

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

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\$1

Pig Race returns to Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center

BY GEORGE FJELD

GOSHEN—After more than a decade, the Pig Race, a spring fun race and gathering to mark the end of the ski season, returned to Goshen's Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center last Saturday. About 100 racers and onlookers gathered outside for a fun ski-and-run race in the beautiful mountains around the Inn. There was some snow and mud, so the conditions were challenging, to say the least. The children's race started the festivities with 9 kids sprinting around the field to collect eggs and conquer obstacles. Judging by the excited faces and long gasping breaths, it was a very challenging course.

Britta Clark gave general directions and the adult race followed. More than 50 human competitors and no pigs sprinted across the road carrying skis which they donned on the snow behind the Inn. Around the

pond and up the hill they went. All the racing was completed in about 2 hours. Some finished much earlier, but we heard some corners were cut! After navigating the water bars and detours, racers returned to the Inn for a pig-and-pizza party. Fred the Pig Guy roasted a local Shoreham pig (starting at 5 am!) and Shari Brown prepped and Oliver Clark cooked wood-fired pizzas in the outdoor oven. Red Clover Ale Company beer was available for post-race refreshment.

The Pig Race was an annual event at Blueberry Hill from 1972 until 2010. Now it's back and will be held again next year "Rain or Shine, Snow or No Snow," according to Brown. The Inn and Outdoor Center will also host a gathering for the eclipse event this April featuring wood-fired pizza and clear views of the sky.



START OF THE kids race at Blueberry Hill Inn's annual Pig Race, with a few adult chaperones. Notice Charlotte and Wilbur on Fernanda Canales in the foreground. More photos on pg. 9. Photos by George Fjeld.

Brandon Budget Committee trims 6% from proposed budget

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—In a long, sometimes contentious meeting on Monday night, the Brandon Budget Committee revisited its failed FY2025 budget and trimmed the proposal from \$3,796,180 to \$3,557,180. The difference of \$239,000 represents a decrease of 6.2% from the original proposal. The revised budget now represents a 6.3% increase in spending over the current year's budget of \$3,346,150, as opposed to the 13.5% increase that the failed proposal represented.

The original proposal, which failed at the ballot on March 5 in a 45% yes/55% no split, had sparked heated debate in town over taxes,

spending, and affordability.

The Budget Committee comprises the Brandon Selectboard and a six-member citizen advisory panel whose purpose is to offer guidance but which cannot vote. All members of the Selectboard were present, as were most of the advisory panel, some attending via Zoom. Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins and Deputy Town Manager Bill Moore were also present. There were roughly 20 town residents in attendance as well.

Advisory-panel member Barry Varian shared the results of a survey he had conducted on Front Porch Forum. Though his query netted only 16 responses, 11 of the 16 stated that their opposition to the failed budget had stemmed from a general displeasure with the increasing expense of

living in Brandon. Mr. Varian suggested to the Committee that they be "sensitive to other pressures" that residents are feeling, such as the increase in school tax.

Much of the focus of the session was on the \$300,000 that the failed proposal had earmarked for paving projects. The \$300K alone accounted for the bulk of the 13.5% increase. The Committee unanimously voted to reduce the \$300K to \$85K by allocating \$100,000 from the town's 1% Local Option Tax fund to paving, which reduces by \$100K the amount needed to be raised by property tax, and by postponing the repaving of High Pond Road, which had been scheduled for this year and which was expected to cost \$115K.

Ultimately, Brandon's (See Brandon budget, Page 14)

Brandon Library receives \$1m fed grant through Sen. Welch

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) received word last week from Senator Peter Welch's office that it would receive a \$1,000,000 grant toward its ongoing renovation and upgrade project. BFPL was one of 19 recipients throughout Vermont chosen by Welch's office for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds in the FY2025 budget cycle.

Altogether, Senator Welch, Senator Bernie Sanders, and Representative Becca Balint have so far announced \$75 million in 2025 CDS grants for Vermont, with more expected to come. Brandon's State Rep. Stephanie Jerome participated in the process by providing letters of support for the library.

BFPL is currently undertaking a massive \$4.5-million renovation and upgrade of its historic building on Park Street in downtown Brandon. The project will bring the aging structure up to current standards of accessibility, including handicapped-accessible bathrooms and

an elevator to all four floors, and will rectify issues with its structural integrity. Built in the 1830s, and expanded in the 1960s, the edifice was suffering from significant structural deterioration that compromised its safety.

The project began last spring, when BFPL vacated Park Street and took up temporary residence in the basement meeting room at the Town Hall, and is expected to finish this coming summer.

"We're overjoyed. These funds will allow us to complete the last phase of the renovation," said David Roberts, president of the BFPL Board of Trustees. "The federal grant process is long and complex and depends on so many factors that are out of our control. We're extremely grateful to Senator Welch and his staff for all of their help in securing this money."

The renovation had been projected to cost \$2.2 million when it was first conceived in 2021 but, in part because of the skyrocketing cost of (See Library grant, Page 20)



Sock It to Me! A demonstration of an antique sock machine enthralls at the Brandon Library

BY GARY MEFFE

BRANDON—Who would ever have thought that watching a sock being made would be exciting, enthralling, even jaw dropping? Not me, certainly. Yet, that is exactly what happened last Saturday afternoon at the Brandon Free Public Library when Bonny Dutton of Fleece on Earth in North Chittenden demonstrated the art on her over 100-year-old sock-making machine. The jaws of her rapt audience repeatedly dropped as Dutton explained how this incredible, complicated, yet ultimately simple machine worked.

Mounted on a small table, her cast-iron machine built in 1921 is essentially a vertical cylinder with a hand crank, though you have to see it to appreciate the intricate details. Attaching one strand of her special sock yarn to a pre-made waste piece hanging below, she began cranking a specific number of rounds to start the sock, while 60 vertical latch needles ensured that the fiber was knitted to create the tubular top of the sock. The yarn she uses is a combination of dyed wool and polyamide, a man-made fiber

that makes her products machine washable. The onlookers were captivated as a beautiful knitted web eventually grew out of the bottom of the contraption, pulled down by a two-pound weight. Audience members each got a chance to “get cranky” and take a turn cranking the handle to get a feel for how this works.

As Ms. Dutton approached the heel of the sock, the real magic happened. In a process that included moving half of the needles out of commission, she knitted back and forth on the remaining half, forming a perfect heel wedge, again using a specific number of turns. One-hundred years ago, a sock maker would have to count all the rotations of every step, and heaven help them, she explained, if their child interrupted the process and they lost count: they would have to pull out the yarn and start all over! Dutton has brought modernity into the process by adding a digital counting device to the contraption, resulting in perfect counts every time.

Continuing to the toe, Bonny introduced us to some fascinating history related to the pro-

cess. In World War I, there was a major problem with the health of soldiers’ feet. Standing long hours in wet and filthy ditches, “trench foot” became a major health issue for soldiers, and gangrene and even foot amputations were not uncommon. The British War Ministry asked British citizens (mostly women) to make 300,000 pairs of socks for their troops, and they obliged, using their trusty sock machines. But there was a caveat: the socks could have no obvious or prominent seams, especially at the toe, because that would cause abrasions and sores that would result in more foot trouble.

A certain Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener, an imposing-looking man with a prominent handlebar mustache, insisted that the toe be closed up with a stitch that is invisible and leaves no seams to rub on the foot. Although he did not offer how to accomplish this feat (apparently the stitch was created by one or more of the women) his orders were followed, and to this day it is still employed and is called the “Kitchener stitch.” It is done

(See Sock machine, Page 7)



BONNY DUTTON of North Chittenden shows off some of the socks she’s made with her antique sock machine, which she demonstrated this past weekend at the Brandon Library. The machine can make in a few hours what it would take days to make by hand.

The Reporter has needs.
We’re sure you do too!

Join a great group of folks who are chronicling our lives here in Vermont. A few hours of your time each week is what we’d like. Let’s make our paper the BEST in the state.

Wanted: Someone to take pictures at OVUHS basketball games or wrestling matches for Winter 2024 season, so we can include more pictures of local high school students in the paper. If you’re attending the games in any case to watch your own kid or you love high school sports, take a few pics for us and help the team gain recognition for their hard work! Give us a call if you’re interested; we’d love to be able to publish more high school sports photos! Call George at 802 236-4662 or email george@brandonreporter.com

Join The Reporter’s sales team part time!

We’re all about supporting local businesses and keeping the paper strong. Spend 2-4 hours per week calling on the local businesses in the area that you know best, and let’s help those businesses connect with all of our readers! We’ll do the training, and provide the camaraderie to keep it fun! You don’t have to do it all, just your little bit of it. Call George at 802 236-4662 or email george@brandonreporter.com

Names lost in Vermont, Part 20: Browe and Sears

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

*This is the forest primeval;
but where are the hearts that
beneath it*

*Leaped like the roe, when he
hears in the woodland the voice
of the huntsman*

*Where is the thatch-roofed
village, the home of Acadian
farmers,*

*Men whose lives glided on
like rivers that water the wood-
lands,*

*Darkened by shadows of
earth, but reflecting an image of
heaven?*

*Waste are those pleasant
farms, and the farmers forever
departed!*

*Scattered like dust and leaves,
when the mighty blasts of Octo-
ber*

*Seize them, and whirl them
aloft, and sprinkle them far o'er
the ocean*

*Naught but tradition re-
mains of the beautiful village of
Grand-Pré.*

in 1755 from their villages in Acadie, present-day Nova Scotia. French-speaking Catholics in the region had refused to take an oath of loyalty to the British crown and thereby renounce their faith. What started in the Ohio Valley as the French and Indian War also played out on the battlefields of the European continent in the Seven Years War. Acadian families thus became pawns of war in the epic struggle between the French and British Empires—forcibly expelled, villages burned, and herded unto ships heading to Boston.

By 1763, the French lost Canada. Many people today have a passing familiarity with one chapter in this tragic saga through the stories, culture, and cuisine of one group of Acadians sent to Louisiana, where they became known as Cajuns. Not all Acadians went south. After an uneasy hiatus in New

Tom's great-great-grandfather was Jedidiah Browe (1834–1908). If his surname, originally Brault/Bro, were not already recognizable as an Acadian name, Jed, baptized with the name Gideon Bro, indicated his birthplace as “L’Acadie, Lower Canada,” on his declaration of American citizenship. L’Acadie is today combined with the town of St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, founded by Acadian exiles in 1776.

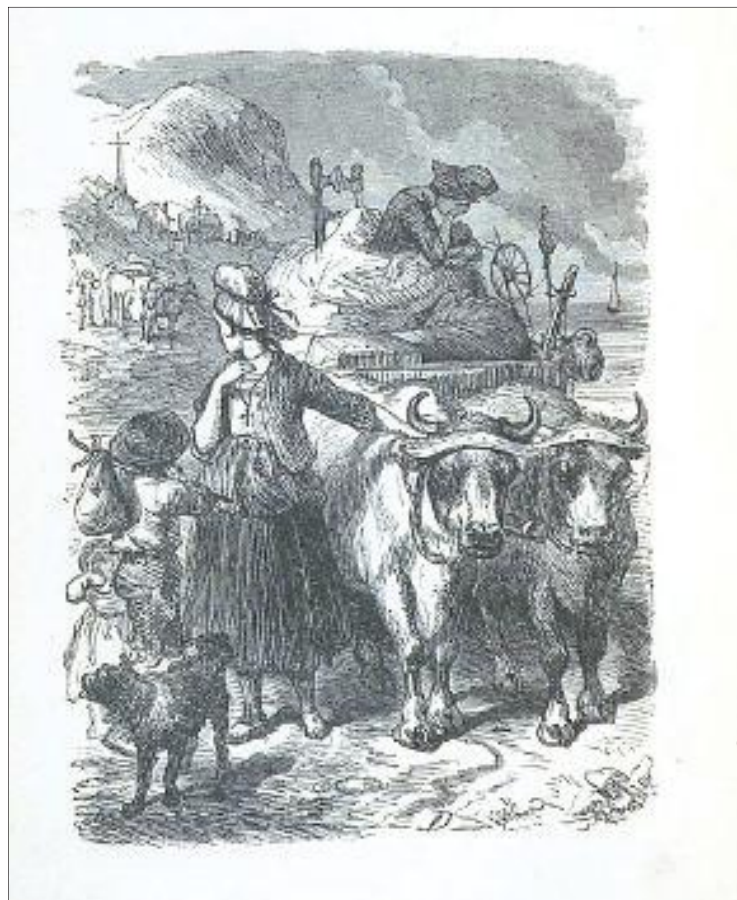
Jed came to Vermont as a child and later married his first wife, Celina Tatro, who died at age 26 from tuberculosis. He then married his second wife, Vermont-born Electa Sears (1848–1927), fourteen years his junior. Their son Frank Browe (1870–1939), Tom's great-great-grandfather, is buried in Pittsford's Evergreen Cemetery, his burial service officiated by Rev. Bowen Shattuck of the Pittsford Congregational Church. From their early days in Vermont, the Browes joined Protestant churches.

