

# The REPORTER

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

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75¢

## RNESU settles three-year contract with teachers

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — After several months of negotiations, Jeanné Collins, superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU), announced Monday evening that RNESU, Otter Valley Unified Union and Barstow Unified Union School Boards and the Teachers Association had ratified a

new three-year teacher contract for 2022-2025.

“The goal of the school board during this round of negotiations was to bring our teachers’ salaries back in line with their regional colleagues,” Collins wrote in a statement after the meeting. “Often in recent years, our schools have lost candidates to higher paying districts

around us and we have had to start school years without a teacher in the classroom, as seen recently in Otter Valley math and Leicester classroom vacancies.”

In an interview Tuesday afternoon, Collins said that the district had hired teachers this past summer only to have them quit and join another higher-paying district nearby

even before the school year started. She explained that the district’s lower pay scale was the result of several years of single-year negotiations “without the ability to execute a long term retention plan.”

RNESU currently ranks 8th out of 9 of surrounding supervisory unions in its pay scale, Collins said. The 40-plus page contract rati-

fied by the teachers and the school district provides a 7% boost in the salary matrix (a pay scale based on a grid that leverages educational levels with years of experience) for teachers in the first year of the contract, followed by 3% increases in the second and third years. The matrix has six columns of educational  
*(See RNESU, Page 6)*

## Proctor partners with Zion Growers

To seek \$60,000 planning grant

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — The Proctor selectboard gave unanimous support to Zion Growers for a \$60,000 Vermont Community Development Program planning grant to assess how they can best use the former Proctor Marble building at 51 Main Street for its commercial hemp manufacturing operation, as well as provide space for other commercial

entities, including revitalizing the Vermont Marble Museum.

The first part of Monday night’s meeting was devoted to a public hearing on the grant, but other than a short presentation by co-owner Travis Samuels, there were few questions presented and no opposition to the grant application, or to the proposed use of the building.

In a previously drafted needs assessment for the grant, and for that building, Town Manager Michael  
*(See Proctor, Page 8)*

## OV names Tolar new head varsity football coach



JORDAN TOLAR

BRANDON — Otter Valley’s football team’s offensive coordinator Jordan Tolar was recently promoted to Head Varsity Coach of the team heading into the 2022 season.

On Wednesday, March 23, Otter Valley Union High School Athletic Director Steve Keith  
*(See OV football, Page 3)*



## Snowy surprise

A SURPRISE SNOW storm on Sunday dumped about five inches over the region, bringing back a winter sparkle to the landscape.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

## Jumpstarts ideas for Unsung Heroes

# Brandon eyes \$2 million in infrastructure projects

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — In a short but packed meeting Monday night, the Brandon selectboard heard public comments on preliminary concerns for the upcoming reconstruction of the Union Street sidewalk, agreed to create a Unsung Heroes event to honor local residents, will look into the feasibility of creating a Brandon Community Fund and agreed to expand the town Energy Committee from five members to

seven.

Before those items, the meeting kicked-off with Town Manager Dave Atherton outlining almost \$2 million in upcoming projects facing the town with a request for board members to review the items and be ready to finalize or adjust how each would be funded at the next board meeting on April 9. This exercise is needed because of changes to the rules about how American Rescue Plan Act funding could

be spent.

The projects and how they will currently be funded are:

- Union Street Sidewalk and Curb replacement, \$594,811; \$300,000 from VTrans and Vermont municipal assistance grants; \$300,000 from LOT, which is a town contribution; estimated start date, Spring 2024;
- Newton Road Pump Station, \$400,000, ARPA, \$360,000; \$40,000 funded by town; start date, fall 2023;

- Arnold District Box Culvert, \$400,000; \$200,000 from VTrans Cass 2 Highway grant; \$200,000 not yet funded; start date, fall 2022;

- New England Woodcraft Stormwater project, \$292,000; 100% Vermont Agency of Natural Resources funding; start date, summer 2023;

- New salt shed at town Department of Public Works, \$160,000; 100% funded by town; start date, summer of 2022;

- Town Farm Road rebuild Phase 1, \$120,000; 100% funded by town; start date, summer of 2022.

Total project costs are \$1,966,811. Total outside funding sources amount to  
*(See Brandon selectboard, Page 3)*



# Russian Vermonters caught in the middle

BY ETHAN WEINSTEIN AND PETER D'AURIA/VTdigger

For years, Yuliya Ballou's grandparents kept a broken alarm clock in their home in Belarus. Amid the mangled metal, the hands were frozen at 4 o'clock — the exact time, her grandparents told her, that Nazi bombs struck their house on the morning of June 22, 1941.

On Feb. 24 in her South Royalton home, when her phone lit up with news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, she thought of that clock, and the incomprehensible violence that stopped time.

Ballou, born to a Ukrainian father and Russian mother, grew up in the Soviet Union and is a dual citizen of the United States and Russia. But that night, as Russia launched an unprompted invasion of its neighbor, she considered ripping up her Russian passport.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I expect or imagine this to happen," Ballou said. "My home country is tarnished forever as an aggressor."

Over the next few weeks, as the Western world has watched the carnage in Ukraine in horror, many have felt a similar impulse: to cut

the ties that connect them to Russia.

But as Western governments, companies and cultural institutions have worked to isolate the country, some Vermonters are caught in the middle, trying to preserve their personal relationships as their countries' political ones fray.

"Now more than ever, close personal one-to-one relationships between American citizens and Russian citizens are really important," said Mark Oettinger, a Burlington attorney who chairs the Vermont Karelia Sister State Committee, an organization that manages the state's partnership with the Russian republic of Karelia. "It's not going to affect Russian policy in Ukraine by trying to get us not to talk to our friends."

## 'LOVE THE PEOPLE. LOATHE THE STATE.'

In the roughly four weeks since Russia launched an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, American and European leaders have levied punishing sanctions against Russian banks and officials.

Western companies have pulled out of the country, Russian movies have been dropped from film festivals, and international organizations



YULIYA BALLOU, A Ukrainian and Russian-born Vermonter, teaches Russian and German at Hanover High School in Hanover, New Hampshire. Photo by Glenn Russell/VTdigger

have barred Russians from competing in events ranging from soccer tournaments to cat competitions.

"They're trying to cancel Tchaikovsky and Tolstoy," quipped Paul Richardson, the editor of Russian Life, a Montpelier-based publication that runs articles on Russian culture and history. "As far as I know, they're really not very close to Putin. They don't travel in the

same circles."

For Russian Life, that decoupling has hit close to home. On March 7, the magazine announced that it was halting its print edition indefinitely — despite having steadfastly opposed the war.

"We Condemn the Kremlin Aggression," a banner at the top of its website reads. "Love the People. Loathe the State."

But after PayPal and other financial companies pulled out of Russia, Richardson had no means of paying the magazine's writers. And as Putin has cracked down on independent media — including a law that threatens journalists with up to 15 years in prison — he worried that continuing to put out the magazine could put its writers in danger.

(See Russian ties, Page 8)

# Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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# OV football

(Continued from Page 1)

made the announcement, noting that Tolar has been on the football staff at Otter Valley for the past five seasons, joining in the fall of 2017 as the school's Junior Varsity co-Head Coach. After one season he moved up to take on the Offensive Coordinator duties where he has since presided.

Previous to his time at Otter Valley, Keith reported, Tolar attended and played football at Woodstock High School. Upon graduation he attended McNeese State, a Division I Football program, before finishing his career at Castleton University where he served as a team captain before graduating.

