

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 29, No. 9

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

\$1

Watch for next week's Reporter on Thursday, March 7, so we can include Town Meeting results.



BOOT SCOOT & BOOGIE

Brandon Idol goes Country! The singing competition took on Nashville for its February installment.

PG. 10



FAN FARE

OV Boys' Varsity Basketball is going to the Semi-Finals in Barre!

PG. 12



ON THE GREEN

James Peck shares the history of the Brandon Country Club, precursor to the current Neshobe Golf Club.

PG. 13



Brandon SB says goodbye to Wyman and Reniche-Smith

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—During its brief meeting on Monday evening, the Brandon Selectboard said goodbye to longtime member Tracy Wyman, who is stepping down after 8 years, and to newcomer Cecil Reniche-Smith, who is not seeking re-election after the completion of her first one-year term. Both seats are on the ballot next week.

Attendees thanked both Mr. Wyman and Ms. Reniche-Smith for their service to the town.

Brandon resident Sandy Mayo provided a chocolate-frosted cake, which was divvied up and gobbled down at the end of the meeting.

"It's been fun," said Wyman. "I learned a lot but it's time to take a break. There's a good field of candidates. Let the younger folks step up."

The only item of new business
 (See Brandon SB, Page 31)



4-H TALENT ON display at Brandon Town Hall

HUNTER FRIES DAZZLED as "The Warrior Fairy," composed by Christine Fries. Her performance involved hula hoops and scarves. See more photos of the event on pages 14 and 15.

Photos by Kevin White

VT Wrestling Championship took place at Otter Valley; Coles named Coach of the Year; Cram takes 1st in class; Whitney takes 2nd

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON- Vermont's top wrestlers competed in the "House of Noise" at OV last Friday and Saturday. One hundred and fifty one (151) competitors on 25 teams vied for the individual and team state championships. Otter Valley placed fourth after holding down second place heading into the final day. Mt Anthony (MAU) took its 35th straight team championship, which is by far the longest streak in the nation! MAU had 5 individual champions out of the 14 weight classes. Otter Valley's Mason Cole was named Coach of the Year for the second straight year, as voted by the other coaches.

OV had 2 wrestlers in the finals on Saturday night, with Chase Cram taking the crown in the 157-pound weight class. Cram defeated Brody Coppins from Colchester in an 8-4 decision. The match was closely

fought for the first 2 periods but Cram pulled away in the 3rd with 2 well executed takedowns.

Issac Whitney placed second at 175 lbs in a hard-fought match against repeat champion Anthony Matas from Essex. Whitney, seeded third, got off to a good start with a takedown in the 1st but surrendered the lead in the second to go down 4-2. After a stalling call against Matas, Whitney got an escape to tie the match at 4-4 with 45 seconds to go. Whitney tried a power move for a takedown but the wrestlers were off the mat when Whitney got control: no points. Matas took the final points of the match with a takedown with 15 seconds left for a 6-4 win.

Other wrestlers who tallied points for Otter Valley were Thomas Givens, 5th in the 113-pound class, Lincoln Wilcox, 6th at 138, Blake Allen, 4th at 150, Drake Felkl, 6th at 165,



ISAAC WHITNEY PUTS the moves on rival Matas.

Keegan Reed, 4th at 190, and Simon Martin, 4th at 215.
 The team scores were:

1. Mount Anthony 189
 2. Spaulding 154
 (See OV Wrestling, Page 12)



Anticipating spring: a visit with local nurseries

BY LYN DESMARAIS

Last year I showcased our local nurseries. I'm circling back to ask about their new offerings, news, or whatever they'd like to update me about, and when they'll be opening. This week we hear from Miller Hill in Sudbury and Virgil & Constance in Brandon.

MILLER HILL FARM

If you haven't had a chance, please do go to Miller Hill Farm this spring when their bonsai fruit trees are in bloom. They look like

Vincent van Gogh's take on Japanese wood cuts.

Miller Hill Farm Nursery and Gardens will continue to sell their lovely Vermont-sourced trees and shrubs as well as a select line of pollinator-friendly perennials and annuals and a wide range of Vermont natives. Another key offering is their statuary and planter selection, and the shop will be brimming with antiques and fresh finds. The newest addition will be bonsai starter plants and supplies

this coming season. They will also be offering a bonsai workshop – for workshop date watch programs on their website - millerhillfarmvt.com and on Facebook Miller Hill Farm Nursery & Gardens. In addition, Carl Phelps is giving a bonsai talk for the Middlebury Garden Club is March 12th at Ilsley Library in Middlebury.

I asked Carl what bonsai is and why he loves it.

Carl: "The history of the art of bonsai traces back over two thousand years to the Chinese practice of creating miniature landscapes called 'penjing.' Sometime around 1,000 years ago, some principals of penjing were adopted in Japan and became what we now know as

'bonsai,' which translates to 'planted in pot.' While penjing includes an entire landscape in miniature, bonsai centers on one aspect - the tree. In the art of bonsai, we strive to replicate the graceful lines of a mature tree in miniature form.

With much respect for the history of this art form and its con- (See Gardening corner, Page 22)



TWO VIEWS OF Miller Hill Farm in Sudbury, where Carl Phelps and Nan Jenks-Jay create soothing vignettes with their plantings. Some of Phelps's bonsai are visible in the lower photo. He will be offering a workshop of the art form at Ilsley Library in Middlebury on March 12.

Tree Grant for Brandon comes through

BY NEIL SILINS,
TREE WARDEN

When the Town of Brandon re-paved Park Street, several large maples were cut down. In 2022, a large group of risk trees also had to be cut down. Risk trees are those that are likely to fail and cause damage to people and/or property. Ever since then, I have been trying to come up with a plan to replace those trees. I've called this my "50-year plan," because it might be fifty years before the trees that are planted now will be large enough that when we have to remove a failing tree, we won't create a large gap in the tree canopy. After spending a lot of energy looking at 50 years as a whole, I realized that my plan could be better accomplished by taking it one year at a time. Plant a few trees each and every year. In 50 years, well, there's the plan. Then I hope the new tree warden will repeat.

In late 2023, the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry program issued a request for proposals for grants meant to enhance the tree canopies in the heavily used downtown areas of towns in Vermont. This fit the bill for our goals for Brandon's canopy. We sub-

mitted a proposal that included working on our tree inventory, planting and maintaining 14 trees, and removing up to 4 risk trees. The grant activities must be completed by June 30, 2026.

I am pleased to announce that the proposal submitted by the Town of Brandon was successful and we are the recipient of a \$10,800 grant. The grant provides funds for everything in our proposal! The grant is called a 1:1 match, which means that the Town must provide goods and/or services equal in value to the money that's provided by the grant.

Brandon has a tree committee, called the Brandon Tree Group. It is currently seeking members at all levels. Whether you choose to join the Brandon Tree Group or not, I hope you'll volunteer to help us do some of the work. All of Brandon's required match, included in the grant proposal, is in the form of volunteer and town employee time. This means that the town will not have to spend cash on its match if we're able to provide enough labor hours to satisfy the town's obligation. The grant requires time to continue work on the tree inventory, time to plant the new trees, time to maintain the new

trees, and time to take care of other trees throughout Brandon. Implementing the terms of this grant will require the input and cooperation of the tree warden, the Brandon Tree Group and its volunteers, and the Brandon Highway Department, which is responsible for landscaping in town, among many other things. It's fabulous news about winning the grant monies, but now I need your help.

How can you help? Initially we need volunteers to help host a town "open house" type of meeting where we welcome the general public to talk about this grant, its terms, volunteer needs, and what steps we are going to take to strengthen the tree canopy in the central areas of Brandon. I'd like all of Brandon to be excited and pleased about this opportunity. Please contact me by email at brandontreewarden@gmail.com to volunteer or learn more. ns from April 2024 through June 2026.

What does everyone think about a meeting mid March? In the meantime, if anyone is available to help edit a Reporter article, I need some help.

Best to all, and thanks for stepping up as tree advocates.

Where the Snakes Live: local singer/songwriter Breanna Elaine raises awareness of addiction

BY GEORGE NOSTRAND

Before meeting Breanna Elaine, I might have said there were no rock stars in Vermont. I was wrong.

Being a rock star has less to do with music and more to do with attitude and confidence. Breanna's not lacking in either. The Brandon resident is also a very talented singer, musician, and songwriter, periodically performing at Red Clover and numerous other venues in the region.

Breanna made a bold step, leaving her day job in 2022 to strike out in the music biz. She's worked with A Sound Space, a Rutland recording studio and music center, on a number of her projects, always at the helm and not afraid to make tough decisions. Her first album, Seedlings, dropped on January 1, 2023.

This year she has a new project.

Inspired by her friend Jeremy who died of a drug overdose, Breanna Elaine's newest project hopes to raise awareness and challenge the stigma around addiction.

"I want to flip the grief I'm dealing with and make some kind of a positive difference in

the community," said Breanna, who is seeking to directly support individuals in need of addiction treatment services. She will be donating a portion of her Where the Snakes Live campaign to Turning Point, a non-profit that helps people recover from substance abuse.

"We may not have been able to save Jeremy and so many others who have died from this terrible disease, but we can come together now and help others like them get the help they need."

With the opioid epidemic's effects only growing more widespread, she hopes that the message within the song and music video will connect with those in recovery or who have lost loved ones to addiction.

Jeremy was someone she knew from her days living in Northampton, Massachusetts. "He was sweet, funny and we always had a good time hang-

ing out together. He could be a pain and cause a lot of trouble, but he was good in his heart."

Before writing Where the Snakes Live, Breanna recorded a song for Jeremy's funeral. "I wasn't sure I could get up and sing it at the funeral, so I wanted to have something palatable and sweet and appropriate for family members."

Where the Snakes Live speaks more to her own emotions. "It's a little edgier and darker. It's me processing and speaking to him." Breanna enlisted the help of Vermont's own Bow Thayer, chosen for his approach to music, but also because he could relate to losing friends to drugs.

"I'd already been thinking of ways to entice Bow into being my mentor... We listened to the song a bunch of times together and I think he could hear what I was looking for. It's kind of bluegrass but gritty at the same

"I looked through different charities and Turning Point seemed smaller and less corporate. I felt like the money I gave to them would actually help people."

—Breanna Elaine



MOTIVATED BY THE loss of a dear friend, Brandon resident Breanna Elaine is embarking on a campaign to raise awareness about addiction through her music. She will donate proceeds from the campaign to Turning Point, a nonprofit that helps people recover from substance abuse.

time."

After recording the song, she had a vision for the music video. "I saw the music video in my mind and wrote down all these details."

She's hoping to reach beyond Vermont with her message. "I want this to be something that would have been meaningful for Jeremy, but also something bigger." At the same time, she wants to keep it local.

"I looked through different charities and Turning Point seemed smaller and less corporate. I felt like the money I gave to them would actually help people." She is impressed by how many different services they offer. "If I can be another

advocate and help fight some of the stigma, that would be great. Turning Point has an event 'Stomping Out Stigma,' and the more I thought about how judgmental people are, the more I wanted to get involved."

She is using a crowdfunding program called Indiegogo and is trying to raise \$10,000 for the overall project. "This is not just a representation of me and my art, but also Jeremy, his friends, and Turning Point. I want it to be a quality production, not just something I did in my backyard."

Breanna sees this as a bigger part of who she is, where she is going, and her contributions to the world.

Spotlight On Business VERMONT FOLK ART GALLERY



BRANDON AREA
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Brandon.org for more info



Vermont Folk Art Gallery

The Vermont Folk Art Gallery is located at 24 Park Street in beautiful downtown Brandon. It is the premiere destination for contemporary Folk Art. This unique collection of folk art and folk artists draws visitors from around the world.

Winter hours are Saturday 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and spring through fall our hours are Thursday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open by appointment all year. To make an appointment please call- 623-293-3977.

ONLINE AUCTION

(1559) Tools & Machinery

Online Auction Closes Thursday, March 7th @ 10AM




Preview: Monday, March 4th from 11AM-1PM

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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

Get out there and vote!

BY SARAH COPELAND
HANZAS, VT SEC OF STATE

As Vermont's Secretary of State and Chief Elections Officer, it's my job to help sustain and defend democracy — the form of government in which we the people choose our leaders and decide issues by voting. I believe that democracy must not only be defended; our participation in it must be grown, which is why I'm focused on engaging and empowering Vermonters to vote in our upcoming March 5th elections.

When polls close on March 5th, we will begin tallying votes on issues as lofty as who Vermont wants to nominate to be our next president and as close to home as who will be our next school director or Selectboard member. And while TV, radio, and news media are saturated with coverage of presidential campaigns, the issues you see on your Town Meeting ballot will have a much more immediate impact on your community. Will the voters choose to purchase a new fire truck? Will our budget cover the cost of after school programs for our children? Will we put a new roof on our library? How much will we raise in taxes to pay for these investments?

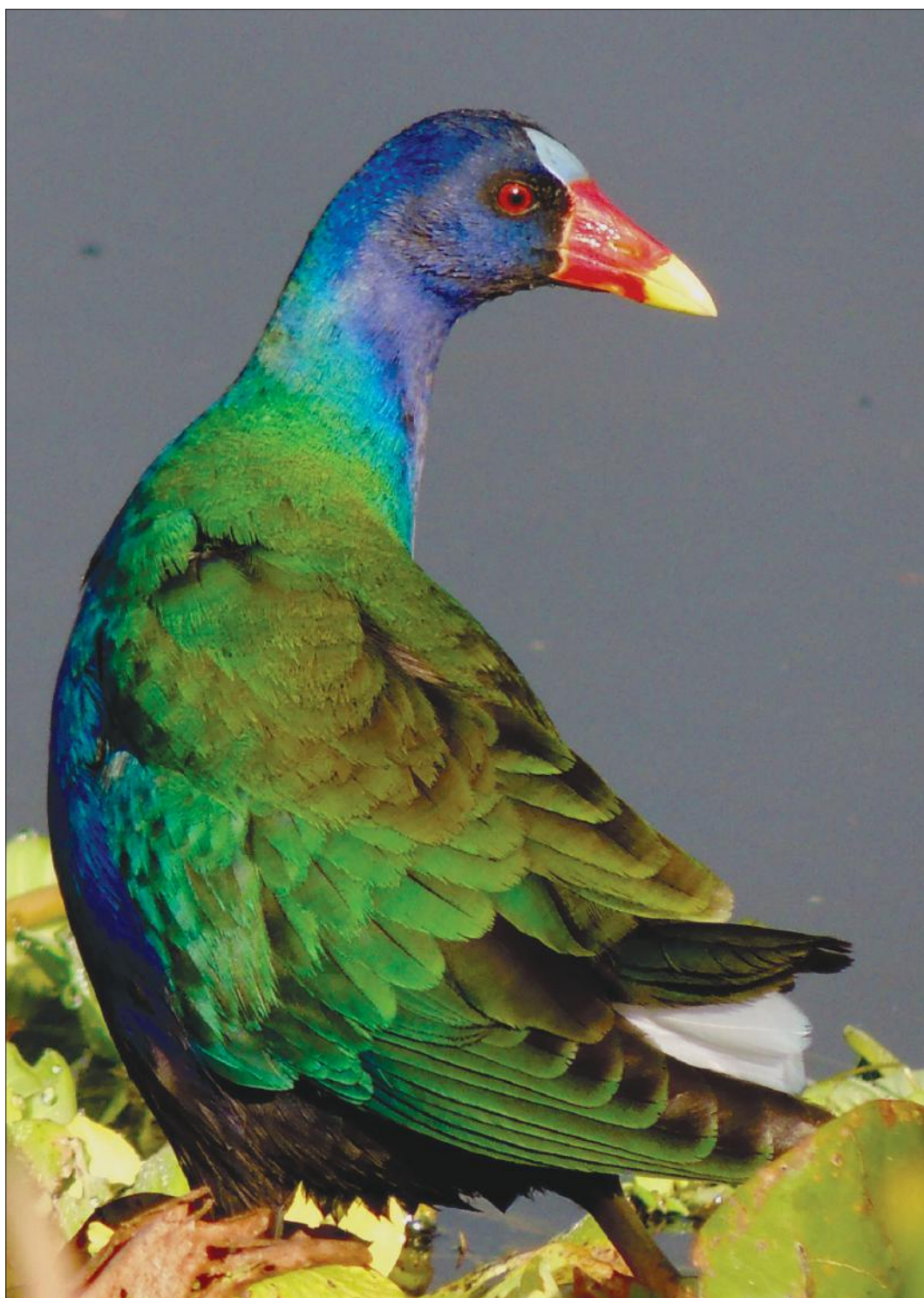
Democracy is about people. It is about voters and citizens of course, but it's also about the workers, volunteers, and other participants that make the systems of democracy work. Municipal clerks are the keystone of our democracy, and their communities count on them to support the whole process! Your Board of Civil Authority (BCA) plays a critical role in maintaining the integrity of elections,

while poll workers and other volunteers make sure Election Day runs smoothly, ballots get counted, and every eligible Vermonter has the opportunity to vote.