Jed Browe's father, Gideon Bro, the third generation born in L’Acadie, Québec, was the great-grandson of Jean Baptiste Brault, born in Grand Pré [Evangeline's village], circa 1748, son of Alexis Brault and Marguerite Barillot. In 1755, the entire family was deported to Boston and thence to Braintree, Massachusetts, where they awaited their next forced des-

(See Names lost, Page 8)



NATURALIZATION RECORD OF Jed Browe, 1860.



AN ILLUSTRATION FROM an early edition of “Evangeline” (1847) by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The poem tells the story of an Acadian girl named Evangeline who searches for her lost love. Acadia encompassed the eastern part of Canada, now known as the Maritimes. Many of its early settlers were French and many later migrated to Louisiana, where they became known as Cajuns.

These lines come from the prelude of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem, “Evangeline,” published in 1847. As a scion of New England society who prized his Puritan past, Longfellow made an unusual departure in choosing as his subject matter the tragic love story of Evangeline Bellefontaine and Gabriel LaJeunesse, evicted

England, some families were then removed to the eastern townships of Quebec, enduring disease and privation along the way.

Against this tumultuous background, several years ago I remarked to friend Tom Browe of Florence, “I bet your last name is Acadian.” It did not take me long to prove my supposition.

Spotlight On Business

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Brandon.org for more info

SolarFest connects people, the arts, ideas & technology in Vermont to help create a more sustainable future. We've put down roots at the farm on Steinberg Road in Brandon as we continue to provide energy education through the arts.

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

It's Time to G.E.T. R.E.A.L. about Vermont's Future

BY TERRY BURKE

Our state is facing multiple crises, mostly self-inflicted, the result of policies enacted by a Democrat supermajority made up of activists who are either out of touch with the real needs of Vermonters or too wrapped up in their own ideology to care. But we all need to get real about putting positive solutions in place – now -- or we are doomed as citizens individually and as a state collectively.

This is the reality:

We cannot afford the crushing tax burden the majority is placing on our household incomes. State spending is both out of control and, despite such unprecedented amounts of money flowing into programs, not working to solve the real problems Vermonters are dealing with every day.

On top of the \$200 million plus property tax increase ushered in by Act 127 etc., since obtaining their veto-proof supermajority in 2022, Vermont Democrats have rammed through in just 2023 a new \$120 million payroll tax that will take effect this July. They imposed \$20 million in higher DMV fees for drivers' licenses and vehicle registration. They passed the Clean Heat Carbon Tax which is estimated to add 70 cents to every gallon of home heating fuel Vermonters need to buy to keep warm in winter over an unprecedented outcry of citizens. They didn't care.

This year, 2024, they are poised to pass a Renewable Energy Standard bill estimated to add \$1 billion to the cost of our electricity bills. They are looking at increasing the sales tax by as much as \$271 million by including groceries, medical products, residential energy, clothing and footwear, and/or expanding coverage to include services. They

are looking at a \$15-\$30 million sweetened beverage tax. New taxes on downloaded software: \$20 million. A new 5 percent gross receipts tax on television streaming services on top of the sales tax: \$7-8 million. And a Clean Transportation Carbon Tax on gasoline and diesel on par with the one on heating fuels.

Despite all this taxing and spending, misplaced priorities left many of our homes and businesses vulnerable to extreme weather events, such as the July and December flooding, because Vermont Democrats diverted hundreds of millions of dollars away from investing in preventative adaptation measures and into unrealistic – and unbearably expensive -- schemes to change the weather by “lowering our carbon footprint.”

Crime in our once uniquely safe state is now a top issue because the supermajority's unrealistic belief that defunding our police, allowing criminals to shoplift and commit other crimes without consequence, and fostering a permissive drug culture would somehow make our communities safer. The opposite is true.

Housing is unaffordable because the supermajority piles regulation upon regulation making it literally impossible to build new housing at an affordable price.

Our schools, despite record spending on a declining student population and an ever-increasing property tax burden, are failing to educate our children. Test scores are dropping, classroom safety is suffering, mental health issues are rising because of the supermajority's proclivity to adopt every progressive educational fad and to use our classrooms as indoctrination camps instead of focusing on real skills

(See G.E.T. R.E.A.L., Page 5)



Resting freedom face

BALD EAGLES ARE starting to nest around the area. This majestic bird may be one that nests in Florence. Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Saint Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church holiday schedule is confirmed

19 Conant Square, Brandon (on Route 7).

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m., Procession with palms and Eucharist.

Maunder Thursday, March 28, 6 p.m., Eucharist followed

by the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, March 29, 12 noon, join Christians in Brandon for Walk of The Cross from center of town to Saint Mary's Church.

Easter Sunday, March 31

10 a.m., join us to celebrate the Risen Christ.

Throughout Holy Week, feel free to visit our Faith Community Garden, with its shrouded cross, to sit quietly or pray.

Training available for hospice volunteers

VNAHSR provides training for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Training will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 8am – 4pm at the Castleton Free Library, located at 638 Main St., Castleton, VT. Training is free and open to individuals 16 years of age and older. Volunteers need to pass a background check. No previous hospice and health care experience is required. Pre-

registration is required.

At the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR), volunteers play a critical role in enhancing the end-of-life experiences of people facing serious illness and their families. Volunteers represent all life experiences and are drawn to hospice for a variety of reasons, but the defining characteristics that unite them are compassion and the desire to help others.

Their many skills are matched to important tasks within our mission.

Once training is complete, assignments and schedules are tailored to the volunteer's geographic and time commitment preferences.

Training Topics include:

- Understanding the Hospice philosophy of care
 - Knowing boundaries when
- (See *Hospice volunteers*, Page 5)

The REPORTER

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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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Celebrate the arrival of Spring with breakfast!

Come to a Spring Breakfast at the Shoreham Congregational Church on Saturday April 6, 2024 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Feast on Plain or Blueberry Pancakes or French Toast with Vermont Maple Syrup, Sausages, Home Fries, Quiche, and Beverages.

The cost is only \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$30 for families. It is a great chance to enjoy good food as

you chat with your neighbors and friends.

And take a chance on a Spring Basket of Goodies. Raffle tickets are only \$1 each or 10 for \$5.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the breakfast that day!

Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

G.E.T. R.E.A.L.

(Continued from Page 4)

like reading, writing, math, science, and critical thinking.

These are just a few of the biggest issues we face – and must solve. To do so we must “G.E.T. R.E.A.L.” about what’s happening, who is responsible, and who is really willing to do what needs to be done to keep our ship of state afloat.

G.E.T. R.E.A.L. is a solemn promise and a positive path forward for our state by Vermont Republicans focused on improving the quality of life of our people. It is a prescription of policy propos-

als that includes: G.lobal Warming Solutions Act reform, recalibrating the law to reflect realistic and affordable goals; E.ducation reform, refocusing our schools’ mission back to excellence in core subjects; T.ransportation and infrastructure with a priority for fixing our roads; R.egulatory reform to lower the cost of housing; E.nvironmental protection initiatives focused on protecting and preserving our natural resources and landscapes; A.ffordability and tax reform to lower costs for working Vermonters; and restoring L.aw and order in our communities.

We encourage Vermonters who see the need for a new and more affordable direction for our state to learn more about the G.E.T. R.E.A.L program and the candidates who support it in the months between now and November 5. It’s time to get involved. The future of Vermont – and your future in it -- is at stake.

— Terry Burke, Rutland County Republican Committee chair on behalf of all the VT Republican County Committee chairs.

Leicester News

Dog registration deadline and town bingo fun are coming up soon

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds dog owners of the need to register dogs before April 1.

Cost information available on the town website or by calling office at 247-5961. To avoid possible penalties and fees, get this done before the dog census is completed.

Leicester Historical Society is once again sponsoring Prize Bingo at the Senior Center at the Four Corners on Sat., Apr 13, at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome and refreshments served.



Hospice volunteers

(Continued from Page 4)

interacting with patients and families

- Communicating with patients and families
- Understanding basic health and safety precautions
- Understanding patient confidentiality

The Benefit of Becoming a Hospice Volunteer

- While our volunteers make a tremendous impact on the lives of our patients, families and staff, we hear time and again that they, too, benefit from their hospice experiences. Among the things they mention are:
 - Increased appreciation for living life in the moment and defining what is really important
 - Greater knowledge and more inner peace about the end-of-life experience
 - Greater insight about diversity and the different perspectives among cultures
 - Heightened sense of fulfillment and pride because of their contributions to patients and families and to the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region.

For more information or to register call Mary at 802.442.0540 or email at mary.pleasant@vnahsr.org.

About the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region

VNAHSR is a non-profit, Medicare-certified home health and hospice agency delivering a wide range of advanced medical care with compassion, dependability, and expertise to people of all ages throughout Bennington, Franklin, and Rutland Counties.

With office locations in Bennington, Dorset, Manchester, Rutland, and St. Albans, we have over 250 trusted health professionals and caregivers committed to providing exceptional care to patients and families.

Proud of our national reputation for quality care, VNAHSR is highly rated for Quality of Patient Care and Patient Satisfaction from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is recognized as one of the nation’s top performing home health agencies by HomeCare Elite, a market-leading review that identifies top Medicare-certified agencies.

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Obituaries

Eric Ian Freson, 36, Pittsford

Eric Ian Freson took his last run in the powdery snows of Colorado's Gunnison Valley on February 11, 2024. He spent his last day doing something he greatly loved: skiing the back-country mountains with friends. Born on March 19, 1987 in Vermont to Monica and Tony Freson of Pittsford, he began his school days at Lothrop Elementary and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School in 2005. After high school, he attended Western State College of Colo-



ERIC IAN FRESON

rado in Gunnison, graduating in 2009 and then making his home and life there.

For his complete obituary, see the links below:

Gunnison man dies in Anthracite avalanche Sunday – The Crested Butte News

<https://www.gunnisontimes.com/articles/local-skier-killed-by-avalanche-near-crested-butte/>

<https://www.gunnisontimes.com/articles/eric-freson/>

Galen Otis Hutchison, Jr, 86, Rutland

Galen Otis Hutchison, Jr, age 86, passed away on Monday, March 11, 2024, at Mountain View Center in Rutland.

Galen was born in Middlebury on December 6, 1937. He was the son of Galen and Kathleen (Mac-Call) Hutchison, Sr. He grew up on Wagner Road in Forest Dale and received his early education in local schools. He graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1955. He afterwards attended Paul Smith College and earned his degree from the University of Vermont. Upon graduation, he worked for UVM in Forestry Research. He was a consultant in forestry management for many years, retiring in 2000. He and his family had lived in Bakersfield for several years before returning to the Brandon area. He was a member of the Leicester Church of the Nazarene, where he was involved in many church affairs and activities. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, was an avid



GALEN OTIS HUTCHISON

reader, and loved making maple syrup and working in his garden.

Surviving are his son, Andrew Hutchison (Donna) of Leicester, and a daughter, Wendy Cijka (Stephen) of Hubbardton, two grandchildren, Emma Cijka of Shoreham and Joseph Cijka of Hubbardton. Several nieces and nephews also survive him. He was predeceased by his wife,

Sally (Sargent) Hutchison, whom he married in Forest Dale on January 29, 1959, and by a sister, Laura Slattery.

Friends may call at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home on Friday, March 22, 2024 from 5 until 7 p.m.

The memorial service "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on March 23, 2024, at 11 a.m., at the Leicester Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Michael Vincent will officiate.

Following the service the family will receive friends, in the church hall, for a time of remembrance.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to the Leicester Church of The Nazarene, 39 Windy Knoll Lane, Leicester, VT 05733.

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

Thelma Miner, 94, Brandon

Thelma Miner, 94, passed away on March 14, 2024, at the UVM Medical Center in

Burlington. She was born in Goshen on January 16, 1930 to Hawley Hathaway and Mindwell Cross Hathaway. She graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1948.

Thelma went to work for the Ayrshire Breeder's Assn. in Brandon. She married Leo Miner on July 22, 1950, and farmed alongside him, raising 5 children together. The farm later passed to her son Jim. Leo then created a snack wagon from a small transit bus and Thelma's Snacks was

born. They traveled to auctions, festivals and fairs selling their food. They were also maple producers, producing some mighty fine syrup. Leo passed away in 1998 and Thelma carried on

with her snack wagon and maple syrup. She made her maple products, syrup, cream, sugar, and

candy and set up once a week at the Farmer's Market in Brandon. Generations have grown up enjoying Thelma's Bread Dough with Maple Cream as she was a staple at July 4th festivities and 20 years serving the people at the Addison County Field Days. She loved being a maple producer and would "talk maple" with anyone who asked about syrup or visited her sugar house during boiling. She was an active member of the Addison County Sugar Makers Assn. for many years. Thelma was also a 59-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Marble Chapter



THELMA MINER

#80 in Brandon.

Thelma is survived by her children (Marie Perry, Ernest Miner and wife Deborah, James

Miner and wife Kim, Marsha Hesse, Edward Miner and wife Lynn), Sister-In-Law Gertrude

Hathaway, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Leo, and two brothers, Ralph Hathaway and Burton Hathaway.

The OES and Funeral Service will be held March 23rd at 11:00 am at the Brandon

Congregational Church. Refreshments and fellowship following the service in the Rectory. Thelma was a big supporter of the Brandon Town Hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to "The Friends of the Brandon Town Hall", PO Box 181, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, Middlebury, VT.

Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com

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Jim & Liz McRae

Bonny Sue Lee, 65, Brandon

Bonny Sue Lee, age 65, passed away on Monday, March 18, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Bonny was born in Hudson, NY on March 5, 1959. She was the daughter of William and Audra (Waite) Bowen. She grew up in Benson, VT, where she received her early education and graduated from Fair Haven Union High School, class of 1977. Following graduation, she began her working career at Brandon Training School. She later moved to the Vermont Department of Health in Middlebury and later transferred to the Health Department in Rutland. She retired in 2023, after more than 44 years of service. She was an avid reader. She enjoyed sewing and arts and crafts.



BONNY SUE LEE

Surviving is her husband, Terry Dean Lee of Brandon, whom she married in Brandon on September 6, 1986; one daughter, Nyssa Bowen Lee of Rutland; 3 brothers, Shawn Bowen of Fair Ha-

ven, Shane Bowen of Poultney, and Wayne Bowen of Benson; 3 sisters, Jaci Burney of Arizona, Sonja Casey of Argyle, NY, and Stephanie Bowen of Ohio. Three grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, & cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents and two brothers, William and Wayland Bowen.

Friends may pay their respects to the family on Sunday, March 24, 2024, from 4 to 6 p.m. A gathering "In Celebration of Her Life" will take place at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

Sock machine

(Continued from Page 2)

by hand with a needle and yarn after the sock is removed from the machine, and Dutton demonstrated it for us; I still don't understand how it works. And I won't even attempt to describe how she makes ridiculously cute sock rabbits using both this machine and extensive hand stitching.

After going to a 3-day "sock school" and then practicing for over a month to master the art, it now takes Bonny Dutton about one hour to knit a pair of socks. If done manually, it would take many, many more hours, certainly over a period of days, to produce the pair. She creates gorgeous products of bright colors from digitally dyed self-striping yarns that result in extraordinarily crisp and brilliant patterns. Different-sized socks are made using interchangeable cylinders on the machine, which, by the way, is very expensive, as you might imagine for a fully working antique.

Surprisingly, this contraption

is still in widespread use today, and local clubs occur all over the map. Aficionados periodically gather into "crank-ins" and collectively sit and produce socks in a communal manner, sharing techniques and stories along the way. Bonny originally attended a "crank-in" in Maine, which helped get her into the swing of things.

This is only the latest in a long line of fiber-making that the uber-talented Dutton uses. She weaves, spins, knits, crochets, sews, teaches, and more. All her sweaters, heirloom hand-woven scarves, items for the home, children's clothing, and of course socks are available for purchase through her business, "Fleece on Earth" at Feather & Flora Farm in North Chittenden or online at www.FleeceOnEarth.com.

I had never put much thought into socks, the truth be told, but Saturday afternoon changed all that. I will never again take the sock for granted. And next time you hear of a sock-machine demonstration don't hesitate to



A CLOSE-UP VIEW of the antique sock machine demonstrated last weekend at the Brandon Library by Bonny Dutton. The intricate, diabolically clever mechanism initially required careful counting in order to ensure the proper number of turns. A digital device now keeps track.

attend, as you won't be disappointed. Plus...warm, wooly socks to go!



Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

License plate laws are on your mind

Constituent services have always been the primary focus for me while serving as your State Representative. I receive many emails, snail mails, and phone calls regarding many of the bills that may or may not come before me that ask for my support or ask me to oppose certain bills that the House may bring to the floor for action. Many of you will contact me asking for help in negotiating the intricacies of the various state agencies that serve the citizens of my legislative district.

Recently I have received many inquiries about vehicle license plates such as "Do I need a front plate?" or "Can I cover my front plate with a plate from my favorite sports team, car dealership, fraternal organization, etc.?" Another question often asked, "Why do we need two plates, can we eliminate the front plate and save the state money?" The most recent question has been "Why did the police issue me a warning or a ticket for a covered or missing license plate?"

There are many other inquiries concerning license plate laws. I'll try to briefly answer these questions here and if you have further questions, please e-mail me for ongoing discussions.

Title 23 of the Vermont Statutes subchapter 5 section 511 clearly states the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may require one or two plates and if two plates are furnished, one must be securely attached to the front and one to the rear of the vehicle, if one plate is furnished it shall be securely fastened to the rear of the vehicle. The plate shall be kept entirely unobstructed, and the numbers and letters shall be plainly legible at all times.

What this all means is that you cannot legally cover your front plate with any other plate including your favorite sports team, service organization, vehicle dealership and the like, to do so violates 23 VSA section 511(a) and thus subjects a person to a violation of Vermont laws. The only exception to this law is the current "Vermont Strong" commemorative license plate. This exception has been authorized by legislative action in bill number H.839...The Budget Adjustment Act, which also provides that when displaying the commemorative plate, the front registration plate shall not be removed.

To the question of "Why do we need 2 license plates?". In the interest of public safety and at the request

of the Department of Public Safety, the legislature has determined that a front plate is necessary for the traveling public's safety, therefore after hours and hours of testimony on the subject of two license plates over the recent years, legislators have decided any savings that might be gained by not issuing a front license plate are outweighed by the need to protect the motoring public.

Finally, the answer to the question "Why did the police issue me a ticket or warning that I have a covered or missing license plate?" is you have violated Vermont law by covering or removing your front license plate. I hope this lengthy explanation helps you in understanding one of the many Vermont motor vehicle laws we deal with every day!

In floor action this week the House debated and passed a public safety bill that I have been waiting for and tracking since the beginning of this session. H.534...An act relating to retail theft. This bill is one of many that attempt to hold people that continually commit misdemeanor retail theft of under \$900 more responsible for their actions. The legislation provides that a per-

(See Legislative report, Page 8)



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Names lost

(Continued from Page 3)

tion. Court documents list Alex Bro, “capable of labor,” his wife, nearing the end of pregnancy, and a “weakly” son John. Alexis was among those who petitioned the general court of Massachusetts for them to resettle in the town of L’Acadie. Today, descendants of the immigrant ancestor from France to Acadia [Nova Scotia], Vincent Brau, number in the tens of thousands.

Electa Sears, Jedidiah Browe’s wife, daughter of Frank Sears and Saphronia Tatro also an Acadian descendant. Her father, born Francois Cyr/Sire, served during the Civil War for one year as in Company F of the 9th Vermont Infantry. Frank died on September 10, 1876, age 51, his life likely cut short because of wartime hardship. It took Saphronia several years to qualify for a widow’s pension,



PHOTO POSTED ON “Ancestry” of Frank Browe.

which she collected until her death at age 91 on 26 January 1915. She lived the entirety of her long widowhood with her daughter Electa Browe. By 1910, they were a four-generation household. Electa (Sears) Browe’s obituary notes that she was a member of the Shelburne Methodist Church for years.

Looping back to the Wisells and Welcomes, Part 19: Minerva Sears married Levi Welcome in 1843; Mary Sears married Joseph Wisell in 1846. These women, born a generation earlier



GRAVESTONE OF FRANK Sears, likely erected in the 20th century, Charlotte Cemetery.



JEDIDIAH BROWE/ELECTA GRAVE in Middlebury Cemetery.

than Electa Sears, were all Cyr/Sires, descendants of the original progenitor, Pierre Sire from France who was counted in the 1671 Census of Port Royal, predecessor of Annapolis, Nova Scotia. Scholarship on the Acadian diaspora has flourished in the last several decades, making it more accessible than ever for Vermont descendants to learn the tortuous migrations paths of their ancestors. A very helpful link below to Acadian surnames:

<https://www.acadian.org/genealogy/families/acadian-family-names/>

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, through a tragic love story, brought to the national consciousness the human cost of forced migration. At the end of his poem, Evangeline, a Sister of Mercy, is at last reunited with her dying Gabriel in a Philadelphia charity hospital. These two characters passed into legend. It is fitting for us to conclude with

the final lines of Longfellow’s lament, my first exposure to this haunting story of wandering exiles.

Still stands the forest primeval; but under the shade of its branches

Dwells another race, with other customs and language.

Only along the shore of the mournful and misty Atlantic

Linger a few Acadian peasants, whose fathers from exile

Wandered back to their native land to die in its bosom.

In the fisherman’s cot the wheel and the loom are still busy;

Maidens still wear their Norman caps and their kirtles of homespun,

And by the evening fire repeat Evangeline’s story,

While from its rocky caverns the deep-voiced, neighboring ocean

Speaks, and in accents disconsolate answers the wail of the forest.

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Legislative report

(Continued from Page 7)

son “who commits more than one retail theft in one or more locations within a 14-day period and within a single county shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or imprisoned for not more than 10 years or both if the aggregate retail value of the merchandise is taken away exceeds \$900.” To translate the legislative language, this means if a person commits retail theft of

\$900 or less in one day but commits another theft for a few more dollars within 14 days, this crime now becomes a felony offense. We’ve been calling this “stacking” the crimes to create a felony and the intent is to curb the onslaught of retail theft with no penalty or responsibility by the person committing the crime. This bill is just another step to adjust the statutes on larceny and other public safety issues.

Questions, comments, please send me an e-mail 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*



Hog wild!

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP left: Fred "the pig guy" testing the pig for doneness; Tessa and Seth Westbrook styling their vintage ski equipment and beautiful sweaters and knickers. Check out those wood skis, bamboo poles, and leather boots. Word is they had to rummage around in the barn for a few of those. Kids going through the tunnel, one of the obstacles in the race; adults sprinting across the road to don their skis.



Further adventures of Starship Bean #7, Big Bend National Park

BY GEORGE FJELD

"Are you going to put that in your coffee?" the waitress asked as I put my flask of light brown liquid down on the table. All the staff in the Waffle House Restaurant were actively listening for my reply. After ordering breakfast, I had risen from our booth and gone out to our camper Bean (who was parked outside) for a little special nourishment to add to breakfast. I returned in full view with a small hip flask gripped in my hand. I replied, "Of course!" All eyes were upon me as I uncapped the bottle and the syrup slowly oozed onto the waffle. Laughter erupted and all the staff came by to laugh with us over their assumption that it could only be whiskey in such a bottle. I still chuckle as I think about the reaction my bottle of Baird Farm maple syrup got in the Deep South!

For those of you who haven't traveled south of the Mason-Dixon line, Waffle Houses are ubiquitous. At every mall, interstate exit, and small town, the classic large

windows, small booths, and open kitchen are seen. The staff is plentiful and one never waits long to be greeted and served. They draw a diverse crowd of families, working folks, and travelers to their 24

hour 7 day per week eatery. Eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, hash browns, and, of course, waffles are served full time. They have other offerings that we're not familiar with as our habit is to stop after a few hours on

the road following an early, coffee-fueled start.

"We're headed for Texas," I told the waitress, "to see our son and daughter-in-law and visit Big Bend National Park." "Have a safe trip and don't be drinking on the road," she admonished. Texas is a long way from our home in Vermont but doable if you have the best traveling companions. I do. I'm lucky to travel with my wife, Carol, and dog, Milo. We cruise in Bull towing Bean. Bull is an almost new Chevy Colorado and Bean is an equally fresh small Airstream trailer. Bean has her own voice which you may already know but if not, you'll find out soon enough. They're a great tandem, comfortable both day and night. We make good time but don't push it, limiting ourselves to 300 miles a day, get done by 3pm and we don't travel more than 3 days in a row. Kinda makes it a journey instead of a trip. We find interesting places to stop and try to use state parks for camping when possible. They often have ameni-

ties on site, like hiking trails and lakes for fishing and boating.

Bull, the tow vehicle, has 4 doors and a covered, lockable bed to store all the camping gadgets and gizmos one accumulates as a camper. With 4 wheel drive and smooth road manners, he gets us where we want to go. I appreciate adaptive cruise control and the towing accessories like lane change assist adapted to trailer length as well as the trailer light check he provides when we start out. He's got plenty of power for the mountains and the pair of them are undeterred by 18-wheelers blowing by or tropical storm winds in a mountain pass.

Bean is as comfortable a house as one could want in 16 feet and 3,500 pounds. A close-to-king-size bed, wet bath (that means a shower in addition to a toilet), and a kitchen, complete with sink, 2-burner stove and 12-volt fridge means we truly do have all the comforts of home. There's water on board with a water heater as well as a
(See Starship Bean, Page 11)



BEAN (LEFT) AND Bull (right) in the rugged Texas outback. Though Texas is associated with heat, temps dipped into the teens while George and Carol Fjeld were visiting. Fortunately, Bean is heated and comfortable.
Photos by George Fjeld

STUDENT: Dylan Garvey

GRADE: 3

SCHOOL: Neshobe

TITLE: The Dead Band

MEDIUM: Markers, paper,
cotton balls, felt, glue

TEACHER: John Brodowski

OUR CREATIVE KIDS



Statement from Mr. Brodowski:

For this project, the students were challenged to use a variety of textures in their artwork. Dylan did a fantastic job meeting the challenge and adding his own creative twist. Dylan is a great student to have in art class because he always takes his art challenges very seriously but also makes his projects fun, unique, and includes his own ideas and creativity.

