroot Gap and their progressive bluegrass, high energy sound. Shady J's BBQ provided a mean brisket chili, which incidentally, won the Brandon chili cookoff. They also had crowd-favorite Mac Attack (mac and cheese piled with pulled pork) on the menu. The Red Clover boys released the second beer of the weekend: Common Raven Imperial Stout, a decidedly uncommon and delicious brew!

Saturday topped the weekend cake! The LAN chef provided the food and DJ Fancy Pants the music all day in the taproom. Come evening, the party moved around the corner to the Town Hall, where The Wormdogs, a Burlington-based Bluegrass Rock-and-Roll band wowed the crowd with its high energy original music, with a couple of standards thrown in. Brandon's own Will Pearl

plays drums and vocals for the band, which formed in 2017. I'd describe it as a bluegrass, folk rock, and Phish mashup. The Town Hall was packed for the show and many spent the evening dancing. Cambodian food from Nyam Bai was available and wonderful as well! Nothing better than a fresh spring roll to keep the energy going! And don't forget the BEER! It flowed all weekend in great abundance.

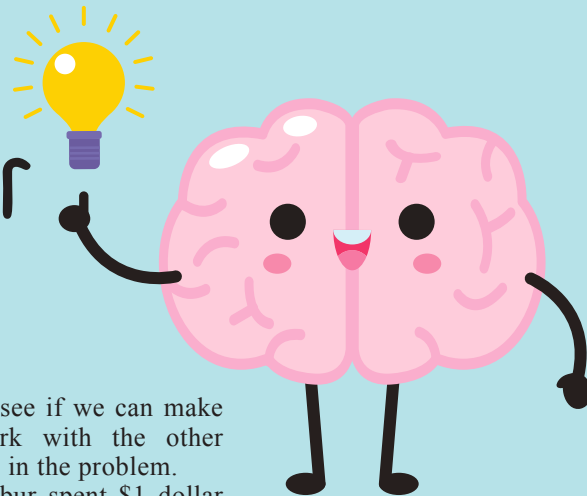


THE WORMDOGS (LEFT and bottom right) helped celebrate Red Clover Ale Company's fifth anniversary at Town Hall in Brandon. The owners, Pete, Andy, and Riker, welcomed friends and fans to join in the festivities (top right). One of Vermont's best microbreweries, Red Clover is beloved by folks near and far.

Photos by George Fjeld



Brandon Brain Buster Answered



Answer: D

If we want to maximize the number of orchids, we need to minimize the number of lilies and daisies that Wilbur buys. We also know that the total amount spent is \$100, which means that Wilbur must have bought a number of daisies that could be divided by 4, since each daisy costs \$0.25. If he bought 5 daisies, for example, it would have cost \$1.25 and there would have been no way for the total to equal \$100 because the prices of orchids and lilies are whole dollar amounts. If we want to minimize the number of daisies, let's assume that he bought 4, for a total cost of

\$1, and see if we can make this work with the other numbers in the problem.

If Wilbur spent \$1 dollar on daisies, then he had to spend \$99 on orchids and lilies. If we want to maximize the number of orchids, we need to minimize the number of lilies. Let's assume she bought 1 lily and see if that could work with the price of orchids. One lily costs \$3, which would mean that Wilbur would have to spend \$96 on orchids (because he already spent \$1 on daisies). Since each orchid costs \$6, we now need to ask whether Wilbur could spend \$96 on orchids at \$6 apiece. It turns out he can.

If Wilbur bought 16 orchids at \$6 each, he'd spend \$96 on orchids, leaving \$4 for other flowers. If he bought 1 lily for \$3 and 4 daisies for \$1 (at \$0.25 each), he'd spend \$4 on lilies and daisies. He would have minimized the number of lilies and daisies, thereby maximizing the number of orchids. So he must have bought 16 orchids, 1 lily, and 4 daisies, for a total of 21 flowers.