As you exercise your right to vote — whether filling out your ballot at home or voting in-person at your town's floor meeting or at the polls — take a minute to appreciate all the people and systems that make it possible. We can't take the right, or the people and systems, for granted!

If all you listen to is national media, or rarely stray beyond the social media algorithm that feeds you news as you scroll, you might believe that the fabric of civic life is fraying. On some days, disheartened, I can see why people say that. But then I spend an afternoon with a town clerk who is dedicated to their community, with a classroom full of engaged students in a high school social studies class, with a citizen legislator in the halls of the State House talking about a constituent concern, or with the passionate host of a community access television station, and I am re-energized and re-focused. I ask you to look for instances where democracy is working in your everyday life and cherish it: a notice of a public hearing; the Front Porch Forum posting about a local candidate; a letter to the editor in the paper from one of your neighbors; or a bustling town clerk's office.

Vermonters care deeply about their neighbors and their communities. In the run-up to March 5th, I encourage you to make a plan to vote. Take advantage of the budget informational meeting, look over your town and
(See Vote!, Page 31)



Fresh water beauty

ONE OF FLORIDA'S special birds is this Purple Gallinule. They are remarkable fliers and turn up far out of their normal range, surprisingly often. They've even shown up in Iceland, Switzerland, South Georgia island, the Galápagos, and South Africa. Maybe we could see one in Vermont someday...

Photo by Sue Wetmore

The REPORTER

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A community supported newspaper

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Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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Community Forums

American Legion celebrates 105th Birthday with a party at Post 55

The American Legion is celebrating their 105th Birthday this year and Post 55 in Brandon will be having a celebration dinner on Sat. Mar. 9th, starting at 6pm All 2024 dues paid mem-

bers of the Legion, Sons & Auxiliary are free, guests are \$10.

(Dues may be paid that evening)

Please join us for the celebration.



Letters to the Editor

Please vote for Mr. Doug Bailey, he stands for Brandon

After watching the Brandon Candidates Forum, I am pleased to say that my previously positive impressions of Mr. Doug Bailey have only increased. Doug is an intelligent, thoughtful, balanced, trustworthy, and reasonable gentleman who previously did an excellent job as Selectboard mem-

ber, and would do so again if given the chance. He is a good listener and communicator, is level-headed, and works hard to thoroughly understand an issue and the actual facts before forming an opinion or making a decision. Brandon would be most fortunate to have him
(See Vote for Bailey, Page 6)

I encourage YES votes for the Town and RNESU budgets

I read with disinterest the diatribe of Sharon Stearns in a recent letter [see The Reporter, 2/21/24] concerning the Brandon town budget, the Selectboard, the Town Manager, the Deputy Town Manager, the Clerk's office, the use of EVs in the Police Department, the use of a police dog, the Brandon Fire District's plan to update our public water system, the plan for a solar array, the school budget and everything else that's wrong with the world.

Underneath all the complaints, I believe, is a hidden agenda and I don't believe that it all has all to do with increase in taxes. If I could pick apart every point, it would turn into my diatribe, so I won't. But there is a failure to mention that if the paving of roads were an appropriation (as it used to be) the Town budget would appear to be lower. But you know what?

Roads need to be paved. And if they were not, guess who would be complaining about it? There is a failure to mention that canine police dogs are not that effective and there could be a cost saving not to have such a unit. There is a failure to mention that there is an implicit bias against trying to reach goals to reduce greenhouse emissions through the use of EVs and solar arrays. And finally, there is a failure to mention that all school districts in Vermont are having the same budget issues as RNESU and that the complaints should be directed at the state level and not at the local boards who have tried very hard at keeping costs down. Vote "YES" for the Brandon Town budget and vote "YES" for the RNESU school budget.

Jay Merluzzi
Brandon VT

David Atherton's tenure as Town Manager ended badly

I see that David Atherton wants to become a Selectboard member in our town. While Mr. Atherton did many good things for the town during his tenure as town manager, it is important that the voters understand the final months of his tenure before deciding whether they want him to become a Selectboard member.

On June 14, 2022, Mr. Atherton said that if we did not open his contract and give him a significant pay increase, he would quit.

On June 27, 2022, Mr. Atherton wrote to the Board that he would be remaining on as town manager and demanded that we re-open his contract.

(See David Atherton, Page 7)

Newspaper correction & rural etiquette, please!

In my letter to the editor of the Brandon Reporter on 2/16/24, I wrote about the amount of spending our selectboards and school boards are responsible for and the extra funds they have spent over the past year or so. My point was to say it is concerning that the board members may want to continue at

this high level of spending, and the effect on our taxes for what is being proposed. We should consider carefully who we elect or the costs of living in Brandon will continue to rise. The editor of the newspaper added a heading to my article that said, "Proposed budget measures are
(See Rural etiquette, Page 9)

BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Essay

Compassion is the best way forward

BY VICKI DISORDA

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." —Lao Tzu

The path to enlightenment, whether it is social or spiritual, can be an onerous journey. It is filled with lessons that can be compared to the difficulty of earning a doctorate. It requires exposure to an inordinate amount of information and time to study, process, learn, and grow through practice.

Additionally, there is an enormous social awareness movement underway to which some folks remain out of touch for various reasons. Others are only embarking on the first step of this journey of a thousand miles. May we each practice patience, kindness, and compassion for those who stumble in darkness and become beacons of light for all.

Until he threw his hat into

the ring for an open Selectboard position, friend and neighbor Ray Marcoux's world revolved around work and family. The only time I have ever seen Ray out in town was for our 25th class reunion. In essence, Ray's cultural "awareness" ended at the edge of the road in front of his home. Until last week, the current social-awareness movement was not a part of Ray's daily life.

Now that Ray is coming under public scrutiny, I ask for patience, understanding, and compassion during my friend's transition from private to public figure in Brandon.

"The things you do and the practices you were taught inform who you become. Culture is a broad term that encompasses beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, and overall can be understood as our 'way of being.'" (Source: uopeople.edu)

This is meant to be a gentle reminder that there is more than one "way of being" in our small town. Life is different on the other side of the tracks. Neither Ray nor the rest of us are exactly rubbing elbows with Bill Moore in the Town Hall on a regular basis, yet. In fact, Ray's first view of the interior of the Town Hall may very well have been at the town Planning Commission meeting. But God bless Ray for getting involved and attempting to make a difference for the working-class folks and low-income residents in town. He is at least stepping up.

Ray is a good person. He simply comes from a different culture than most persons are used to encountering or expect to see uptown. Without places like Desi's and LaDuke's, this culture may be no longer vis-
(See Compassion, Page 31)

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

Letters will only be accepted from residents of

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

The editor reserves the right to approve or

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

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

Letters to the editor

MUD SEASON SALE!



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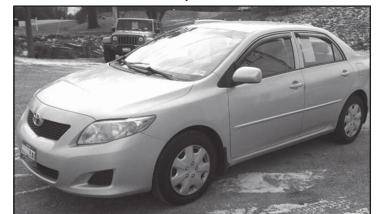
2017 TOYOTA SIENNA
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\$20,995



2014 SUBARU CROSSTREK
XV AWD, Premium Pkg, Loaded, 81k miles
\$13,995



2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Loaded, Low miles! Only 89k miles!
\$7,995



2010 TOYOTA COROLLA
LE Sedan, Auto, Loaded, 122k miles
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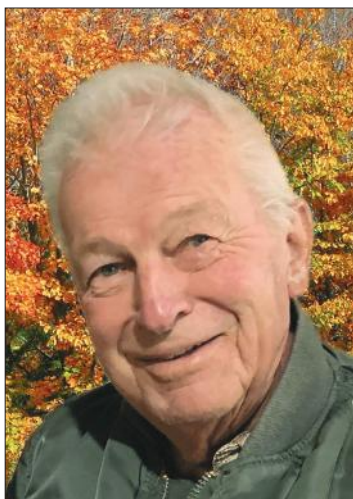
Robert Morgan Dean, 86, Brandon

Robert Morgan Dean, age 86, passed peacefully on February 21, 2024, at Advent Health in Apopka, FL. Bob was born in Middlebury on April 25, 1937. He was the son of Robert Perry and Ella (Morgan) Dean.

Bob grew up on the family farm in Brandon, Vermont. His early life on the farm was one of hard work and many experiences. He loved to tell stories about driving trucks at an early age, fishing with dynamite, and jumping from a silo in his early years. He left the farm as a teenager to join the Marines, where he commanded an amphibious landing craft. After traveling the world, he decided to leave the Marines (one of his stories he shared with anyone was about junk on the bunk.) He joined the Air Force, where he excelled in electronics as an aircraft aviation technician. He served at multiple bases in the USAF, including opening one in the jungles of Vietnam. During his time in the Air Force, he also excelled in marksmanship and won numerous awards for his skill.

Bob was one of the very earliest members of the Finchingfield Gun Club in North Essex, England, as a US airman based at Wethersfield, England. The championship trophy was donated by Bob. The championship continues to be competed annually via the handicap system and was named the Bob Dean Trophy.

Bob was also selected to referee the 1970 ISSF World Shooting Championship, which was held in Phoenix, Arizona. After retiring from the USAF, Bob went on to obtain his bachelor's degree from Castleton College. Bob then pursued a career working at the Brandon



ROBERT MORGAN DEAN

Post Office. His customer service was well known. He had treats for all the dogs on his route, stopped a barn fire, gave haircuts to housebound folks, and other items too numerous to mention. He was everyone's favorite mailman.

His hobbies included flying (he owned his own plane) and photography. Bob worked with others to support the annual kids ACE camp to introduce them to aviation and flying. He took many kids up for their first ride in an airplane. He was always happy when he was talking or flying with other pilots that he knew. Bob is renowned around Central Vermont for his photography, his specialty combined both hobbies--taking aerial photos, which he provided to many free of charge. The family has thousands of pictures he took over the years.

Folks that have traveled with Bob, will tell you that he hardly ever went anywhere where he didn't meet an old friend or acquaintance. He could be at a luau in Honolulu or sitting in a restaurant in Florida, and

someone would walk up and say, "I know you." Truly there has never been someone so well known and loved.

He is survived by two daughters, Debra (Albert) Fowler of Zellwood, FL and Diane (Todd) Douglas of Sudbury; a brother, Gary W (Carol) Dean of Colchester, and a sister, Nancy (Charles) Jakiela of Brandon. His grandsons, Robert William (Joanna) Fowler, Eric S. Douglas (Heidi), and Dean M. Douglas (Emily), and a great-granddaughter, Ashton Elizabeth Fowler. Bob was predeceased by his wife, Cecilia Ann Dean, whom he married on May 28, 1960, in Beloit, Kansas. He was also predeceased by his parents and a brother, David A. Dean.

Friends may call at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon on Friday, March 1, 2024, from 12 noon until 3 PM. Following the calling hours, the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion from 4 to 6 PM for a time of remembrance.

The graveside committal service and burial, with Military Honors, will take place at a later date in the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to VAAC c/o Alisdar Crawford, 190 Drumlin Road, Perkinsville, VT 05151. Checks should be made to ACE Camp in honor of Bob, for aviation camp for students ages 14 to 18. A brick will be donated by his daughters, with his name on it, at the Marine Corps Museum.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Brandon TM report, 2/26/24

The Town has ordered replacement lampposts: one single-globe for opposite the Library and one triple-globe for in front of Blue Moon. We coordinated with the police department and the Town's insurer regarding working with the insurers of the drivers for the property damage; one was uninsured. Incident reports had been filed in both cases. Note that lead time on shipping the lampposts is 6+ months. We are also ordering a spare single-globe lamppost to be kept on-hand because of this.

Town staff has assessed and repaired the speed sign on Franklin Street; it is again operating as it should. DBA has not advised a date when twinkly lights in the parks will be removed. The Town crew posted the roads for thawing conditions beginning Thursday 22 February. **FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD**

work will fully utilize available funding.

Collaborative work with FEMA and town staff is ongoing to fund the Town's response to July 2023 floods.

Collective bargaining with NEPBA (police union) is ongoing with a team from the selectboard. Heavy time investment on town meeting preparation including responding to questions about the budget proposal, paving situation, and solar array proposal, and assisting selectboard with town meeting presentation.

The Town of Brandon is now fully integrated into the VT-Alert messaging platform. I have been trained as primary operator and Bill Moore as secondary operator. This will reach a wider audience than our opt-in text alerts, which we will continue for the time being. I had many meetings, scheduled and unscheduled, with town officers, staff, and townspeople.

Financial Snapshot

Operating Expenses (includes tonight's warrant)	71% thru funds / 67% thru year
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$718,865
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated	\$178,903
Delinquent property taxes (prior years)	\$343,977 (was \$341,417)
Delinquent wastewater (prior years ['over 120 days'])	\$188,249 (was \$190,009)
Number of payment plans for delinquent	23 active, 3 await taxpayer signature

Discussions with the engineers and contractor for the wastewater upgrade indicate that substantial work completion will be late in May, with final meetings in June. The

Thank you to Cecil Reniche-Smith and Tracy Wyman who are completing their Selectboard terms at this year's Town Meeting. It has been a privilege to work with you both.

Vote for Bailey

(Continued from Page 5)

serve us once again.

Regretfully, I must also address a significant misunderstanding in statements made in the Forum by another candidate. Mr. Ray Marcoux criticized the Brandon library restoration project as using up Brandon tax dollars that taxpayers cannot afford. **In fact, not a single penny of tax money from Brandon or any other town has been used for the restoration and expansion project.** It is being financed entirely through voluntary do-

nations by hundreds of area residents, grants, fundraising events, and some ARPA money (federal dollars given to the towns). Repeat: ZERO tax dollars from any of the towns have been used for the restoration project.


I urge your support of Doug Bailey for Selectboard. Doug is a man who deeply understands Brandon and the issues and challenges that face us.

Gary Meffe
Brandon



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Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

Midpoint of the session comes with reflection

As the legislature approaches the midpoint of the session, there are indicators that members look towards to confirm where we are in our legislative calendar. The first indicator is the town meeting break which is when we break for a week to return home to attend the various town meetings in our districts, reconnect with our families and constituents, and get out of the shadow of the “Golden Dome” while getting rejuvenated for the push toward adjournment. This year’s break is March 4th through the 8th. Another indicator is the cutoff date for legislators to introduce individual bills which is this upcoming week, and the last sign is the setting of the crossover date for individual bills to move from the House to the Senate and conversely Senate bills moving to the House. The Crossover date for this session is Friday, March 15th, 2024.

With committees working diligently on bills under their jurisdiction and spending long days at their “desks” in committee rooms, there are often heated discussions, and we need ways to release the tension of disagreements and opposite opinions to bring a fractured conversation together. One way is to bring members together outside of the committee room to reset and change the conversation.

An evening at “Farmers Night” can certainly give members a way to come together and clear their minds for a few short hours before delving back into committee decisions. The tradition of a weekly event of levity and entertainment started in 1902 when the formation of the farmers club (thus “Farmers Night”), a club comprised

of members of the legislature that made a substantial portion of their income from the land. Most members of the legislature of that era would travel to Montpelier for the entire session, living in hotels and boarding houses because commuting was virtually impossible in that period. Legislators would gather in the well of the House on Wednesday nights to sing songs, play cards, watch traveling minstrel shows, and the like. As time went on, more and more outside entertainment was scheduled including, in 1947, a traveling circus which had ponies, sheep, and a tight-rope walker. Today, Farmers Night entertainment has become much more subdued but no less enjoyable. Included in this year’s entertainment has been Vermont storytellers, Tibetan music and dancing, and the Valentine’s Day concert by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. These events are free and open to the public and I would encourage you to visit the statehouse on a Wednesday evening to enjoy one of these wonderful events.