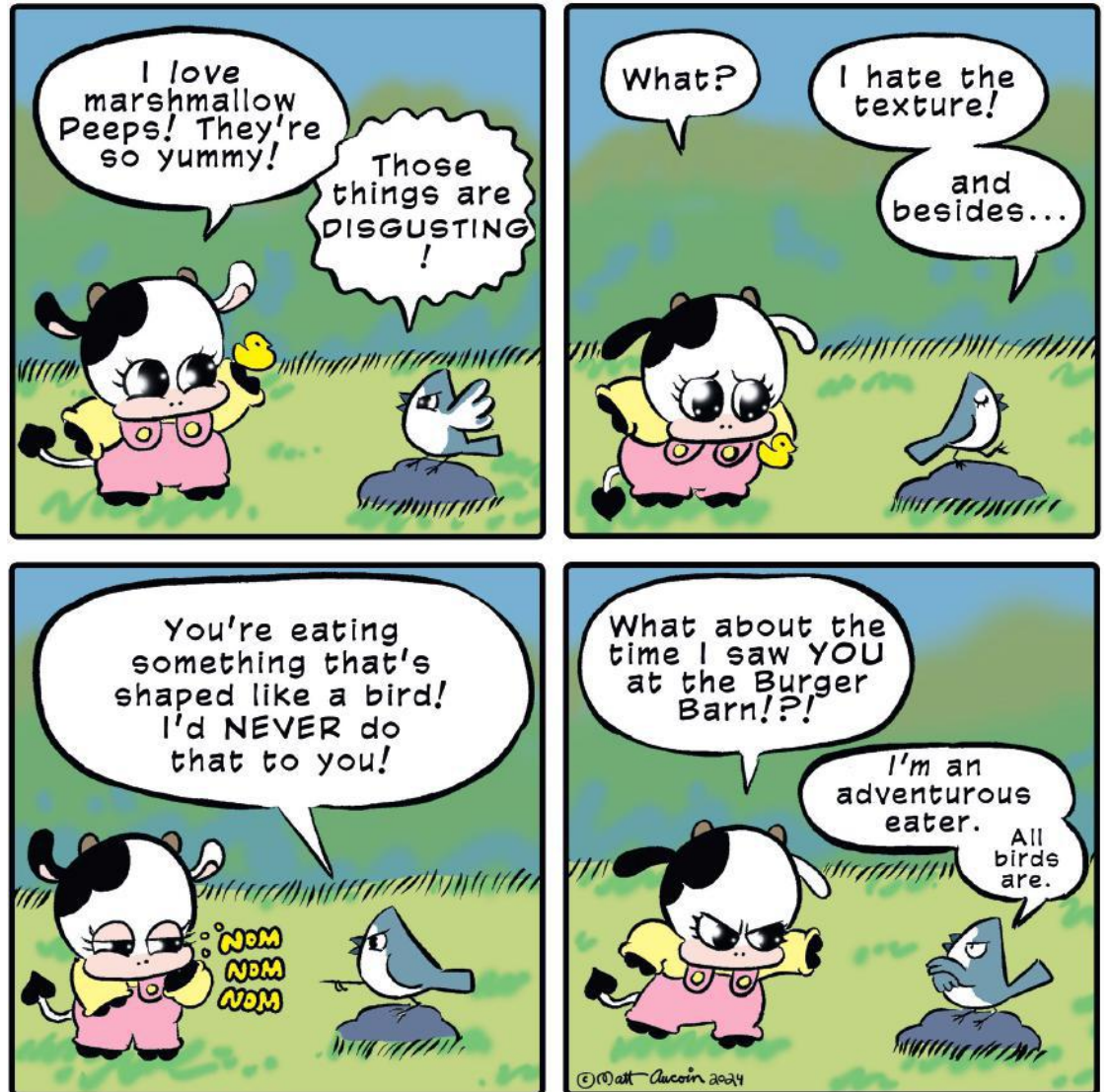
Statement from Dylan:

I thought of making a band of ghosts. I named them the Dead Band because the band was made of ghosts.

MAPLE ^{the} COW™ by Matt Aucoin



A DUSTING OF snow on Bull in Texas. Temps were unusually low in the area. Bean can be seen parked in the driveway in the background.



Starship Bean

(Continued from Page 9)
furnace and air conditioner. Solar panels on the roof mean we don't have to plug in everywhere we go. Boondocking is a snap. Which is good, seeing as the campground we're headed to in Big Bend has no hookups.

Memphis, Tennessee has a large REI store we visited to try to find some stargazing chairs I'd heard about. No luck with the chairs but we did meet Michele from Memphis who was home from Big Bend to make a little money before heading back to river guide the next

summer. After filling our heads with stories and places to see, she gave us the lowdown on the roads and trails. Michele said, "The Rio Grande River is the only place to be in the summer as the heat is stifling." Turns out we wouldn't get even a little of that heat.

We made it from Vermont to Texas in 5 days breaking all our rules but we had to get there. We got to Austin and spent 2 nights with our kids. We ate Korean and Japanese street food at H Mart, a mall with 12 vendors. It was (See *Starship Bean*, Page 14)

What's coming up at the Brandon Town Hall!

March 22
Brandon Idol
Rock and Roll, 7pm \$5

March 23
Mad Hatter Masquerade Ball
8pm \$25

March 30
Aaron Audet Band 7pm \$10

April 5
Friday Night at the Movies

April 12
Wildlife Encounters \$5

April 13
Bounce House Karaoke



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

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 (hazfm@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.



cal 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

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).

Brandon Congregational Church Easter services

March 28th- Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall- This will be a Last Supper format around a large table in Fellowship Hall

March 31st- Sunrise service 6:00 am at the Stewarts House on 1329 Arnold District Rd.

March 31st- Easter Service at 10:00 am in the sanctuary

All are welcome! Email questions to brandoncongregationalchurch@gmail.com

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!



THE ORDER OF THE SPECTRAL ERMINE

SUMMONS you to INITIATIONS:
ART PARTY and CULT RITUAL*

Saturday, March 23
Initiations begin at 6:30 p.m. @ Ruth Stone House, 788 Hathaway Rd, Goshen, VT

FEATURING: Art Exhibitions, Live Cyanotype Printing, Music, Tarot & Mystical Ephemera, Chances To Prove Your Devotion For Preferred Cult Status*, Refreshments & Prizes!

FREE SHOW!

Membership* is not required, however, Offerings* (aka at-will donations) are gratefully accepted.

OOTSE.COM

*not that kind of cult, silly

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

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 physi-

Goings on around town

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."

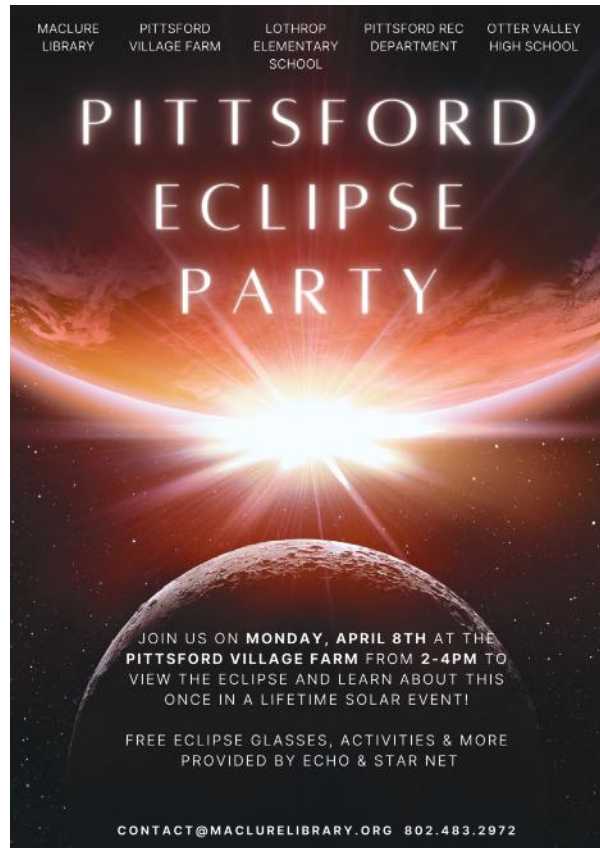
Wednesday 20th

NXT Curator Series—Historical Grooves: Archiving the Sounds of the Jewish-Muslim Relationship

Join Christopher Silver, the Segal Family Assistant Professor in Jewish History and Culture in the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University, for an interactive musical conversation.

What if listening for the past could change our understanding of history? In this interactive musical conversation, Professor Christopher Silver will detail his efforts to amplify a set of twentieth century North African Jewish and Muslim voices which for too long have remained silent in the historical record. Through selections from his first-of-its-kind archive of early twentieth century shellac records from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, he will draw our attention to the sublime sounds of the artists whose music shaped and spoke to an era of profound change and remarkable resilience.

Christopher Silver's first book, *Recording History: Jews, Muslims, and Music Across Twentieth Century North Africa*, was published in 2022 with Stanford University Press and was the winner of the 2023 L. Carl Brown AIMS Book Prize in North African Studies. He is also the founder and curator of the website *Ghar-amophone.com*, a digital archive of North African records from the first half of the twentieth century. The NXT Curator Series is spon-



sored in part by the Putney Public Library.

From 7–9 pm at Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. Free.

Thursday 21st

Vermont Food Security Roadmap Presentation at The Hub CoWorks, Rutland

Join Hunger Free Vermont, the Vermont Hunger Councils and Vermont Farm to Plate Network to explore the Vermont Food Security Roadmap to 2035.

This event is open to all community organizations and individuals as we collectively work to create equitable and consistent food security for all Vermonters. Whether you are a member of the legislature, a government official, a service provider, a farmer, or a community member, you will find a role in the effort to achieve food security in Vermont. To learn more, visit vtfarmtoplate.com/vermont-food-security-roadmap. From 2–3:30 pm.

Saturday 23rd

The Morning Dudes bring Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia music to Red Clover Ale

From 4–6 pm, Jake Gepfert brings his musical mastery of mandolin,

acoustic, and electric guitar and Tom Van Sant holds down the rhythm on acoustic guitar. Both "Dudes" sing with passion for the music shaped by their attendance at hundreds of Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia concerts. Always a hoot!

Mega March Birthday Bash w/ Suburban Samurai, Better Things and Vallery Falls @ The Underground—Listening Room, Randolph, VT

Advance: \$12 // Day of show: \$15
Doors: 7 p.m. // Show: 7:30 p.m. BYOB

Suburban Samurai: "Celebrating nine years of 'fast music for introverts,' Suburban Samurai invites you to join in on an evening full of bad puns and good friends!"

Better Things: Better Things is an alternative punk band from Burlington, Vermont, formed in 2014 by Brian LaClair (vocals/guitar), Brad Yandow (vocals/guitar), Mark Weber (drums), and Quintin Cardinal (bass). Their music, a unique blend of pop-punk, emo, and hard rock, showcases their unique collaborative songwriting style with diverse influences from Limp Bizkit to Less Than Jake. They released their debut EP, "These Roads Lead to Nowhere," in 2014, followed by "Hindsight 20/20." Their first full-length album, "Getting Worse," captures their journey into adulthood. With extensive touring under their belt and performances alongside groups like Bad Religion and The Offspring, Better Things returns to the stage after a 5-year hiatus with electrifying surprises and heartfelt melodies that will transcend expectations.

Vallery Falls: Hailing from the western side of Vermont, this pop-punk emo band encapsulates the raw emotion and vibrant energy of their New England surroundings. With their roots firmly planted in the local DIY scene, these four friends have crafted a sound that effortlessly blends the infectious melodies of pop-punk with the introspective, heart-on-sleeve lyricism of emo. Born out in Massachusetts, the band has gone through changes over the years to its current line up. Their lyrics delve into themes of love and loss, resilience, and will resonate with fans who find solace and solidarity in their relatable narratives.



Maple season is upon us

When cold nights and warm spring days trigger the flow of sap in Vermont's sugarbushes, they experience their very own gold rush. Vermont makes more than half the country's maple syrup. With more than 3,000 sugarhouses statewide, all that sap turns into cocktail infusions, dry rubs, sauces, and candy in addition to pure Vermont maple syrup and sugar.

Spring Maple Open House Weekend March 23 – March 24, 2024

Vermont's Spring Maple Open House Weekend is the most anticipated event of the season. Join us in a celebration of the current season's crop of liquid gold. Journey across the state and visit one of dozens of sugar houses. Grab the freshest syrup around!

www.vermontmaple.org/mohw

Vermont Maple Festival April 26–28

Live music, syrup tastings, carnival rides, pancake breakfasts, and a parade down Main Street in St. Albans round out this 57-year-strong Vermont spring tradition.

www.vtmaplefestival.org/schedule-of-events

Starship Bean

(Continued from Page 11)

amazing! We found our stargazing chairs on sale at the REI store in Austin. We had a great visit and headed out early the second morning to the west. Big Bend is a long way from Austin, but everywhere is a long way in Texas. We made a point of stopping in Plano, at the world famous Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que. Cooper's BBQ was the favorite of 2 presidents, Lyndon Johnson and the first Bush. I don't know why it wasn't Junior's favorite as well but there's a lot of BBQ in Texas.

