

# The REPORTER

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

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Wednesday, March 16, 2022

75¢

## Proctor board reorganizes; to host Zion Growers' public hearing, March 28

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — At its reorganizational meeting Monday night, the Proctor selectboard re-elected Judy Frazier as chair of the selectboard and Ben Curtis as vice-chair, while also discussing a public hearing set for March 28 during which the public would hear Zion Growers' plans for the Proctor Marble building and its hopeful redevelopment.

Town Manager Michael Ramsey said the industrial hemp processing firm is seeking a \$60,000 planning grant from the Vermont Community Development Program that needs the town to act as a grantee, while Zion would be the sub-grantee. The grant comes with a 10% match, which would be covered by Zion Growers.

(See Proctor select board, Page 6)

## Retains board leadership Brandon seeks federal funds to boost Davenport's recognition

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — At its annual reorganizational meeting Monday night, the Brandon selectboard also supported an effort to seek federal funding to promote Brandon as the birthplace of Thomas Davenport — the inventor of the world's first electric

motor. Stephen Jupiter, president of the board of directors at the Brandon Museum, outlined a proposal to the town in which the museum would seek funds for signage, museum exhibits, perhaps even annual program on electric power that would draw

(See Brandon select board, Page 2)

## OVUU to reconsider budget vote

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — The OVUUSD board has some heavy topics to discuss at its Wednesday, March 16 meeting as it debates when to schedule the next budget vote and how — or whether — to adjust the budget amount. The latter question largely depends on how board members interpret the

budget defeat, which went down 522-462 on Town Meeting Day.

The board will also introduce Kristin Hubert as the school district's newly hired superintendent who will be taking the place of retiring Jeanné Collins as of July 1, 2022.

During Wednesday's meeting (See OVUU budget, Page 16)



### Frozen in time

SPRING'S HALTING PROGRESS on display at Texas Falls creates stunning layers of ice under running water.

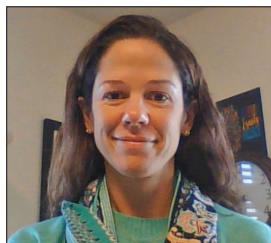
Reprter photo/Seppi Alavi

## Rutland Northeast hires Kristin Hubert as its next superintendent

BRANDON — Last week, the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union School Board decided to choose its next lead administration in-house, tapping Kristin Hubert, the district's Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, to be its next superintendent.

Hubert will replace retiring Superintendent Jeanné Collins on July 1, 2022.

Hubert, who has accepted the po-



KRISTIN HUBERT

sition, has worked for the district for three years.

"I am excited to serve the communities and students of RNESU in this position," Hubert said. "I have great respect and appreciation for our teachers, administrators and staff for their unwavering commitment to students and families. I look forward to continuing to support the great work already underway in our system."

RNESU Board Chair Laurie Bertrand noted that three years in the district has given Hubert a chance to learn the schools and the people they serve. Rutland Northeast provides pre-K through high school education to kids in Brandon, Leicester, Whiting, Goshen, Sudbury, Chittenden, Mendon and Pittsford.

"We are very excited that Kristin will be our next superintendent,"

Bertrand said. "She has done a phenomenal job of leading our curriculum and assessment program for the past three years, particularly during COVID and the switch to remote learning. She is familiar with our

(See RNSU superintendent, Page 7)



# Brandon select board

(Continued from Page 1)

people to the town annually to brand the town as an hub of innovation.

Davenport lived in Forest Dale and invented the electric motor in the 1830s. He is considered a major scientific figure in the science world, Jupiter said.

The selectboard approved a motion to lend its support to the museum's effort in the hopes that it could secure federal funding.

The selectboard also discussed the town's retail cannabis rules as retail cannabis sales will be allowed in the town this coming October. The selectboard first voted to have the selectboard serve as the town's Cannabis Control Commission (just as it also serves of the town's Liquor Control Commission) and to

adopt the state's rules and regulations as applicable to the town.

The selectboard agreed there was not much sense in writing separate town ordinances as it would just be more confusing for applicants to have to follow two sets of guidelines. The state guidelines will help Jeff Blasuzzi, the town's zoning administrator, guide future retail applicants through the new procedures, if they are interested in setting up shop in Brandon.

In other action, the selectboard heard from Police Chief David Kachajian, who thanked the community for its support in funding a K-9 police dog for the Brandon Police Department. "The outpouring of support has been unbelievable," Kachajian said, adding that the dog would

be used for tracking and drug surveillance work, but not as an attack dog. The financial support for the police dog has been raised, but the dog still has to be procured and trained before joining the department.

Kachajian also reported that two new officers have joined the force, though one is still completing some training. That leaves the department still down two patrolmen, which he is in the process of recruiting.

The police chief also reported that the department made 175 calls for the past month, made two arrests and issued 18 tickets. He said he was increasing patrols on Franklin Street because he had received numerous complaints of drivers going too fast, and that the department would

also increase foot patrols in the downtown.

Kachajian emphasized that the increased patrols were not simply to issue tickets, but to educate area drivers to drive responsibly and not above town speed limits. "The goal is to have people drive safely in town," he said, "and if we can do that without issuing tickets, that's even better."

### TOWN APPOINTMENTS

In its reorganization, the selectboard voted to retain Seth Hopkins as chairman, Tracy Wyman as vice-chairman and Brian Coolidge as clerk, all by unanimous consent. All other town rules and procedures were re-enacted with The Reporter named as the town's newspaper of record, and the Rutland Herald being the alternate.


Other appointments included:

- Fence viewers: Todd Nielsen

and John Reynolds (leaving one vacancy);

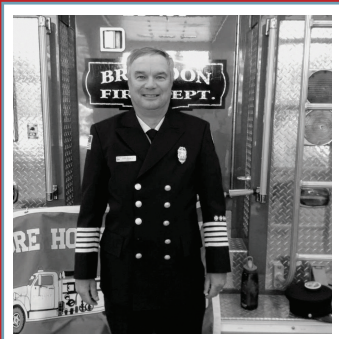


- Green-up Day Coordinator, James Leary;
- Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood, Bob Kilpeck;
- Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District representatives, Wayne Rausenberger and Richard Russ;
- Rutland County Solid Waste District representative, Gabe McGuigan;
- Tree Warden, Neil Silins;
- Weigher of Coal, Lou Faivre and Olya Hopkins;
- Historic Preservation Commission, Roy Murdock and Dennis Reisenweaver;
- Otter Creek Communications Union District representative, Bill Moore.

There is an open seat on the town's Energy Committee.



## The Brandon Fire Department & Dunmore Hose Company

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REP. PETER WELCH at a Covid-19 press conference on Dec. 22, 2020. File photo by Mike Dougherty/VTDigger

## Rep. Peter Welch tests positive for Covid

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., has tested positive for Covid-19, he announced Monday night on Twitter. Welch, 74, wrote that his symptoms began that morning and were mild. He said he would be isolating and working from home for the rest of the week.

"I'm grateful for the protection I have from my vaccine and booster," he wrote. "If you're eligible, please get vaccinated &

boosted."

Welch is the highest-ranking public official in Vermont to disclose a positive Covid test.