My committee, Transportation, has been working diligently to move the FY25 \$866 million Transportation Program forward. As the title says, this is the bill that provides funds for the construction and maintenance of Vermont highways, bridges, airports, freight and passenger rail, mass transit, and all things related to the transportation needs of Vermonters. Along with state assets, the bill provides funding for our towns in the form of grants to repair local roads, culverts, ditches, and bridges, along with other town highway technical assistance. The dead-

line for submitting this bill to the house is March 22nd, 2024, and the committee expects to have the “T Bill” completed prior to town meeting week. This is an indication of the collaboration among the members of the very geographically diverse Transportation Committee.

An early public safety bill, H. 563... Attempted auto theft has passed the House with my support. H.563 makes attempting to steal a motor vehicle a crime of grand larceny with penalties of up to five years in jail or fines of \$2500 or both. The bill also provides that if someone enters a vehicle without owner’s consent, they can be convicted and sentenced for three months in jail and or fined \$500 or both. H.563 is a small legislative step in the quest to stem the tide of criminal activities in Vermont. The Judiciary Committee will be introducing further bills to adjust the statutes on larceny and other public safety issues before crossover.

Questions, comments please send me an email at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us or call at 802-483-2398 for a conversation about our legislative district of Rutland-8 Pittsford-Proctor

*Representative Butch Shaw
Pittsford-Proctor
Vice Chair-House Committee on Transportation
Chair-Rutland County
Legislative Delegation*

[Editor’s note: This report was intended to run in last week’s issue (Feb. 21). Because of a filing error on our part, it is being run in this issue. Our apologies to Mr. Shaw and to our readers.]

David Atherton

(Continued from Page 5)

On July 21, 2022, Mr. Atherton signed a contract to continue as town manager.

On January 23, 2023, Mr. Atherton resigned and said that his last day of work would be February 21, 2023, “which will honor the 30-day notice provision” of his contract. The Board unanimously accepted his resig-

nation.

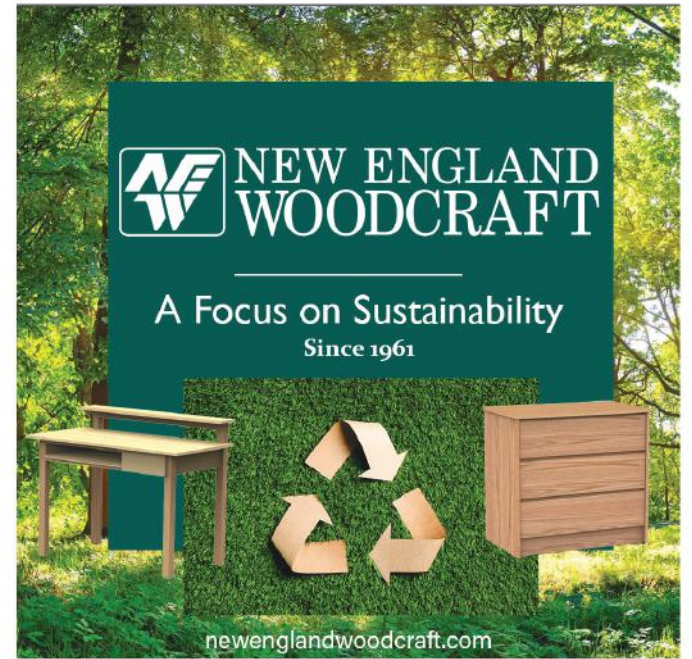
In the following weeks, Mr. Atherton refused to work with our designated interim town manager to provide a smooth transition for the town of Brandon.

On February 6, 2023, Mr. Atherton wrote to the Board to say that his last day of employment would be February 10, a

direct violation of his contractual obligation.

Question: Will Mr. Atherton be supportive of our town manager, Seth Hopkins, and our deputy town manager, Bill Moore?

*Respectfully submitted,
Tim Guiles
Brandon Selectboard member*



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Crossword & Sudoku on page 25

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Brandon Energy Committee

The solar bond vote: Questions and recommendations addressed



BY JIM EMERSON OF THE BRANDON ENERGY COMMITTEE

What are the costs to build this system and how much needs to be borrowed?

Brandon's Town Manager solicited and received four sealed bids from solar installers. The low bid is \$468,500. There are added costs of up to \$10,000 possibly expected. The federal government will fund 30% of the construction costs, or \$140,550, and the Selectboard authorized \$60,000 of ARPA funds for this project, leaving \$277,950 to be borrowed.

What is the interest rate on the bond and repayment period?

The federal government supports these projects with 2% bond money to be paid back over 10 years.

Will taxes need to go up to pay off this bond?

No. Savings from the electricity that the system will generate will be sufficient to cover the bond payments and operating costs.

What is the financial

benefit of doing this project?

The Town pays over \$30,000 a year for electricity from Green Mountain Power. The GMP bill can be offset by solar credits generated by a town-owned solar system. The proposed 150kW system will generate \$35,000 in solar credits and the town has offered to allocate \$5,000 to the Water Department of the Fire District after a 10% discount to them. Thus, the town should expect to save

replacement, insurance, and mowing. The town will require the contractor building the system (local Green Earth Energy) to handle the first three. Insurance is provided through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. A contractor, experienced in mowing solar fields, will be hired to attend to the mowing.

These costs should be under \$3,000 for the first five years and then modestly grow. The system only re-

Brandon VT Town Owned Solar

Cumulative Cash Flow Results based on 100,000 Monte Carlo simulations

Scenario	Year 10	Year 20	Year 30	Year 40
Worst 1% of Scenarios	16,418	354,220	739,970	1,212,009
Worst 5%	18,358	362,335	759,834	1,248,097
Average Scenario	25,706	394,529	835,411	1,384,306
Best 5%	33,218	427,883	914,581	1,528,005
Best 1% of Scenarios	35,440	438,045	939,146	1,572,209

Created with Datawrapper

a total of \$34,500 per year (\$30,000 in electric charges and a net of \$4,500 from the Water Department).

What are "solar credits"?

Solar credits represent the value of the kilowatt hours that the solar system sends to GMP. In effect GMP "buys" electricity from Brandon and deducts the money from the town's electric bill.

What about the costs of operating the system?

The costs required to operate the system include monitoring, repairs, inverter

quires 3 inverters, which are warranted for 10 years and are expected to need replacement after year 15 at a cost of \$25,000, well after the bond has been paid off in year 10.

Is this a risky project?

Over the past eight years, Addison County's Acorn Energy has developed four community solar projects designed to benefit individuals who cannot put solar on their homes. These are producing benefits close to or above projections. We have relied heavily on this nearby real-world experience in developing our projections.

In addition, more than 16 towns in Vermont have built solar projects similar in size, and this was before the 30% federal rebate of the construction costs that is now available. Many more towns have built smaller solar projects under 90kW in size.

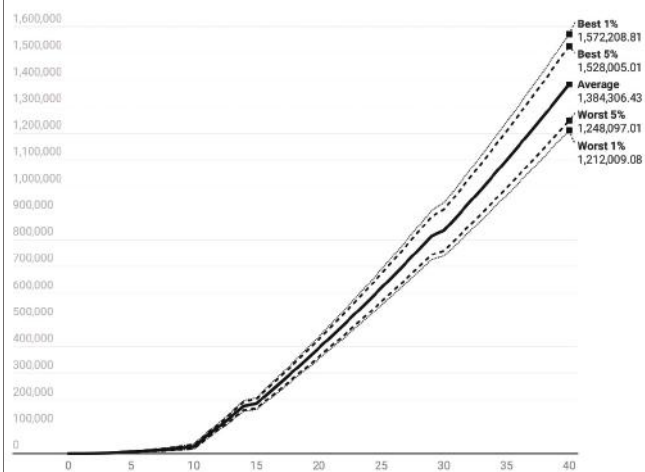
How have other towns done with their solar projects?

In the past 6 years, Colchester has built two 150kW projects like the one we are proposing. They are working on building their third

(See Solar bond vote, Page 19)

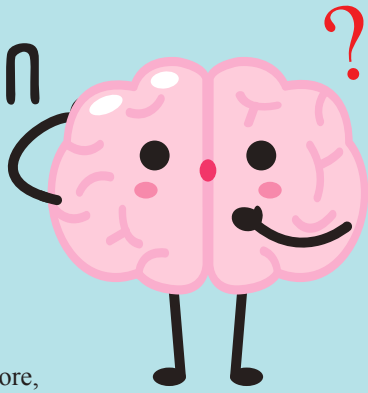
Brandon, VT Town Owned Solar

Cumulative Cash Flow Results based on 100,000 Monte Carlo simulations



Created with Datawrapper

Brandon Brain Buster



At a certain grocery store, six bananas, five peaches, and three apples cost a total of \$5.95. At that same store, four bananas, three peaches, and two apples would cost a total of \$3.80. If the store would charge a total of \$3.60 for five bananas, four peaches, and one apple, what is the price of a single apple?

- A) \$0.20
- B) \$0.30
- C) \$0.45
- D) \$0.70
- E) \$0.85

Answer on pg. 21

Rural etiquette

(Continued from Page 5)

reckless spending.” I did not write this or say this. If I were to add a title, which I didn’t realize I should, it could have said, “Big spending by our elected officials. Vote wisely.” I feel the need to clarify this editor note to my writing as it changed the meaning of my letter. Each reader should interpret as they wish without edits that create drama and misinformation.

In regard to the pointed article on page 14 of the Feb 21, 2024 issue of the Brandon Reporter, there is no author name. There should be a writer name on every article written in our local newspaper. As I read this article, my heart sank. In a rural community, we “know” many things about the people in it. People are more accountable than in a city because everyone knows you and sees you. Your actions follow you for years to come, and likely, your boss and your mother will hear eventually. When negative items are cherrypicked to defame someone before an election, the question is always why? Is this a target at an individual or their way of life or

their socioeconomic status? We all know that blue collar and white collar folks work differently, take different vacations, listen to different music, enjoy different types of art or none at all, and have a different sense of humor. What is acceptable to one is not acceptable to the other, for sure. In a rural community, we rely on both blue collar and white collar workers to keep our town running. If we think either is saying something inappropriately, unless they are an elected official where we should be talking about their votes and not the person, it simply isn’t done to single out people as a rule of etiquette, and especially people who have stepped out of their comfort zone to serve their community that they feel is in need of guidance. That does not mean we don’t let “the person” know if we are disappointed in their choices, out of respect for the individuals, and to hear their side. I spoke with Ray Marcoux when he announced his candidacy for selectboard. What I heard was someone deeply concerned about their community, state and country, someone who

works multiple jobs, who helps elderly folks when needed with wood and checking in, and takes care of his family. Each and every person is entitled to take the cherry picked facebook posts and judge Ray and vote as they wish. More likely, people will remember him at a funeral or helping someone or as a working man. However, in a rural community, targeting a person to get people not to vote for them is quite simply, tasteless. We always focus on the positives of what the other candidates have to offer. This newspaper may be responsible for having no other blue collar or white collar folks run for office in the future, for fear of the power of the writers. Is that what we want in our community? Rural etiquette has always been polite, no matter the disagreements we have on the issues. Let’s return to that, so we don’t discourage others from serving our town. Brandon Reporter needs to do better.

Sharon Stearns
Brandon

Mim's Photos

Like all things vintage?

are on page 24!

Otter Valley Wrestling Alumni Association presents the first Ray Miro scholarship to Cassy Sue Thompson

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON-A \$1,000 check was presented to OV senior Cassy Sue Thompson by Wrestling Alumni Association President Richard Kepner last week. Cassy Sue plans to use the money for books next year, as she attends Castleton University, where she plans to major in business. Cassy Sue’s mom, Missey Smith Thompson, was the manager of the wrestling team back when wrestling Hall of Famer Ray Miro was coaching the team. Missey Thompson grew up in Brandon and followed OV wrestling from 7th grade on. She managed the team during the 1986 season, when they won the Vermont State Championship. Missey is thrilled to see Coach Miro back at Otter Valley. She regards him as a great influence on students, especially for his view that there is great reward in hard work. The wrestling alumni association is planning another golf fundraiser in June this year.



FROM LEFT TO Right: Richard Kepner, Cassy Sue Thompson, Missey Smith Thompson, Ray Miro.

BRANDON IDOL KICKS INTO COUNTRY!

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—Once again, the Brandon Idol contestants got to dust off their Stetsons and sing their lonesome hearts out on Friday night as the competition entered its Country era at the Brandon Town Hall. Backed up by the ever-versatile Brandon Idol band (Byron Bilado, Kenny Cifone, and Ross Edmunds), the contestants made Brandon, Vermont sound like Branson, Missouri.

Emcee Shannon Wright started off the evening with a touching tribute to his father, who was in the audience, and to the late Toby Keith, singing Mr. Keith's "American Soldier."

The first contestant was OV student Baker LaRock, who delivered a haunting performance of his original song "Goodbye Again." The song was about strained and lost relationships and young LaRock sang like he's already had his heart broken like a bronco.

OV's Calvin Ladd was up next, with a breakneck rendition of the Charlie Daniels Band's mouthful-of-words "Drinking My Baby Goodbye." Though Ladd is underage, he tore through the tricky song like someone determined to hit the honky tonk before it closes.

Hilary Collier offered up a spare yet lush performance of "Burning House" by Cam. A veteran of Idol and the Red Clo-

ver open mic, Collier sounded practiced and polished. She told Wright, "Brandon is an incredible community and it's cool to sing for everybody."

OV student Jordan Bertrand sang "Redneck Woman" by Gretchen Wilson. Singing with surprising maturity, Bertrand sounded like someone who'd seen the inside of a few saloons and had come out stronger for the experience.

Maddox Bashaw came on with the ballad "Space and Time" by singer-songwriter Nathan Childers. Bashaw performed with a strong voice that resonated throughout the hall. Hailing originally from Brookfield, VT, Bashaw told Wright "I love everything about country." And he sounded like it!

Pompadoured Matthew Graham strutted out like a stray cat and laid into "Your Man" by Josh Turner. Microphone issues kept his volume a bit muted, but he still sounded every bit the rockabilly hero.

Miranda Snyder was next with her powerful version of "White Horse" by Chris Stapleton, imbuing the song with bluesy folk-siness and pulling low notes seemingly from her boots. And thanks to Wright's curveball question, the audience learned Snyder enjoys quinoa pasta. So, if you ever have her over for dinner, you know what to cook!

Peggie Sue Rozell chewed up



LeAnn Womack's "Does My Ring Burn Your Finger." Never before had a wronged woman sounded so right. Ms. Rozell announced as well that she'll be organizing a Native American powwow at the Town Hall in September.

Venus Diamondis wrapped up the competition with her slightly goth presentation of "Blown Away" by Carrie Underwood. Leave it to Diamondis, who often sports elf ears, to take country into the Emo zone. She and Wright are old pals from previ-

ous years of Brandon Idol and she revealed to him that one of her biggest inspirations is Dolly Parton. Who doesn't love Dolly???

[Note: Bethany White was unable to perform because of health issues but will be back next month.]

Wright ended the performance segment of the night with a rousing rendition of the classic "Folsom Prison" by the iconic Johnny Cash, after which he announced his intention to pursue a career in musical theater. He's

certainly got the pipes and personality for it!

And the evening came to a close with the coronation of Miranda Snyder as Fan Favorite! We hope someone made her a heaping bowl of quinoa pasta when they got home! Congrats, Miranda! And thanks to all the performers and musicians who make these events so much fun.

Next month's genre: Rap! So bust out your best bling for Brandon Idol raps!