"Jordan has continually been a positive force among our coaches, working in all areas of the game to help our athletes im-

prove," Keith said, adding that "he has a distinct vision of how a program should and will be run, and is actively working to implement that."

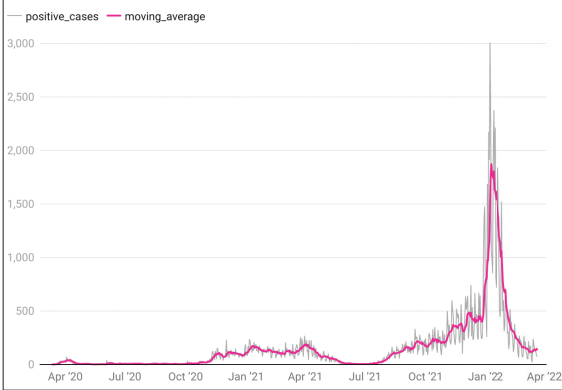
Keith praised Tolar for his knowledge of the game and his dedication to the OV program.

"He is organized and knowledgeable about all facets of the game and continues to be driven by a set of personal standards and character building blocks that he hopes to instill in all of his athletes," he said, concluding that Tolar "is highly dedicated to the growth and success of Otter Valley football. We look forward to the future of Otter Valley Football under his leadership."

Tolar, 29, currently serves as the Head Custodian of Otter Valley Union High School as his full-time professional position and lives in Rutland County.

## Covid new cases per day, rolling average

Based on the latest Department of Health data, with a seven-day rolling average:



**ON TUESDAY, MARCH 29, the state reported 87 new cases with 12 hospitalized (0 in ICU). The state currently has a 5.4% seven-day test positivity rate. The most recent death reported was on March 28, totaling 617 deaths statewide.**

**CURRENTLY, 87% OF Vermonters age 5+ have received at least one vaccine dose, and 67% of vaccinated Vermonters have received a booster dose.**

# Brandon selectboard

(Continued from Page 1)

\$1,152,000 with the remaining costs of \$814,811 being picked up by the town.

Atherton said one suggestion was to use the ARPA funds that are not going to be in the General Fund to cover remaining costs and not borrow any funds to complete the projects noted above. The selectboard will entertain that discussion at its next meeting.

Atherton also advised the board that the Brandon Fire District #1 and BFD#2 connection project went out to bid on March 21, and bid openings will be April 5; hopes the bidding process for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades goes out this month after a DRB hearing was held on March 23 with no opposition; and noted that an appraiser was chosen for the three new buyout properties on Newton Road, which he hopes to be appraised by mid-April.

In town rec news, Recreation Director Bill Moore noted that "Mom Prom" would be held April 9 from 8-11 at the Brandon Town Hall; Rusty DeWees comes "Down From the Mountain" with his comedy act on April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall, and that the town's summer recreation programs are heating up with a theater camp with Jeff Hull; swim lessons with Jake Jacobs; Joseph Sloma Trailblazers and more.

### UNION STREET SIDEWALK

The selectboard heard a presentation by Brian Breslend, a senior project engineer with contractor DuBois & King, on the proposed reconstruction of Union Street Sidewalk, then opened up the meeting to public comments or concerns about the project. Two local residents, Shirely Markland and Ruth

Walker spoke up about their specific properties with concerns the sidewalk might be even closer to their homes in one case, and in another that a steep grade made for treacherous walking when it was icy.

In both cases, Breslend and Atherton assured the residents that the purpose of the reconstruction project was to make the sidewalk compliant with ADA standards and improve the overall safety for pedestrians. Plans are for the sidewalk to essentially be rebuilt on its existing footprint and any revisions to driveways or other individual property would be temporary as the project is being built and would be reinstated to its original state once completed.

The project is likely to start either next spring (2023) or the following year, Breslend said.

### UNsung HEROES

An idea by resident Lyn Des Marais was brought to the selectboard to start an Unsung Heroes Day or event, perhaps sometime in late summer or early fall. The idea, Des Marais wrote, is to recognize folks who have gone out of their way to help others. The event, she wrote, would "celebrate community.... For all the best reasons, and have some good food and drink at our restaurants and breweries and wander our shops."

The selectboard deferred the item to Town Recreation Director Bill Moore, who said he thought it sounded like a "great idea" and would organize a committee of volunteers to work on the details. Des Marais, he said, would certainly be one of the first to join the effort.

### COMMUNITY FUND

In another idea, Town Clerk/Treasurer Sue Gage was considering how to invest certain temporary town funds and found

interest rates were so low it made little sense and thought of creating a Brandon Community Fund that could help area residents in housing or other concerns. "Housing is so expensive right now, area young people can't get started," she said, suggesting that the fund might be used like a revolving loan fund for businesses and would constantly be replenished.

It was just the seed of an idea, Gage said. The selectboard liked the idea, with Tim Guiles saying he could see many situations in which it would be a "win-win" for the town and area residents.

The board agreed to pursue the idea and approved a motion to appoint Guiles and Mike Markowski to serve on a study committee to research how such a fund might be established, be within the town's legal rights, and serve the town wisely with available funds.

### OTHER ACTION

In other action, the board:

- Approved a motion to expand the town Energy Committee from five members to seven, then also appointed Jeff Haylon and Jeffrey Cohen to that board. The committee's request initially was to expand to 10 members, but following a discussion about the difficulty of finding a quorum with larger boards, it was decided to just go up to seven members for now.

- Reduced .48 miles of Class 4 road (less than half a mile) to .48 miles of legal trail on a portion of Steinberg Road.

- Paused for a moment of silence to recognize the years of service Wayne Kingsley served as the town's tree warden. Kingsley died earlier this month. His service will be April 4, 10 a.m. at the Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Church.

## April Foolishness!











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Please join us in wishing a belated  
Happy Birthday to Harold Adams,  
who turned 96 on February 11th.

Harold's youngest grandson, Jonah Carswell  
(posing with him in this photo)  
also turned 2 on March 24th.

## Guest Edit

## S.74: Help at the end of life

BY BETSY WALKERMAN & KIM CALLINAN

In January, Willem Jewett, former majority leader of the Vermont House, contacted Patient Choices Vermont because he wanted to express his strong convictions about the importance of passing Senate Bill 74 to improve access to Vermont's Act 39, our medical aid-in-dying law.

Jewett was in the late stages of terminal cancer and preparing to use Act 39, the law he worked so hard to pass. It is a tribute to his commitment to public service that he chose to take time, literally in his final days, to speak with reporters at VtDigger about his experience.

Referring to Act 39, Jewett stated: "At the end of the day, the patient needs to really have control. I'm proud of this one."

Karen Oelschlaeger was another of the many Vermonters who express deep gratitude that we are one of 10 states, plus Washington, D.C., that empower terminally ill people with the option of medical aid in dying. At the age of 37, Karen was dying from stomach cancer.

She and all of the 116 people who the Vermont Department of Health reports as having qualified so far for medical aid in dying were diagnosed by two doctors as having a terminal illness with six months or less to live, deemed capable of making their own medical decisions, and deemed able to self-administer the medication.

When we interview people like Karen Oelschlaeger, we are struck by the careful consideration they have given to their decisions. Act 39's rigorous standards have successfully assured that medical aid in dying is available only to competent, qualifying individuals. Time has shown, however, that certain features of the law have the unintended consequence of preventing some people who are otherwise eligible from being able to use it. It is nothing less than tragic that the law creates hurdles that at times are literally torturous for dying people and their families.