A resident of Norwich, Welch has served in public office on and off since 1980, when he was first elected to the state Senate. He has represented Vermont in the U.S. House since 2007 and is vacating that seat to run for the U.S. Senate.



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# Former congressional aide Sianay Chase Clifford to run for US House

BY LOLA DUFFORT

A former aide to U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., announced Tuesday she is jumping into the hotly contested race for Vermont's sole congressional seat and hoping to win the votes of progressive Democrats.

Sianay Chase Clifford, who grew up in Essex and returned home to Vermont during the pandemic, said the time she spent in Pressley's office had left her frustrated by the pace of change in Washington.

"It is incredibly hard to watch people who are incredibly true to their values so consistently be asked to compromise those values," she said. "We need far more progressive power on the Hill."

The three other Democrats vying to replace U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., have already endorsed some of the national progressive movement's banner issues, including Medicare for All and the Green New Deal. But Chase Clifford said Vermonters still need "a real progressive option" in the race. She argues her lived experience and policy experience will come to bear when it comes time to convert slogans into concrete legislation.

"When we're talking about Medicare for All — everyone deserves to access health care," she said. "And also that health care needs to be exceptional and comprehensive and inclusive of dental care and hearing care and reproductive care and maternal care."

"And when folks enter into those institutions, they need to be seen for the entirety of who they are — and that means addressing racism and homophobia and sexism in our medical systems," she continued.

Chase Clifford said she also wants to see a massive federal investment in affordable housing, for

Congress to codify Roe v. Wade in law and for the federal farm bill used to better incentivize small-scale, sustainable agriculture.

Her parents met in Liberia, where her mother is from and where her father served as a Peace Corps volunteer. They came to the Green Mountain State in 1989 after the Liberian Civil War broke out and settled in Essex, where Chase Clifford attended school.

Chase Clifford left Vermont after graduating from high school in 2013 for Boston College, where she worked stints in the offices of former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro while completing her undergraduate studies. After completing a master's degree in social work, also at Boston College, she completed a year-long fellowship in Pressley's office, writing speeches and conducting policy research.

Vermont has only ever sent white men to Washington, but this year is expected to change this. All of the candidates in the Democratic primary are women. If elected, Chase Clifford, who is Black, would be the first woman of color to represent Vermont in Congress.

There are already three high-

profile politicians running in Democratic primary. Lt. Gov. Molly Gray, state Senate President Pro Tempore Becca Balint, D-Windham, and state Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden, have all been campaigning for months now.

Chase Clifford has never before run for public office. Asked why she was making a bid for the U.S. Congress in her first attempt at winning elected office, she replied that this was a question often asked of "people who look like me."

"Why not small? Why not less?" she said.

And she argued that with the planet on the "verge of climate catastrophe," trans youth across the country being told they "don't deserve to exist" and Black people being "murdered in front of our very eyes," the stakes were simply too high to not act quickly and boldly.

"We do not have the time to tell people to think small," she said.

Asked, then, why she was not challenging Welch in his bid for the U.S. Senate, Chase Clifford pointed matter-of-factly to the constitutional provision that requires members of that body to be at least 30.

"I'm not old enough," said Chase Clifford, who is 27.



SIANAY CHASE CLIFFORD

# Senate advances a bill providing incentives for more housing

BY FRED THYS, VtDigger

MONTPELIER — The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs advanced a bill Wednesday that would invest millions of dollars in housing and also loosen regulations that prevent more housing from being built.

"This is a significant housing bill with lots of components that are going to do a lot of important things for Vermonters of a range of incomes," said Chris Donnelly, director of community relations for the Champlain Housing Trust, the

state's largest builder of affordable housing.

The bill encourages construction of housing in town or village centers and in neighborhood development areas. If approved, the bill would authorize \$5 million in tax credits for fiscal year 2023 for refurbishing old buildings for rental housing in those areas. It would limit fees for wastewater applications, reduce fees for residential development, exclude the land gains tax and provide tax credits for flood mitigation.

It would authorize \$5 million

for fiscal year 2023 in grants to large employers who want to build housing for employees, as well as for converting commercial properties to residential use and enhancing density and walkability.

The bill would create a municipal and regional fund run by the Vermont State Treasurer's Office, funded with 17% of the revenue from the property transfer tax. It authorizes \$650,000 for the fund for fiscal year 2023. Cities and towns could use the money to change their rules to make it easier

(See Housing bill, Page 6)

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## BRANDON REPORTER

## Editorial

The lies we see,  
and those we don't

A week or so ago, as Russian bombs rained down on civilian sites in a number of Ukrainian cities, Russian President Vladimir Putin sat stone-faced in front of his state-controlled television station and stated flatly, "We do not have any unkind intentions toward our neighbors."

He went on to extoll the propaganda he has been feeding Russian citizens for the past three weeks: that "specialized Russian troops" in Ukraine were executing a "military exercise" welcomed by Ukrainians to sweep up a few radicalized "Nazis" and bring peace to the country. Many citizens in Russia believed that to be true — despite what the world sees as the reality each day in the free press.

It is shocking to see, in this age of media prevalence, how state-controlled propaganda can still create a completely distorted view of reality when citizens are denied access to a free press.

What is equally shocking, however, is to watch how Fox News and its talk show hosts — especially Tucker Carson — have created an equally distorted impression among their followers (mainly Republicans) of national politics in this country based on their regular diet of "lies and distortions." (Trump was such a prolific liar that he spawned daily Fact Checker reports in the mainstream media that attempted to correct his untruths, which tallied 30,573 during his four-year term — about 21 erroneous claims a day. On Nov. 2, 2020, the day before the election, as he barnstormed across the nation in an attempt to salvage his almost certain defeat, he made 503 false or misleading claims. In a single day.)

The disconnect is that while American Republicans are aghast at the obvious lies Putin is telling Russian citizens, they can't admit that ex-president Trump fed his followers a heavy diet of lies throughout his presidency, including the big lie that the election was stolen; or that he had no hand in the Jan. 6 insurrection — even though the world witnessed the ex-president egging on the Washington, D.C. crowd to storm the Capitol.

Russian citizens, at least,

have an excuse to not know the full truth because Putin controls the media and critical sources of information have been rapidly shut down once the Russian forces invaded and Ukrainians did not welcome their Russian brothers with open arms (as Putin apparently imagined they would.)

In the U.S., Americans have a choice of where to get their news and broader sources of information. That many Republicans reject the majority of voices in the nation calling out Trump's lies is the antithesis of democracy and defines that wing of the party — a wing that Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyoming, recently dubbed "the Putin Wing." Rep. Cheney is one of the few Republicans with the moral principal and courage to call her party to task. Even Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, while critical to some degree, has been mild in his rebuke of a party that has become enamored by (and fearful of) the autocratic impulses of the ex-president and to the party's adulation of the strongman persona Trump projected — even though, as Cheney said, Trump's actions undermined America's values and its democracy and were, in a word, "traitorous."

It's not difficult to see that the whole purpose of Trump's big lie about the election being stolen has been to undermine the public's faith in America's election process, so that America's democracy was weakened and the seeds of an authoritarian government and party were sown. That most Republicans have pledged support for such a dishonest sham is the cruelest shock of all and a 180-degree switch from the anti-Russian, hawkish roots of its pre-Trump politics.