PREVIOUS PAGE BOTTOM (l to r): Calvin Ladd, Venus Diamondis, Matthew Graham. This page (clockwise): Baker LaRock, Hilary Collier, Jordan Bertrand, Maddox Bashaw, Miranda Snyder, Shannon Wright. Miranda Snyder would go on to win Fan Favorite for the night with her rendition of "White Horse" by Chris Stapleton.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

Sports

OV Wrestling

(Continued from Page 1)

- 3. Colchester 149.5
- 4. Otter Valley 122.5
- 5. Middlebury 106.5
- 6. Vergennes 99.5
- 7. Essex 80.5
- 8. Springfield 68.5
- 9. Mount Abraham 60
- T10. Burr and Burton, Fair Haven 58

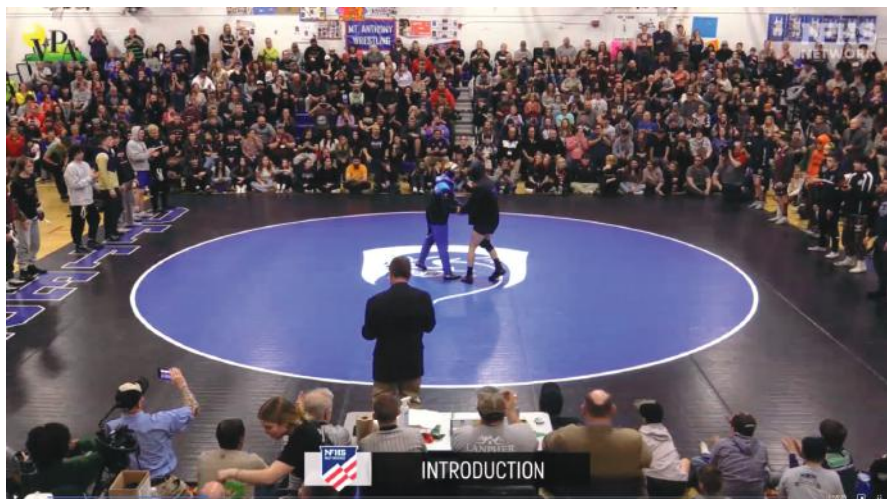
- 12. Randolph 53
- 13. Mount Mansfield 50
- 14. Harwood 46
- 15. Champlain Valley 32.5
- 16. Winooski 22
- T17. Lamoille, Rutland 20
- 19. St. Johnsbury 18.5
- 20. North Country 18
- 21. Lyndon 17
- 22. Mill River 14

- 23. Lake Region 7
 - 24. Mount St. Joseph 5.
- Individual places were:
- 106 pounds: Mason Sheltra (Col) pin Seth Markwell (Spring) at :33; 3. Zach Montgomery (MTA); 4. Landyn Williams (Essex); 5. Aaron Collette (MAU); 6. Wesley Churchill (Spa).
 - 113: Cahota Lafond (Col) def. Eoin Comes (NC) 18-2; 3. Noah Markell (Spring); 4. Anthony Abetti (BBA); 5. Thomas Givens (OV); 6. Finn McMahon (Essex).
 - 120: Duncan Harrington (MAU) pin Kaidin White (MTA) at 4:55; 3. Stephen Kittredge (Verg); 4. Jaden Coppins (Col); 5. Jeff Gershon (Essex); 6. Sean Maynard (CVU).
 - 126: Logan Davis (MAU) def. Alex Sperry (Midd) 6-3; 3. Garrett Portillo (Rut); 4. Anthony Szabo (FH);
 - 132: Trey Lee (FH) def. Karter Morey (Lyn) 9-0; 3. Michael Grasso (Spa); 4. Parker Carl (Midd); 5. Kayden Grout (Rand); 6. Dylan Jacobs (Col).
 - 138: Asa Reiss (MAU) def. John Marcellus (Spa) 5-2; 3. Sebastian Krueger (Lam); 4. Isayah Isham (MTA); 5. Bryce Barber (Essex); 6. Lincoln Wilcox (OV).
 - 144: Elias Kalat (Spa) def. Av-



CRAM TAKES DOWN Coppins.

- 5. Tennyson Miller (Essex); 6. Aiden Perren (Col).
- 150: Spencer Boucher (MAU) pin Quinn Smith (Har) at 3:38; 3. Tucker Wright (Midd); 4. Blake Allen (OV); 5. Leo Johnson (Spa); 6. James Ripley (MMU).
- 157: Chase Cram (OV) def. Brody Coppins (Col) 8-4; 3. Colby Kathan (Har); 4. Toby Himes (See OV Wrestling, Page 19)
- ery Carl (Midd) 18-6; 3. Shawn Gassaway (MAU); 4. Dillan Lacasse (Spring); 5. Jackson Ladd (SJA); 6. Noah Bouchett (MMU).



Otter Valley boys basketball will go to Barre!



WITH THEIR 70-59 win over Harwood this weekend, OV boys' varsity basketball advanced to the semi-finals against Montpelier at Barre Auditorium on February 28. Congrats, boys, and good luck in Barre! Go Otters! In these photos, supporters lined Park Street in Brandon as the team bus made its way to the away game.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



Brandon Country Club created to fill the gap

The second in a 3-part series on Brandon's golf courses

BY JAMES PECK

After the first Neshobe Golf Club folded in 1903, the town of Brandon went without a golf course for the next 24 years.

Finally, in September of 1926, a new group met and formed the Brandon Country Club. The club was incorporated with capital of \$10,000 by local businessmen Frank W. Williams, James R. Scott, Dr. F. S. Briggs, Hames N. Wheldon, and Dr. T. J. Allen.

Soon, Frank Lord, a real estate investor from Scarsdale, New York with a summer home in Peru, Vermont, joined the Board of Governors. It was Lord who had bought 91 acres of farmland from local farmer Roy Bresee off Park Street Extension in October of 1926.

Mr. Lord donated most of his land for the new links. The 9-hole course was laid out and built in the spring of 1927, opening in May to enthusiastic Brandonites and golfers from Rutland, Manchester, Poultney, and other neighboring towns. The course was very near the original Neshobe Golf Club course.

They quickly hired Clarence Loyzelle as the first club professional. He was billed as a "teacher and adviser," and he also acted as the groundskeeper. A temporary clubhouse was set up in a cottage loaned by Frank Lord and they sold golf equipment and clothes. Marble

benches were placed at each tee.

Plans were made for a beautiful new clubhouse initially to go up in 1927, but its completion was delayed until 1930 as \$2,000 in funds were raised. Lord supervised contractor Earnest Hooker as it went up.

The clubhouse was worth waiting for! Sitting on a rock ledge knoll north of the first tee, the clubhouse had magnificent views of the entire course with spacious porches on three sides. The living room was very large with a huge stone fireplace. A large locker room, toilets, and showers were built downstairs. The steel lockers were rented to club members.

Membership took off and many golfers visited from nearby towns. There were 90 members by May of 1929. Improvements were made each year, with newer greens and a few longer holes. Discussion about expanding to 18 holes came early, but it's not believed they ever did so.

Intertown matches were organized with Proctor, Middlebury, and Rochester. Eddie Hildebrandt became club pro in 1929 and stayed on for a few years. He went to Palm Beach, Florida in the winter to be pro there for six months. By the summer of 1930, there were 200 visitors a week in July and August.

On October 30, 1930, Frank Lord sold the course to the Brandon Country Club. The house

on Park Street Extension (now 83 Park Street) had remained in Roy Bresee's hands, but there was a right of way for the roadway leading to the clubhouse.

No fee was charged for Brandon members and only a small fee for out of towners. In 1932, they began to charge \$25 for single annual memberships and \$30 for a family of three. Apparently, that didn't go over too well in the Depression, so rates were dropped to \$15 and \$20 the next year.

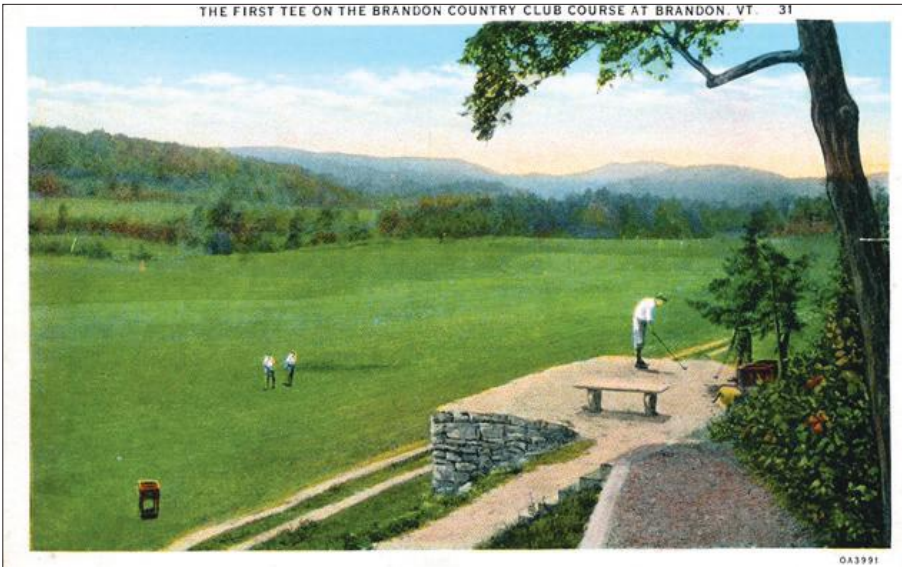
Tournaments were held for the President's Cup for men and Vice President's Cup for women. Caddie's tournaments were held as well. Hoxie DeAngelus became pro in 1934. In 1937, L. Edison Tribble, a sophomore at Middlebury College, served as pro, followed by George Clewes in 1938 and then Walter Gollnick in 1939 through 1941.

Some in town today may remember Miss Mary Force who was a long-time teacher at both Brandon High School and Otter Valley. She was an excellent scratch golfer as a leftie and won tournaments at BCC in 1938 through 1941, then went on to be the first champion at the new Neshobe Golf Club in 1959.

The Brandon Country Club partnered with the Brandon Inn and other hotels to offer deals for individuals as well as groups. An example was the Vermont Optometric Association who held their 1933 annual meeting at the Lake Dunmore Hotel and played 27 holes at the Brandon Club before a 1:30 afternoon meeting, if the news clipping is to be believed!

In 1937, they began charging \$3 for clubhouse memberships for those who didn't golf

THE FIRST TEE ON THE BRANDON COUNTRY CLUB COURSE AT BRANDON, VT. 31



ABOVE: TWO POSTCARD views of the Brandon Country Club, which was located off Park Street Extension. The Club operated from 1927 to 1944. Below left: A newspaper clipping from 1932 advertising the club's seasonal rates.

PLAY GOLF
at
BRANDON COUNTRY CLUB
Season 1932

One of the finest nine-hole Golf Courses in all Vermont. Scenic, tricky, you'll like the rolling fairways and well trapped greens. Why not make the Brandon Country Club your home course this year? Our season rates should appeal to you and are now available.

Single Person, \$25.00, plus tax, \$2.50.
Family Ticket (3 persons)
\$30.00, plus tax, \$3.00.

Don't delay, send application now.

FRED W. BRIGGS, Secretary, Brandon, Vt.
May 6-7

but participated in social events. The clubhouse became a real community center for Brandon with bands and dances, bridge and card socials, teas and luncheons, as well as special events. One example was the May Day Festival held in 1936 for the benefit of crippled children. In the winter, there were skiing events for children.

In the 1940s, things slowed down as WWII approached and the club ran into some serious financial difficulties. It came to a head late in 1943, when the man who held the mortgage, Frank White from Leicester, filed suit to foreclose on the overdue loan of \$5,500 he gave the club in 1936. He also sued them for another \$5,000 he was owed.

The club couldn't get the money or find a savior, so White foreclosed on the club in 1944 and the course shut down. The state charter was forfeited in April. The course had operated seventeen seasons.

White gave the clubhouse and one adjoining lot to his daughter and son-in-law, Flora and Har-

old Farnsworth of New Haven. Farnsworth put the clubhouse and lot up for sale in 1946 and it eventually went to local farmer Hugh Severy, whose farm was then on McConnell Road not far away (now Country Club Road).

Meanwhile, the course was used periodically, as in 1956 when a group from Pittsford held their First Annual Archery Golf Tournament there. The local Boy Scouts met there periodically.

On May 2, 1961, the Brandon Country Club clubhouse burned to the ground, then still owned by the Severy family. No one was living there, and it hadn't been used since the early 50s. The state Fire Marshal was called in as there was some suspicion of arson, possibly by some local kids playing with matches.

After the BCC ceased operation in 1944, Brandon was without a golf course for the next fifteen years. The story of the second, and current, Neshobe Golf Club will be the subject of part 3 in this Reporter series.

4-H Club talent show was an evening of fun for all creatures!



The Rutland Performance & Arts 4-H Club, Rutland County 4-H, and the Brandon Rec Department sponsored a Talent Show on Saturday at Brandon Town Hall. There were 14 acts, ranging in age from 5 to 16. The show was open to all area youth, not just 4-H members. 4-H volunteer Bethany White said, “I was surprised and honored that so many people came out to our event. The town of Brandon really is a special place.”

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE from top left: Luci Stubbins & Adeline White, Josie Fox, James Shorey, Lenore Stone-Worobe, Olivia Guevin. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Adeline White, Adeline White & James Shorey, Remi Barry, Aliza Smith, Anna Weideman, Izzy Guevin.

Photos by Kevin White



Town Meeting previews

Many unopposed contests

Proctor to hold off until after TM on filling Benjamin Curtis' vacant seat

Voters in Proctor will vote on Tuesday, March 5 to fill the following town positions:

- Town Moderator (1 year). Andrew Maass is running unopposed.
- Selectboard (3 years). Lisa Miser is running unopposed.
- Selectboard (2 years). Albert Wenta is running unopposed.
- Delinquent Tax Collector (3 years). Celia Lisananti is running unopposed.
- Quarry Valley School Director (3 years). Lisa Miser is running unopposed.

The Selectboard seat that had been held by Benjamin Curtis, who passed unexpectedly this month, will not be filled until after Town Meeting.

Voters will also be asked whether to approve a budget of \$20,400,847.55 for the Quarry Valley Unified Union School District, which encompasses Proctor, West Rutland, and Poultney.

Ballot voting will take place at the Proctor Junior-Senior High School gymnasium from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

At Town Meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 4, also in the Proctor Junior-Senior High School gymnasium, Proctor voters will decide whether to approve the following articles:

- \$1,106,065 for expenses of the town
- \$488,740 for maintenance of the town's highways

• \$69,000 for the Proctor Free Library

Tax collection on August 15, November 15, February 15, and May 15

The elimination of the Forest Management Reserve Fund

The transfer of \$107,312 from the Forest Management Reserve Fund to the Hall Building Fund

The formation of the Proctor Asset Fund, for planning, assessment, wages, acquisitions, or improvements of assets that directly benefit the residents of Proctor

The transfer into the Asset Fund of up to \$316,787.03 in surplus funds that resulted from one-time unanticipated revenue



Pittsford to vote on water main bond

Voters in Pittsford will be asked to vote by Australian ballot at the Pittsford Town Offices on Tuesday, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., whether to approve a \$400,000 bond for the removal, replacement, and installation of a new water main along Bridge #108, which crosses Furnace Brook under Route 7. Voters will also decide whether to approve a 1% Local Option Tax (LOT), which will levy an additional 1% sales tax on all eligible sales in Pittsford, the proceeds of which will be used to pay for capital debt and projects. Town Manager David Atherton has projected that the LOT will bring in roughly \$100K per year in additional revenues for Pittsford.

Two uncontested seats are also on the ballot this year: one seat has a three-year term and one seat has a two-year term. Joe Gagnon, who has been on the Pittsford Selectboard for years, is not running for re-election to his 2-year seat. Dan Adams is running unopposed to replace Mr. Gagnon. Tom Hooker is running unopposed to retain his current 3-year seat.

At Town Meeting at 6:30 on Monday, March 4, at Lothrop School, the voters of Pittsford will be asked to approve a town budget of \$1,822,999, of which \$1,385,264 is to be raised by property taxes. In a separate

article, voters will be asked to approve \$1,192,980 for highway expenditures, of which \$1,050,780 will be raised by property taxes.

Other articles to be approved at Town Meeting include (but are not limited to):

- \$125,000 for the Maclure Library
- \$17,000 for Village District Expenses
- The collection of taxes on August 15, September 16, and November 15, 2024
- The tax exemption of properties belonging to the Pittsford Historical Society
- \$7,500 for the Pittsford Historical Society
- \$5,000 for the Marble Valley Bus ("The Bus")
- \$1,000 for the Pittsford Cemetery Association
- \$1,000 for the Pittsford Food Shelf
- \$1,500 for the Bowen-Walker Fund
- \$11,964 for the services of the Regional Ambulance Service
- \$3,600 for the Rutland County Restorative Justice Center
- \$4,931 for the Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of the Southwest Region
- \$1,400 for ARC Rutland Area
- \$1,000 for the Rutland County Humane Society

Motion to get rid of town constables, depend on State Police

323% increase proposed for Goshen roads

GOSHEN — Residents who only take a cursory look at Goshen's town meeting warning will likely be shocked to see that the selectboard proposes spending \$747,150 on roads this year, which is a 323% increase over the amount approved for roads last year.