We spent the night before entering Big Bend in a little campground in Fort Stockton, Texas with the wind blowing about 30 miles an hour and the temperature dropped to 40 degrees. It felt good to have the heat on that evening. An early start the next morning put us at the park entrance in about 2 hours. We used my Golden Age passport to register without fees and headed into the park to find our campground. Big mountains loomed ahead and we headed straight for them. Really there was no choice because there was only one road.

We passed the dinosaur exhibit and found the visitors center. After buying a hat and a guide we headed uphill, steeply uphill and over Panther Pass into the Chisos Basin. The campground was on a hillside

with a few trees and about 50 sites. Our site had a short driveway and a few large stones surrounding a nice flat spot to park Bean. After some delicate maneuvering, we put Bean's landing gear down and headed off to explore the area.

We returned after dark to find a note stuck in the door that said we can't leave a light on when away and we weren't allowed to park Bean off the pavement! Not much we were going to do about that in the dark! At 9 o'clock, there was a rap at the door and the park ranger was quickly and politely informing us of our missteps. Big Bend is an International Dark Sky Place where they thoughtfully protect the darkness from light pollution. Kinda like Vermont, I thought. We had a good night's sleep despite our branding as outlaws. In the chilly morning, we moved Bean to the tar, another meticulous job requiring moving a few inches, getting out, and checking clearances again and again. No harm done and we visited with the ranger who apologized for disturbing us the previous night but was afraid he'd miss us if we got an early start.

We hiked the Window Trail that day, a steady descent into the outlet for all the rain that falls in the basin. At the end was a cliff and a narrow overlook of the Chihuahuan desert and Mexico. The hike

back up was steadily and predictably uphill back to the camper. We spent the afternoon at the dinosaur exhibit and enjoyed it immensely despite the bone chilling 45-50 degree wind. They're awfully proud of their dinosaurs in Big Bend.

The next day, Bull ferried us through the desert to Santa Elena Canyon. There were many stops along the way for a beautiful view or a short hike to an interesting place. Lower Burro Mesa Pouroff has a falls with no water unless it's raining. It drains the rain from the mesa above. Sam Nail ranch is abandoned. It exists in a dry and desolate place, making one wonder why chose such a place? There's a good reason they're empty now, it must have been a very hard life. Sotol Vista Overlook was a great lunch stop with a view across the Chihuahuan desert to Mexico. Santa Elena Canyon separates the US and Mexico and is a great birding area. The Rio Grande there is murky enough to dissuade swimming or even fishing!

One night we headed to Terlingua, which has a ghost town amidst the inhabited bits. The high point there was The Starlight Theater, a restaurant and music hall featuring nightly music. The food was good, the music entertaining. More entertaining was the guitar player's wife who befriended us at the bar and told us story after story! The Theater's origin is an interesting story. The adobe building was built in the 1930s as The Chisos Movie



THE RIO GRANDE as it snakes its way through Big Bend. The rock formations on either side were carved through millennia of water erosion, a miniature version of the Grand Canyon.



THE STARLIGHT THEATER in Terlingua, giving off a ghost-town vibe in the Texas desert. The Starlight is a restaurant and music venue.

Theater providing entertainment for the miners in the surrounding hills. The town was abandoned in the 1940s as the mines closed.

The roof fell in as did the roofs of the surrounding houses, hence the ghost town. When more modern (See *Starship Bean*, Page 20)

Brandon budget

(Continued from Page 1)

Highway Department will have \$185K to use for paving in FY25 under the new proposal. Much of these funds will be used to repave Union Street from the Otter Creek bridge southward and North Street from Forest Dale Road to the Post Office.

The Committee also unanimously voted to reduce the amount of money in the budget for police cruisers from \$48K to \$24K. Originally, the failed budget envisioned the lease-purchase of two cruisers at \$24K per year each, for a total of \$48K per year for three years. Now, the \$24K could be used for the first yearly payment on a new cruiser or set aside in a capital fund until the town has enough money in the fund to purchase a new cruiser outright.

The Committee also voted to discontinue automatically mailing ballots to all registered town voters, a practice which began during COVID and costs the town several thousand dollars every year even though fewer than half of all registered voters actually vote. The vote on this

item was 3 in favor of discontinuation (Bailey, Coolidge, and Ethier) and 2 in favor of continuation of the practice (Guiles and Nelson). The precise amount to be saved by the discontinuation was not immediately clear.

The Committee also voted 4 to 1 (with Mr. Coolidge the sole nay) to allocate to the repair of the roof of the Town Hall whatever portion of the \$60K in ARPA funds remain after the failed solar bond. The Selectboard had originally allocated that \$60K to initiate the solar array project, including the costs for the bond. Town Manager Seth Hopkins projected that the total costs of the failed bond—engineers, lawyers, and mandatory advertising—would likely amount to \$10K or so, leaving roughly \$50K in ARPA funds available for reallocation. ARPA funds are federal grants and do not come from the collection of local taxes.

The Selectboard had already designated over \$200K in ARPA funds to the repair of the Town Hall roof, but a gap remained between the amount of ARPA

funds available for the project and the total cost of the winning bid. The reallocation of the \$50K will allow the town to avoid, or at least minimize, the use of tax revenues to close that gap.

A motion to convert a full-time position in the Highway Department to part time was voted down 0 to 4, with Mr. Coolidge abstaining. In response to the motion, Mr. Hopkins explained that a non-work injury sustained by the town's Buildings & Grounds employee had reduced the number of workers available to the Highway Department, as did the retirement of Foreman Shawn Erickson (Jeremy Disorda was promoted internally to take Mr. Erickson's place). Mr. Hopkins had just made an offer of employment to another worker and did not want the town to have to renege.

A motion to return the zoning administrator to 12 hours/week (from 24 in the failed proposal) was rejected 4 to 1, with Mr. Coolidge the lone nay. Mr. Hopkins explained that on the day-and-a-half schedule currently in place, the zoning administrator

is not always able to function efficiently and those seeking permits often face unnecessary delays. The measure, if passed, would have cut \$16K from the budget.

A motion to maintain the current town management team passed 4 to 1, with Mr. Coolidge the lone nay. Mr. Coolidge had voiced disapproval of the current structure, with Mr. Hopkins as Town Manager and Mr. Moore as Deputy Town Manager, stating that the Deputy position was unnecessary. The elimination of the Deputy position would have saved the town only \$7K since Mr. Moore would still retain his salary as Rec Director and Economic Development officer. His work as Deputy Town Manager adds only \$7K to his salary.

A motion to retain proposed cost-of-living increases to the salaries of town employees passed 4 to 1, with Mr. Coolidge the lone nay. The proposal to adjust employee raises had come from a resident in attendance. Mr. Hopkins noted that the increases, which ranged from 3% to 6%, were still less than the

past year's rate of inflation.

A motion to maintain the proposed budget for the Recreation Department passed unanimously. The proposal to eliminate some of the programs had been made by an attendee. Several other attendees suggested that the Rec Department needed to do more to raise funds on its own to cover its expenses and should seek contributions to its budget from surrounding towns whose residents use Brandon's programs. A request to implement a policy to hold the Rec Department to its approved budget also did not gain traction.

The new proposal will be presented to the Brandon Selectboard at its regular meeting on Monday, March 25. If the Board approves the proposal, a town-hall style meeting to discuss the proposal will take place on Saturday, April 13 with a re-vote on Tuesday, April 16 in coordination with the OVUU school board, which will be presenting its own revamped budget to the voters.

Can you guess the street?

BY LAURA PETERSON

Again, the Brandon Inn is the giveaway here. This is the Park Street stretch between Bank Corner (where Park meets Center Street) and the Brandon Inn: part of Park Square, if you will. The building that now houses the Middlebury Bank is there in the middle with 'Photographs' upstairs. But all the building to the left of it are gone and are now replaced by the 1918 Bar Harbor Bank building, and all the buildings to the right of it are gone and are now replaced by the 1919 building. I'd like to find some photos of the 1918 and 1919 buildings when they were new or being built.



PARK & CENTER St., today, and in the past.



Your mystery for next week!



REAL ESTATE



This Victorian home with its beautifully adorned turret welcomes you. Stunning foyer with ornate woodwork. Comfortable living room with fireplace and pellet stove insert. The turret lets in wonderful natural light, and the downstairs rooms are connected with grand double doors. The large, bright family kitchen features unique imported hardware throughout. Large primary bedroom full of light from the turret. Lovely rose gardens and a large 19th century vertical board barn. Offered at \$385,000



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RoweRealEstate.com



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

The broken stuff, the weather, and the airplane armrest!

BY CONNIE M. NITE

Hello, my lovely readers and welcome back to the tips and tricks of airline travel! I can't believe it's already the fourth article of this series! Time flies when you're having fun and this "senior mama" flight attendant with over a quarter of a century of flying is having a blast writing this series! I hope you enjoy reading it too!

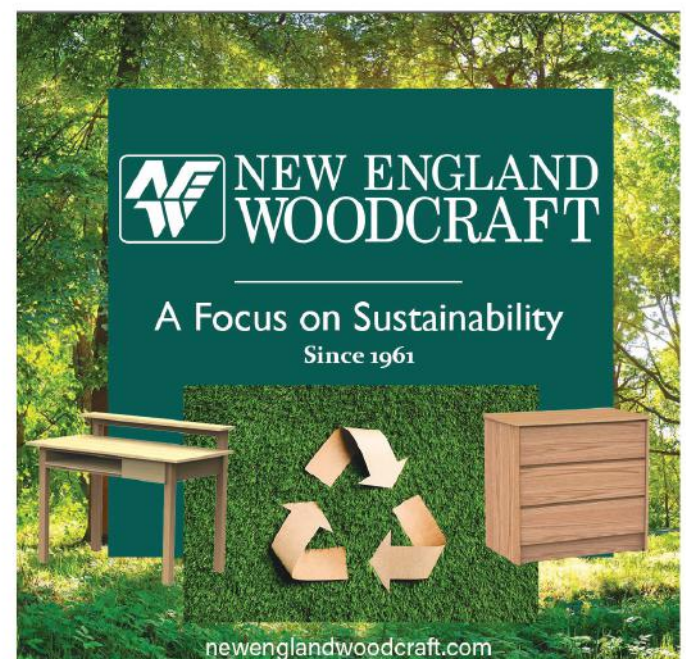
So, how was your week? Did you fly this week and notice the ashtray on the bathroom door? Did you overhear one of the crew tell-

ing a passenger to "push or pull?" Or did you look out the window while at the airport and see the "tail tipper" goal post holding up the back end of one of the Boeing 737-900s? For those of you who have never flown in an airplane, have I planted a seed for you to start planning a trip with your family or friends? Did you Google some of the things I've talked about to see for yourself? Whether you're a frequent flier or have never flown before I hope you're finding some of my tips and tricks

useful or at least entertaining!

One thing's for sure, airlines hate to spend money! If they can save money here or there, they will. If they can nickel-and-dime you out of additional money for food, alcoholic drinks, wi-fi accessibility, or overweight luggage, they totally will! On the flip side, one thing most airlines are pretty generous about is giving out free travel credits or flight miles. It's because they want you to come back to their airline and, you

(See *Let's Fly*, Page 21)



NEW ENGLAND WOODCRAFT

A Focus on Sustainability
Since 1961

newenglandwoodcraft.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!

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

Or call us at 247-8080

Recognized



Valerie Zimmer, OV class of '93, wrote, "I laughed loudly when I saw the bus picture, so I had to write. It was so funny at the time, I'm almost certain I clipped the photo—and caption—out of the 'Dateline' and saved it. Here's the story, as I remember it: Bea Halliday was a beloved bus driver for many years—she knew all the students, and was great at handling the "tougher" kids (who also loved her). She lived—I think—up on Birch Hill Road. This particular morning in the early 90s, it had snowed (or there was ice) and there was some debate about closing school, or running a delayed opening, or whatnot. Bea Halliday told her supervisor at OV (who was a man and shall remain unnamed) that Birch Hill Road was too icy for the bus and she wasn't going to drive it down the hill. So her supervisor went up there to see for himself—to drive it down the hill—and you can see the result in this photo. Of course Mrs. Halliday was right! The caption in the original printing contained all the embarrassing details about this event, and I wish I could share it with you. It was quite amusing to my teenage self, and apparently is quite amusing today!"



Ms. Zimmer was also able to identify the man in this photo as Tim Giddings, a fellow OV graduate from the class of '90 or '91.

Due to a technical/communications mishap, I haven't been receiving any of the messages being sent to the old *Addison Independent* email address or left on their answering machine. The issue has been resolved (!) so I can get them now. However, I have missed quite a few...Thus the next few issues will be catching up on getting those photos identified.

Thanks for your patience,
 Sepi (Designer at *The Reporter*)

You can also reach us at
kate@brandonreporter.com



Linda Schmidt and Elizabeth Gould identified the cutie in this picture as Ethan Dick.



Ms. Zimmer identified this photo as well. "That was the OV class of 1993 on their Junior Year trip to NYC (so 1992?)."