The question for Republicans is whether they will take off their blinders and see Trump's lies for what they are.

Putin's attack on Ukraine and the effectiveness of his lies on state controlled TV is a vivid example of how easy — and ruinous — it is to manipulate a population that is unwilling (in the case of U.S. Republicans) or unable (for most Russians) to ferret out the truth. Surely, that's not the path Republicans wish for America.

Angelo Lynn



## Signs of spring

WHILE THE SNOW was still falling last weekend, warm temperatures later this week and birds like this cardinal at bird feeders throughout the area, are sure signs that spring is near.

Reporter photo/Dale Christie

Legislative  
Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

## Legislative Wrap-up, the "House" belongs to us all

Over the past several years of my legislative career I have written several times about the privilege of representing you — the citizens of Brandon, Pittsford and Sudbury in the Vermont State House. The building is as historic as it is beautiful. I am thrilled to be part of the "Living History of the State House" serving you in House and Senate Chambers that have the distinction of being the "oldest active legislative halls in the United States that have been preserved to their original interiors."

Accomplishing this amazing feat does not happen by chance. Vermont State Curator David Schutz and his able staff of two oversee the restoration and maintenance of not only the State House, but also the extensive collections of fine art and furniture. The state has three gallery spaces in Montpelier, along with other displays throughout Vermont for public viewing of the collections.

The curator's work is ably

supported by the "Friends of The Vermont State House." The "Friends" is an all-volunteer group whose mission is to preserve the history of the State House while providing outreach and education to visitors of the building. To quote Curator David Schutz: "For more than 40 years the Friends have worked to restore, conserve and enliven one of Vermont's most vital museums, one that truly belongs to the people of our state, one that seeks to educate its citizens and students about their participation in a democracy. This work has never been more important than at this time."

We are now seeing transformative changes to the State House to accommodate the way the current and future legislators will be doing the peoples work. As a matter of fact, some preservationists have called these changes "everlasting."

The COVID pandemic and the cozy (small) nature of meeting rooms forced the leg-

islature to conduct our business virtually for almost 18 months. During that time decisions were made to develop and implement a "hybrid" system where the public could participate in the legislative process remotely, while legislators were there "in person." To that end, all committee rooms and chambers have been electronically connected to accommodate large monitors, cameras and special sound equipment so meetings can be transmitted live to the public.

Those of you who would like to testify on an issue can now do so virtually, and anyone can view them, all of which are being archived as part of the public record. This process has become very important to the Friends as we electronically integrate the State House from the 19th century to the 21st century. It has been no easy task and The Friends of the State House need your help. If you would like to find out more

(See Legislative Wrap, Page 5)

# Letter to the Editor

## Missing Wayne Kingsley

Route 53 in Forest Dale isn't going to be the same anymore as the community lost a very hard-working and a dedicated market gardener with his loyal customers over so many years: Wayne Kingsley.

I had the pleasure of meeting Wayne so many times in my life and we shared so many memo-

ries. I had a good-sized vegetable garden too. Sometimes if the weather season was not cooperating perfectly we would trade our vegetables through difficult times. We would settle our differences in the fall.

Sanford Rouse  
Brandon

# Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 4)

about The Friends or become a member (I am one) or even donate monetarily, please contact them at info@vtstatehouse-friends.org.

### REDISTRICTING

Article 48, Section 72 of The Constitution of the State of Vermont demands that the "General Assembly" revise the boundaries of The Legislative Districts "to maintain equality of representation among the respective districts as nearly as it is practicable." To this end, the House Committee on Government Operations has completed that task with bill H.722 — "Elections: House of Representatives, Senate, Reapportionment, Redistricting."

Discussion of the bill will pick up on Wednesday, March 16. Should the bill pass, and I believe it will in its current form, what will it mean for our current district of Rutland-6? The town of Brandon will be-

come Rutland-9, comprising the entire community. It will have one representative. The town of Pittsford will be linked with the town of Proctor and become Rutland-8 with one representative. The town of Sudbury will be linked to the towns of Hubbardton, Orwell, Shoreham and Whiting to become Addison-Rutland and have one representative. I appreciate the hard work of the Government Operations Committee and will support H.722.

If you would like to contact me, my mailing address is PO Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763, or you can reach me at 802-483-2398. E-mail me anytime at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us. I am always available to have a conversation with you on all subjects concerning our Legislative District and the State of Vermont.

Representative Butch Shaw  
Brandon-Pittsford-Sudbury



# 'Meaning of Life'

BY VICTOR NUOVO

Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

## The Right and the Good

When Adam and Eve disobeyed the divine prohibition and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they couldn't have known that they were doing anything evil, for, until then, they didn't possess such knowledge. What they did know was that the fruit was forbidden to them and that the penalty of eating it was death, which they didn't yet know how to fear. Yet, notwithstanding the consequences over which they had no control, there doesn't seem to be anything inherently evil in what they did; for the tree looked "good for food", and it was "a delight to the eyes", which is to say, tempt-

We might better say that they did wrong. A prohibition is a rule. And we commonly judge a

person's action as right or wrong with respect to whether they obey or disobey rules they are obliged to follow, and, to complete the thought, it seems that creatures are obliged to obey whatever their creator commands, although perhaps not always—not if they are commanded to do evil. But Adam and Eve did not yet know anything of this. In any case, if creatures disobey the commands of their creator, their actions may be wrong, but having done wrong doesn't make them evil. Something is missing here.

Moreover, if you compare the two creation narratives in Genesis, you will find that "Good and Evil" is not anything that God creates, rather it is a kind of preexisting knowledge or state of mind, of

negative values that exist in their own right, perhaps eternally. Or at least, we can say this of "Good", for to some (viz. Plato and St. Augustine) Evil is not a thing in itself, but the privation of Good. This is to speak as a Platonist. But I do so purposefully, because I have come to regard Plato's theory of the Good as nearly true, and if so, then the Good is not merely an idea, but the source of all existence and value in all things. The Good, as the theologian Paul Tillich said, is Being itself. And it is the foundation of a moral universe. And if, as it seems, wrong is nothing more than negation of right, then we are left with the Good and the Right as the fundamental principles of being and acting. How are they related?

Now, if the being who created us is supremely wise and supremely good, we have reason to do whatever he, she, or they command; and reason to regard their commandments as laws to be obeyed. But this may not yet be a sufficient reason to obey them. What is needed is a reason for each command, some worthy goal or purpose to be realized by doing the right thing; not a goal

(See Right and Good, Page 15)

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# Housing bill

(Continued from Page 3)  
for the construction or rehabilitation of housing.

It also would award \$5 million between now and June and an additional \$10 million for the 2023 fiscal year, which begins July 1, to make homes more affordable for middle-income families.

One way it would do that is by offering builders a subsidy that would cover the difference between how much it costs to build a home and how much it will appraise for.