A closer look at the town report shows that a vast majority of the budget money for roads is earmarked for a \$552,000 paving project on Town Hill Road. A budgeted \$352,000 would come from town money market and investment funds that have been building up for this day. The other \$200,000 would come from a state grant.

In their report, selectboard members note that the proposed amount raised by taxes — \$155,150 — represents an increase of \$11,850, or about 8.3%

Goshen residents will be asked to approve municipal spending of \$269,761, which is an increase of \$21,598, or 8.7%, over last year.

Goshen's in-person town meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Monday evening at the Goshen Town Hall, 50 Carlisle Hill Road.

After the above-mentioned articles are voted on, town meeting will recess and then Australian ballot voting takes place the next day, Tuesday, March 5, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the same locale.

Residents will entertain the following:

The selectboard asks townspeople if they want to make major changes to some town offices. First, should the elected position of town treasurer become one that is appointed by the selectboard and could be hired from out of town. The thinking is that Goshen is a small town and at some point it will have to look out of town for expertise. By the way, Treasurer Vickee Whiting has retired.

A second major change is to do away with the two town constables and depend on state police and the county sheriff. The reasoning here is that there is a town expense in training and insuring constables, and their official authority is limited. An animal control officer would be appointed to take care of dogs in town.

A third change would move from elected local auditors to hiring an outside professional auditor, as many Vermont towns have done.

Plus, Goshen folks will elect a member of the selectboard to a three-year term (incumbent Bill Mathis's term is up), and elect a town clerk for one year (Martin Fjeld, who was appointed to the position this past summer, is willing to continue).

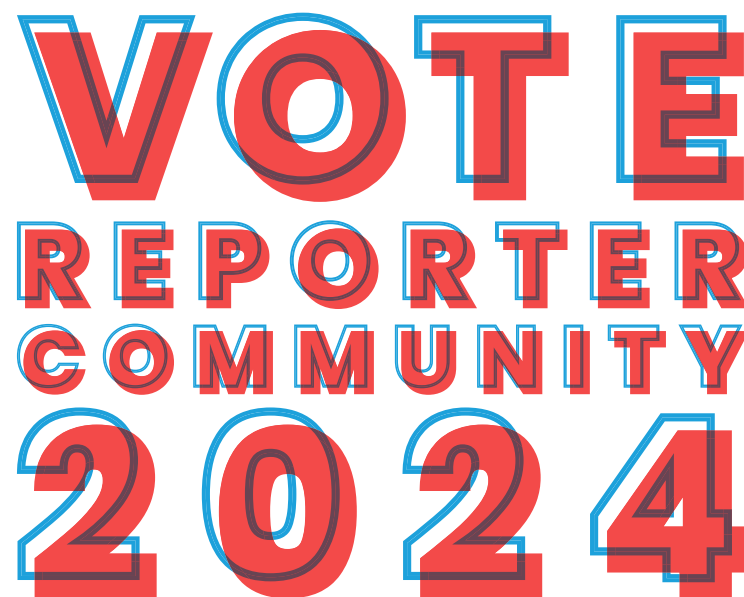
Goshen residents on Tuesday will vote on the Otter Val-

ley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget, which proposes 2024-2025 spending \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed that this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who paid based on their income (two-thirds of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Goshen residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be not many names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Fernanda Canales of Goshen and Natalie Steen of Brandon. But several board members are not running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and At-Large.

It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes to fill one of these school board seats may run a write-in campaign.



Leicester Town Meeting should be calm, though OVUU SB hopefuls can still run a write-in campaign

LEICESTER — Those Leicester residents who come to town meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Leicester Meeting House, may not have much to talk about. Selectboard members will discuss the budget they have fashioned, but the difference from last year isn't that great.

Residents will vote on town and school budgets by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Leicester Town Office.

At the polls they will also vote on a handful of elected positions. Two selectboard spots will be on

the ballot: a two-year spot held by Diane Randall and a three-year spot held by Brad Lawes.

When it comes to the municipal budget, residents will be asked to OK a 2024 spending of \$809,686, which is an increase of less than \$10,000 from the figure OK'd last year, or a hike of around 1%. The town is asking to raise \$617,965.96 in property taxes to pay the bill. That represents an increase of \$23,720.66, or about 4% from what was collected in 2023.

Specifics on the town budget are proposed at \$341,495.72, with the amount raised by taxes

pegged at \$ 256,057.68. This would be a 3% increase in town spending. Proposed spending on roads is \$468,190, with the amount to be raised by taxes \$361,908.28. That's just \$600 more than was spent on highways last year.

The big-ticket item on the Leicester ballot this year will be a Fiscal Year 2025 Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget of \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who pay based on their income (70% of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Leicester residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be few names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Natalie Steen of Brandon and Fernanda Canales of Goshen. Several

board members aren't running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term, including Leicester rep. Jeremy Gildrien and at-large rep. Greg Bernhardt of Leicester. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and at-large.

It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes one of these school board seats can run a write-in campaign.

Brandon residents will choose three new selectboard members

BRANDON — On the ballot this year will be three seats on the selectboard: one three-year term (to replace Tracy Wyman, who is not running for re-election) and two one-year terms. Running for the three-year seat are Doug Bailey and David Snow.

Incumbent Cecil Reniche-Smith will not seek re-election, but selectboard member Heather Nelson (who was appointed to replace Seth Hopkins) will be on the ballot for a one-year term, along with David Atherton, Ralph Ethier, Ray Marcoux and Aida Nielsen.

Voters will consider proposed fiscal year 2025 municipal spending of \$3,796,180, which represents a 13.4% hike over the current year's spending. If

approved, \$3,271,510 would be raised from property taxes to cover town spending. Separately, residents will be asked to advise the selectboard on whether to hire an additional police officer to increase on-duty police coverage to 24 hours a day; right now some coverage is done through overtime and on-call officers.

The other big financial request seeks approval to float a \$500,000 bond for the town to invest in construction of a 120 kW net-metered solar array on land off Robert Wood Drive. The actual cost of the array would be reduced by state and federal grants.

Brandon voters will consider budgeted appropriations for 14 organizations, the larg-

est of which are \$82,580 for the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, \$92,000 for the Brandon Free Public Library and \$15,000 for the Brandon Senior Center.

The big-ticket on the Brandon ballot this year will be the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget, which proposes 2024-2025 spending \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed that this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who paid based on their income (two-thirds of Vermont-

ers pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Brandon residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be not many names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Natalie Steen of Brandon and Fernanda Canales of Goshen. But several board members are not running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and At-Large.

It's too late to get your name

on the ballot, but anyone who wishes to fill one of these school board seats may run a write-in campaign.

Brandon will gather for the annual town meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall. The only items on the agenda are to hear the selectboard's explanation of the town budget and the solar array proposal, plus to vote on proposals to exempt the rescue squad and masons from property taxes. Voting by Australian Ballot will take place the next day, March 5, at the Brandon American Legion Post 55, 550 Franklin St., between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Whiting to nominate and vote for five town officers

WHITING — The legal voters of Whiting will wrap up Town Meeting Day in Addison County when they gather for their annual town meeting this coming Tuesday, March 5. The assembly at Whiting Town Hall begins at 7:15 p.m.

Those legal voters will decide whether to accept the selectboard's proposed municipal spending plan of \$487,675, which would be \$31,415, or 6.9%, more than the town budget approved at last March's meeting. The amount that would be collected in property taxes is also

going up; the proposed spending would require \$315,250 in taxes, which is \$24,946, or 8.6%, more than last year.

Whiting residents will also nominate and vote for five town officers. On the top of the list a three-year term on the selectboard that is currently held by Bob Wood. Other offices on the warning are lister (three years, currently Rani Fallon), auditor (three years, currently Pat Mattison), first constable (one year, Rusty Brigham) and collector of delinquent taxes (one year, Rani Fallon).

While town business takes place Tuesday night, Whiting will host Australian ballot voting at town hall that day, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., for the presidential primary and to vote on the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget. The schools are proposing 2024-2025 spending \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed that this level of spending would drive up education

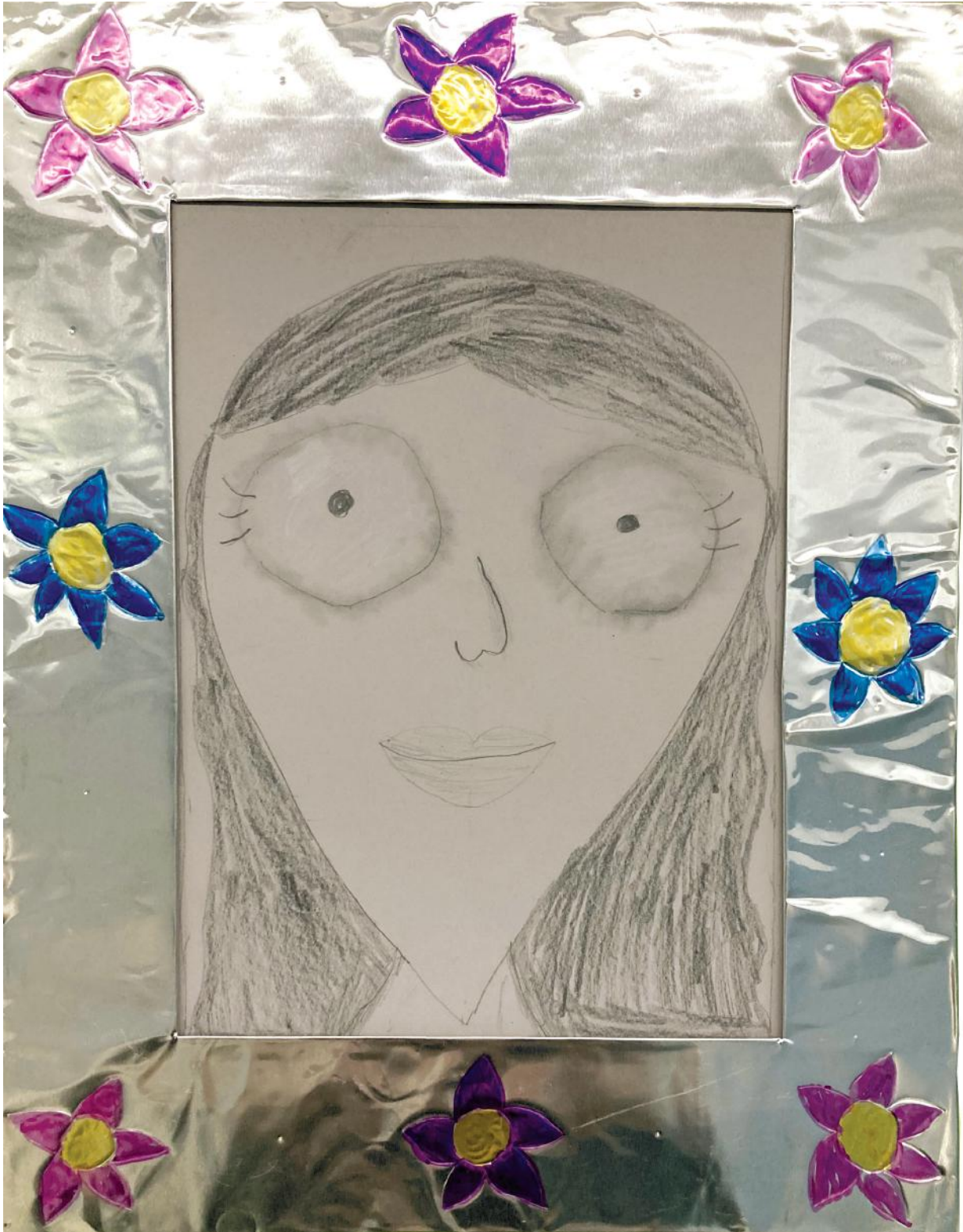
property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who paid based on their income (two-thirds of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Whiting residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be not many names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Natalie Steen of Brandon and Fernanda Canales of Goshen. Several board members, including Rebecca Watters of Whiting,

are not running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and At-Large. It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes one of these school board seats may run a write-in campaign.

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GRADE: 7
SCHOOL: Otter Valley
Middle School
MEDIUM: mixed media and
embossed tin
TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz

Solar bond vote

(Continued from Page 8)
 project this year. Their town manager indicates one project is saving more than projected, another modestly less due to a problem with tree shading they did not anticipate properly. Their projections for their next 150kW project indicate they expect net cash flow from energy savings minus costs will be \$1,097,000 over 25 years.

Of note, they project costs of only 8%, while we project more conservatively at 20%.

How will Brandon benefit in the long term?

We have used Acorn Energy's data and input from professional seasoned and well-respected contractors who bid on the project, as well as a local private solar developer. We project the Town of Brandon will pay off the ten-year bond using savings generated from the project. After the loan is paid, savings of \$35,000 a year or more should result for decades.

How likely is it that those results will be achieved?

A "Monte Carlo Analysis" is designed to evaluate just this. It is a mathematical technique that allows one to analyze the impacts of how a variance with each assumption made with our projections may influence the results both individually and in combination with each other assumption. The analysis of our projections is summarized in the chart and table at the end of this article.

Otherwise, my survey of other projects includes two community solar projects in Vermont, one built in Bennington in 2016 and another in Hinesburg a year ago. The one in Bennington has performed as rated and costs have been about 15%, as projected. The project

in Hinesburg just had its first year with costs that apply to our system at under 5%, which is expected in the early years of the project.

The Brandon Rescue Squad built a system about 9 years ago that has fully offset the cost of the kWh's that the Rescue service uses from GMP. It paid for itself in short order. The Rescue Squad has reported no costs to maintain the system and no significant drop-off in productivity.

Don't solar panels become less productive with time?

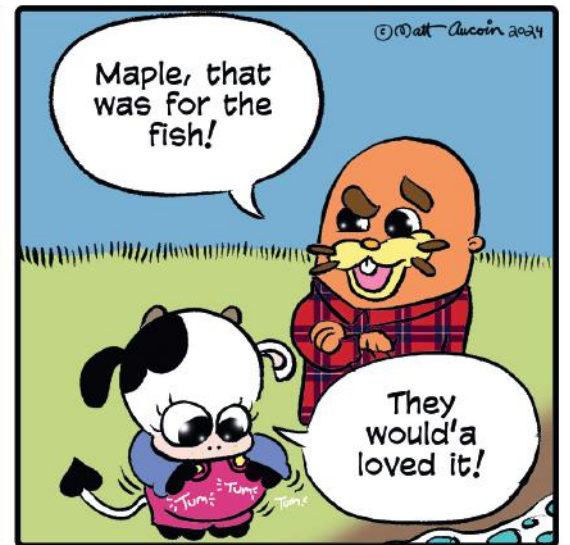
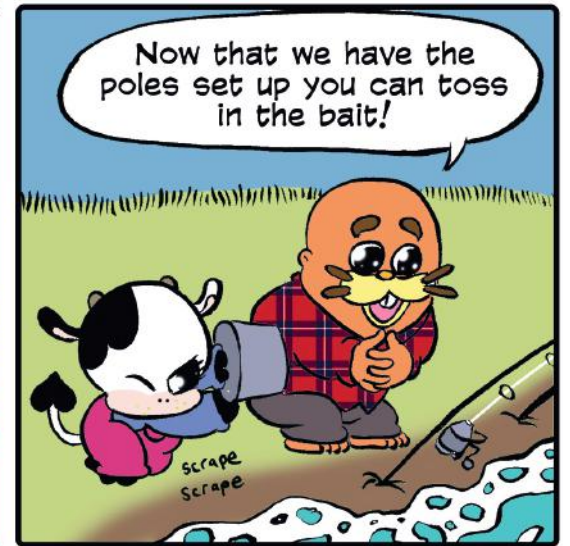
The solar industry has adopted a standard that panels should lose only 0.5% in productivity a year. Current panels are warranted to still produce 85% after 25 years. These warranties are not high-risk promises. According to dozens of anecdotes from older system owners, as well as nonprofit solar experts, actual loss of productivity is well lower than the industry standard. It is reasonable to expect these systems to last and be productive for 35 to 40 years or more.