Karen Oelschlaeger said this: "It is hard when you are dying, hospitalized and grieving from this major loss to go through the logistics of (the Act 39 process). It felt like a really, really long time to get through that process.

By the time I was talking to the physician, I had thought about it for literally years."

Senate Bill 74, which passed the Senate in January 2022, would make proper use of the law less onerous for dying people. It maintains the strong safeguards while removing unnecessary barriers.

S.74 makes three changes.

- **Telemedicine:** S.74 would allow for the patient's two oral requests required by Act 39 to be made by video telemedicine. Telemedicine would provide great relief to dying patients, many of whom are in pain or have difficulty moving. It would also provide better access to physicians in areas of the state where there are few available.

- **Physical presence:** "I had to physically go and get myself in front of this doctor, which is rough when you are dying. Removal of that requirement (to be in the doctor's physical presence) would be a huge relief," said Karen Oelschlaeger.

- **Legal immunity:** S.74 would fix a technical error in Act 39, which currently provides explicit legal immunity only for the doctors involved in the process. Because of this defect, the principal pharmacist who fills Act 39 prescriptions requires doctors to sign indemnification agreements prior to filling prescriptions for their patients. Many doctors refuse to sign.

As Dr. Diana Barnard testified before the Senate Health and Welfare Committee in January, she recently had a patient from southern Vermont who had to see a doctor almost two hours away because of this deficiency in the law. Due to all the logistics, the patient missed the window when she could take the medication and her family is haunted by her suffering and lack of access to the aid in dying she had requested.

- **Timeline:** S.74 would adjust the steps required to get a prescription. The amendment keeps the mandated 15-day period between the two oral requests but removes an unnecessary and burdensome additional 48-hour delay after the last step in the process, before a prescription can be written.

While 48 hours may not seem like much, for people like Dee Allen, it bordered on preventing her from dying the way she

(See *End of Life*, Page 7)



### Picture perfect

AFTER THE SNOW melts, Brandon's Park St. will return to its spring-like splendor.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn



## Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

### Three big spending bills sent to Senate

The Vermont House of Representatives has completed our work in what I call the "Money Period" of the session. This is the time the body acts on the three major bills that provide funding to operate state government. These bills are The Capital Bill, The Transportation Bill and The Appropriations Bill, which were all presented for approval in an unusual three-day period last week.

Typically, these especially important pieces of legislation would take seven to eight days to wind their way through the presentation, question and answer phase and caucusing by the respective political parties and then finally to the floor for second and third readings of the bill before voting for final approval.

Speaker Krowinski, however, made the decision that these three money bills needed to pass to the Senate by Friday, March 25 to give them time to put their fingerprints on the excellent work of the House. This decision led to two marathon days of

over 16 total hours of floor session time with hours of personal time reading and comprehending what was in each proposal.

Through the efforts of the committees of jurisdiction and the members of the legislature these bills have now passed to the Senate, setting up a path to adjournment in, hopefully, early May.

A few words about each of "The Money Bills."

#### CAPITAL BILL

H-739 — Capital Construction and State Bonding, otherwise known as "The Capital Bill." The bill appropriates \$127.3 million of state bonded funds for various capital needs, such as state office buildings, correctional facilities, building maintenance at the University of Vermont and Vermont state colleges, clean water funding to protect our lakes, rivers and streams, and funding grant programs for our local communities to preserve their capital assets. This year's bill also includes \$4 million to support renovations and modernization

of the laboratories in our nursing schools across the state. Also included is an appropriation to the Vermont Police & Fire Training Facility in Pittsford to conduct a study for future renovations and expansions.

#### TRANSPORTATION BILL

H-736 — Annual Transportation Program, or as it is often called, "The T Bill." This year's version is the largest appropriation ever at \$866.7 million. The fund is made up of \$329 million in State Transportation Funds, \$460.4 million in Federal Matching Funds, \$22 million in State General Funds and various other smaller internal service funds.

This funding will support, but is not limited to, the Department of Motor Vehicles, State Paving and Bridge repair and replacement programs, and the routine Summer and Winter maintenance of our state and interstate highways.

Along with the statewide programs, Vermont's cities and towns highway networks are

(See *Legislative Wrap*, Page 7)

# Letter to the Editor

## Thank you for your true words

Dear Editor,  
 Just a note of thanks to you for your powerful, compelling, and necessary editorial “The lies we see, and those we don’t” in the March 16 issue of The Reporter. Responsible journalism (especially the editorial kind like this) is what, in my opinion, we need to honestly call out the tragedies of life on earth right now. Even more important is to expose the misguided, venal and intentionally divisive actions of certain individuals with a “bully pulpit” in the public media sphere that feed this insanity!  
 Your tell-it-like-it-is words — naming these insidious public speakers who distort reality with deadly effects — are important to shine a light on their lies. I’m not holding my breath that their followers will have an epiphany and wake up to realize just how duped and deceived they have

been. Nor that they come to realize how they are still being misled daily by these awful modern-day “pied pipers.”  
 But it is my sincere hope that your words might spur even a few of them to wake up to the egregious errors in their perceptions and begin to be more helpful — and a lot less harmful — to their fellow humans!  
 Reading again your editorial, I am strengthened in my personal convictions to work more diligently to try to bring people of all opinions together in aligned purpose — to turn horrible destruction and division into repair and healing — and to do that through a kind of honesty and grace that will give my grandchildren a world they can feel safe and find joy in.

Robert Black,  
 Brandon



# ‘Meaning of Life’

BY VICTOR NUOVO  
 Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

## The Best of all Possible Worlds

*Freedom is a sensibility in tune with nature; a power rooted deeply in the heart; a feeling as broad as the heavens.*

The philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz believed that God was the ultimate cause of existence, that God created the world from nothing. He was certain that God is omnipotent, omniscient, supremely wise and good, and therefore that whatever God did was the best that could be done. Therefore, this world, which God created, is most certainly “the best of all possible worlds”.

among theologians who address the problem of evil. What made it better for God to create this world (arguably the best of all possible worlds) is the vast Good that would never have come to be. Keep in mind that God, whose understanding is infinite, must know all that would happen in any world, should he, she, or they decide to create one. Theologians refer to this sort of knowledge, as divine foreknowledge. In

any case, God foreknew all that would take place in this world, and with such foreknowledge, God willed to create this world. Novelists and playwrights have this capacity of creative foreknowledge, albeit, a small measure of it.  
**What Good did God foresee?**  
 To begin with, consider everything that causes pleasure and delight, and everything that is praiseworthy and noble, for example, the beauties of nature, the sounds of music, great works of visual art, and literary works, or heroism, like that of Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine, and of the Ukrainian  
*(See Meaning of Life, Page 7)*

### Letters to the editor

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

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

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

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

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# Obituaries

## Karen Ann Hawley, 68, of Sudbury

SUDBURY — Karen Ann Hawley passed away on Thursday March 17, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. She was 68 years old.

Karen was the first-born daughter and child born to Bernard Max and Ruth Osborn Hawley. She was born on Oct. 27, 1953, in Glens Falls Hospital. She would become “Sister Bear” to five siblings. Karen grew up in Lake George Village and the lake was central in her childhood years. Her family worked around and played in this beautiful lake, where Karen helped her father at his marina. Karen grew up living the values of family and hard work. She lived her life just that way.

Karen graduated from Lake George High School in 1971. She attended and graduated from Trinity College in Burlington with a B.A. in Human Services in 1975. She would later go on to get her Master’s Degree in Special Ed from College of St. Joseph in Rutland. While at Trinity College she met the person who would become her lifelong best friend, Shirley Chase McNally. It was fun for Karen’s children to hear the funny stories about their mom and Aunt Shirley.