“Oftentimes, the reason the market is not building homes that are affordable to folks is because the cost of construction, which means the land, the permitting, the materials, the labor to build the home, when you add up all those costs, it costs more than the home actually is going to appraise for in some of our communities,” said Maura Collins, executive director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

“So the builder has no choice,” she said. “They’re not going to build those homes if the appraisal doesn’t support the cost of those homes.”

The bill also allows the housing agency to offer grants to middle-income home buyers who cannot afford to buy a home. Those buyers would have to pass along the grants when they sell the home.

The agency also would be able to use some funds for grants to first-generation homebuyers to cover down payments and closing costs.

If it passes, the bill would authorize \$3 million to improve manufactured-home communities, \$1 million to repair manufactured homes and make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and another \$1 million in grants to build foundations and install utility connections for manufactured homes, all for fiscal year 2023.

Mobile homes “are an inexpensive element of our housing stock that is suffering in many cases from lack of attention,” said Sen. Michael Sirotkin, D-Chittenden, chair of the committee. “And we don’t want to lose those homes.”

While Sirotkin said 7,000 people live in mobile homes in Vermont, that is actually the number of lots in mobile home parks. State figures show 44,000 Vermonters lived in mobile homes in 2017, about one-third of them in mobile home parks.

The bill authorizes \$400,000 in credits to applicants who want to build rental housing and \$675,000 for loans or grants for owner-occupied housing, also for fiscal year 2023.

The biggest pot of money, \$20 million in fiscal year 2023, would

(See Housing bill, Page 13)

# In fond memory



Wayne Kingsley, a long-time resident of Forest Dale where he had a vegetable farm and much beloved farm stand, died Friday, March 4 after being sidelined with cancer since this past autumn. An obituary was not available by press time, but The Reporter will publish a full obituary on March 24. Services will be April 4, 10 a.m. at the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church.



# Proctor select board

(Continued from Page 1)

During the hearing, Ramsey said, the firm would more fully describe its business plan, along with a time-line of when construction could be expected if all goes according to plan. “It’s about as exciting a development as we could hope for,” Ramsey said, adding that the town was eager to work with the firm and the Preservation Trust of Vermont to see the building, and the Vermont Marble Museum, refurbished and reopened to regular visitors.

The public hearing will start at the beginning of the selectboard’s next meeting on Monday, March 28, at 6:05 p.m. in the Proctor town office meeting room.

### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

In other appointments, the selectboard approved:

- Zoning Admin, Michael Ramsey (interim, until the town finds a suitable applicant);
- Planning Commission, no new applicants (currently has 1 opening);
- Recreation Committee, Amanda Duchesne;
- Constable, Donald Russell;
- Tree Warden, John Corliss;
- Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative, Carrie Covey;

- RCSWD Alternate representative, John Corliss;
- Regional Ambulance representative, Joseph Bernor;
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission representative, Carrie Covey;
- RRPC alternate representative, Michael Ramsey;
- Regional Transportation Council representative, Bruce Buccci;
- Regional Transportation Council representative alternate, Michael Ramsey.

The selectboard remains as the Board of Water Commissioners and Board of Sewer Commissioners, and selectboard meetings will continue to be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month starting at 6 p.m. The newspaper of record will continue to be The Reporter, serving Brandon, Pittsford, Proctor and West Rutland.

There were no public comments at Monday’s meetings and no official guests. Under “good stuff,” the selectboard lauded the Proctor Girls Basketball team for an excellent season in which the team advanced to the final tournament at the Aud in Barre against West Rutland, and fell just short in a highly competitive game, 57-56. The selectboard saluted the team and the entire

program at the Proctor High School for representing the town so well.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Under the town manager’s report, Ramsey noted that the town was still seeking two town positions: a zoning administrator and a pool manager for this summer. Job descriptions for both positions, he said, are posted on the town’s website and on the town’s Facebook page.

Ramsey also he was nearing completion of a public works work plan for the summer construction season, which should be available at the next meeting.

He updated the board on the Mortimer Proctor grant applications, saying applicants were expecting to hear from the foundation in the near future. The town is seeking funding for playground equipment adjacent to the ice-skating rink; a dock at Beaver Pond, and a few items at the town pool.

Ramsey also noted a community breakfast would be held at the ice-skating rink on Saturday, April 9, and an Easter Egg hunt would be hosted by the high school as a fundraiser on April 17, from noon to 3 p.m. The Easter Bunny will be there at the town green to greet the kids and pose for photos.

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**THE BAND EXTRA Stout will be the main attraction at the Brandon Inn's first anniversary St. Patrick's Day party this Thursday, March 17. The event, which is being called, "Let the Shenanigans Begin," starts at 5:30 and runs, with lots of dancing and celebration, through 9:30 p.m. For ticket information go to [www.brandoninn.com](http://www.brandoninn.com)**



# Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

## Standing with Ukraine

As readers of this column can tell you, Hard Tellin' has been faithfully sidestepping news of any substance for almost 5 years now. (It's been a matter of principle that this space has concerned itself only with the windy ramblings of a self-absorbed author.) If ever there have been events to sober the pen of a superficial storyteller however, it would be the tragic developments in Ukraine these past few weeks.

Like the rest of you I opened my newsfeeds on February 24 and learned that an aggressor nation had illegally and immorally invaded a sovereign nation. And the world confronted the reality that what we knew about our geopolitical world order was about to change dramatically.

Humanitarian relief, my inner voice was telling me, not comic relief, was what this tragically battered country desperately needed. Also needed was the complete attention of the world (and its newspapers/media) to look this story full in the face and demand the truth of this invasion be told to every corner of the earth, even to those in Russia where Putin controls his selective "narrative."

The collective emotional responses today are certainly complex. We see what is happening and we feel outrage. We feel shock. We feel deep sadness. And we feel frustratingly ineffective with the limited range of options we have to help this brutalized nation.

If I have been at fault for too much casualness in this column over the years, let me also confess some inattentiveness as an English teacher (my day job): I have let my George Orwell get too dusty. For a couple of years now I have let the wisdom of this author sit dormant on my shelves — perhaps a literary sin from wrongheaded assumptions about an evolving and improving world. Or maybe a refusal to believe that Orwell's prophetic vision would again visit us in red-hot relevance.

But it has. Over the past weeks we again witnessed one of the most haunting and egregious displays of Orwell's warnings. As hospitals and residential areas were being ruthlessly bombed, Russian audiences were fed nefariously-engineered lies of benevolent Russians soldiers serving humanitarian aid to Ukrainians. Independent news outlets were shut down. And the

world was again astonished at the power and shocking audacity of a state to monopolize, manipulate and malign the news.

It goes without saying that references to Orwell over the years have become quite popular, but also a bit glib, I'm afraid. Yes, we know that Orwellian governments are oppressive and bad. And that Doublespeak has something to do with the manipulation of language. But what made Orwell's work such an achievement is how well he understood the doctrine of deception of the state-sponsored lie.

The state-sponsored lie, both Orwell and Putin exaggerate, is far from stand alone exaggerations, cover-ups and half-truths. It is the enterprise of architecting whole new realities. It is, in the words of one banned Russian independent newsman quoted in the New Yorker: "Lies and hatred on a fantastical scale."