JoAnne Foster, and her friend Faye Hescoc, joined forces to name these folks. (They used maiden names for the ladies.) From left to right they are: Jonathan Hescoc, Kim Costello, Todd Hescoc, Joanne Foster, there is another person here, but they are not recognizable, and then Faye Hescoc. Then there is Chris Granstrom, Kelly Costello, Stephen Payne, Joni White, Jeff Morris and Karen Ravinovich. JoAnne believes the photo is from 1976/1977 and the group was gathered for a contra dance.



Bud Coolidge of Brandon identified Sandy Burke on the left, Annie Griffin in the middle, and Mike Wilson on the right.

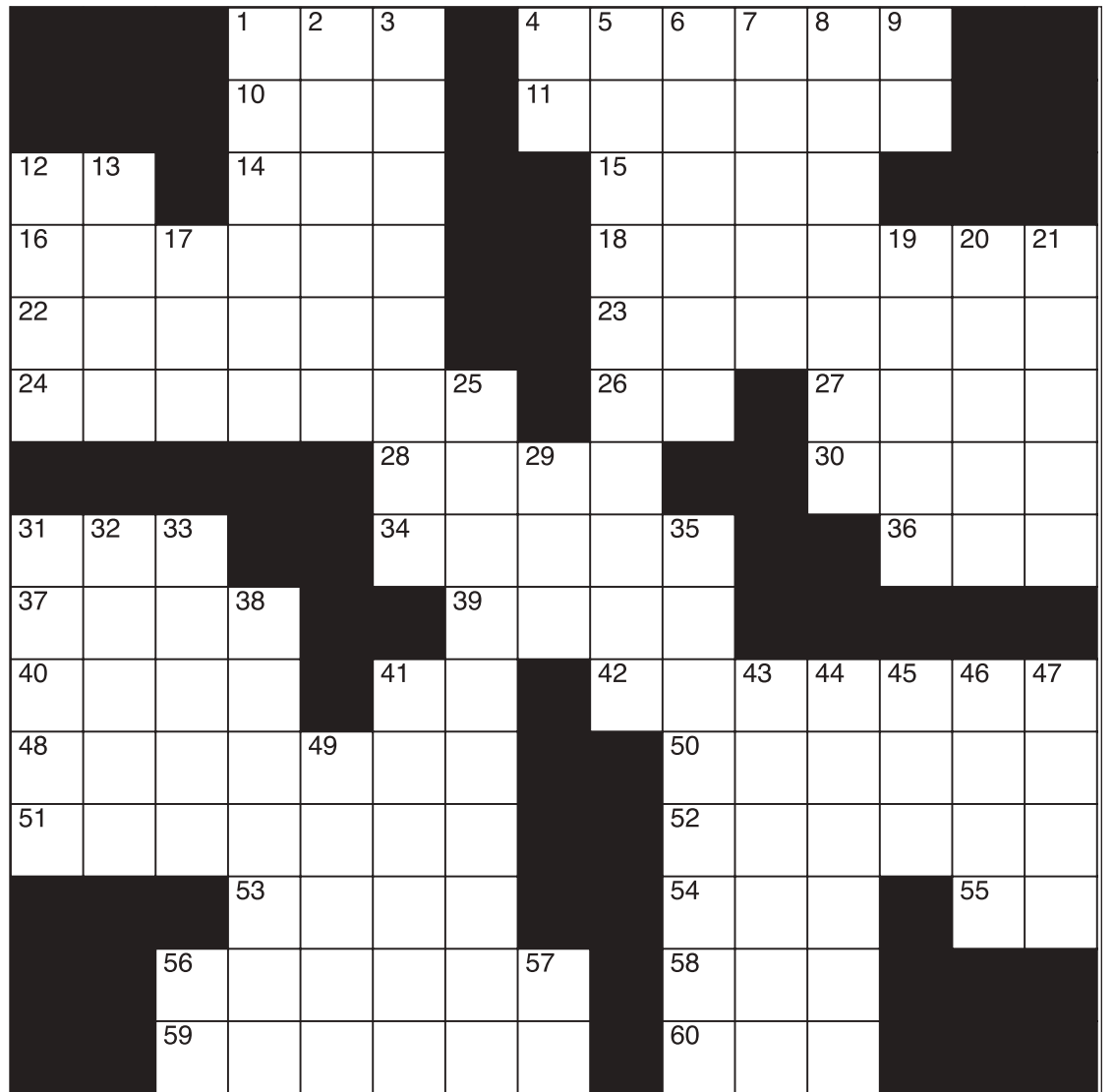
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Irish county
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A famous one is blue
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Spoils
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Products you may need
30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
31. TV network
34. Silk or cotton garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republics
37. Retired American football coach Dean
39. Hot dish
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. Sawhorse
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. Capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. By the way (abbr.)
56. Bicycle parts
58. Barbie's friend
59. Moved one's neck to see
60. Commercials

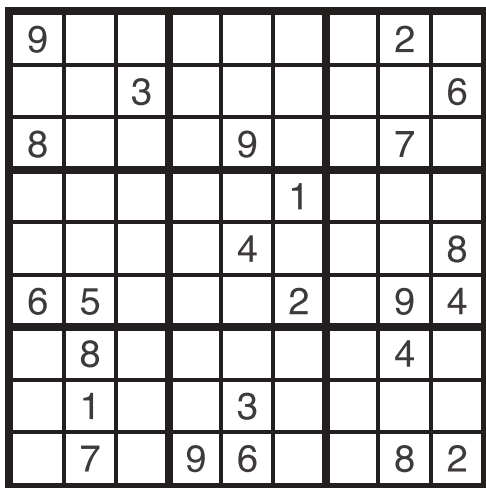
CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Salary
4. Influential world body
5. Engravers
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. A fake name
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate for a particular time of year
29. Creative works
31. Recesses
32. W. Pacific island group
33. Tolkien character
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Lowest members of British nobility
45. Actress Thurman
46. Type of sugar
47. Crest of a hill
49. N. American people of British Columbia
56. Device
57. The Mount Rushmore State



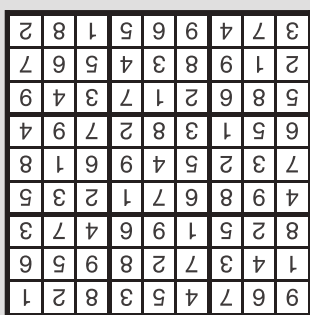
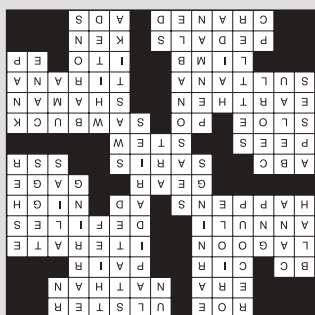
Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Low Cost Rabies Clinic at the Rutland County Humane Society

The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) will be hosting a low-cost rabies clinic on Saturday, March 23 from 10 AM – 11 AM at the shelter, 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford. The clinic is open to dogs and cats and costs \$10/vaccine, cash only. Exact change is preferred. All animals must be 12 weeks old or older to receive the rabies vaccine. In order to receive a 3-year rabies vaccine, pet owners must provide proof of prior vaccination. All cats must be in safe carriers and dogs must be on leashes. No physical examinations will be performed. This is a drive-through-style vaccine clinic. Pre-registration is not available and it will be first come, first served. Please remember all dogs must be registered with your town by April 1 of each year. Proof of an updated rabies vaccine will be required to complete the registration. Please contact RCHS at 802.483.6700 with any questions.

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



MEET DOMINO - 1 YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. TERRIER MIX. BLACK AND WHITE.

Domino is a 1-year-old terrier with a heart the size of his head. He is a resident of the Windham County Humane Society, and currently with us on sabbatical, as their facility undergoes some renovations. Domino is a powerful and athletic dog, happy to walk, work, or play. He will make a great pup for whatever family he ends up with, but we do feel he may do best in a home with a yard. Domino seems to do well with most dogs in the shelter, but will have to meet children and family pets before going to his new home.

MEET CHICO - 10 MONTH-OLD, NEUTERED-MALE. MIXED BREED. RED.

Chico the Big Red Dog is 82lbs and growing. He and his friend Squid were recently brought to us all the way from South Korea. Chico loves attention, treats and time with people, and approaches new situations with cautious curiosity. Chico does well with other dogs in the shelter, though his high energy and large size may be intimidating to other pets in the household. Chico is a very large puppy and known to jump on his people for affection, so he definitely needs someone to teach him how to be a family pet. If you would like to meet Chico, please stop by to visit him! The Adoption Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am to 4pm.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

802-483-6700 • WWW.RCHSVT.ORG
765 STEVENS RD. • PITTSFORD



OUR ADOPTION CENTER IS OPEN
TUESDAY-SATURDAY FROM
11AM-4PM.
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED.

OFF THE SHELF



New in adult fiction

Flight of the Wild Swan by Melissa Pritchard

A fictionalized story of Florence Nightingale, a brilliant, trailblazing woman whose humanity has been obscured beneath the legend. From adolescence, Nightingale was determined to fulfill her life's calling to serve the sick and suffering. Overcoming Victorian hierarchies, familial expectations, patriarchal resistance, and her own illness, she used her hard-won acclaim as a battlefield nurse to bring the profession out of its shadowy, disreputable status and elevate nursing to a skilled practice and compassionate art.

But the Girl by Jessica Zhan Mei Yu

Shortly after flight MAS370 goes missing, scholarship student Girl boards her own mysterious flight from Australia to London to work on a dissertation on Sylvia Plath. She is ambivalent toward academia and harbors ideas about writing a post-colonial novel, if only she could work out just what that means. But Girl relishes the freedom that has come with distance from the expectations and judgments of her very tight-knit Malaysian-Australian family and at last, Girl has an opportunity to live on her own terms.

Fruit of the Dead by Rachel Lyon

Camp counselor Cory Ansel, eighteen and aimless, afraid to face her high-strung single mother, is no longer sure where home is when the father of one of her

campers offers an alternative. The CEO of a Fortune 500 company, Rolo Picazo is middle-aged, divorced, and magnetic. He is intoxicated by Cory. When Rolo offers a childcare job (and a Non-Disclosure Agreement), Cory ignores her warning bells and allows herself to be ferried to his private island. Plied with luxury and opiates manufactured by his company, she continues to tell herself she's in charge. Her mother, Emer, senses otherwise. With her daughter seemingly vanished, Emer crosses land and sea to heed a cry for help she alone is convinced she hears. A unique retelling of the Hades and Persephone myth.

The Other Valley by Scott Alexander Howard

Sixteen-year-old Odile is an awkward, quiet girl vying for a coveted seat on the Conseil. If she earns the position, she'll decide who may cross her town's heavily guarded borders. On the other side, it's the same valley, the same town. Except to the east, the town is twenty years ahead in time. To the west, it's twenty years behind. The towns repeat in an endless sequence across the wilderness. When Odile recognizes two visitors she wasn't supposed to see, she realizes that the parents of her friend Edme have been escorted across the border from the future, on a mourning tour, to view their son while he's still alive in Odile's present. Edme—who is brilliant, funny, and the only person to truly see Odile—is about to die. Sworn to secrecy to preserve the timeline, Odile now becomes the Conseil's top candidate.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our plant swap is this weekend! Bring in your pest-free plants (labeled please) from 1 to 1:30 p.m. and pick out your new plants between 1:30 and 3 p.m. Seeds welcome!

Yet she finds herself drawing closer to the doomed boy, imperiling her entire future.

Pride and Joy by Louise Onome

Recently divorced life coach Joy Okafor is overwhelmed. She is the dutiful Nigerian daughter who has planned every aspect of her mother's seventieth birthday weekend on her own. As the Okafors begin to arrive, Mama Mary goes to take a nap. But when the grandkids try to wake her, they find that she isn't sleeping after all. Refusing to believe that her sister is gone-gone, Auntie Nancy declares that she has had a premonition: Mama Mary will rise again like Jesus Christ himself on Easter Sunday. Desperate to believe that they're about to witness a miracle, the family overhauls their birthday plans to welcome the Nigerian-Canadian community and the host of AJAfrika TV to help spread the word that Mama Mary is coming back. But skeptical Joy is struggling to deal with the loss of her mother and not allowing herself to mourn just yet while going through the motions of planning a funeral that her aunt refuses to allow. The Okafors prepare for a miracle while coming apart at the seams, praying that they haven't actually lost Mama Mary for good and grappling with what her loss would truly mean for each of them.

Brandon Police Report

March 4

- Received a call regarding a suspicious man who was allegedly sleeping near the side of the road near Estabrook Park on Grove Street. It was determined that the man was fine and not in need of medical treatment.

- Assisted Park Village property management with an angry tenant concerning an alarm battery that needed to be replaced in a smoke detector.

- Responded to a 911 hang-up call at a residence on Prospect Street. The call was determined accidental.

- Assisted the driver of a tractor trailer that had gotten stuck by the covered bridge on Pearl Street and needed assistance in turning around.

- Vehicle stop on Park Street for expired registration. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Town Farm Road for driving left of center and on the shoulder of the road. Warning issued.

- Conducted a welfare check on Furnace Road requested by a complainant who wasn't able to reach her children via telephone. The children were determined to be okay.

- Checked on a motorist on Champlain Street. The driver was determined to be okay and left the area.