In 1976 Karen took what she described as a “summer job” at the Brandon Training School. That



KAREN ANN HAWLEY

summer gig turned into Karen’s professional passion; caring for and advocating for the needs of Vermonters with developmental disabilities. Just prior to Brandon Training School closing in 1993 Karen accepted a position with the Office of Public Guardians. Her work took her all over the state, maintaining relationships started in Brandon, to assure that people were supported. In 2015, just shy of her 40th year of work she was forced to retire due to failing health.

In 1988 she met her partner for life Dar. Together they made their

home in Sudbury. They welcomed their first child in 2000, William Russell. In 2005 they welcomed home their second child Madison Barbara. They enjoyed going to Disney, swimming, and riding roller coasters.

In addition to her partner and children Karen is survived by her siblings Pam Hawley-Dean, Gail Hawley, Mark Hawley and John Hawley. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins, as well as a great nephew.

Karen was predeceased by her parents and by her brother Peter, and by her sister-in-law Claudia.

According to her wishes there will be no services. Burial at Pine Hill Cemetery will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations to honor Karen be made to the Brandon Area Rescue Squad or the Rutland County Humane Society.

Miller and Ketchum Funeral Home is handling all arrangements.

Finally, over the last seven years it has been difficult for Karen to breathe comfortably. A great tribute would be to breathe deeply and think of Karen with fondness. Her family certainly will.

## RNESU

(Continued from Page 1)

levels, starting with a bachelor’s degree in education to a master’s degree plus 30 hours of specialized instruction. The experience level goes from year one and maxes out at 20 years.

The new pay range in the first year of the contract goes from a first-year teacher with a bachelor’s degree starting at \$44,352 to a high of \$88,703 for a teacher with 20 years experience with the highest education level.

“We expect that the new contract will move our teachers more toward the middle of regional com-

penetration packages,” Collins said. “The following years will see more moderate cost of living adjustment (COLA) increases. This investment in the retention of quality teachers and the ability to attract new teachers to vacant positions meets the primary purpose of the school system — to offer a rigorous and quality education.”

Other cost savings provisions were added to the contract to help fund the increase, Collins said, “particularly in the area of limiting professional development options beyond advance coursework and a step limitation when moving on the salary matrix (starting in year 3).”

Throughout the negotiating process, Collins said both sides ap-

proached the negotiations in good faith.

“The boards appreciated the mutual respect of the negotiations and the work of our teachers through COVID and beyond,” she said. “It is mutually felt that this contract leaves the district in a good place to attract and retain quality teachers.”

**CORRECTION:** As the OVUU school board discusses the upcoming budget for a revote on April 26, the OVUU board will host a public hearing to get voter feedback at the start of its regular board meeting on Wednesday, April 6. In last week’s Reporter, we incorrectly wrote that there would be a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5, a day ahead of the board meeting.

## Beloved innkeeper Tony Clark died of natural causes

GOSHEN — Tony Clark, a beloved and longtime innkeeper at Blueberry Hill Inn in Goshen, passed away on Saturday, March 26, 2022, of natural causes with family at his side at the Rutland Regional Medical Center. He just turned 78 on March 21. Clark bought Blueberry Hill Inn in 1971 and turned it into a Nordic skiing hub over the next 20 years, giving birth to Vermont’s Nordic ski and racing culture in those early years. Also a legendary inn owner, Clark was widely known within the innkeeping industry.

The family has established a page for Tony on the inn’s website, and invites friends to share their memories on that space. Services will be held Sunday, April 24 at 11:30. More details and a full obituary will follow.

## News Briefs

### During police stop, Brandon woman’s car rolls downhill into cruiser

RUTLAND — Vermont State Police charged a Brandon woman last Saturday for DUI after her car rolled into the front end of the state police cruiser that had made the stop.

According to the police report, Raven Blanchard, 26, was cited for DUI and driving without a license after stopping her for what they called an “observed violation” on Route 7 in Rutland Town at around 8:45 p.m.

Police reported that during the stop, Blanchard’s car rolled backward downhill into the front of the police cruiser. According to the report, Blanchard showed signs of impairment and was screened for DUI-drugs. During the investigation, they also learned her license had been criminally suspended.

Blanchard was cited to appear in Rutland criminal court on June 6.

### Brandon woman cited for cruelty to a child

BRANDON — A Brandon woman was recently cited by the Vermont State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations for cruelty to a child.

Police were notified of the incident on Dec. 10, 2021, and detectives were assigned to the case, along with the Vermont Department of Children and Families. The victim was reported to be less than 10 years old and living in Bridport.

On March 23, 2020, police issued a citation to Jeanne Bergeron, 61, for the above-mentioned charge. Bergeron is scheduled to appear at the Rutland County Superior Court, Criminal Division on May 2, 2022 at 10 a.m.

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# Meaning of Life

(Continued from Page 5)

people, as they defend their right to be a free and independent nation. May they live long and prosper!

The greatest goods that God foreknew are products of human ingenuity, creativity, of civilization. And to produce them, God endowed mankind with reason and freedom and with a creative imagination that at times seems almost divine.

But God also foresaw the evil that would come by endowing the human spirit with the gift of freedom and creativity. And it should be evident that much, if not most of the evil that happens in the world is caused by human agency: slavery, aggression, acts of cruelty, global warming. To be sure, there are natural evils also. Earthquake, wind, and fire, and diseases of body and mind. Even in these instances, human creativity is prominent among the causes. The climate crisis, which has become critical, was brought on by us, by our exploitation of

nature and of people. And the results are evident in storms and disease.

In defense of God, theologians rely on the free will defence. God created mankind free. These evils are the results of human agency, of human beings acting freely, deliberately, willfully, and maliciously. All of them blamable, but if God had not created us free, they would not have occurred; nor would Picasso have painted his marvelous works, or Beethoven his symphonies, or Plato written *The Republic*. So, on balance, does this make things right? Does everything happen for the best in the best of all possible worlds? If so, why are we constantly struggling to make the world better.

**Is human freedom an unsurpassable good? What is it to be free?**

To begin with: freedom belongs to the very essence of human existence. It is not peculiar only to humans, rather it is a

power residing deep in the nature of all things. Metaphysically, it resides within being itself. It is the ground of our existence.

I am reminded of the Song: “Born free, as free as the wind blows, as free as the grass grows; born free to follow your heart. Live free, and beauty surrounds you, the world still astounds you, each time you look at a star”. Freedom is a sensibility in tune with nature; a power rooted deeply in the heart; a feeling as broad as the heavens. It is a gift of Nature to all animals, each according to its kind, but it extends more broadly and is seated deep within life itself, like the very breath of life; the origin of every being that has breath. But it is more extensive than this; it resides at the root of the being of all things. “Free as the wind blows”; “The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound of it,” like the spirit of God at the origin of the universe. Or the power that makes our hearts beat. You can feel it running, surging through your body, like a dog stretching. Stretch out like your dog and you’ll feel the very

breath of life flowing through your body, vitalizing every cell as you reach beyond yourself; being free is being alive; feeling within yourself; freedom is life itself.

