

gated?" Abbott wanted to know.

Brock said that a new system passed by the Legislature went into effect this summer that requires the credits be based on actual payroll taxes, rather than projections of new jobs and capital investments under the old system. He said his office will report on the success of the former program in January, 2007, and another report on the new program is due the following January. Further, Brock said, the award of tax credits to companies doesn't necessarily mean they were taken.

Democrat Thomas Salmon brings different concerns to the race. He told *OITM* there is a "disconnect" between Main Street and State Street, between the towns and the state government. Salmon has experienced both, he said, as a former CPA with the Vermont Department of Labor and with local politics.

Salmon made his first bid

for public office last March for the Rockingham select board, and said as a selectman, he was involved in helping find a new town manager and financial director. He said the board has successfully dealt this year with the divisive issues of whether to buy the local dam, and how to deal with financial problems the town has had.

Salmon said he is running because he wants to serve, because it's time for a CPA as auditor, and because it's "critical" to have someone in office who has experience at the town level. "We don't have time for infighting - we have problems to solve," he said.

Abbott said if elected, she will actively watch the state's expenditures and answer directly to taxpayers. Abbott was not available for an interview with *OITM*.

Brock said Vermonters should vote for him because he's "the only one (candidate) who's actually

managed an audit organization." He is a certified fraud examiner and has taught related subjects overseas. Brock said he is free of political bias or agenda.

"I stay out of the public policy area," he said.

Brock has been criticized by Tina Buehler, attorney for former Windham County Sheriff Sheila Prue, as unfairly singling out Prue, who is a Democrat and a lesbian, in an audit report that resulted in her being charged with mishandling public funds. Buehler said that other sheriffs had also been guilty of improperly handling funds. Brock said the 14 sheriffs in Vermont are audited biannually, so six other sheriffs were audited in the same time period as Prue. He said no other audit resulted in findings of such "fraud, theft, deception, and false records." The last conviction was of a Washington County sheriff two years ago in a similar case, Brock said. ▼

FAMILY RIGHTS

State Supreme Court Issues Decision in Favor of Janet Jenkins

Miller-Jenkins Case Goes Another Round

MONTPELIER - The Vermont Supreme Court in August issued a unanimous ruling affirming the right of Janet Jenkins (formerly Janet Miller-Jenkins), to have visitation with her child (known as IMJ). The court heard the case, in which Janet's former civil union spouse, Lisa Miller-Jenkins, resisted all contact between Janet and IMJ, in September, 2005. Jennifer Levi, senior attorney with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, represented Janet at that hearing, and said, "This is a fantastic decision which is critically important for all families. The court recognized that this family is like all others dealing with a break-up. The court applied well-established legal principles to protect children in these circumstances." Local counsel Theodore A. Parisi, Jr., also represents Janet.

"I'm relieved that today's decision brings me closer to seeing my daughter. I just long to hold her, and tell her and show her how much I love her," said Janet Jenkins. Janet has not seen her daughter since June, 2004. The separation between Janet and IMJ is the result of Lisa's re-

fusal to abide by Vermont Family Court rulings regarding the status of both Lisa and Janet as legal parents of IMJ, and the resulting custody and visitation determinations for the child. Lisa successfully pursued a contradictory set of parentage and visitation rulings from a Virginia court. In the September hearing, Lisa had asked the Vermont Supreme Court to undo three prior rulings:

That Janet was a legal parent of IMJ and entitled to temporary parent-child contact; that Vermont did not have to honor a subsequent Virginia court ruling negating all visitation for Janet; and that Lisa was in contempt for refusing to comply with the Vermont court visitation order.

In the August 4th decision, written by Justice John Dooley, the Court declared: "The family court properly assumed jurisdiction of the action to dissolve the civil union between Lisa and Janet. The civil union was not void. The court properly found that it had jurisdiction to issue a temporary order providing Janet visitation with IMJ, and it was not required to

recognize and enforce a conflicting decision of the Virginia court. Finally, the record supports the family court's decision that Lisa is in contempt of court for willfully violating the temporary visitation order."

The next steps in the case will be seeking final orders regarding custody and visitation from the Vermont Family Court, awaiting a Virginia appellate decision on whether Virginia ever properly exercised jurisdiction to enter this dispute while Vermont had jurisdiction, and seeking enforcement of Janet's visitation rights in Virginia where IMJ currently lives. Attorney Joseph Price is representing Janet in Virginia, along with Lambda Legal and with assistance from GLAD. ▼

➔ Press release from Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, New England's leading legal organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and HIV status. To learn more, check the website at glad.org.

Small town.
Big church.
Lots of secrets.

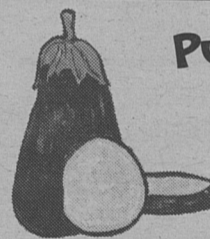


the bus

September 12-17, FlynnSpace

www.thebustheplay.com For tickets call FlynnTix 863-5966

A rainbow of LOCAL COLORS...



Purples...



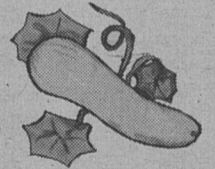
and greens...

and yellows...



and oranges...

and reds...



YOUR SOURCE

FOR

LOCAL FLAVORS!

Local is good!

open
7 am - 11 pm
every day!



Your Community-Owned Grocery Store
802-863-3659 • www.citymarket.coop
82 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington

We welcome EBT, CAT\$cratch, Knight & CCCash Cards and manufacturers' coupons.

JOHN'S FURNITURE REFINISHING SHOP

Quality Repairs, Stripping and Finishing
11B Howe Center, Rutland, VT

802-786-2250

A Fountain of Youth for your old Furniture
Over 18 years of passion and experience