March 5

- Responded to Center Street for a report of a minor hit-and-run vehicle crash with no injuries reported.

- Took fingerprints for a school chaperone.

- Received a report of threats allegedly made by a student, to other students, riding on a school bus.

- Received a complaint regarding two women who went to a residence on Union Street and allegedly threatened the residents. Complainant did not want to pursue the matter further.

- Received a report of an assault in Brandon. It was determined that there was not enough evidence to prove that an assault had indeed occurred.

- Attempted to intercept a vehicle that had eluded multiple traffic stops from the Rutland City Police Department and the Pittsford Police Department. The vehicle intentionally struck a Brandon Police (BP) patrol car head-on, and a vehicle pursuit ensued. The suspect eluded police, turning down Ice House Lane, where the vehicle became stuck

in the mud. The driver fled on foot into a swamp. The passenger was taken into custody and transported to the hospital with minor injuries. BP K9 Unit tracked the driver to Old Town Road, where the track ended. K9 Guinness was deployed for a narcotics sniff of the vehicle. Crack cocaine was discovered and the vehicle was seized. Investigation is ongoing and criminal charges are pending.

March 6

- Dispatched to a 911 hang-up call on New Road. The on-duty officer was tied up in an emergency disturbance call but was advised that BP had gotten through to the caller, who stated that she was okay and had mistakenly dialed 911 instead of 411.

- Responded to Quenneville Drive for a citizen dispute. It was determined that a woman on-location had a non-extraditable arrest warrant out of Ohio as well as an active arrest warrant out of Vermont for Failure to Appear (Counterfeiting). The woman was taken into custody, processed, and transported to the Rutland County Court for arraignment.

March 7

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license.

- Received a call about loose dogs on Grove Street. Town of Brandon ACO was notified.

- Executed a search warrant, with Pittsford Police, on a motor vehicle that was seized as a result of a pursuit.

- Responded to a call for a suspicious person near Conant Square who was described as wearing a mask and carrying a baseball bat. Officers patrolled the area, but the person was not located.

- Responded to a 911 hang-up call on Town Farm Road. All ok.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street in front of Brandon Area Rescue (BARS) for speeding. Warning issued.

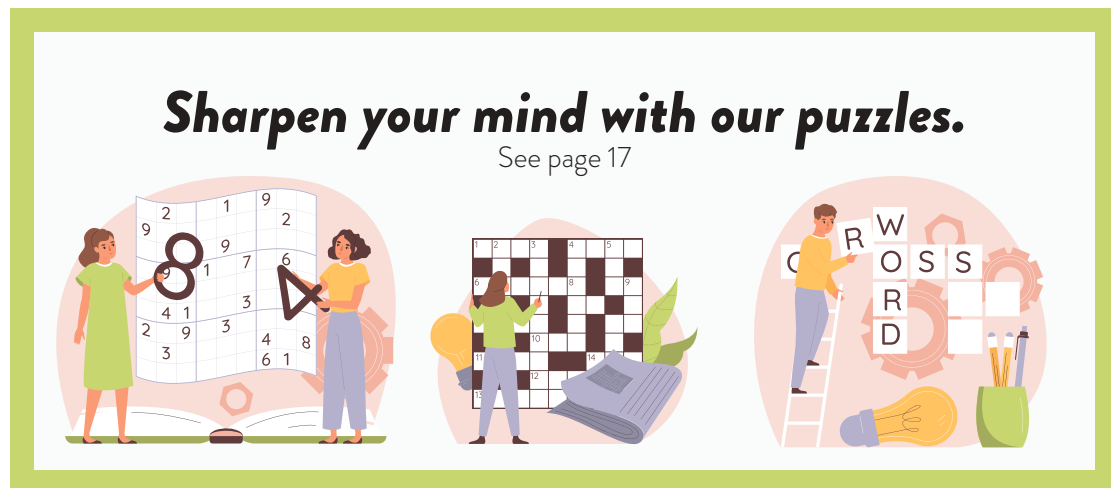
March 8

- Responded to the area of the OVUHS for a man sitting on the side of the road who appeared intoxicated. The man was transported to the hospital by BARS for treatment after indicating that he was having suicidal ideations.

- Assisted the Department of Children and Families by serving an Emergency Conditional Custody Order upon a parent. The parent was respectful and cooperative. (See Police report, Page 19)

Sharpen your mind with our puzzles.

See page 17



Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
erative.

- Assisted BARS on Grove Street for a report of a man bitten by a dog.

- Responded to a complaint of a loud vehicle driving without headlights around Prospect Street.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for driving on roadways laned for traffic. Warning issued.

March 9

- Received a call for an alarm at OVUHS. The alarm company cancelled police response.

- Responded to a residence for a woman who had ingested a considerable amount of medication in a suicide attempt. The woman was transported to the hospital where she met with a mental health counselor.

March 10

- Received a call for a vehicle off the roadway on Route 7 in Leicester. The Vermont State Police were already on the scene and requested the Brandon Police Department check a Brandon residence for the registered owner, as the vehicle had been abandoned. The owner was not located.

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street for failure to yield. Warning issued.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speed. Warning issued.

- Served two active warrants on a woman located at Mulcahy Drive.

- Assisted a motorist from Florida whose truck and trailer became immobilized after driving into a field on Corona Street. Police log (3.20.24)

March 11

- Received a complaint regarding the attempted theft of a vehicle from Green Mountain Garage on Franklin Street.

- Received a report of a vehicle crash at the intersection of McConnell Road and Wood Lane in which a car ran into a ditch. The vehicle was assisted back onto the road by a tow service.

- Responded to a residential burglary alarm on Carver Street. The alarm had been accidentally set off by a family member.

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license.

- Vehicle stop on Union Street for expired registration. Warning issued.

- Conducted a welfare check on Center Street. Everyone was found to be safe and sound.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for an obstructed windshield. Warning issued.

- Conducted a drug investiga-

tion after a motor vehicle was stopped on High Street for an expired registration. The female passenger had an active arrest warrant and an out-of-state non-extraditable drug-related arrest warrant. Police K9 Unit conducted a sniff of the vehicle, and cocaine was discovered. The vehicle was seized, and the woman was issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court for arraignment on 6/7/2024 at 10:00 a.m. She was lodged at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Center in Rutland. Additional drug charges are pending.

March 12

- Received a complaint regarding possible child neglect at a childcare center. Investigation is ongoing.

- Received a late report of a crash that occurred in Brandon. The issue was ultimately determined to be a civil matter.

- Received a report of a suspicious person looking into cars at Hannaford. Police patrolled the area several times and were unable to locate the individual.

- Responded to a verbal domestic disturbance on Forest Dale Road. The parties agreed to separate for the night.

- Conducted a search warrant on a vehicle that was seized on High Street on 3/11/2024. Both cocaine and heroin were found in the car as well as a large amount of drug paraphernalia. Investigation is ongoing, but charges of Possession of Cocaine (2.5+ grams), Possession of Heroin (2+ grams), and Possession of Regulated Drugs with Intent to Distribute charges are forthcoming.

March 13

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street for speeding. Warning issued.

- Assisted a tractor-trailer that had broken down on Route 7 in the downtown Brandon area. The Brandon Fire Chief and Animal Control Officer assisted with traffic control until the vehicle could be removed.

- Received a complaint from Naylor & Breen Builders regarding a forged check.

- Took fingerprints for government employment.

- Took fingerprints for a substitute teaching position.

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street at Lovers Lane for failure to maintain travel lane. Ticket issued for driving with a civilly suspended driver's license.

March 14

- Responded to a residence for a report of suspicious activ-

ity. It was found the caller may have been suffering from a mental health related condition and the caller's family member was advised to contact the caller's primary care doctor for further evaluation.

- Received a report of two dogs walking loose on Marble Street. Animal Control was notified.

- Conducted a foot-patrol on Center Street.

- Vehicle stop on Franklin Street for using a cell phone while driving. Ticket issued.

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

- Responded to a report of fire and sparks at a property on Carver Street. The fire was extinguished by the owner and the Brandon Fire Department.

March 15

- Vehicle stop on Grove Street for speeding. Ticket issued.

- Vehicle stop on Champlain Street for speeding. Warning issued.

- Police were flagged down by several people for juveniles on porches. After speaking with the juveniles, they were found to be handing out flyers for their landscaping business. No crime had occurred and all parties were very cooperative.

- Opened an investigation into a burglary on North Street.

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a patient lift assist at a

residence on Prospect Street.

March 16

- Responded to the Brandon Liquor Outlet on Conant Square regarding a payment issue between the business and a customer.

- Attempted to conduct a vehicle stop on Franklin Street on two motorcycles that fled from the officer. One of the motorcycles, which had driven into oncoming traffic and nearly struck an oncoming vehicle, was later stopped on Kendall Hill Road. When the officer attempted to order the operator off his bike, the driver again fled. Due to safety concerns, the officer did not attempt to follow the operator further. The other operator was stopped a short time later and identified. An investigation into the identity of the driver who fled is ongoing.

- Responded to the intersection of Grove Street and Arnold District Road for a report of a vehicle that had struck a deer with no reported injuries. The damage to the car was documented for insurance purposes and the deer carcass was removed from the road.

- Conducted a vehicle stop on Mulcahy Drive for an expired registration and on suspicion that the operator had a criminally suspended driver's license. Signs of impairment were observed. Upon investigation, the operator was arrested and charged with the

crime of DUI, Resisting Arrest, and Driving with a Criminally Suspended Driver's License. The operator was later released on a citation to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court for arraignment on 3/25/2024 at 12:30 p.m.

- Responded to a residence on Brookdale Street for an intoxicated man. The responding officer made arrangements for the man to spend the night at a relative's residence and he was picked up by a family member.

March 17

- Assisted the Vermont State Police with a follow up investigation regarding a welfare check involving a concerning email.


- Responded to the area of Churchill Road for a report of individuals on ATVs who were trespassing on the complainant's property, which reached from Brandon to Goshen. The area was checked, but the individuals were not located.

- Served trespass orders on individuals who had been trespassing on a property earlier in the day.

- Conducted traffic enforcement on Mulcahy Drive.

- Received a complaint of threats being made over electronic communications. Investigation is ongoing.

- Served a temporary restraining order on Seminary Street.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

have been running around for some time and could use a break.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23
Leo, others have nothing but good things to say to you this week. Bask in their kind words and adoration, and use this as motivation for future endeavors.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22
With no big events on the horizon, you may want to manufacture one to have a reason to party, Virgo. Start planning your guest list and come up with a fun theme to get behind.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23
Libra, while you should be mindful of your goals, you also can support those around you as they pursue their own. Serve as inspiration to people in your life right now.

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22
Scorpio, this is a good time to start tackling some projects around the house that have been put off for some time. Redecorating and remodeling can be an inspiration right now.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21
Take a step back and reevaluate your approach to a situation because the way you have been doing it just hasn't yielded

the results you expected, Sagittarius. Take suggestions and tips.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20
Capricorn, high energy may have you swinging at the fences every time you try to tackle something. You may want to dial things back and take a more measured approach.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18
Various transitions in your life could temporarily disrupt your daily activities, Aquarius. You'll find a new groove soon enough that will feel comfortable and provide you with what you need.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20
Don't take stock of what all the naysayers have been dishing out, Pisces. You know yourself better than others and recognize what you are able to accomplish. Get started on plans.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

March 22 Reese Witherspoon, actor (48)
March 23 Akira Kurosawa, filmmaker (d)
March 24 Jessica Chastain, actor (47)
March 25 Aretha Franklin, singer (d)
March 26 Tennessee Williams, playwright (d)
March 27 Sarah Vaughn, singer (d)
March 28 Mario Vargas Llosa, writer (88)

Starship Bean

(Continued from Page 14) pioneers, read hippies, came in the 1960s the roofless old adobe building became a gathering place for parties, jam sessions, concerts, and dances. In 1967 the Starlight Theater hosted the first Terlingua World Championship Chili Cook Off. The Championship was the catalyst for chili cook offs around the world. It is still held near Terlingua each November.

In the morning, back in the Chisos mountains, it got cold! It had been 50-60 degrees during the day and 30-40 at night but now

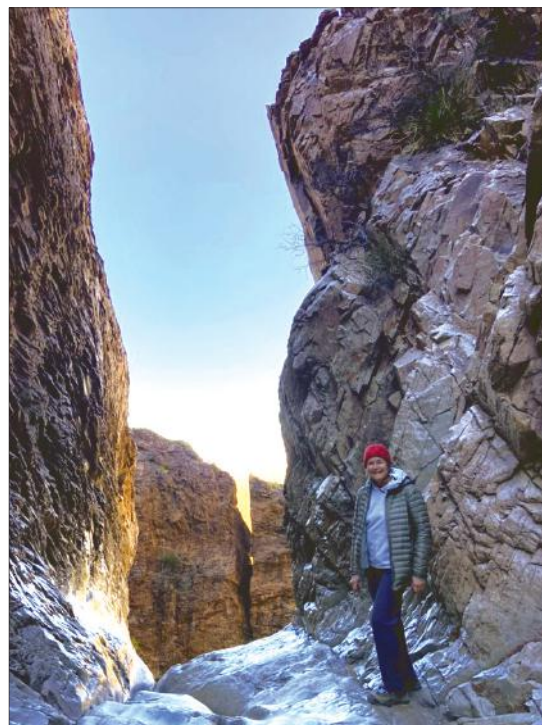
the cold came in. I think we left the door open on our way down south. We woke one morning to 22 degrees and it failed to warm up. It was predicted to get colder. We left a day early and headed back to Austin where we hunkered down for 3 days with 17-25 degree temperature, a little snow, and a biting wind. Luckily the kids' house is warm and inviting and the company was equally so. We winterized Bean and headed east before we headed north. We hit an icy road in Shreveport, Louisiana and watched a southerner pull a trailer

onto 3 inches of ice and proceed to go off the road at 70 mph! Luckily he kept it straight and didn't flip or veer back onto the highway and possibly into Bull and Bean. The weather stayed cold all the way and we pushed hard to get home in 3 days! We only broke 2 of the 3 rules on the way home! We did find a Waffle House or 2 on the way! What a trip!