But as living beings, we are more, perhaps even greater, than mere tumbleweed and the wind that blows it, notwithstanding our frailty and fallibility and mortality. We are rational beings, capable of knowing the truth, of knowing the difference between right and wrong, and of acting on the basis of what we know to be right and good and true. Most of all, freedom is fundamental to our existence as moral beings. We are responsible selves. According to Leibniz’ contemporary, the philosopher John Locke (1632–1704), human freedom is just the capacity to do the right

thing, and to persist notwithstanding the resistance that we may encounter outside us or more tragically within ourselves. Which brings me back to the where I began this essay, to the problem of evil. If freedom is the power to do the right thing, as John Locke supposed, then whenever we fail to do the right thing, is it because we lack the power freely to do it; even more, whenever we willfully do evil, are we acting freely? I believe the answer is Yes, at least some of the time, for if not, there would be no ground or reason to praise or blame, reprimand or punish. Freedom makes us responsible. And surveying the world, there is much evil for which we are responsible. God help us.

# Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 4)

supported with \$30 million for Town Highway Bridges, \$7.2 million for Town Highway Structures, \$8.6 million for Class 2 Roadway Programs and \$27.7 million for General Town Highway aid with an additional \$9 million in other Town Highway programs. Most notably the bill includes provisions to help municipalities protect their covered bridges by installing uniform warning signage and increasing the penalties for damaging a covered bridge to \$1,500 and up to \$2,000 per occurrence — an increase from the current \$200 per occurrence.

## THE ‘BIG’ BILL

H-740 — Appropriations for the support of State government. Fondly called “The Big Bill,” the total in spending of undu-

plicated funds in this budget is \$8.14 billion and like the T-Bill, this year’s appropriation is the largest budget created in state history.

The budget consists of \$2.01 billion of state General Funds, \$2.98 billion of federal funds, \$1.9 billion in Education Fund receipts, \$345 million in transportation receipts, \$428 million in Federal American Recovery Plan, (ARPA) receipts, \$452 million in “Special Funds” receipts (largely federal grants).

Some notable spending is \$4.72 billion for the support of the Agency of Human Services, \$2.635 billion for Pre-K to 12 education, \$4.58 million for the Protection of Persons and Property, \$792 million to fund the Transportation Bill and a host of other pressures on state govern-

ment for the support of Vermonters.

It is important to note that all statutorily required reserves are fully funded in this budget. (Think rainy day funds). Also of note, all the ARPA funds received from the federal government have now been appropriated, so I would expect to see a smaller budget in fiscal year 2024.

I am honored to serve as your state representative for the towns of Brandon, Pittsford, and Sudbury. You may reach me at bshaw@leg.state.vt.us or at 802-483-2398.

*Representative Butch Shaw  
Vice Chair-House Committee on Transportation  
PO Box 197  
Pittsford, VT 05763*

# End of life

(Continued from Page 4)

wanted when she was suffering from a rapidly degenerative neurological disease.

“Those 48 hours were a nightmare. Just the sheer emotional toll it took on my mother was so painful to watch,” said Duncan Allen-Burns, son of Dee Allen.

Medical aid in dying is an important and powerful option in the spectrum of compassionate

care toward the end of life. S.74 would alleviate some of the pain and suffering endured by Vermonters who are severely ill and trying to avail themselves of the option of medical aid in dying.

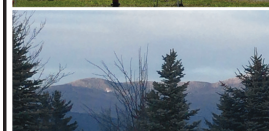
“I couldn’t be more behind her decision, and that’s coming from a place of pure love. We really appreciate the work that you are doing. We’re very thankful our mom was in a state where she

got to choose the way she went out,” said Duncan Allen-Burns.

For more information go to [www.patientchoices.org](http://www.patientchoices.org) or [www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org). Note: Betsy Walkerman of Underhill is president of Patient Choices Vermont. Kim Callinan is the CEO of Oregon-based Compassion and Choices.

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# Russian ties

(Continued from Page 2)

“Plus, it’s really not a good time to be writing about the great Russian language or culture,” Richardson said.

On March 3, Vermont Gov. Phil Scott signed an executive order to express “Solidarity With the Ukrainian People.”

That order barred the state from making any purchases of Russian products, which led to Russian vodka being pulled from state liquor stores, according to Scott spokesperson Jason Maulucci. It wasn’t clear if any other products would be affected.

### ‘VALUES THAT UNITE’

Vermont’s longstanding political ties with Russia are also fraying.

In 1990, then-Gov. Madeleine Kunin signed a “Sister State Relationship” with officials from the Soviet republic of Karelia. As the Iron Curtain opened, Vermonters spearheaded initiatives — partly bankrolled by the U.S. Agency for

International Development — to advise their Russian counterparts on jury trials, property law, juvenile justice and other legal topics.

Vermonters — including Oettinger, the Burlington attorney — led an initiative to establish what they believed to be the country’s first legal clinic at a university in the city of Petrozavodsk.

The sister-state program has been largely inactive since the mid-2010s, when Russian President Vladimir Putin cracked down on nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations in the country.

But on March 3, Scott’s executive order officially put an end to it.

“The governor felt that it still being on the books, with no active citizen-to-citizen engagement, only provided a level of legitimacy to the Putin-installed leadership of Karelia,” Maulucci said.

But supporters of the relationship argue that its suspension has had

zero impact on Russian aggression in Ukraine.

“If anything, I think it works the other way, because it makes the relationship between Russia and the United States more strained,” Oettinger said.

A similar situation has played out in Burlington. In the 1980s, then-Burlington Mayor Bernie Sanders sought a sister city partnership in the then-Soviet Union. The program organized regular events, including theater performances, art exchanges and hockey games.

This January, Vladimir Volkov, the mayor of Yaroslavl, wrote to Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger to express his appreciation of an event last year. A Zoom meeting between Burlington and Yaroslavl students, Volkov said, was a particular success.

“We have received many positive reviews from Yaroslavl participants,” Volkov wrote. “I hope that such projects will continue and Yaroslavl and American schools will return to direct cooperation based on universal human values that unite all nations.”

Two months later, Burlington officials put the cities’ partnership on ice.

The relationship, Burlington

Mayor Miro Weinberger said, “should not legitimize Putin’s anti-democratic actions in Yaroslavl, enable the spread of Putin propaganda, or facilitate in any way Putin’s dark and dangerous agenda.”

But the decision to end the relationship drew criticism from the Sister Cities Program, which issued a statement saying the decision was not “conducive to helping Ukrainians or ending the war.”

Sen. Sanders also condemned the decision.

“It makes no sense to me to punish the people of Yaroslavl for the acts of a corrupt Russian dictator,” the senator said in an emailed statement. “This is especially true at a time when Putin is arresting anti-war demonstrators and crushing any Russian media that opposes his policies.”

Ballou, the dual citizen in South Royalton, agrees.

“Burlington and Yaroslavl should have found ways to allow people to communicate,” she said. “Not all people in Russia support Putin.”

For years, Ballou has sought to strengthen the ties between the country of her birth and her adopted home.

A Russian teacher, Ballou led class trips to the country while

teaching at Springfield High School. Now, in School Administrative Unit 70, a cross-border district that links Norwich, Vermont, and Hanover, New Hampshire, she runs the Slavic Club — once called the Russian Club, but renamed to reflect the multinational nature of the Russian language.

Recently, the club has been raising money to support Ukrainian undergraduates at nearby Dartmouth College, as well as other organizations supporting Ukraine.

But as she works to promote understanding in Vermont, some of Ballou’s relationships with loved ones abroad have grown strained. In the absence of independent media, many of Ballou’s Russian friends and family members have absorbed the Kremlin’s rhetoric about the war. Other Russians are worried that their contacts with Americans could put them at risk.

