

The REPORTER

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Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Goshen

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Vol. 27, No. 15

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

75¢

Brandon to reconsider \$1 million in ARPA spending

Board will review projects on April 25

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — A change in the way towns can spend American Rescue Plan money sparked a lengthy conversation among Brandon selectboard members Monday night and will prompt a fuller discussion at the next regular meeting on April 25. At issue is what projects, or types of projects, should be funded with the million dollars provided by the federal government to offset the pandemic-related slowdown.

Initially, the ARPA funds were restricted to capital-related projects involving water- projects and expanding broadband into the community. A recent change has allowed smaller towns with ARPA amounts of less than \$10 million to spend it on whatever general fund expenses it may choose. That means the money could be used to offset regular budget expenditures, or to attend to harder-to-fund projects that have been perennially kicked down the road.

The recent change requires towns to adopt a “standard allowance approach” to ARPA spending, which allows towns to spend it on whatever projects they deem fit without itemizing spending to satisfy federal bean-counters. Town Manager
(See Brandon, Page 21)

Meet Guinness: Brandon's newest police trainee

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — The newest member of the Brandon Police Department is warm, furry, too cute for words — and in the earliest steps of training. At just five months old, Guinness will need another year or more of obedience training before he starts the more serious training to become a certified K-9 dog used to sniff out narcotics and for tracking people.

But first things first; he needs to learn typical good behavioral skills and mature.

Set to do that training is Officer Aidan Alnwick, who, at 24, has been with the department for just over a year and is beyond thrilled to be given the opportunity to serve the department as its dog handler with the K-9 program.

“Being a dog handler is one of the things I really wanted to do in my career, and getting an opportunity to do it so early is just really lucky. I’m very excited and looking forward to working with Guinness,” Alnwick said in a Monday interview.

Alnwick grew up near the Bronx in New York and as a child had a German Shepard for the first 14 years of his life, then the family had other dogs thereafter — a miniature pincher, terrier, two pit bulls — which, as Alnwick says, “pretty much makes me a dog person. I’ve always loved them.”



OFFICER AIDAN ALNWICK poses with Guinness, the Brandon Police Department's newest recruit who joined the force late last week.
Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

And Guinness seems to have taken to Alnwick right off the bat. “It’s been an immediate bond,” Alnwick admitted, adding that it he “has to assume it’s because it was

meant to be!”

Guinness came to the Brandon force just this past Thursday, April 7, by way of Siberia to a German Shepard
(See Meet Guinness, Page 9)

Proctor sets spring dump day on May 7

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — For the first time in several years, the town of Proctor will hold a free spring and fall dump day for Proctor residents at the transfer station behind Carpenter + Costin on Route 3. The spring event is organized for residents to take “bulky waste” drop-off materials and will be held May 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“It’s been several years since the last time the town offered this,” Town Manager Michael Ramsey said, “and everyone seems pretty excited about it. . . We’re going to give it a try this spring and fall and see how it works. Probably twice a year is the most we’ll do.”

The day coordinates with Hazardous Waste Collection Day, as well as Green Up Day, Ramsey said, noting the town will get out more details about the event in the coming weeks. The last time the town held a similar event, the total cost was \$750. Selectman Tom Hogan made the motion to make the event free to Proctor residents, noting that a dump sticker from the town office will be required and proof of residency will be required to get the sticker.

Tom Corliss of the town’s highway department will have two members of the department on site during the event.

AUTOMOBILE BREAK-INS

In other news, the Rutland County Sheriff reported a rash of automobile break-ins had occurred recently in the area of East and Williams streets. Residents are encouraged to keep their eyes open
(See Proctor, Page 6)

OVUUSD budget largely intact as voters to reconsider on April 26

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — In its meeting last Wednesday, the OVUU board opted to keep its 2022-23 budget largely intact ahead of a revote set for Tuesday, April 26. The new budget of \$22,705,955 is \$5,000 less than the budget voters defeated on Town Meeting Day, 522-462, in a turnout that was only a third of what it had been the previous year when almost 3,000 people cast

votes.

That \$5,000 was trimmed because of a recalculation of health care insurance coverage for district employees.

At the meeting the board said it was assured by outreach they had done over the previous weeks that voter confusion over how and when to vote was the cause of the budget defeat, not because of voter dissatisfaction with school opera-

tions.

In March, residents in Pittsford and Brandon received mail-in ballots for town elections, while all other district towns voted in person. Many voters in Brandon and Pittsford told OVUU board members they didn’t realize they would also have to vote in person for school issues, in addition to the mail-in ballot.

This time around, all OVUU

district residents — comprised of Brandon, Pittsford, Goshen, Leicester, Whiting and Sudbury — will vote in-person at their town’s regular polling places on Tuesday, April 26. Voters also have the option of going into their respective town clerk’s office anytime after this week (once the ballots are printed and received) to request a ballot and vote early if it’s not convenient to vote on April 26. Voters

may also request an absentee ballot and mail it in as long as that’s done before April 26.

MAIN POINTS OF BUDGET

Driving the discussion on the
(See OVUU budget, Page 24)





IN THIS MARCH 11, 2013 file photo, the Amtrak Vermonter heads down the track in Berlin, Vt. With Vermont transportation officials having worked for years to restore passenger rail service, upgrades to the 75 miles (120 kilometers) of rail between Burlington and Rutland, crossings, rail sidings and new passenger platforms in Vergennes and Middlebury are nearing completion. Service is expected to begin this summer.