Like Orwell's corrupt governments of "1984," citizens are again being told — force-fed really — that 2+2=5. Reality is as the state decides. Trump and his campaign of "alternative facts" practiced this same strategy and much of the GOP has played along. And if language, in Orwell's 1984, had to be outlawed so be it. (Readers of this book might remember Orwell's famous "Newspeak" language which aimed to reduce words and therefore the range of thought.) As it stands today, Russian reporters using the word "war" or "invasion" could face up to 15 years imprisonment; and Republicans who haven't bought into Trump's big lie about the election being stolen are banished from the fold.

News, history, morality, and reality were all within the dictates of the government, and again Orwell's words echoed: "The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their most essential command." For embedded in the lies of the authoritarian government, are not just deceptions, but also threats — and therein lies the motivation to accept them.

It is difficult to witness the events of these past weeks and not reflect on questions of power, governance and truth. But also the sad, inescapable fact that despite all our humanistic hopefulness 20th Century misbehavior can easily be 21st Century misbehavior. The awful playbooks of his (See *Standing with Ukraine*, Page 13)

## RNESU superintendent

(Continued from Page 1) communities and our staff and students and will bring continued stability to our district as we continue to evolve in our focus on student achievement."

Prior to this position, Hubert served as teaching faculty at the Upper Valley Institute focused on supporting new and aspiring principals. She was an elementary school principal for 13 years in Rutland and Arlington and was an elementary teacher in Fair Haven before that. Hubert was named the National Distinguished Elementary Principal in 2016 and has served in a number of state level committees, including the Vermont Principal Association, Vermont Equity Practitioners Network, Vermont Equity Advisory

Group and the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Advisory Board.

She teaches courses in principal preparation as an adjunct faculty at Castleton University.

Hubert, who grew up in Castleton, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Elementary Education from the University of Vermont, Master of Art in Educational Leadership from Castleton University, and an Educational Doctorate in Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Leading from Northeastern University in Boston.

Hubert decided to apply for the superintendent's post after the school board's initial round candidates fell through and knowing she had the job skills to lead the district forward. In that round, the board

had honed the list down to three candidates, but the lead candidate chose another job, and the other two candidates withdrew their interest, prompting the board to reopen its search. It also happens to be a year with high leadership turnover in Vermont's school districts with a dozen school districts in the state seeking new superintendents.

Bertrand said the board was thrilled when Hubert came forward with her interest, saying she knew the community, faculty, students and school programs and would be able to "hit the ground running."

RNESU is comprised of six schools with two distinct school districts, Otter Valley and Barstow, representing eight towns.

## Rusty DeWees comes to Brandon Town Hall, April 16th along with Patrick Ross

Rusty DeWees comes "DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN" to Brandon Town Hall, April 16th 2022, and Patrick Ross will be there playing.

Actor/Comedian DeWees is known for his beloved and valued THE LOGGER persona through which he offers his stellar, hard earned, talents as full-on comedian, musician, ad libber, and story teller.

Rusty's comedy show has been described as Blue Collar Comedy meets Prairie Home Companion. The Boston Globe says "Inventive, Exceptional."

Rusty DeWees show load is heating up in 2022 and he says "Looking forward to playing the Brandon Town Hall, extending our twenty-five year relationship, which you know what, might be near a record for entertainer and theatre — I'll say the area audi-

ences are like family, at this point ... no joke."

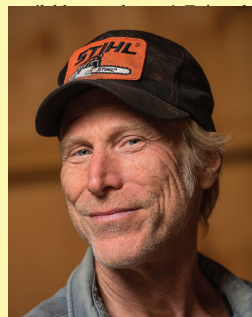
Rusty DeWees passed his 25th Anniversary year, 2021, doing THE LOGGER sans celebration, cause .. "Celebrate ... why would ya? I ain't over yet."

Comedy is the celebration, every show with Rusty's THE LOGGER-style authentic thoughts and jabs on present day life, and he'll shine up a couple of the 25 year — old fan-favorite bits like "Deer Jackin'" and "LIDDLE."

The past two years un-welcome slowdown saw Rusty D., THE LOGGER, improve his flat picking guitar work, and vocals, and he's written a bunch of fresh material Brandon Town Hall's audience will thrill to ... including, well, including what you might, and or might not expect. Come see and hear ...

THE LOGGER COMEDY

& MUSIC SHOW "Down from the Mountain" is designed to pair with Brandon Town Hall perfectly, so please do not miss Rusty DeWees coming "Down from the Mountain" (Elmore Mt.) to Brandon Town Hall, Saturday April 16, 7:00pm. Tickets are \$25, are available at [brandonrec.com](http://brandonrec.com) and also at the door. Beer and wine



RUSTY DEWEES



THE VERMONT Fish and Wildlife Department is advising Vermont residents to take down their bird feeders early this year so as not to attract black bears coming out of hibernation. The department also asks anyone with a bear conflict to submit a report through their 'Living With Black Bears' web page.

Photos by Kris & Norm Senna (bear), and John Hall (bird feeder).

## VTF&W Says Bears Becoming Active—It's Time to Take Down Bird Feeders!

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says warm spring weather and melting snows will cause bears to come out of their winter dens in search of food. The department recommends taking down bird feeders and keeping them stored until December, to avoid attracting bears. "Although we typically recommend taking down bird feeders by April 1, we are asking Vermonters to take them down early this year," said Jaclyn Comeau, the department's bear biologist. The department is already receiving bear reports as of March 7, and encourages Vermonters who experience a conflict with

bears to submit a report through the Living with Black Bears web page. The warmer temperatures predicted now will stimulate more bears to emerge from their dens to seek any food sources they can smell. "Preventing bears from having access to human-related foods, such as bird seed, is key to successful coexistence," Comeau added. Bird feeders are just one of the things that can attract hungry bears. Other sources of food that bears find appealing are garbage, open dumpsters, backyard chickens, pet food, barbecue grills, campsites with accessible food, and food waste.

"Purposefully feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear" said Comeau. "It is also dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it is illegal." The department offers the following tips to coexist with bears:

- Take down birdfeeders between late March and December.
- Store garbage in bear proof containers or structures—trash cans alone are not enough
- Follow the steps on our web page for composting in bear country
- Use electric fences to keep chickens and honeybees safe
- Request a bear-proof

dumpster from your waste hauler

- Feed your pets indoors
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally

And for Vermonters who wish to connect with and appreciate songbirds after taking down their birdfeeders this spring, the department will be partnering with Audubon Vermont to highlight alternatives like the Native Plants for Birds Program. "Birds and native plants co-evolved over millions of years together," said Gwendolyn Causer, Audubon Vermont's communication coordinator and environmental educator. "Native plants provide essential food resources for birds

year-round and also host protein-rich native butterfly and moth caterpillars, the number one food for songbird nestlings. And best of all, they do not attract bears." To help better understand peoples' interactions with bears and inform measures for coexistence with this species, the department asks Vermonters to submit reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting bird feeders or garbage bins, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds or residential areas, through our website's Living with Black Bears tab.x

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# Calendar of events

## March

### Mondays Thursdays:

#### Brandon Public Library Second Story

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

### Tuesday:

#### Chess Club

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

### Thursdays:

#### Open Mic Nights

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

### 17:

#### Brandon Inn throws first-year anniversary party on St. Patty's Day

For all those Irish-loving folk out there, the Brandon Inn is hosting a one-year anniversary party to coincide with St. Patty's Day from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Titled "Let the Shenanigans Begin," owner Joel MacLaren and his team are celebrating their first year in business by bringing in Vermont's premier Irish Band Extra Stout to enliven the festivities with Irish music from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It's a cash bar, and admission includes a delicious dinner of corned beef and cabbage, and much more. Tickets for the celebration are \$22 in advance and \$25 per person at the door, they can be purchased between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Inn's café, or email: events@BrandonInn.com.