Worst of all, as the West and Russia drift further apart, Ballou found that she could no longer talk to her parents about the war: Her mother is “too nervous,” Ballou said, and her father has bought into pro-Putin propaganda.

“It feels like I’m an orphan,” she said.

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## Proctor

(Continued from Page 1)

Ramsey summed up the current effort that’s underway as follows:

“Zion Growers, an industrial hemp processing company, has taken a serious interest in the property and has a vision for its use that mirrors the economic development goals listed in the town’s Municipal and Prosperity Plan. The company recently purchased what is commonly known as the “Ide” building in St. Johnsbury, which will be redeveloped and will act as a sister location to the future hemp processing facility in Proctor.

“Becoming aware of a partnership opportunity, Proctor town officials began working with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and Zion Growers to spark community and stakeholder interest towards the potential transfer and future use of the Marble Company building as a hub for light industrial manufacturing, including hemp processing and a home for existing tenants.... The town will continue to work with local and regional stakeholders to produce a site feasibility study, architectural/engineering plans, code compliance review, and an environmental analysis for light industrial use activities at the former Marble Company building.”

The VCDP grant will get that process underway. After the presen-

tation by Samuels, the selectboard passed a motion in support of the grant application and of its role as a municipal sponsor in support of the project.

### MANAGER’S REPORT

In a brief manager’s report, Ramsey noted that the town was awarded grants from the Mortimer Proctor Fund to finance the following: An extension to the existing dock at beaver pond; equipment for Olympus Pool; American Legion Grave Markers; and help for the town to host concerts in the park and have fireworks on the 4th of July.

The total award amount was \$14,389.62. The town was also given the chance to justify its request to fund the construction of a playground at the rink at a projected cost of about \$47,000. To that end, the Parks & Rec committee held a work session last week, and a final proposal will be submitted to the Mortimer Proctor fund by April 15.

Ramsey reported, among other items, that wires down on Maple Street were repaired, the town is still searching for a zoning administrator and summer pool director, there’s a position open on the town planning commission and that repairs to the slate roof on the town hall were being pursued.

### OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the selectboard:

- Heard a report on the town’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan from

Steffanie Bourque, who reported that the plan was in draft form and not far from being finalized. She praised the seven-member town committee who spearheaded the effort.

Bourque said the group had “done a lot of work” that resulted in an “impressive” plan. The seven members on that committee were: Kevin Blongy, Emergency Management Coordinator; John Corliss, Public Works Foreman; Ben Curtis, Proctor Selectboard; Tom Doty, Proctor Planning Commission; Lisa Miser, Proctor Free Library/Proctor Schoolboard; Michael Ramsey, Town Manager/Emergency Management Director; and Josh Webb, Proctor Fire Chief.

- Appointed Matt Parker to a two-year term on the Parks and Rec committee;
- Appointed Josh Webb to a two-year term as the town’s 911 coordinator;
- Appointed Kevin Blongy to a two-year term as Emergency Management coordinator.
- Under Good Stuff, Judy Frazier gave a shout out to local resident Bob Protivansky for an award he received at the Rutland Waste Water Treatment plant; and Lisa Miser noted that a couple former Proctor softball players were doing well playing for the Castleton University softball team.



# Calendar of events

## April

### Tuesday:

#### Chess Club

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

**Brandon Public Library Pins & Needles Crafting Group**  
The club will meet 5:30–7 p.m.

**Brandon Public Library Teen Advisory Group**  
This advisory group meets every first Tuesday of the month from 3:30–5 p.m.

**Brandon Public Library Book Discussion Group**  
Starting at 6 p.m., this group also meets every first Tuesday of the month.

Oops! We recently have been alerted that information we printed about the Brandon Public Library's Second Story program was mistakenly picked up from Brandon Public Library in Wisconsin. The Brandon, VT Free Public Library is open Tues-Wed 10-7, Thurs-Fri 10-6, Saturday 10-4. Sorry for any confusion this has caused.

### Wednesdays:

**Brandon Public Library Meditation Group**  
Meet us for an hour of calm from 12:30–1:30 p.m.

### Thursdays:

#### Open Mic Nights

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

### 2 & 9:

#### Kids Handbuilding with Clay

The Chaffee Art Center is holding 2 sessions of Handbuilding from 12–1:30 p.m. Students will learn to create with clay. After project is kiln fired, they will learn how to finish the piece. All ages Must preregister \$50 for 2 classes.

### 9:

#### Mom Prom

Come to the Brandon Town Hall at 8 p.m. for a night of fun just for the Ladies! Cash bar, dessert bar, raffles, and great dance music. Get all fancy and come have a blast! Tickets are \$10, \$15 at the door. Gentlemen can join at 10 p.m. for only \$5. \*You do NOT need to be a mom to join in.\*

#### Fraud Watch Program

Fraud and scams are very much in the news these days. At 2 p.m. the Shoreham Congregational Church will host a presentation on recognizing frauds and scams and what to do about them. Newspaper columnist Elliott Greenblott will give an overview of the leading scams and techniques of con artists and steps to avoid becoming a victim. Discover what habits and behaviors put you at risk, and what tactics con artists use to try to defraud you. Learn the most effective prevention strategies to avoid becoming a victim. Get resources about where to go if you or someone you love has

become a victim. Knowledge is your best defense to protect yourself from fraud and scams. The presentation is free and open to the public. All community members are encouraged to attend.

### 15:

#### Wildlife Encounters

Join us at 6:30 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall. Amazing animals, and very educational for everyone. All ages. Hands on, they are back for another incredible show! Tickets \$5 per person

### 16:

#### Helicopter Easter Egg Drop!

Join us for a memorable Easter Egg Hunt! We will join around the Fair Haven Union High school football field to watch the helicopter fly in and drop thousands of eggs for the kids to collect! We will also have a toddler egg hunter before the drop to give the littles a fair chance! There will also be an opportunity to get your picture taken with the Easter bunny! Check out the details down below! REGISTRATION: Please pre-register by texting "egg" at (802) 444-0655 Pre-register by April 14th and have your child ages 5-12 be entered into winning a \$100 gift card to sky zone or ages newborn - 4yrs a year family membership pass to Wonder Feet! (\$100 value). Registration check-in starts at 9:30 a.m., Newborn - 4yrs at 10:30 a.m. (egg hunt), Ages- 5 - 12yrs at 11a.m. (helicopter drop) The Egg Drop is entirely FREE.

#### Rusty DeWees comes down from the mountain

Rusty DeWees is a local celebrity (well, he's from up north, but same thing), bringing his legendary humor to Brandon. Show starts at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall. Tickets \$25 per person.