What about decommissioning costs?

The States of New York and Massachusetts have developed formulas for calculating decommissioning costs of solar projects 25 years out that are required to be considered by larger solar projects being built in their state. The formulas indicate that the cost of decommissioning a system of the size we are considering will be \$5,000 25 years out.

Lacking the cost savings due to large-scale decommissioning operations, one can estimate this to be 2 to 5 times greater for the system being proposed for Brandon.

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OV Wrestling

(Continued from Page 12)
 (MAU); 5. Landin Larrabee (Spa); 6. Toby Pytlik (MR).

165: Jack Arpey (MMU) def. Gabe Bache (FH) 5-3; 3. Tyrelle Lavoie (Verg); 4. Wyatt Kennett (Midd); 5. Gabe Hoar (Spa); 6. Drake Felkl (OV).

175: Anthony Matas (Essex) def. Isaac Whitney (OV) 6-4; 3. Max Laperle (Spa); 4. Owen Fullerton (Col); 5. Aiden Riordan (MAU); 6. Zane Cooper (Rand).

190: Isaac Preston (Verg) pin Thomas Murphy (CVU) at :51; 3. JT Wright (BBA); 4. Keegan Reed (OV); 5. Noah Abbott (Col);

6. Rian Arnold (MAU). 215: Jamison Couture (Verg) pin Rieley Lyford (Rand) at 1:08; 3. Jordan Lavoie (Col); 4. Simon Martin (OV); 5. Caleb Hoar (Spa); 6. Clifford Waller (BBA).

285: Ryan Marsden (MAU) pin Graham Resmer (Win) at 3:50; 3. Phillip Maurice (Spa); 4. Dominic Decker (BBA); 5. Kameron Raymond (Midd); 6. Hunter Ferland (Spring).

Coach of the year: Cole Mason, Otter Valley.

Outstanding wrestler: Elias Kalat, Spaulding.

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Calendar of events

March

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 (hzfm@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

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 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)

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

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

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

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

Thursdays

Ukulele Group

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

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

Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

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

Fridays

Chaffee Art Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3–5

From 11am–Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

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

Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week.

Instructor: Lori Sullivan; Minimum 3.

Maclure Library Knitting Circle

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



Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2–4 p.m.

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

Saturdays

Bingo at the Brandon Senior Center

First Saturday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch, and the Center will provide beverages, desserts, and a good time. A great way to pass a Saturday afternoon. Please direct any questions to Kathy Mathis at 247-3121.

Storytime at the Brandon Free Public Library

Join us every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for picture book storytime. All ages welcome.

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."

Saturday 2nd

Larry & Joe at Burnham Presents in Lincoln

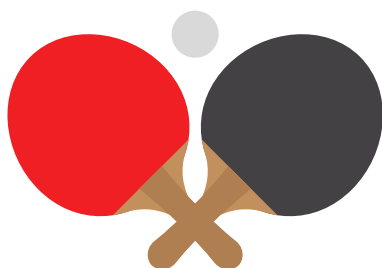
A fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, maracas, guitar and upright bass.

Larry Bellorín hails from Monagas, Venezuela and is a legend of Llanera music. Joe Troop is from North Carolina and is a GRAMMY-nominated bluegrass and oldtime musician.

"...the unexpectedness of this musical match is part of the delight...Nuevo South Train, in all its collaborative glory, is a reminder that roots music is about maintaining and sharing traditions, regardless of where the diasporas take them." – No Depression

The duo offers a joyous bilingual (English/Español) program of virtuosic folk fusion music, storytelling and dancing. Larry & Joe made their Kennedy Center debut last September and appeared on NPR's Here & Now in November, just two of the many highlights from their 2023 tour.

Currently based in the Triangle of North Carolina, both men are versatile multi-instrumentalists and singer-songwriters on a mission to show that music has no borders. As a duo they perform a fusion of



Homeward Bound announces 2024 low-cost rabies clinics schedule

The clinics are open to both dogs and cats and are offered at 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on the following Saturdays:

March 16
April 20

The clinics take place at the shelter, which is located at 236 Boardman Street in Middlebury. Pre-registration is highly recommended and can be completed through the shelter's website, homewardbound-animals.org. The cost is \$20.

All animals must be 12 weeks

of age or older to receive the rabies vaccine. In order to receive a 3-year rabies vaccine, pet owners must provide proof of prior vaccination.

No physical exams will be performed. This is a drive-through style vaccine clinic. All dogs



are required to be on leash and cats in carriers for this event.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals, however the state requires that dogs and cats be vaccinated by a veterinarian. The owner of a dog must provide evidence of current rabies vaccination status to obtain the required municipal license by April 1 of each year.

Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, maracas, guitar, upright bass, and whatever else they decide to throw in the van. The program they offer features a distinct blend of their musical inheritances and traditions as well as storytelling about the ways that music and social movements coalesce.

Admission is General \$15 to Generous \$20–\$25. We don't charge a service fee—Please be as generous as you can. All funds after expenses benefit our performers.

Pre-sale tickets available until 5 p.m. day of show.

Ticket sales at the door starting at 7 p.m. unless a concert is sold out.

Doors at 7 p.m.; Music starts at 7:30 for 2 sets of music. Homemade desserts & beverages available.

Goings on around town

Rutland Regional Master Plan 2026 Community Open House Series—Castleton Village School

One of five regional open houses being held to collect feedback from individuals regarding the future of Rutland County.

Every eight years, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission updates the visionary plan for the future of the region. The strategies outlined in this plan guide decisions on how the communities in Rutland County will grow and develop. We welcome the general public to attend one or all of the open houses to provide input. 1–3 p.m., Village School, 47 Mechanic Street, Castleton.

Kripalu Yoga at Petra's Wellness Studio, Rutland

These weekly year-round yoga classes offer themes to bring you into the Vermont seasons of change with comfort and joy. Details: <https://www.petraswellnessstudio.com/kripalu-yoga>

These weekly year-round Yoga classes combine the best of Kripalu Yoga, Subtle Yoga, Mindfulness Yoga, Restorative Yoga, and Astrology with Full Moon and New Moon meditations, including monthly topics/lessons in the Chakras, Yamas, and Niyamas.

\$15 per class. Sign-up is required: PetrasWellnessStudio@gmail.com

Kripalu Yoga is a gentle yoga practice with a compassionate approach to meditation, physical healing, and spiritual transformation that overflows from the yoga mat into daily life. Kripalu is gentle yoga that emphasizes moving at your own pace, self-acceptance, and adaptability. It is



ideal for beginners and is accepting and adaptable to everyone, no matter your age, ability, size, or other circumstances.

Subtle Yoga calms the nervous system, improves breathing, increases the body-mind connection, and is trauma-informed. It is a holistic intervention that can complement and enhance traditional healthcare approaches through health promotion, prevention, treatment, or aftercare/recovery.

Mindfulness Yoga is a mindful slow-flow yoga to release tension and stress.

Restorative Yoga calms your body, restores energy, and is a deep relaxation healing practice.

To assist the body in releasing tension by using the support of props. To be completely comfortable fully relax into a yoga pose

for several minutes to restore balance and harmony.

Yoga Nidra is a powerful relaxation technique that uses guided imagery with the natural process of sleep to enter a regenerative state of consciousness between being awake and sleeping; to clear your mind and release stored physical, emotional, and mental tension.

Metta Meditation is a loving-kindness meditation to reconnect to yourself and the world around you.

Yoga increases strength and flexibility and improves circulation, breathing, and digestion. Because of the deep relaxation, there is reduced muscle tension and risk of injury. The classes begin with a centering meditation practice, (breathing) pranayama exercises, and gentle stretches followed by (movement/poses) asana practice and ending with final relaxation.

Sunday 3rd

St. Patrick's Dance with Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club

Advance dancing at 1 p.m., Mainstream (CL) and Plus from 2–4:30 p.m. \$10 per dancer + \$2 Adv. Community members interested in watching/learning about square dance can enter to watch. 50/50, refreshments, door prizes.

Trinity Church, 85 West Street, Rutland.



Rutland Figure Skating Club Annual Skate Show
Figure skating show with solos and group numbers provided by members of the Rutland Figure Skating Club. Featuring a special guest skater from the North



Star Skating club. This show is dedicated to Jessie Ebbighausen. Come and cheer on skaters from all walks of life and have some sweet treats from our bake sale.

From 2–3 p.m. at the Spartan Arena, 100 Diamond Run Mall Place, Rutland.

Biribá Union—Next Stage Arts

Next Stage Arts presents Biribá Union, a dynamic musical trio featuring Grammy Award-winning cellist Mike Block, Progressive Hip-Hop artist Christylez Bacon, and electric bass player Patricia Ligia.

Mike Block (cello, vocals), Christylez Bacon (beatbox, guitar, rhymes), and Patricia

Ligia (electric bass, pandeiro, vocals) form a dynamic trio, blending original music with global influences to

St Thomas food/cash drive Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The following items are most needed: Chef Boyardee Spaghetti or Spaghetti & Meatballs (or similar canned food), canned tomato and chicken noodle soup (often available in four packs), canned chili (with or without meat), jars or cans of tomato sauce or pasta sauce, mayonnaise. Every donation no matter how big or small is important and makes a positive impact on our community. Please make checks payable to Brandon Area Food Shelf.

form a fresh and accessible sound. Each member of the collective brings influences and repertoire from their diverse backgrounds, such as Brazilian, hip-hop, classical, jazz, bluegrass, funk, and pop styles, synthesizing them through original compositions and songs that highlight their improvisational spontaneity and high energy stage presentation.

Funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

This concert is sponsored in part by Brattleboro Area Realty.

From 7–9 p.m., \$10.00–\$25.00.

Sunday 10th

VT's Original Pregnancy and Baby Expo Rutland

Join us from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Franklin Event Center at 1 Scale Ave Rutland, VT. General Admission: \$5 cash or Venmo at the door, kids free. Vendors, Workshops and Main Stage Demos! For more info, find us on Facebook @vtspregnancybabyexpo.

Gardening corner

(Continued from Page 2)
 tion to Zen Buddhism, I began my personal journey into creating these living symbols of the harmony and beauty of nature. After some false starts, I studied a bit more and around eight years ago began my first successful attempts at the process of starting, growing, and shaping miniature trees in planters. With the idea that art should be accessible to all, while far from a master, I now want to share what I have learned. In the past few years, some of our efforts have been on display here at Miller Hill Farm, Nursery &

Gardens. This coming season, they will begin offering bonsai and their closely related plants, kusamono and shitakusa, as well as their necessary supplies.”

Miller Hill opens on May 9 this year. The farm is located on Route 73 in Sudbury, just up the hill past Willowbrook Road.

VIRGIL & CONSTANCE

Virgil & Constance Home & Garden are celebrating their sixth year of selling quality plants at their location on Route 7 south of Brandon.

“We have been ordering since



INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE at Virgil & Constance in Brandon. An all-around nursery, V & C carries annuals, perennials, veggie starts, natives...you name it. Co-owner Mary Shields and manager Alice Reisenweaver begin ordering plants in October for their May opening.

October for this upcoming season and we're so excited. We are buying plants that are tried-and-true favorites and every year include

more to offer new and variety to our selections. We are expecting our fabulous staff to return with Alice Reisenweaver, manager, at the helm, and a mix of experienced staff and new faces. We are still re-vamping our store so come in to see what has changed. The retail area continues to sell more gardening supplies and items that are garden focused.

We are seeing a real uptick in sales in a couple of areas. We are continuing to source many Vermont-grown perennials. We are being asked by customers to source more native plants as well, so that's a growing part of our business. We're delighted to do this, as we know that native plants grow well here, they thrive in our climate, feed our pollinators, and feed other local wildlife. We've just been to the Vermont Landscape and Nursery Association's winter meeting and spoke with vendors and

ordered more native plants so that you can add them to your gardens.

We continue to be amazed by our ever-growing customer base.

for gifts for housewarmings, celebrations of life, and hostess gifts.

People enjoy marking the birth of a baby, a graduation, an important

birthday, a wedding, or a memorial with plants, shrubs, and trees. Recently we sold two gorgeous birch-tree clumps for a family celebration of life. Family members put messages of remembrance on the branches. It was so lovely to be a part of that." It reminded Mary Shields, co-owner of Virgil and Constance, of the subject in Robert Frost's poem "Birches" and what a familiar part these trees play in our Vermont woods and landscape.

"To satisfy your summer sweet tooth, we will continue to scoop delicious Vermont-made Wilcox hard ice cream. We look forward to supplying annuals, perennials, shrubs, bushes, trees, veggie starts, herbs, house plants and supplies for your gardening needs. We live

by our motto: 'Go out and play in the dirt!'"

Virgil & Constance opens May 14, 2024.

Please, everyone support our wonderful local nurseries. We're so lucky to have them.



VIRGIL & CONSTANCE always has a wide array of colorful hanging baskets to brighten up your porch & patio.

Folks are coming from near and far. We like to think they are visiting our lovely little town, and drop in. We're so glad they like what we have to sell. We're also amazed by the number of people visiting friends and relatives who drop by

Restaurant guide

Robert's

Café Provence

From Provence to You
De la Provence à Vous

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

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

11 Center Street, Brandon, VT

Franklin's
 FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN

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

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

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

Ad design included in pricing
 Call 802 236-4662, or email
george@brandonreporter.com
 for more information

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Last week's streetscape was Center Street, with the Town Offices on the left and the bridge guardrail wall on the right. The only other building in this old photo that is still standing is 31 Center Street which is home to Blue Moon Clothing & Gifts now. The First National Store (FINAST) is where we now have Kennedy Park. Notice that the street lights in this circa 1900 photo are the same three-globe style we have today.



CENTER STREET WITH the Town Offices on the left, currently and circa 1930.



Do you know what part of Brandon this is?

REAL ESTATE

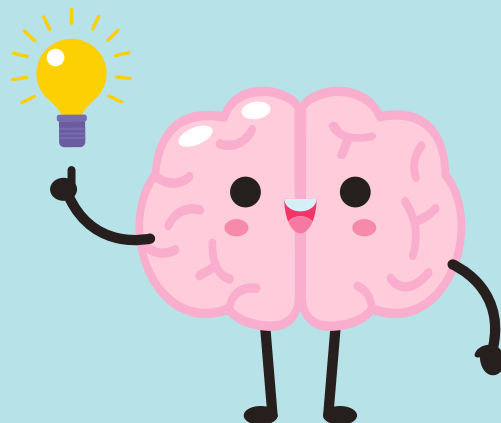


Brandon Village home with surprising privacy and a country feel! Entry through the oversized and well-lit carport. The cozy living room has a pellet stove and plenty of natural light. The newer side porch looks out to the landscaped and terraced yard, enclosed by a wooden picket fence. Lots of room for pets, kids, and gardening! The finished basement has full sized windows, a 3/4 bathroom, a private entrance, and could be converted to a nice rental. A great combination of comfort and convenience. **\$395,000**



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

Brandon Brain Buster Answered



Answer: E

We can take the information from the question and set up the following three equations:

- 1) $6B + 5P + 3A = 5.95$
- 2) $4B + 3P + 2A = 3.80$
- 3) $5B + 4P + 1A = 3.60$

We need to try to isolate A, the price of a single apple. We can do this by manipulating the equations so we can subtract one equation from another until we're left with the value of A. But when we subtract one equation from another, we want to eliminate at least one term, so we need those terms to be the same in both equations. In order to make them the same, we can multiply every term in one of the equations by the same number.

For example, if we want to knock out the apples in equations 2 and 3, we need the number of apples in both equations to be the same. But we have 2 apples in equation #2 and 1 apple in equation #3. If we multiply every term in equation #3 by 2, we will end up with two apples in that equation without changing the validity of the equation:

$$2(5B + 4P + 1A = 3.60) \rightarrow 10B + 8P + 2A = 7.20$$

Now we can subtract equation #2 from this to eliminate 2A in both equations:

$$\begin{array}{r} 10B + 8P + 2A = 7.20 \\ - 4B + 3P + 2A = 3.80 \\ \hline 6B + 5P = 3.40 \end{array}$$

Now we know that $6B + 5P = 3.40$. We also see $6B + 5P$ in equation #1. So, if we were to replace $6B + 5P$ in equation #1 with 3.40, we would get $3.40 + 3A = 5.95$. If we subtract 3.40 from both sides of the equation, we get $3A = 2.55$. If we divide both sides by 3, we get $A = .85$.