#### Audubon West Rutland Marsh Monitoring Walk

Join us for the full 3.7 mile loop in this National Audubon IBA (Important Bird Area), or go halfway. Kids, new birders and non-members always welcome! Grow your birding skills with our friendly and accomplished birders. Meet at the marsh boardwalk on Marble Street at 8 am. More info: birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org

### 26 27

#### Maple Open House Weekend at Baird Farm!

Come celebrate the Vermont Tradition of Maple Sugar-

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

### March April 8:

#### "Art Connects Us" Annual Student Exhibit Opening

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

## MNFF Selects Film Series Presents Documentary Buck, March 24

Middlebury—MNFF Selects, the monthly screening series presented by the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, will present the acclaimed and multi award winning documentary, *Buck*, on Thursday, March 24 at 7pm at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. In keeping with the theme of this year's Selects series, *Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds*, this superb documentary, directed by Cindy Meehl, is a revealing and moving exploration of the life of heralded 'horse whisperer' Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people. Winner of the 2011 Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival, *Buck* offers audiences a close up view of a man whose remarkable compassion and empathy for horses elevated the training profession. The film is rated PG.

When the documentary was released, Peter Rainer of the *Christian Science Monitor* wrote, "Near the beginning of the fascinating new documentary *Buck*, Buck Brannaman, who runs horse-training clinics around the country, says, 'A lot of times, rather than helping people with horse problems, I'm helping horses with people

problems.' Based at his ranch in Sheridan, Wyoming, Brannaman, soft spoken and often wearing a white straight-brim hat, spends nine months of the year traveling the country in truck and trailer conducting his four-day clinics. A protégé of Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt, who developed the method of horse training known as "natural horsemanship," which advocates mutual respect between rider and steed, Brannaman was an accomplished rider from an early age." Rainer concludes that "*Buck* is about larger things. It celebrates a communion between man and animal that runs deeper than any division."

The late Roger Ebert wrote in his gracious and admiring review that *Buck Brannaman* "was the original 'Horse Whisperer,'" the character who inspired Nicholas Sparks' novel and was hired by Robert Redford as on-set consultant for his 1998 film. He has a way with horses, and Cindy Meehl's documentary is moving as she shows them engaged in dances of understanding. W.G. Sebald once wrote, "Men and animals regard each other across a gulf of mutual incomprehension," but *Buck* and his animals seem to have bridged it."

MNFF is also delighted to announce that Vermonter Tim Hayes, a highly regarded "horse whisperer" in his own right and

a good friend of Mr. Brannaman, will attend the screening and host a Q&A following the film. In 2015, Mr. Hayes published a popular book, *Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal*, with this foreword by Robert Redford: "The lessons you'll take away from this beautiful volume of healing and love between man and nature will stay with you for a long time. And who knows, maybe it will open a door to healing for you or someone you love. Tim Hayes has made this his life work and the world is a better place for it." Mr. Hayes is an internationally recognized Natural Horsemanship Clinician and conducts clinics throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Mexico and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Equine Therapy at the University of Vermont.

"We are thrilled to offer this complete and compelling event to our audiences," noted Lloyd Komesar, MNFF Producer. "*Buck* is a beautiful and moving film and to have Tim Hayes join us for what should be a fascinating Q&A adds a remarkable dimension to the evening. And we want to thank the team at the world renowned UVM Morgan Horse Farm here in the Middlebury area for their help in pulling this all together."



Photo: Ingrid Raine Penasco



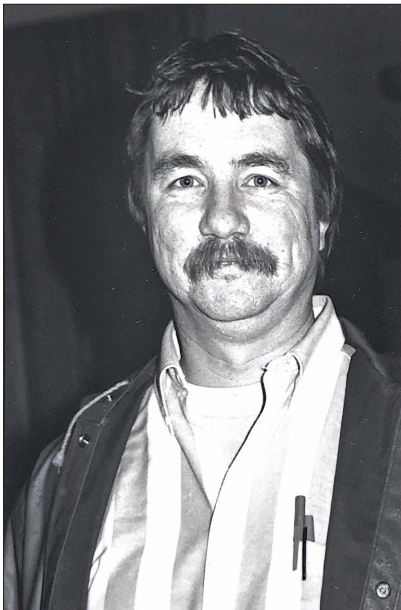
# Mim's Photos

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



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

## Recognized



Jeanette Devino from Brandon emailed to identify the couple with the baby printed in last week's edition of the Reporter. They are David and Arlene Disorda from Orwell, holding their daughter Jennifer.



Tom Whittaker emailed us to identify Tom and Pat Lyons with children Sarah, Andrew and Tom from this photo printed in the 3/2 edition. "Wonderful folks who lived here on Park Street for quite a few years in 70's-80's," says Tom.



# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

## Adult Non-Fiction

**Crown & Sceptre: A New History of the British Monarchy, from William the Conqueror to Elizabeth II**  
by Tracy Borman

Since William the Conqueror crossed the English Channel in 1066 to defeat King Harold II and unite England's various kingdoms, forty-one kings and queens have sat on Britain's throne. Ironically, very few of the throne's occupant been unambiguously English. Acknowledging the intrinsic fascination with British royalty, Borman lifts the veil to reveal the remarkable characters and personalities who have ruled and ceremonially reigned.

**Born of Lakes and Plains: Mixed-Descent Peoples and the Making of the American West**  
by Anne F. Hyde

Vividly combining the panoramic and the particular, Born of Lakes and Plains follows five mixed-descent families whose lives intertwined major events. During the pivotal nineteenth century, mixed-descent people who had once occupied a middle ground became a racial problem drawing hostility from all sides. As Anne F. Hyde shows, they navigated the hard choices they faced as they

### Did you know?

**Drag Queen Story Time is back! Join us March 19 at 11 a.m. for stories and a spring craft with Miss Anita Cocktail and friends!**

had for centuries: by relying on the rich resources of family and kin. Here is an indelible western history with a new human face.

## Juvenile Fiction

**Those Kids from Fawn Creek by Erin Entrada Kelly**

There are twelve kids in the seventh grade at Fawn Creek Middle School. They've been together all their lives. And in this small factory town where everyone knows everything about everyone, that's not necessarily a great thing. Every day is exactly the same—until Orchid Mason arrives. This contemporary school story set in small-town Louisiana is about friendship, family, deception, and being true to yourself and your dreams.