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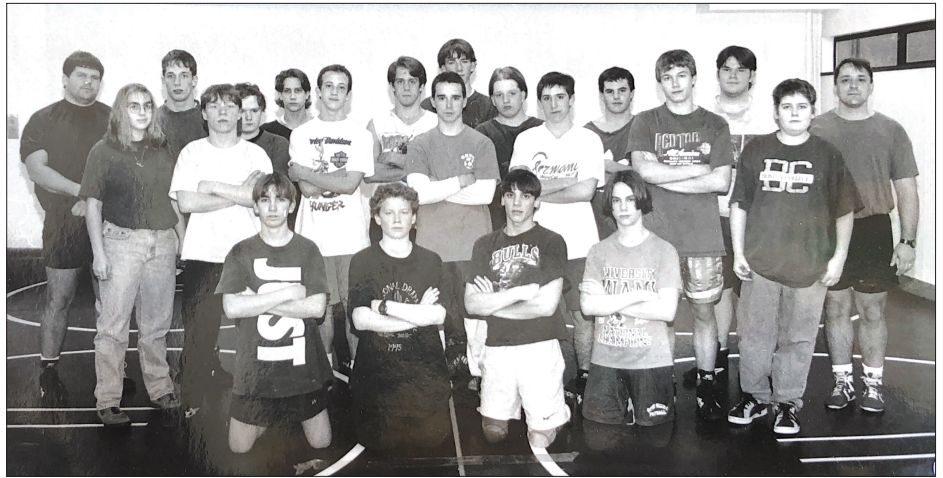
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# Mim's Photos

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



# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

## Adult Non-Fiction-Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative by Melissa Febos

Drawing on her own path from aspiring writer to acclaimed author and writing professor—via addiction and recovery, sex work and Harvard night school—Melissa Febos has created a captivating guide to the writing life, and a brilliantly unusual exploration of subjectivity, privacy, and the power of divulgence. Candid and inspiring, *Body Work* will empower readers and writers alike, offering ideas—and occasional notes of caution—to anyone who has ever hoped to see themselves in a story.

## Juvenile Fiction The Ogress and the Orphans by Kelly Barnhill

Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and other calamities have caused the people to lose their library, their school, their park, and even their neighborliness. The people put their faith in the Mayor, a dazzling fellow who promises he alone can help. After all, he is a famous dragon slayer. (At least, no one has seen a dragon in his presence.) Only the clever children of the Orphan House and the kindly Ogress at the edge of town can see how dire the town's problems are.

## Juvenile Graphic Novels

### Did you know?

Join us at 10 a.m. Saturday April 9 for a Volunteer coffee and planning meeting at the library!

## Wingbearer by Marjorie M. Liu, illustrated by Teny Issakhanian

Raised by mystical bird spirits in the branches of the Great Tree, Zuli's never ventured beyond this safe haven. She's never had to. Until now. When a sinister force threatens the life-giving magic of the tree, Zuli, along with her guardian owl, must get to the root of it. So begins an adventure bigger than anything Zuli could've ever imagined—one that will bring her, along with some newfound friends, face-to-face with an ancient dragon, the so-called Witch-Queen, and most surprisingly of all: her true identity.

## Adult Fiction The Resting Place by Camilla Sten, translated by Alexandra Fleming

The medical term is prosopagnosia—the inability to recognize a familiar person's face, even the faces of those closest to you. When Eleanor walked in on the scene of her cruel grandmother's murder, she came face to face with the killer—a maddening expression that means nothing

to someone like her. With each passing day, her anxiety mounts. The dark feelings of having brushed by a killer, yet not know who could do this—or if they'd be back—overtakes both her dreams and her waking moments, thwarting her perception of reality.

## Young Adult Fiction The Theft of Sunlight by Intisar Khanani

When her friend's sister is snatched, Rae knows she can't look away from the ongoing disappearances in her country any longer—even if that means seeking answers from the royal court, where she is certain she will face ridicule. Yet she is surprised when she discovers an ally in the foreign princess, who recruits her as an attendant. Armed with the princess's support, Rae seeks answers in the dark city streets, finding unexpected help in a rough-around-the-edges street thief with secrets of his own. But treachery runs deep, and the more Rae uncovers, the more she endangers the kingdom itself.

## The following large print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker:

- "The Summer Getaway" by Susan Mallery in memory of Florence LaRgock
- "The Match" by Harlan Coben in memory of Andy Livak
- "All the Queen's Men" by S. J. Bennett in memory of Maureen Vogel

# Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — In the past week, Brandon Police have been called in to assist the towns of Middlebury and Pittsford in an attempt to locate a vehicle that had fled from the scene. The Middlebury Police Department contacted Brandon Police on March 24 asking for assistance in locating a vehicle that was involved in a hit-and-run accident in their town. The residence on Old Farm Road, where the car was registered to, was checked but the vehicle was not there. In Pittsford on March 25, a vehicle fled the scene of a traffic stop on Weset Creek Road initiated by Pittsford Police. In both cases, police were unable to locate the vehicle in question.

Police also made two arrests for driving violations. On March 22, police stopped Tara Hughes, 25, of Brandon, for operating with headlights off on Union Street. Hughes was determined to have a criminally suspended drivers license and was placed under arrest. She was cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division at a later date for arraignment. Later in the week, on March 24 on Grove Street, David Lunz of Rutland was arrested and charged with for DUI – first offense and resisting arrest. Lunz was cited to appear in Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division on April 11, to answer to the charges.

In other activity Brandon Police:

### On March 21

- Responded to a report of a theft of a snowmobile trailer from a residence on Forest Dale Road.

- Responded to a complaint of a juvenile problem at a Barlow Avenue residence concerning obscene phone calls.

- Responded to a report of simple assault on McConnell Road, down the road from Jiffy Mart. The male suspect had not been identified as of March 22.

- Received a motor vehicle complaint of an erratic operator speeding and passing cars on Franklin Street by OVUHS. Officers later located the vehicle on Carver Street and spoke with the operator.

- Investigated the vandalism of several trees on Park Street.

- Made a traffic stop on Franklin Street/High Street for failure to display registration plate(s). The owner was issued a warning for not displaying his temporary registration.

- Conducted routine property watches at at BLSG Insect Control District on Hollow Road and at the Masonic Lodge on Park Street.

- Took Fingerprints for nursing school students.

### On March 22

- Responded to an accident on Town Farm Road, where a school bus had struck a power line and pulled the wires off of a nearby residence. No children were present on the bus at the time of the crash. The Brandon Fire Department and Green Mountain Power responded to the scene to assist the officers with traffic control and to remove the downed electrical line from the roadway.

- Removed a dozen syringes that had been dumped in the front yard of a Carver Street. (See Police report 14)

# WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



project at work. Be open-minded to other ideas and value another's perspective.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, friends will come to you seeking advice or simply looking for a patient person to lend an ear. Give them all the time they need to share their thoughts.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Getting through the week shouldn't be too much of a problem for you, Libra. A second wind of energy may come your way and you will have the determination to get the job done.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

When a project presents itself you don't want to pass on it, Libra. Do your due diligence. Now is not the time for shortcuts or to rush through anything.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

There's a good chance you will feel positive and upbeat for most of the week. Scorpio. Make the most of this good mood and catch up with friends and loved ones.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, don't underestimate your ability to be resourceful when a problem

lands in your lap. You will find the answers to get through it.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Try not to let one obstacle get you down, Capricorn. You will have plenty of other opportunities to redeem yourself and find success in the task at hand.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, it can be easy to fall into a rut, but by daring to be different you may gain a new perspective on things you never imagined. Try a new style and embrace the change.

### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Resist feeling self-conscious about some of your choices, Pisces. If you believe in yourself, others will start to flock to your side.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 31 Chloe Zhao, film director (40)
- April 1 Toshiro Mifune, actor (80)
- April 2 Charlemagne, king of the Franks (d)
- April 3 Dev Patel, actor (32)
- April 4 Marguerite Duras, writer (d)
- April 5 Elena Ferrante, novelist (79)
- April 6 Raphael, Renaissance painter and architect (d)

### ARIES March 21-April 20

Enhanced feelings of determination motivate you this week, Aries. You will be able to wrap up projects that you've thus far been unable to finish. You will be able to handle anything.