Therefore, a single apple costs \$0.85. The answer is E.

SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com

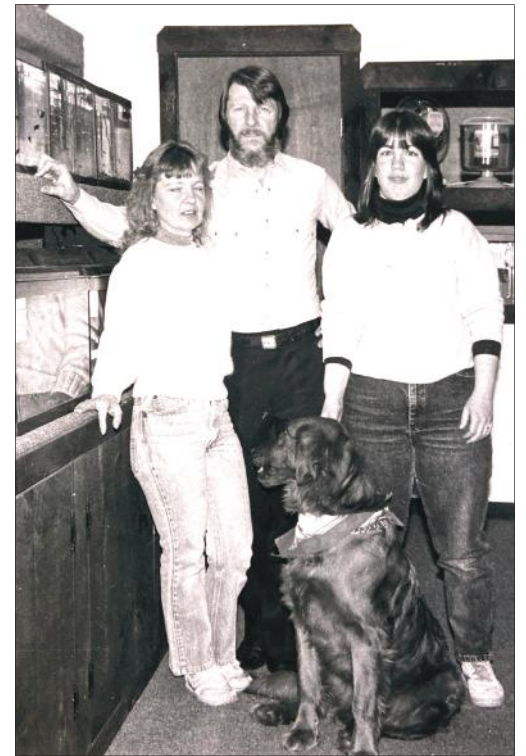


Mim's Photos

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



Recognized



Tonya Wright recognized this photo of her family. "On the left is Nancy Kempner (Kennedy), my grandmother who passed away in 2011. In the middle is Richard Kempner, whom she married in maybe 1987-89 and who passed away around 1993, and then my mom on the right (Robin Wright). Rich owned a pet store (and maybe an arcade before that) on the corner (I'm thinking the same building or attached to what used to be Sully's Restaurant) where my gram also worked and my mom did pet grooming. I think the pet store was called Kept Right Pets or something like that, a play on their last names. What a great memory!"

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

Or call us at 247-8080



Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Become less intense
6. Variety of pear
10. Religion native to China
14. Type of tooth
15. Fitted out
17. Make every effort
19. Autonomic nervous system
20. Complete
21. Alternate name
22. River in France and Belgium
23. Miami's mascot is one
24. Turfs
26. Most cognizant of reality
29. Broad volcanic crater
31. Canadian surname
32. Satisfaction
34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
35. Collide
37. Immune response
38. Feline
39. High opinion of one's own appearance
40. Thin strip to align parts
41. Containers
43. Convicted American spy
45. Breathe noisily
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. I.M. ___, architect
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal
58. Dutch and German surname
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Degrade someone

4. Principle underlying the universe
5. Work unit
6. Yellow edible fruits
7. Gemstone
8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
9. Evergreen tropical tree
10. Reality TV star Richards
11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
12. Stakes
13. Antidiuretic hormone
16. Make warm again
18. Light beams
22. Lethal dose
23. Terrorist group
24. Kids love him
25. Naturally occurring solid
27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
28. Popular cuisine
29. Partner to cheese
30. Type of horse
31. ___ Diego
33. Defensive nuclear weapon
35. Most shrewd
36. It may be for shopping
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. A stock of foods
42. The bindings of books
43. Swiss river
44. Megabyte
46. Sammy ___, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Popular type of bread
51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
52. Association of engineering professionals
53. Young women's association
54. City
55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
56. Pointed end of a pen

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

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river
2. Blessing
3. Substitutes (abbr.)

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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Make sure your pet has identification!

Losing a pet is a very emotional thing. All animals must have identification so they can be returned to their owners. An ID tag on your pet's collar is the easiest method. The tag should include your name, address, telephone number, and the pet's name. If there's extra space, the veterinarian's phone number is also a good idea. If you move, get a new tag for your animal with your new contact information. Check the tag to ensure it's still readable as many get scratched and worn and are no longer helpful. Some companies embroider your pet's name and phone number on the collar. Pets can also be microchipped. Many humane societies and veterinarians have a scanner that identifies if an animal has a microchip. A phone call is made to identify the owner if there's a microchip. You must update your registration with the microchip company if you move or change your contact information. Either way, please take a moment and check that your favorite pet has identification so you can get him/her back safe and sound in a hurry! If you have any questions, please call the Rutland County Humane Society at 802.483.6700.

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



MEET REMY - 2 YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. HEELER MIX. BLACK/WHITE.

Remy is one unique looking dog with a quiet personality. She came to us from Texas and is looking to start a new life here in Vermont. Remy has recently stayed with a foster and has done well with an older, low-energy playmate. She enjoys lounging and cuddles, but does need to shed a few pounds and could benefit from regular walks. Remy is a timid dog, and her former foster noted that she can be scared of dogs and people while on walks, and can take 24-48 hours to warm up to people and pets in the home. With positive training, patience, and reinforcement, we feel Remy will grow confident in her new home and excel as a member of the family.

MEET MALIBU - 2 YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. MIXED BREED.

This gentle and loving girl recently came to us from a foster home in Texas. She is timid, but affectionate, and loves just about any activity with her people. Whether cuddling, hiking, or splashing in the kiddie pool, she's down for anything as long as it's with you! It may take a day or two for Malibu to ask you for belly rubs, but she will. Malibu has great manners and has enjoyed playing well with kids and dogs in her foster home.



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



Large print, donated by Brenda Whittaker:

The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende, donated in memory of Madelyn C. Neumann

An intertwined tale that spans 80 years beginning in Vienna, 1938. Samuel Adler is five years old when his father disappears during Kristallnacht. Samuel's mother secures a spot for him on a Kindertransport train out of Nazi-occupied Austria to England. He boards alone, carrying nothing but a change of clothes and his violin. In Arizona in 2019, Anita Díaz and her mother board another train, fleeing looming danger in El Salvador and seeking refuge in the United States. But their arrival coincides with the new family separation policy, and seven-year-old Anita finds herself alone at a camp in Nogales. She escapes her tenuous reality through her trips to Azabahr, a magical world of the imagination.

The Deepest Kill by Lisa Black, donated in memory of Ann Livak

Forensic analysts Ellie Carr and Rachael Davies return to investigate

the murder of a software pioneer's pregnant daughter on his private compound.

Be Mine by Richard Ford, donated in memory of Tom P. Whittaker

Frank Bascombe, a man who has occupied many colorful lives—sportswriter, father, husband, ex-husband, friend, real estate agent—finds himself in the most sobering role of all: caregiver to his son, Paul, diagnosed with ALS. On a shared winter odyssey to Mount Rushmore, Frank, in typical Bascombe fashion, faces down the mortality that is assured each of us, and in doing so confronts what happiness might signify at the end of days.

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett, donated in memory of Doris S. Whittake.

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters

DID YOU KNOW?

On March 16 from 2 to 3pm, come see Bonny Dutton demonstrating how her 100-year-old circular sock machine works. Kids & adults will get a chance to (gently) try it, too!

examine their own lives and relationship with their mother and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Junior Fiction:

Dragon Masters Books 1-5 by Tracey West (JFIC)

Young dragon masters-in-training must learn to connect with their dragons, train them, and discover what secret powers they may have.

On the Far Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (JFIC)

Sam's peaceful existence in his wilderness home is disrupted when his sister runs away and his pet falcon is confiscated by a conservation officer.

Brandon Police Report

February 19

- Arranged the towing of an abandoned vehicle that was blocking the driveway to the Brandon Motor Lodge.
- Documented the late report of a burglary on Birch Hill Road for insurance purposes.
- Assisted an individual on the Sex Offender Registry who needed to notify the police of their address change.
- Received a 911 hang-up call from Walgreens on Union Street. The call was accidental and there was no emergency.
- Responded to the Brandon Medical Center for a patient having a mental health crisis. Middlebury Rescue arrived shortly after and transported the individual to the hospital for treatment.
- Conducted a welfare check on Forest Dale Road. All individuals were okay.
- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road for driving without license plate(s). Warning issued.

February 20

- Received a report of a larceny from a vehicle on North Street in which money was taken.
- Responded to Mulcahy Drive regarding a concerned neighbor who wanted a welfare check on a child she could hear crying in an apartment. The mother and children were contacted and determined to be fine.
- Conducted a background check for a ride-a-long candidate.
- Responded to a report of a suspicious person on Deer Run Road who was allegedly photographing the complainant's neighbor's home. It was discovered that the suspicious person was a realtor and was supposed to be on the property.
- Took fingerprints for employment purposes.
- Responded to a domestic dispute at a residence on Triangle Court regarding custody of a child. The incident was not criminal and the complainant was advised of his options.

February 21

- Responded to a hold-up alarm activation at the Jiffy Mart on Grove Street. It was determined to be a false alarm and there was no emergency.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a cell phone violation. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street for uninspected motor vehicle. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road for speeding. Warning issued.
- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road for defective equipment. Ticket issued.
- Responded to Center Street for a report of a man who was passed out on the sidewalk and intoxicated. The man was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center due to complaints of shortness of breath and possible seizures.
- Received a report of a suspicious vehicle driving up and down on Center Street, revving its engine and constantly speeding up. Vehicle was not located.
- Conducted a foot patrol in downtown Brandon on Center Street.

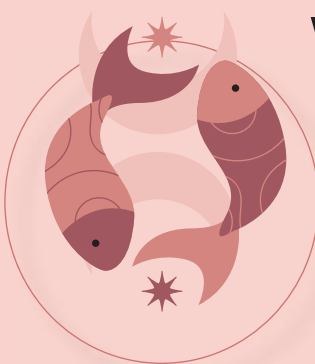
February 22

- Received a Be-On-Lookout alert from the State Police for an erratic operator traveling on Route 7 heading into Brandon. The vehicle was located and stopped. Warning issued for following too closely.
- Responded to a suspicious abandoned vehicle on Old Brandon Road. The vehicle and its operator were located and left the scene without incident.
- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for speeding. Ticket issued.
- Trespassed three individuals from Union Street Grocery.
- Responded to a 911 hang-up call at the Walgreens on Union Street. No emergency was found and the call was accidental.
- Conducted a patrol at the intersection of Champlain Street and Grove Street.
- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.
- Conducted a patrol at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street.
- Vehicle stop on Park Street for failure to use turn signal. Warning issued.
- Assisted the Bristol Police Department in serving a citation to a resident of Brandon.

February 23

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for an equipment violation. Warning issued.
- Responded to an "Urgent Response" Life Alert activation on Supermarket Drive. The individual was found to be okay but indicated that he did not activate his alert button, rather his wife (See Police report, Page 27)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



yourself and life in general lately, that is excellent. Embrace this positive state of mind and take the necessary steps to continue the good feelings.

LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, this week you may be feeling nostalgic or sentimental. Look over old photographs or watch family movies for a bit. If you want to take it further, reach out to childhood friends.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Find new activities that you can add to your daily routine, Virgo. This may be a sport, hobby or even a new club. Add a dose of creativity to each and every day for good effects.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Uncertainty regarding long-term plans may be driving emotions of shyness, Libra. If you are having trouble, plan excursions or events with friends you trust.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, encouragement comes from people you may not feel are on your team. Take all of the support you can get as you start plowing through some long-term goals.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

It's always the right time to tell others how much they mean to you, Sagittarius.

It will not take grand gestures to do so, merely your loving words.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

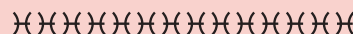
Your busy schedule this week has everything feeling more hectic even if it really isn't, Capricorn. Carve out some time to sit quietly or enjoy some alone time to refresh.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

This week you may be feeling especially charitable, Aquarius. Open your heart up to others who may need some extra support. This may be a stranger or someone you know.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Some news from a family member may catch you off-guard, Pisces. You'll soon recover when you learn that it is extremely happy news. You may even get good news of your own.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 1 Paul Hollywood, celebrity chef (58)
- March 2 Lou Reed, singer-songwriter (d)
- March 3 Chief Joseph, Nez Perce leader (d)
- March 4 Miriam Makeba, singer (d)
- March 5 Gerardus Mercator, cartographer (d)
- March 6 Wes Montgomery, musician (d)
- March 7 Bryan Cranston, actor (68)

ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, think about collaborating on a fun project with someone close to you. Find out if anyone needs help on something they may be working on if you don't have a project in mind.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

An excitement concerning work goals or a business venture may compel you to take some action to get your ideas heard by higher-ups, Taurus. The audience will be receptive.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, trying to resolve issues in a relationship this week may leave you feeling unsettled. It might be that you are trying to avoid sensitive topics that you will have to address eventually.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, if you are feeling content with

Police report

(Continued from Page 26)

did. The investigating officer responded to the man's residence and found his wife to be okay.

- Received a report that a red cement mixer was stolen from a property on Forest Dale Road. An investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is encouraged to contact the police.

- Conducted a patrol on Town Farm Road.

- Responded to a residence on Grove Street for a complaint of loose dogs. The dogs were found to be back inside, and the issue was addressed to the owner.

- Received a complaint regarding a man who had gone into the Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road and threatened someone inside.

The suspect was located and placed under arrest for Violation of Conditions of Release, Disorderly Conduct, and Driving with a Criminally Suspended Driver's License. The suspect was processed and released on a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 5/6/2024 at 10:00 a.m.

- Investigated an assault on a coach and referee that occurred at Otter Valley Union High School during the State Wrestling Finals after one of the wrestlers lost a match. The victims did not wish to pursue charges. The juvenile perpetrator was ejected from the match and removed from the school.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

- Assisted the Middlebury Police Department in serving a subpoena on a resident of Brandon. The individual was not located.

- Vehicle stop on Arnold District Road for failure to maintain travel lane. Warning issued.

February 24

- Vehicle stop on Forest Dale Road at North Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

- Participated in an event to honor the Otter Valley Union High School varsity boys basketball team for heading to playoffs.

- Observed a driver who was known to have a criminally suspended driver's license pass a stationary traffic enforcement on Grove Street. The vehicle was stopped, and it was determined that the driver did not have vehicle insurance. The driver was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 6/3/2024.

- Responded to Walgreens for a 911 hang-up. No emergency found.

- Received a complaint of a tractor trailer that was backing

up on Pearl Street and may need assistance in turning around. The tractor trailer was gone prior to the officers' arrival.

- Found a checkbook and McDonald's card at Champlain Farms. If you are missing a checkbook, please contact the police.

- Conducted a student ride along.

- Conducted traffic enforcement at the intersection of Champlain Street and Grove Street.

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street at Grove Street for a stop sign violation. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

- Opened an investigation into an incident in which a man attempted to pass counterfeit currency at the Champlain Farms on Grove Street.

- Vehicle stop on Prospect Street for a motor vehicle violation. No action taken.

- Conducted traffic enforcement at the intersection of Franklin Street and Park Street.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for a turn signal violation. Warning issued.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street. One violation was observed and a ticket was issued.

- Received a call regarding a man allegedly showing inappropriate sexual videos of himself to a minor child. The incident occurred outside of Brandon and was referred to the Vermont State Police.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for defective equipment. Ticket issued for having an expired driver's license.

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

- Assisted the Brandon Area Rescue Squad with a medical call. Police intervention was not needed.

- An officer conducting stationary traffic enforcement on Franklin Street had a vehicle pass him at speeds over 100 miles per hour. The officer attempted to pull the vehicle over, but the car accelerated to over 110 miles per hour and began to recklessly pass traffic. The officer lost sight of the car as it entered Pittsford.

It was again located near the Brandon/Pittsford town line and another pursuit ensued. The vehicle took off after doing a "J-turn" in front of the cruiser and fled at speeds over 120 miles per hour, passing multiple vehicles at once as it drove through Brandon, nearly causing numerous

head-on collisions, and driving on the wrong side of the road into oncoming traffic. Due to the dangerous driving and the danger to the public that a prolonged pursuit may cause, the pursuit was terminated. Further investigation identified the driver. The individual was also a suspect in other criminal activity. An arrest warrant will be sought for the individual for Eluding a Police Officer in a Grossly Negligent Manner, Driving with a Criminally Suspended Drivers' License, Reckless Endangerment, Excessive Speed, and Grossly Negligent Operation.

February 25

- Received a complaint of a goose and deer carcass that had been left near a fishing access. It was determined that the incident occurred in Sudbury and no response was required by the Brandon Police Department.