## Adult Fiction

**The Last Wild Horses by Maja Lunde, translated by Diane Oatley**

Mikhail lives in Russia in 1881. When a skeleton of a rare wild horse is brought to him, the zoologist plans an expedition to Mongolia to find the fabled Przewalski horse, a journey that tests not only his physicality, but his heart. In 1992, Karin, alongside her troubled son Mathias and several Przewalski horses, travels to Mongolia to reintroduce the magnificent horses to their native land. The veterinarian has dedicated her life to saving the breed from extinction, prioritizing the wild horses, even over her own son.

## DVDS

**House of Gucci**

When Patrizia Reggiani, an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel their legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge, and ultimately... murder.

**Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President**

Jimmy Carter's election to the presidency of the United States in 1977 was helped by the links that this fan of pop music had with stars.

# Brandon Police Report

**BRANDON** — Police aided Pittsford Police on March 9 with a DUI single-car crash on Route 7 in Pittsford. Jason G. Haynes, 44, of West Rutland, was arrested on suspicion of DUI by Pittsford Police, transported to Brandon Police Department for processing, and later released on a citation to appear in Rutland Superior Court-Criminal Division, on March 28 at 11 a.m. for arraignment. The arrest was one of a number of traffic violations that took place this past week.

In addition to the Hayes arrest, Brandon Police:

### On March 7

- At the request of a doctor's office, made a welfare check on a patient living on West Seminary Street. The patient was found safe and sound at the residence.
- Responded to a report of stolen medication on Mulcahy Drive.
- Responded to a report of two stolen log splitters on Birch Hill Road.
- Served a temporary Relief from Abuse order to a male residing in Forest Dale.
- Conducted a traffic stop at OVUHS for loud exhaust and issued a ticket for defective equipment.
- Responded to a late report of damage to a parked vehicle in downtown Brandon. A case number was given for insurance reporting purposes.
- Made a traffic stop on Forest Dale Road for failure to stop and no insurance. A ticket was issued.
- Stopped a vehicle on Center Street for a moving violation and issued a warning.
- Conducted routine property

watches at Life Bridge Christian Church, Mallory's Automotive, Junction Store & Deli and Walgreens.

- Conducted stationary radar and foot patrol on Center Street.

Took fingerprints for a substitute teacher applicant.

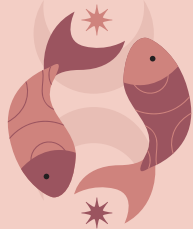
### On March 8

Responded to a report from a Brandon resident that someone identifying themselves as a Customs/Border agent was attempting to perpetrate a scam over the phone by saying that they had intercepted a package belonging to him with contraband in it. The complainant was advised that the call was a scam and that he should disregard future calls.

- Dealt with two large aggressive dogs in the road on Carver Street. The dogs were corralled back to their home safely and animal control was notified.
- Responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle in the Masonic Lodge parking lot on Park St. The owner was identified and told to remove the car immediately.
- Responded to a report of vandalism to a car on Mulcahy Drive. A case number was given for insurance purposes.
- Responded to two late reports of minor motor vehicle accidents at Hannaford Supermarket and OVUHS parking lots. The Hannaford accident was documented for insurance purposes.
- Made three traffic stops, two for speeding and one for defective equipments — warning were issued.
- Held traffic for buses exiting OVUHS.

(See Police report 13)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Be mindful of the past wounds that could be controlling you on a subconscious level as you let them go with grace. The time has come to open your heart again, and that time is now

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, in order to reach a destination you have in mind, you may have to rethink the route you're taking. A direct course that just may not be the way to go in this instance.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Always be honest with yourself and others, Libra. That means being true to you and never putting on masks just to hide others from how you are truly feeling.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, you want to do things for others out of the goodness of your heart, and you will not need anything in return. Good deeds are their own reward.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, dining out too many days in a row may leave you feeling sluggish. Reassess your eating habits and commit to making more meals at home for a bit.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Capricorn, recognize that not everyone has your best interests at heart. Others' intentions may not be sinister, but your own interest and the interest of others may not align.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Sometimes you are a bit proud and do not like asking for or accepting others' help, Aquarius. You deserve the breaks that others are willing to offer you, though.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

This is a good time of the month to nurture loved ones, Pisces. Play with your kids or sit and chat with an elderly relative who needs you.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 17 Nat King Cole, singer (d)
- March 18 Wilson Pickett, singer (d)
- March 19 Wyatt Earp, law enforcement officer (d)
- March 20 Sister Rosetta Tharpe, singer (d)
- March 21 Gary Oldman, actor (64)
- March 22 Reese Witherspoon, actor (46)
- March 23 Akira Kurosawa, film director (d)

### ARIES March 21-April 20

This week you will have an opportunity to see things how they are and not necessarily as you imagine them to be, Aries. This clarity could require some restructuring.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

Long-term goals are nearing completion, Taurus. You have gained so much from your pursuits and you have made plenty of friends along the way. Take time to appreciate that.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

Communication difficulties arise this week, Gemini. Someone can coach you into getting your point across with sufficient finesse. Seek a communication mentor.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, there may be some passionate discussions coming up this week with family members. Everyone wants his or her point of view to be heard.

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# Brandon police

(Continued from Page 12)

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

## On March 9

- Provided a citizen with contact information for domestic violence resources after she reported to the police that she was having domestic issues with the father of her children.
- Made a traffic stop on Franklin Street for a vehicle operating without any tail lights. Operator received a written warning for defective equipment.
- Responded to a 911 call on Grove Street. Checked empty building and all was OK.
- Reponded to an alarm at Union Street Grocery. The alarm was later determined to be set off by accident.
- Conducted two property watches on Conant Square businesses.
- Directed speed enforcement and foot patrol on Center Street.
- Held traffic for OVUHS buses.
- Took fingerprints for a student teacher.

## On March 10

- Responded to report of suspicious activity at 41 Conant Square. Female advised she was alright.
- Responded to a disabled vehicle in the left turn lane on Union Street. Operator had run out of gas.
- Monitored for speeding on Grove street and issued a warning after a vehicle stop.
- Held traffic for OVUHS buses
- Conducted a foot patrol of Center Street.
- Took fingerprints for s New Hampshire employee.

## On March 11

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street and Franklin Street, resulting in a speeding ticket issued on Grove Street and a warning issued on Franklin Street.
- Made two traffic stops, one for a headlight out and one for no inspection and no insurance, for which the driver was given seven days to provide both.
- Attempted to locate a vehicle reported to be driving erratically. Vehicle was not located.
- Assisted a disabled vehicle.
- Conducted a Center Street Foot patrol and tow routine business checks on Franklin Street and Alta Woods.

## On March 12

- Responded to a singel vehicle crash on North Street due to road conditions. The opertor was

transported due to injuries and the vehicle was towed. A police truck was hit and sustained minor damage while at the crash site.

- Conducted a welfare check on High Pond Road, where all was OK
- Conducted routine business checks on Franklin Street, Alta Woods, Grove Street and Union Street.

## On March 13

- Made a directed patrol in the area of Union Street Grocery in response to a recent dmestic violence incident. Ne persons of interest were present at the store upon patrol.
- Made four traffic stops, two on Franklin Street, speeding and no tail lights; one on Forest Dale Road for no registration; and one on Union Street for a driver who made a right turn on red when there was a no right right on red sign. All operators were issued warnings.
- Conducted routine business checks on Center Street, Case Street, Grove Street and Conant Square.