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

The end of the tunnel isn't as far away as it may seem right now, Taurus. Take one step at a time and you will find out that the culmination of something challenging is near.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

Think about making some plans for a getaway or a short vacation this week, Gemini. You likely can use the break and change of scenery. Use this as an opportunity to rest and refocus.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, try not to be too judgemental of others, especially as it pertains to a

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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.

Fair Haven is an Equal Opportunity Employer

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Otter Creek Watershed (OCW, formerly known as the BLSG) Insect Control District will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Pittsford, and Proctor to control mosquito larva populations. Those treatments will use Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (BTI), Bacillus Sphaericus (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterial 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 address or email address below.

Further information about larviciding activities in the OCW Insect Control District or about exclusion requests can be obtained from:

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779 | ocwcid@gmail.com | https://ocwcid.com

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets oversees the permitting of mosquito larviciding activities and can be reached at (802) 828-1319. More information is available at: [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/plant\\_pest/mosquitoes\\_ticks/mosquitoes](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/plant_pest/mosquitoes_ticks/mosquitoes)

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 the Otter Creek Watershed (OCW, formerly known as the BLSG) Insect Control District may be making ground applications of mosquito adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Pittsford, and Proctor to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of Deltamethrin, Etofenprox, Malathion, or synthetic pyrethroid insecticides will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwcid.com/route-maps>. At least six hours in advance of spraying, specific route information will be posted to <https://ocwcid.com/public-notice>.

If you wish to opt out and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted a No Spray Zone request for your property last year, 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 a No Spray Zone request last year, please send a letter listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone numbers, 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.vgci.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request a District employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

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

Further information or comments about adulticiding activities in the OCW Insect Control District and/or about No Spray Zone requests can be obtained from:

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779 | ocwcid@gmail.com | https://ocwcid.com

Additional information is available at <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol>

## Brandon police

(Continued from Page 12)  
syringes were disposed of.

- Conducted routine property watches at Hannaford Supermarket, the Neshobe Golf Club, Brandon Fire Department and 802 Spirits.

- Conducted directed patrols for speed enforcement on Carver and Champlain Streets with stationary radar

- Went on foot patrol on Center Street.

- Took fingerprints for a school chaperone.

### On March 23

- Made two separate welfare checks on Mulcahy Drive. The first was a female that was reported to possibly be held against her will by her boyfriend. The officer made contact with the woman and she was found to be okay. The second check was for a female resident who had been ill and had not been heard from in over a week. The officer later determined that the woman had been admitted at the hospital earlier in the week.

- Investigated a complaint of scam messages by a resident of 274 Mulcahy Drive.

- Responded to a disabled vehicle with associated property damage in the field between Estabrook Park and the properties at Park Village. The vehicle was towed out safely and the operator was given conditions to fix the damaged property.

- Made a traffic stop for speeding on Conant Square. The operator was issued a tickets

for failure to carry an up-to-date registration card.

- Conducted a foot Patrol on Center Street

- Took fingerprints for an RNESU chaperone.

### On March 24

- Investigated a large amount of smoke coming from the area of the Neshobe Golf Course on Town Farm Road. Later determined to be a controlled burn.

- Made a welfare check on resident at 141 Jones Drive. Person of interest found to be okay.

- Received a 911 call from a vacant/disconnected line at a residence on Grove Street. No response was necessary.

- Responded to a complaint of a tailgating driver on Franklin Street. Vehicle was unable to be located.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street resulting in two stops, one of which resulted in a DUI arrest.

- Made two other traffic stops on Grove Street, one for speeding and for a moving violation. Both operators were issued warnings.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

- Took fingerprints for two different RNESU chaperones, for employment, and for a Mentor Connector volunteer.

### On March 25

- Responded to a dispute over living arrangements on Wheeler Road. The incident was determined to be a civil issue. Both parties were educated on police

duties and responsibilities pertaining to civil matters.

- Responded to an alarm at Hannaford Supermarket. The building was secure, no signs of attempted forced entry.

- Completed a welfare check for a male at 32 West Seminary Street. The person of interest was taken to the hospital by Brandon Area Rescue Squad.

- Received a 911 hangup from Robin Bird Lane. The landline that the call originated from has been disconnected and not an active line

- Made traffic stops on Franklin Street and Supermarket Drive, the first for speeding and the second for blocking the roadway.

- Conducted a property watch on Prospect Street.

- Took fingerprints for teacher employment.

### On March 26

- Investigated a report of suspicious activity on River Street, where a resident noticed that a rear window of a neighboring house was open. No obvious signs of burglary found upon securing residence.

- Investigated an untimely death on West Seminary Street.

- Responded to a complaint of a motor vehicle blocking the roadway on High Pond Road. The vehicle was determined to belong to an area landowner that was conducting some land surveying. The vehicle was subsequently moved.

- Made three traffic stops on Franklin Street — one for a headlight not working, one for speeding, and for inoperational tail lights — and one on Grove Street for speeding. Vehicle operators on Franklin Street were issued warnings. The Grove street operator was issued a ticket.

- Conducted property watches at Walgreens on Union Street, a Franklin Street Business, and at the Jiffy Mart on McConnell Road.

### On March 27

- Responded to a complaint about ATVs riding on Richmond Road. ATVs were gone on arrival.

- Took a late report of vehicle damage in Hannaford parking lot.

- Responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle on Grove Street. The vehicle was later determined to be a worker assisting a family.

- Stopped and ticketed a vehicle for speeding on Grove Street. Patrolled Center Street on foot.

- Conducted property watches at the Brandon Senior Center, Hannaford Supermarket, and a Grove Street business. All were secure.

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### ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER

The **Town of Pittsford**, Vermont (pop. 3,000) is now accepting applications for the position of **Assistant to the Town Manager**. This has been a full-time position, but the Town will entertain the possibility of crafting a part-time position for a strong candidate preferring this. The person hired will perform a substantial portion of their work independently and will also report to the Town Manager.

The ideal candidate will be hard-working, detail-oriented, good with customers, competent with current computer software applications (e.g., windows, word, excel, etc.) and perhaps even have some experience working in a governmental office setting.

The compensation package includes an hourly wage range of \$18.00 to \$21.00/hour, plus generous benefits (e.g., health insurance, a pension plan and paid vacation).

Please submit an Application

(found on Town's website, [www.pittsfordvermont.com](http://www.pittsfordvermont.com)) and resume, **no later than Friday, April 15,**

to: John Haverstock

Pittsford Town Manager

P.O. Box 10, Pittsford, VT 05763

[manager@pittsfordvermont.com](mailto:manager@pittsfordvermont.com)

(802) 483-6500 x20

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To apply, email Christy Lynn at [christy@addisonindependent.com](mailto:christy@addisonindependent.com) with a letter of interest and resume.



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**Rusty DeWees comes down from the mountain!**

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**Brandon Town Hall**

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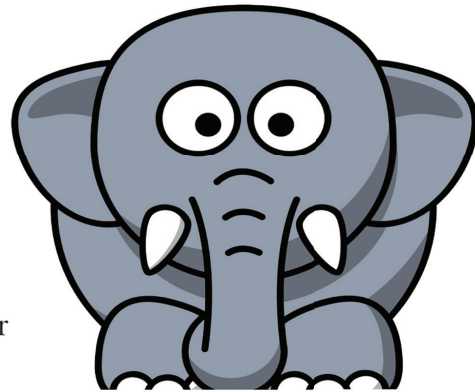
## Wildlife Encounters

**Friday April 15, 6:30 p.m.**

**Brandon Town Hall**

Tickets \$5 per person!

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## Mom Prom 2022!

A Night of FUN just for the Ladies!

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