- Responded to a single-car crash on Route 7. No one was injured.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street. Warning issued.

- Conducted a ride along.

- Conducted a business property watch at the Champlain Farms on Grove Street.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street at High Street for a display of plates violation. Ticket issued for having a suspended driver's license.

- Vehicle stop on Conant Square for defective equipment (taillight). Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

- Conducted a second vehicle stop on Franklin Street for failure to display license plates. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Center Street for turning where prohibited. Warning issued.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Child Find Notice

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is required by law to locate, identify, and evaluate every student birth through age 21 that may be in need of special education. If you have a child or know of a child that you think has a developmental delay or may require special education who resides in one of the towns listed above, please call (802) 247-5757 x2720.

In addition, RNEU is collecting information for preschool screenings. If you have a child who will be three or four by September 1, 2024, please scan the QR code or fill out and return this form to the address below as soon as possible. You can also call (802) 247-5757 x2733. Thank you.

CHILD'S NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE _____

TOWN OF RESIDENCE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

911 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Mail to: Rutland Northeast Early Childhood Program
RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
49 Court Drive
Brandon, VT 05733





Let's Fly: A weekly series on tips and tricks for air travel

Week one, day of the week is key to booking your ticket

**BY CONNIE M. NITE,
FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

I have always been amazed by the one-line slogans crafted by the different advertisement departments of the airline carriers. Some are rather catchy, others serious, and others make air travel sound like it's going to be the best part of your trip. We all know how not true that is! Delta Airlines says, "we love to fly, and it shows" or Spirits Airlines' more direct slogan "less money more go." We can't forget American Airlines' "let good take flight" or United Airlines' "good leads the way" and finally Southwest's slogan, "low fares, nothing to hide". As good as these slogans might sound, those of us who fly know air travel is just overall stressful. No one ever remembers any of these slogans, but we all remember the words "delayed," "mechanical," "canceled," or "stranded" when flying. I guess the airlines can't really come up with slogans like "we might be able to get you where you're going" or "we have your money and you're at our mercy." I'd love to see one of those slogans, but I gather it's not very good for business!

I'm here to give you a little help! I'm hoping some of the knowledge I've gained from my many years of being a flight attendant for a major airline might come in handy.

I've been flying for a very long time. I know what you want to ask me... I can hear the question... who do you fly for? Ahh... I shall keep my airline under wraps because it truly doesn't matter! This is about my experiences and trying to help you! The airline industry has changed so much and if I can give you a few tips and tricks to navigate this ever-changing industry perhaps flying will be a tad more relaxing for you and whoever joins you in the "friendly skies."

I will tell you, my crews call me a "senior mama" because of my seniority, although I don't much feel like a senior. In the airline industry, seniority is the most important thing if you want to get a good work schedule. The more seniority you have, the better trips and more days off you can hold. I enjoy holding nice schedules like London, Madrid, Amsterdam, San Francisco, or Maui. However, with seniority comes age and I'm flying with young "kiddos" who were born the year I started to fly. That's as far as I'll go

with my aging process, just know I'm rounding a quarter-century flying around on everything from the good old MD80, Boeing 727, and one of my favorites, the McDonnell Douglas DC10. I started my career with a pager. For those of you who don't know what a pager is, go to Google and take a look! I used to have to run to

I'm here to give you a little help! I'm hoping some of the knowledge I've gained from my many years of being a flight attendant for a major airline might come in handy.

a pay phone to check in with my scheduling department because cell phones were not common then! Times have changed!

I'm truly hoping you find my articles interesting, entertaining, and informative! Let's see if I can be of some help!

I'm going to start right off the bat with booking your ticket! It is so easy to book tickets nowadays. You have access to tons of websites making it super easy to shop, compare, and book tickets from the comfort of your own home. Some people still use a travel agent and that's great, but travel agents are kind of like CDs and pagers: they are out of date. The availability and accessibility to a ton of websites is all you

need to begin your search for a good ticket price and travel plan.

First, mileage credit cards do have some advantages. Many times, flight attendants have the applications for cards on the flight with a special code adding thousands of bonus miles once you've been approved and made some purchases. Sometimes these bonus points are enough to purchase one round-trip ticket. Now there are "conditions," but booking way in advance helps! Most of the mileage cards offer at least one free pass to an airport lounge with a guest where you can dive into free food and have a quiet space to put your feet up and wait for your flight. Other mileage-card perks include a free checked bag, special lines at the airports to save you wait times, as well as discounts on in-flight food and alcoholic beverages. So, if you are flying out of the same airport each year and normally fly the same airline, give a mileage card a go and save some money!

Second, Wednesday is the best day to buy a ticket and mid-week is the best time to travel. The night after people come home from visiting family or friends is always the time people start shopping for tickets. So, after returning home from Thanksgiving peo-

ple are looking to book Christmas or February vacation from school or spring break. Nope don't do it! Wait until Wednesday, you'll tend to see cheaper ticket prices. Now, there are times when this doesn't hold true and that's when you book within a month of traveling when airlines lock in prices. Wednesday should definitely be your go-to air travel ticket shopping day! You'll also find flights that depart mid-week, like on a Tuesday or Wednesday, will have cheaper prices than on a weekend. So, pull those kids out of school a few days early and save money by leaving mid-week!

Third, when looking for tickets on Wednesday, watch out for connection time! Never book a connection with less than 2 hours between flights! I know you want to... I truly hear you... but save yourself hassle, stress, and a heart attack by giving yourself extra time. I've seen more passengers stressed because they've booked a 30-minute connection time while flying through Atlanta, GA, or Chicago, IL. You'll never make it! If you do, you'll be running, panicked, sweating, and dropping things along the way. I've had parents leave baby strollers because they couldn't wait for the rammers to run it up from the tarmac. I've also seen a law

(See *Let's Fly*, Page 29)

Robin Myers of Community Health Brandon is named a Rutland Region Advanced Practice Provider of the Year

Robin Myers is a Family Nurse Practitioner, and Medical Director of Community Health Brandon. She is also a member of the RRMC Affiliate Staff. Robin received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Vermont, a Master's in Adult Nurse Practitioner from Russell Sage College, and a Doctorate in Nurse Practice from UMass Amherst. Robin is dually Board Certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) in Family and Adult Medicine.

Robin started her healthcare career at Porter Medical Center as a Unit Clerk and later earned her degree as a Registered Nurse. She worked in various roles at RRMC including in the ICU, Case Management, and as a Certified Diabetes Nurse Educator for many years. She joined Community Health in 2004.

Robin was nominated for her collaboration, compassion, and the leadership skills she shows in relation to her patients.



Let's Fly

(Continued from Page 28)

enforcement officer drop their weapon while running through the airport! Yup, it happened, so give yourself time!

Fourth, choosing your seats. The airlines have found a way to get extra money out of you by "seating preference" costs. Years ago, we never had this additional cost of sitting in coach and paying more for a window or aisle seat! Outrageous! The airlines make it almost painful by adding on these additional costs. Most of the time, there is no way around this but, if you truly want a window seat, buy a window seat. If you really want to sit together with your family spend the extra cost and take out the stress! I will tell you one trick though. If you want to book an early-morning flight and you see seats together, but the price is too high just buy the tickets for

a later flight. Why, you ask? Because most airlines you can call and switch flights with a zero-fee for an earlier flight! So, you'll be flying when you want and at the time you want, and although you had to spend money to sit together you are saving money by not buying the tickets on the earlier flight by just switching! Again, every airline is different but it's definitely worth a try and the worst case you're stuck on your originally planned flight.

Finally, booking way ahead of time has some perks. Most airlines let you pay monthly once purchasing your tickets so the cost of taking a family on vacation is much more affordable. Spanning out the cost of tickets over a six-month period is definitely easier on a budget and it takes the stress out of having to pay a lump sum!

Flying should be as stress-

free as possible, and I hope that some of my suggestions make your travel experience a tad bit better! I will say again, every airline is different, and airlines make changes every day, but one thing is certain, they need you to survive! Without you and your money they'll be calling it a day like TWA (Trans World Airlines). So, remember to get that mileage card with its perks, book early on a Wednesday for a mid-week flight, watch those connection times, choose your seats, and span out those ticket costs!

Signing off from this "senior mama" see you next week when I go over "planning and packing" and talk about fish tanks, lamps, and baggage! Remember to fly safe and always bring the crew chocolate... we love chocolate! Fly on!

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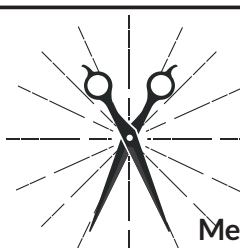
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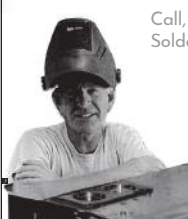


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Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 1)
on the evening's agenda was the appointment of Paula Ashley as the Coordinator of BRAVO, Brandon's



L-R WYMAN, RENICHE-SMITH

restorative justice committee. Ms. Ashley has lived in Brandon for 2.5 years and comes here after a long career as a public-school teacher in Vermont, Florida, Missouri, and New Mexico.

Town Clerk Sue Gage reminded attendees that Town Meeting is next Monday at Town Hall at 7 p.m. Voting by Australian ballot will take place the following day at the American Legion.

The Board's final piece of public business for the evening was the approval of a warrant in the amount of \$1,255,846.45 to cover the town's expenses and obligations.

Compassion

(Continued from Page 5)
ible uptown, but it still exists. To deny its existence is to deny a part of our broader community.

Ray has bravely stepped out of his comfort zone. Not only that, but he is a trusting person. It seems he believed his Facebook page was private—only to be shared with friends and family—persons he did trust and expected to understand his brand of humor. Therefore, Ray is also dealing with the feeling of betrayal. Rather than a friend enlightening him privately to his unintended faux pas, he

was shamed publicly.

May we all strive to give him the time, space, and support for healing in addition to assimilating his response to what is not only a shock for area newcomers, but for him as well. May we each seek to embrace the humanness in Ray that we seek to embrace in other cultures. May our reaction be an encouragement to others who wish to follow in Ray's footsteps and get involved.

None of this is easy for anyone, particularly those who have been deeply hurt inadvertently. May compas-

sion and hope for all be our guide in the days ahead.

Thank you, Ray, for sticking your neck out for the likes of me, my mother, and others like us. We love, support, forgive, and wait patiently. May you pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and stay the course of advocating for the low-income in our community.

My thanks to Steven Jupiter also for clarifying matters and helping me craft this letter in support of our neighbor, Ray.

Namaste.

Classified

HIRING

PARK HOUSE IN ROCHESTER - is in need of a part-time evening cook. This position is responsible for creating & serving a light supper meal for our residents and cleaning up afterwards. 10-12 hours typical Mon.- Fri, with the potential for more hours by covering other cook's shifts when needed. Park House is a non-profit serving our area's elders and is an equal opportunity employer. Contact Lolly Lindsey at 802-767-3416 or director@parkhousevt.org

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT Job Posting for Town Highway Crew & Grounds Crew

The TOWN OF BRANDON seeks a qualified candidate to fill a full-time interdepartmental position. This position is primarily and permanently in the Highway Department as a member of the Town Highway Crew. This interdepartmental position will also secondarily and temporarily provide coverage of a Buildings & Grounds position which is currently filled by a staff member unavailable for the next several months.

A summary of job responsibilities is posted at: <https://www.townofbrandon.com/highway-crew-opening/>

The Town of Brandon offers competitive pay and a generous benefits package. The Town of Brandon is an equal opportunity employer. Reply to Seth Hopkins, town manager, at the Brandon Town Office, 49 Center Street, Brandon VT 05733 or by email to shopkins@townofbrandon.com. This position is open until filled.

The Town of Brandon is committed to providing equal employment and volunteer opportunities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, disability, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT Information on Waterline Bond and Local Option Tax

The Town of Pittsford will be voting on a \$400,000.00 Bond for the replacement of 110 feet of water line on Bridge 108. The current waterline is in rough shape and has been losing approximately 7,500 gallons of water daily for quite some time. This section of waterline will be replaced during the construction of the new bridge.

The Town will also be voting on a proposed 1% Local Option Tax. If approved, the funds will be used to cover the annual bond payment for the Bridge 108 waterline replacement as well as the costs for water and sewer line replacement for the Route 7 Segments 2 and 3 projects. The projected cost of the water and sewer work for these projects is estimated at \$4 million, which if only supported by the utility users and residents, would greatly impact their user fees and tax bill. The Town estimates that the option tax will generate roughly \$100,000.00 annually. This data was taken from the VT Department of Taxes website.

Please contact David Atherton by email at manager@pittsfordvermont.com or call 802-483-6500 x200 with questions or concerns.

Vote!

(Continued from Page 4)
school reports, and ask who is running for those open seats. If you are a parent, consider bringing your children when you vote, so they can learn that vot-

ing is an essential part of being part of a democracy and that it is important to you. Your town or city clerk is a valuable resource, as well as the My Voter Page, a service of the Vermont Secretary

of State's Office. If there is any place in America where people can come together across divides to solve problems, it is Vermont. And this gives me hope.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM OF TOWN OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AUSTRALIAN BALLOTING OFFICIAL WARNING MARCH 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Pittsford, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Pittsford Municipal Offices located at 426 Plains Road in the Town of Pittsford on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE 24

Shall the voters authorize the removal, replacement, and installation of a new watermain along the easterly side of the VT Route 7 Bridge #108 over Furnace Brook and the issuance of general obligation bonds of the Town in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Thousand, and 00/100 Dollars (\$400,000.00), subject to reduction by grants in aid and other state and federal funds then available to the Town, to pay the capital costs and related other costs of the project?

The legal voters of the Town of Pittsford are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated. The legal voters of the Town of Pittsford are further notified that an informational meeting for the purpose of explaining the Project and the financing thereof will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024, at Lothrop School Gymnasium in the Town of Pittsford following the

conclusion of Town Meeting (floor voting) which begins at six-thirty o'clock in the afternoon (6:30 P.M.).

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Pittsford duly called, noticed, and held January 24 2024.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD SELECTBOARD

Alicia Malay, Chair

David Mills, Vice Chair

Thomas Hooker

Mark Winslow

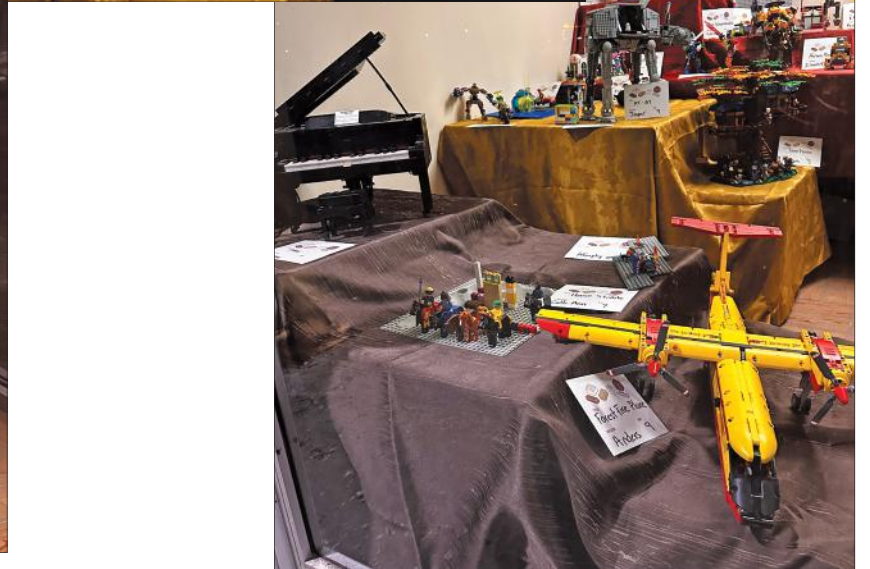
W. Joseph Gagnon

Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Pittsford on January 24, 2024.

Helen McKinlay, Town Clerk

Let's go LEGO!

A WONDERFUL COLLECTION of Lego creations is on display at the Brandon Chamber's space next to the Brandon Post Office on Conant Square. Constructed by kids and adults alike, the constructions range from the simple to the stunningly complex. Anyone who ever loved Legos will thoroughly enjoy stopping by and taking a look. Organizer Heather Fjeld Nelson beamed as she talked about the exhibit. "The kids had so much fun," she said. "They were so proud."



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