# Standing with Ukraine

(Continued from Page 7)

tory's despots have not changed. They continue to be diabolically deceitful, brutally oppressive, flagrantly power-hungry and utterly unoriginal. "Democracy dies in darkness," the slogan of the Washing-

ton Post reminds us each week. We stand with Ukraine, but in the meantime we would do well to also remember the importance of truth, transparency and fidelity to reality in free societies. It is a lesson for those abroad and even those of us at home who

need reminding that democracy demands a vigilantly guarded free press. (And perhaps even a little less exaggeration from glib story-telling columnists.) Continue to pray for the good people of Ukraine.

# Housing bill

(Continued from Page 6)

go to improve rental housing under Gov. Phil Scott's Vermont Housing Improvement Program. "It's a good program that takes houses that are about to or have been taken off the market because they deteriorated to such a degree," Sirotkin said. "And it gives an incentive to the owners of those places to fix them up and rent them for a certain period of time to lower-income people at affordable rents." \$5 million of that would have to go to support accessory dwelling units, units built by a homeowner

adding to a home or on a residential property lot around the home. "Another highlight of the bill is accessory dwelling units as a way to build for a single-family house that may be (for) some people with their kids gone being overhoused and creating an extra unit in there," Sirotkin said. "And it's much less expensive than building a whole new house." To encourage accessory dwelling units, the bill would prohibit municipalities from requiring more than one parking space for each bedroom in an accessory dwelling unit.

The bill would also set up a registry of residential contractors. The bill now heads to the Senate Finance Committee. Sirotkin points out that the millions of dollars authorized in the bill are just a small piece of the money going toward housing this year. "There's tens and tens of millions of dollars that are going to various organizations, most prominently the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board to develop affordable rental housing," he said. Those funds are included in another bill, the budget bill.



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# Right and Good

(Continued from Page 5)

that benefits me only, or pleases my creator, but a higher transcendent good. Only then is obeying the commandment doing the right thing. It is never right to do evil, even if God commands it.

But our minds are not a storehouse of rules. Rather we are rational animals, free creatures endowed with hearts and minds and wills. Moral knowledge is the product of rational enquiry and reflection; our primary quest is for general rules, which we may apply to specific situations; rules like the following: Always tell the truth; Have compassion for the poor and the disadvantaged; Be kind to animals and mindful of their welfare; Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. But for the rules to take effect in how we live our lives, our hearts as well as our minds must become active. And if we do this, then through our actions there is a possibility that we will create a

just world, where the needs of no one is forgotten or neglected.

But a truly moral society depends also upon attitudes, even more so than upon rules. Kindness must take precedence over duty. Doing one's duty may cause you to feel righteous; being kind is better, for it makes it makes you feel good—because you've benefited someone other than yourself.

This leads me to take back what I wrote earlier. There is indeed a positive evil in the world: it is cruelty. Human history is a narrative of immense cruelty, fomented by a host of human emotions: jealousy, ambition, resentment, envy, which when coupled with armed force wreaks havoc, and causes unspeakable horrors: war, rapine, genocide. Russia's cruel war on Ukraine is evil. Human history is full of such horrors.

In 1984, Judith Shklar (1928–92), a professor of government

at Harvard, published a book entitled *Ordinary Vices*. She observed that while moral philosophers have written a great deal about virtues, i.e. courage, self-control, justice, and wisdom; they have neglected vices: cruelty, snobbery, hypocrisy, and betrayal. Her book was intended to fill the gap. And it did so splendidly. Her opening chapter is especially provocative; it's entitled, Putting Cruelty First. If courage is the first of the virtues, surely cruelty is the first of the vices. It has filled the world with pain and sorrow, but with little remorse among its most vicious perpetrators. Cruelty is absolutely evil. It is incarnate in Vladimir Putin.

*Postscript: Ordinary Vices* (published by Harvard University Press) is still in print and worth reading, especially now. Consult your local bookshop.

## Classifieds

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### TOWN ACCOUNTANT

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

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

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

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

Salary ranges from \$30,000 - \$52,000. Salary based on experience.

A complete job description is available at the Fair Haven Town Office.

Send a cover letter and resume by March 31, 2022 to: Town Manager, 5 North Park Place, Fair Haven, VT 05743 or via email to [fhmanager@comcast.net](mailto:fhmanager@comcast.net).

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# OVUU budget

(Continued from Page 1)

ing, which starts at 6 p.m. at the OVUHS library, the board will go over the annual meeting and election results and outline the next steps for recommending a second budget vote. Current board chairman Laurie Bertrand said she expected the board would want to hold a revote as soon as possible, which would be in the latter part of April.

In Collins' superintendent's report to the board, she cites one reason for the budget's defeat is while two of the largest towns in the district (Brandon and Pittsford) mailed their ballots out to residents, the school budget was not included in those packets. That's because not all six district towns mailed out their ballots. Many residents, therefore, were either unaware the school budget wasn't included or didn't take the time to go to the polls to vote separately on the school budget. Turnout for the school district budget vote this year was far less than the previous year when all residents were mailed ballots. Collins said the total turnout in 2021 was almost 3,000 voters, compared to about 900 this year.

To that point, Collins writes:

"I have heard from many residents and staff that a) they did not realize they had not voted on the school budget, or b) were angry the district did not mail the ballot like the town did. The two different ways of voting may have created a barrier for voting unintentionally."

Collins continued that she would recommend "the board hold a community forum and Thought Exchange to get a sense from more of the community on the defeat of the budget and then determine what budget (same or reduced) to go back out with in a special election this spring."

In addition to that weighty discussion, the board also has three vacant board seats to fill. They may either appoint people to fill those seats for one year, or wait until the special election and tray again to get candidates to run for the seats. Both processes, she said, normally take at least two months. The vacant seats are: one year remaining of a three-year term representing Leicester; a three-year term representing Pittsford; and one year left of a three-year At-Large term.

If the school board wanted to try to mail ballots to all district voters, the district would have



**OVUU BOARD MEMBERS will decide at its March 16 meeting how it will proceed with a second budget vote this spring, following the 522-462 defeat of the budget on Town Meeting Day. Turnout in that vote, at 984 total votes, was far below the prior year's budget vote of almost 3,000.**

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

to get each town selectboard to agree to handle its own town election, even as the school district would agree to cover the costs.

### OTHER ACTION

In other action at the meeting, the board will formally reorganize, including reelecting board

leaders and other school positions.

As part of the consent agenda, it is noted that exiting employees include: Willa Abel, high school science teacher; David Mitchell, teacher/float, end of contract; Nicole Vachon-Hanlon, teacher outdoor recreation, end of con-

tract; and Kelli Zauli, teacher, grade 2/3, Otter Creek Academy. New hires for 2022-23 include: Jennifer Buzzell, teacher, grade 1, Neshobe; Brian Crane, new principal of Otter Creek Academy; Nancy Kay, teacher, grade 3/4, Lothrop Elementary; Michael Ruppel, principal at OVUHS.

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