Bean here: "What a place we went! The campground was in a basin high up in the mountains surrounded by volcanic peaks. And surrounded by a huge desert. The sun was warm but short lived each day due to those peaks. I was able to make enough power to keep the lights on, the refrigerator cold and the furnace running. My owners like their comforts and I love providing them. There were mostly tents around us with a few smaller campers. The tents really flapped in the wind at night. I kept George and Carol nice and snug. Our neighbors moved to their car one night, it was so windy. I noticed most people dropped their tents to the ground during the day. Bull told me he took them to amazing places

out in the desert. Long drives on narrow, dusty trails and very few other vehicles. He worried about the sharp stones cutting his tires but nothing like that happened. He ventured down to the Rio Grande so close he thought they were going to drive across the river into Mexico. He was all ready to step up but was glad they didn't go. He said it looked deep!

The trip home was cold and I ran out of propane the last night out so it got pretty chilly. No wonder we did such a long and far last day. I'm happy to be home and can't wait for the end of winter to



CAROL FJELD STANDING among ice-covered rocks in Big Bend.

get back out again. It's pretty boring here next to the garage. Wave when you go by!"

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Library grant

(Continued from Page 1) labor and materials during and after the pandemic and in part because of problems with the building discovered during the planning process, the estimate ballooned to \$4.5 million by 2023, when ground was officially broken. The \$2.6 million in donations and grants that had been raised by BFPL and its auxiliary Friends of the Brandon Library was no longer sufficient to cover the cost of the entire project.

The specific federal source of the \$1 million is the Community Facilities Grant program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Senator Welch and his staff selected BFPL's application for recommendation to the USDA. BFPL will still have to meet strict conditions set by the USDA for disbursement of the funds, which will not be available to BFPL until 2025.

"It's not like the government just cuts us a check for a million dollars," said Roberts. "Senator Welch has directed the USDA to provide the money but, as with all federal grants, there are very tight rules as to how the money is actually 'drawn down.' We have to explain to the USDA how that money will be spent and, if they approve our specific plan, we can start accessing that money in 2025. It's really a reimbursement program: we will be reimbursed for \$1 million of expenses incurred in 2025, when the funds kick in, if we can show that those expenses meet the USDA's criteria."

Though the main phase of the

renovation is projected for completion this summer, with the first and second floors scheduled to re-open to the public in July or August, the basement and third floor, which will contain mostly public meeting spaces, will not be completed until 2025, when the CDS funds are available.

Other CDS grants obtained through Sen. Welch's office include:

- \$5 million for the Champlain Housing Trust for the Bay Ridge Neighborhood Development, which will create 68 permanently affordable apartments and 26 shared-equity condominiums
- \$5 million for the Bennington County Industrial Corporation for Mount Anthony House, which will result in 63 new apartments, two new medical facilities and additional retail locations in downtown Bennington
- \$4.75 million for the Vermont National Guard for an addition to the National Guard Readiness Center
- \$3 million for the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) for the Central Vermont Transit Operations Facility
- \$2.2 million for the Town of Waterbury to extend the water line to the East Wind Mobile Home Park
- \$1.24 million for the Windsor County Sheriff's Department to upgrade and modernize the emergency communication radio network
- \$1.2 million for the Burlington School District to manage and treat stormwater from a new high school

on the Burlington High School Campus

- \$1 million for the Brandon Public Library to improve the public library's safety and accessibility
- \$1 million for the Springfield Regional Development Corporation for the Park Street School: Business Incubator & Accelerator
- \$865,000 for the Town of Berlin to replace a pump station
- \$825,000 for the Town of Fairfax for upgrades to the town's wastewater treatment facility
- \$824,000 for the Village of Johnson to build a new maintenance garage for the Village
- \$750,000 for the Town of Vershire to build a new garage for the Town
- \$500,000 for the Vermont Woodlands Association for technical assistance, education and outreach, and financial assistance for forest management to Vermont families who own forested lands
- \$408,000 for the Town of Highgate's Recreation Facility roof and entrance repair
- \$400,000 for the Town of Lyndon for the Sanborn Covered Bridge revitalization project
- \$325,000 for the Town of Stafford for the preservation of the historic town office
- \$250,000 for the Norwich University Applied Research Institute to partner with NASA for security improvements to computer architecture
- \$45,000 for the Rutland Area Art Association for repairs to the Historic Chaffee Art Center.

Let's Fly

(Continued from Page 15)
 guessed it, spend more of your hard-earned money.

Now, some things are just going to cost you money when traveling and every airline has different costs but let's talk about "broken stuff" when you fly and how to make the most of getting a little compensation!

Most flight attendants have a work phone or tablet they're required to carry with them while on duty. That work phone or tablet is filled with all sorts of information, like passenger's names, travel details, delays, and connections. They also have a handy "care tool" that can be used in a bunch of different situations. The "care tool" is used at the discretion of the flight attendant, however, most of us want you to have a nice flight and if things aren't right, we try to fix it. That said, please remember to be nice when in these situations because you always get more bees with honey!

Say you paid for wi-fi and it's not working, your seat-back television screen isn't working, you were spilled on accidentally by a flight attendant, you had to move seats, or you volunteered your time as a medical professional in a medical emergency on board the airplane. These are just a few of many situations where I've used my airline's care tool to issue travel credits or flight miles. Most of the time, the crew handling the situation will ask if you'd like a travel credit or flight miles for your next flight or they'll offer you free food and an alcoholic beverage for the flight you're on. It truly depends on the situation! So, the next time something happens, just be nice, and ask if there is anything they can do. Most of the time, you'll walk away feeling not so nickel-and-dimed and a tad bit appeased over a not-so-great situation!

Now let's talk about the difference between getting a free hotel voucher or not. Ok, this one is short and sweet. There are key words regarding free hotel vouchers at most airlines. Your key words are "weather" or "mechanical." If your flight is canceled because of

weather, you're on your own with the hotel costs. Most airlines will not cover any expenses associated with a weather cancellation. On the other hand, if your flight cancels because of a mechanical issue, then free hotel voucher here you come! A mechanical issue is the "fault" of the airline, and they have to make it right, whereas the airline can't control the weather. So, you're absolutely entitled to a free hotel voucher and meal voucher too if your flight cancels and they can't get you home on the next few flights.

It's never a great situation if you've been cancelled, especially if you're heading to vacation, a business meeting, or other important life event. Some people will try to get reimbursed for the entire first day costs of missing their vacation and I've never had anyone get their money reimbursed because of weather or a mechanical for that matter. I want to save you the headache of trying to fight that battle because there are times the airlines will budge and other times, they aren't going to move a muscle, and this is one of those times.

I want to go over one more thing before our time is up for this week and that's the armrest! People are very protective of their armrest and believe it or not we actually have airplane etiquette regarding the matter. I've literally had fights break out on the airplane over the armrest! So here it is: the airplane etiquette is that the person in the middle seat gets both armrests. I know it's shocking but that's how it's supposed to roll while on the airplane. There is nothing worse than having to return to the gate and delay a flight because two grown men are fighting over an armrest!

Speaking of armrest, if ever you need to lift an armrest here are a few tricks! Now the Airbus airplanes have a simple armrest, they go up and back down, whereas Boeing airplanes are a little tricky. Some armrests on the Boeing airplanes go up by themselves and spring load back down, where others don't move at all. Here comes the tricky ones! There are two dif-

ferent locations where you have to feel for the button in order to lift the armrest. One is under the armrest, there's a small lever which will unlock the armrest so you can lift it, and the other location is in between the armrest and the seat. You'll really have to feel around for that one because it's flush with the inside of the armrest and difficult to find. If all else fails, ask

a flight attendant for help because it definitely is nice to spread out if you're ever on a redeye with an empty seat next to you!

That's all we have time for this week! Oh! I never told you about why the Boeing 787 can't fly with nicks in its paint job, so I'll definitely talk about that next week! I'm also going to talk about criminals in shackles, people who die

on the airplane, and a whole bunch more! So, remember to look for those hidden armrest buttons, get your free hotel voucher if you have a mechanical, and ask nicely for compensation if something isn't going well or is broken! Signing off from this "senior mama" see you next week and remember to bring your crew chocolates... we love chocolate! Fly on!

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15 th, 2024, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti), Bacillus sphaericus (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

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

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

Further information can be obtained from:
 Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or
 Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
 Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
 P.O. Box 188
 Brandon, VT 05733
 (802) 247-6779
 ocwcd@gmail.com
 https://ocwcd.com
 Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:
 Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource
 Management Division
 Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
 116 State Street
 Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
 (802) 522-6973
 Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after May 1st, 2024, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of Perma Sease (a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide) and Fyfanon (in the malathion family) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for Perma Sease or Fyfanon.

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

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

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

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, please send a letter to

the OCW address given below listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at

<https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

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

Further information can be obtained from:
 Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or
 Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
 Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
 P.O. Box 188
 Brandon, VT 05733
 (802) 247-6779
 ocwcd@gmail.com
 https://ocwcd.com
 Comments or complaints about OCW adulticide spraying operations should be addressed to:
 Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource
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 Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
 116 State Street
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 (802) 522-6973
 steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

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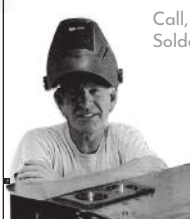
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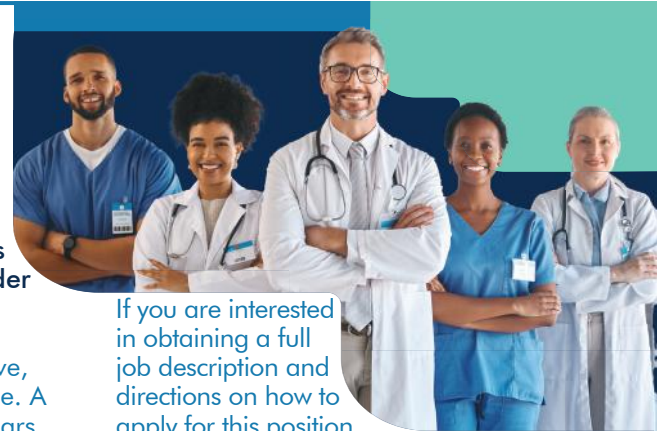
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HIRING CLINICAL LEADER



The Rutland County Free Clinic, as we are more commonly known, has a part-time (20 hr/wk) Clinical Leader position available.

Desired candidates will have an active, unstipulated, Vermont state RN license. A minimum of 3 years full time, or 5 years part-time work history in a health-related environment. Provide impeccable references, be a team player and enjoy working in a collaborative environment.

This is a flexible position and will occasionally require some evening and weekend time. Work will be performed both on and off the clinic site. Park Street Healthshare offers a competitive wage based on Rutland County's current RN wages.

If you are interested in obtaining a full job description and directions on how to apply for this position, please email a letter of interest to Tia Poalino, Executive Director, at tiap@rutland-countyfreeclinic.org. The position will remain open until filled.

Park Street Healthshare, Inc. is an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



204 North Main St., Rutland

Park Street Healthshare, Inc. is an independent, 501c3 non-profit organization providing free medical and dental care to uninsured and under-insured adults living in Rutland County, VT.

HIRING OFFICE MANAGER



The Rutland County Free Clinic, as we are more commonly known, has a full-time (40 hr/wk) Office Manager position available.

Desired candidates will have a minimum of 2 years work history in a health-related environment, impeccable references, be capable of passing a background check, be a team player and enjoy a collaborative environment.

This position is Monday-Friday but may on occasion require evening or weekend time. Park Street Healthshare offers competitive wages based on experience and potential benefits for this position.

If you are interested in obtaining a full job description and directions on how to apply for this position, please email a letter of interest to Tia Poalino, Executive Director, at tiap@rutlandcountyfreeclinic.org. The position will remain open until filled.

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Belly laughs abound at Brandon Inn's comedy night



THE BRANDON INN played host to another fantastic comedy show last Saturday, sponsored by Foley Brothers Brewery. A packed room laughed along with three talented comedians (l to r), Ish Gupta, Owen Skye Nelson, and Julio Diaz. The material ranged from fish-out-of-water observations about small-town Vermont to super-salty jokes that can't be printed here. The next show will take place at the Inn in May. Photos by Steven Jupiter

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