Spotlight On Business UPSCALE RESALE



After nine wonderful years, Upscale Resale is closing its doors December 31st. On behalf of Leo, Penny and Pauline, we want to thank our customers and wonderful advertisers for their friendship, support and loyalty. We'll be having great closing sales so stop down and see us for fun and unique



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2580 Franklin St in Brandon.

The Chamber thanks Penny for her support of the Chamber and wishes her all the best!

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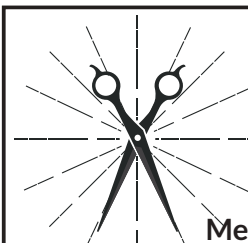
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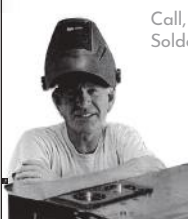


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Relay for Life

(Continued from Page 5)
 es and ice to the campers.
 The 2024 season started September 1. We began by having our Fall Raffle which ended November 16. The lucky winners were: Ellen Dickson- \$500.00, Bert Torstenson-\$400.00, Kas Singh-\$300.00, Paul and Lisa Savage-\$200.00, Diane Harvey-\$100.00. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. In the New Year we will begin asking for donations for our Relay Raffle. This year's event will be held June 1 & 2, 2024 at the Rutland Fairgrounds. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Kickoff and Basket Raffle for this year's event will be Sunday, January 21, at the West

Rutland American Legion, beginning at 10 a.m. with drawings starting at 1 p.m. There will be lots of baskets, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, hot food, and baked goods. Again, all are welcome. Stay tuned for more updates. If anyone would like to join our team, start a team of their own, or just make a donation, find us on Facebook or acevents.org: Neshobe School and Friends. A donation can be made to our team or you can select a member to donate to.

*Thank you
 and Happy Holidays!
 Helen Williams, Captain*



PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT
 NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

Place: Brandon Town Hall (Basement Lobby)
Date & Time: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 @ 6:00PM
Attend Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87042220099>
 Meeting ID 870 4222 0099
 (This option is available only if: You have a computer with a built-in or external camera and microphone (Zoom Software download required) or have a phone with a built-in camera (Zoom App download required))

- 1) The purpose of the hearing is to be accordance with 24 V.S.A §4384 (c) in adopting the proposed Town of Brandon Town Plan.
- 2) The geographic area affected is all of the Town of Brandon.
- 3) Town of Brandon Proposed Town Plan – Table of Contents:
 - Section 1: Overview
 - Section 2: Community Profile
 - Section 3: Community Facilities and Services
 - Section 4: Educational Facilities Plan
 - Section 5: Energy
 - Section 6: Housing
 - Section 7: Childcare
 - Section 8: Recreation
 - Section 9: Historic and Cultural Resources
 - Section 10: Economic Development
 - Section 11: Natural Resources
 - Section 12: Flood Resilience
 - Section 13: Transportation
 - Section 14: Future Land Use
 - Section 15: Consistency with Adjacent Town Plans
 - Section 16: Conclusion and Implementation
- 4) The full text of the proposed Town Plan, including the Enhanced Energy Plan, can be reviewed in-person at the Brandon Town Offices, 49 Center Street, Brandon VT; at the Brandon Free Public Library (in the basement of Town Hall); or online at www.townofbrandon.com.
- 5) In addition to making public comments at the public hearing, one can email a written public comment to the Brandon Planning Commission Chair, Cecil Reniche-Smith (creniche@townofbrandon.com). **Emails must have a Subject Line "Brandon Town Plan – Written Public Comment" and be sent in by 5:00 PM on Monday, December 18, 2023.** Any written comments will be read during the public comment period of this meeting and be submitted to the public record.

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Marble to marble, Redfield Proctor gets carved in stone



A MARBLE STATUE recently unveiled on Rutland's sculpture trail celebrates Redfield Proctor, for whom the nearby town is named. Founder of the Vermont Marble Company, Proctor was also governor of Vermont. The statue was carved by Evan Morse and Taylor Apostol from a design by Kellie Pereira. It stands on Merchants Row.

Photos by Dale Christie

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