AP Photo/Toby Talbot

Vermont warning of rail danger after Amtrak close calls

BY WILSON RING

BRANDON-WEST RUTLAND — Vermont Transportation Agency officials are warning about people walking along the newly refurbished railroad line between Burlington and Rutland where Amtrak trains are conducting full-speed test runs.

The Transportation Agency's Toni Clithero made the comments Tuesday, a day after there were two close calls between Amtrak trains and people walking along the active tracks in West Rutland and Brandon.

In the West Rutland case, a couple was walking their dog and barely escaped being hit by the train. The crew had been unable to stop. It can take the trains up to a mile (1.6 kilometers) to halt.

"These people and their dog

just got out of the way at the last second," said Clithero, who focuses on rail safety for the Transportation Agency. "The crew didn't know whether it hit anyone. So this was absolutely terrifying."

"These people and their dog just got out of the way at the last second. The crew didn't know whether it hit anyone. So this was absolutely terrifying... (The oncoming train) could sound like wind blowing through the leaves of a tree. By the time you hear it, it's probably going to be too late."

—Toni Clithero, Vt. Agency Transportation

people was seen on the tracks in Shelburne.

Train crews conducting the test runs can reach 59 mph (95 kph) — the maximum speed that

will be used when the train is carrying passengers on the route.

Clithero said the diesel electric Amtrak trains run on continuously welded steel rails and the "whooshing sound" is behind the engine, not in front of it.

"It could sound like wind blowing through the leaves of a tree," she said. "By the time you hear it, it's probably going to be too late."

Amtrak said officials, including the Amtrak Police Department, are hosting presentations at schools and other locations to share rail safety messages ahead of the resumption of Amtrak service between Burlington and Rutland, according to a written statement Tuesday.

The Vermont Transportation Agency has been working for years to upgrade the tracks and other rail infrastructure on the 75 miles (120 kilometers) of rail between Burlington and Rutland.

Amtrak is due to begin service this summer between Burlington and New York, via Rutland on the Ethan Allen Express. In addition to Burlington, the train will stop in Vergennes and Middlebury.

The Ethan Allen Express has run between New York and Rutland for years.

Two VT. Bald Eagles positive for highly pathogenic Avian Flu

MONTPELIER — With the discovery of a deceased bald eagle in North Hero and one ill bald eagle in Shelburne on March 29, Vermont joined 33 other states across the country in detecting highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the environment.

The bald eagles were found near Lake Champlain in both towns. The discovery reinforces the important public message of awareness and vigilance for poultry owners, farmers, and hunters and outdoors recreationists to not only report sick and dead birds, but to recognize the dangers of HPAI to our small backyard poultry owners and commercial operators.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to the general public from this HPAI virus to be low, but the virus is deadly to domestic and commercial poultry and backyard birds. All bird owners are strongly encouraged to review the below biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks.

FOR THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY AND POULTRY OWNERS:

The HPAI virus is often initially introduced to domestic poultry by infected wild birds, through direct contact or contact with their droppings, and then may spread between poultry flocks due to poor biosecurity and/or unfavorable environmental conditions. While some waterfowl species can carry the disease without becoming sick, the HPAI virus is generally fatal for domestic poultry. Risk factors for the spread of HPAI include:

Poultry housed outside

Ponds or other wild bird attractants on the farm

Piles of debris located close to poultry areas

Introduction of poultry from other farms without a quarantine period

Lack of personal protective

equipment such as dedicated coveralls and boots

Sharing of equipment between farms

Unrestricted human movement and interaction with poultry

Anyone involved with poultry production, from the small backyard coop to the large commercial producer, should review their biosecurity activities to ensure the health of their birds, restrict human movement onto the farm and limit contact with poultry to only those who need to be there. Non-essential personnel and visitors should not be allowed.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets at 802-828-2421 or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593 as soon as possible

FOR THE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMUNITY:

If you hunt wild fowl during Vermont's available hunting seasons, please keep these tips in mind. Make sure to review the department's avian influenza bulletin under the wildlife diseases section of our website for the most up to date information on reporting possible cases and safety measures.

FOR VERMONTERS:

No human infections with this HPAI virus have been detected in the United States, and Vermonters may take these steps to prevent infection. Influenza in poultry does not constitute a food safety risk. Vermonters are asked to be alert for dead or sick birds and to alert the USDA or Vermont authorities at 802-828-2421 or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593 as soon as possible.

Bill: Don't threaten public officials

BY RILEY ROBINSON

MONTPELIER — The House gave preliminary approval Friday morning to a bill that increases penalties for criminal threatening, particularly for threats against public officials, election workers and other state and local employees.

"Ignoring these threats would be like ignoring a tumor until the cancer has spread," said Rep. William Notte, D-Rutland

City, while presenting the bill on the House floor.

The bill, S.265, makes it illegal to threaten an individual or group of people in a way that causes reasonable fear of death, serious injury or sexual assault.

There was "quite a bit of discussion" among legislators about whether to make criminal threatening a misdemeanor or a felony, Notte said.

Scott signs new legislative maps into law, solidifying Vermont's political playing field for next decade

BY SARAH MEARHOFF

MONTPELIER — Gov. Phil Scott has signed into law the Legislature's redrawn district maps, solidifying the political playing field in Vermont for the next 10 years. Scott signed H.722 on Wednesday afternoon, according to a statement from his office. The maps can now go to the Secretary of State's Office to begin the ballot-making process. Redistricting is completed once per

decade, but this year lawmakers had a tighter-than-ever timeline to redraw Vermont's maps and allocate 30 senators and 150 representatives across 643,077 constituents. The process began later than usual because of the U.S. Census Bureau's nationwide delays, and Secretary of State Jim Condos urged lawmakers to wrap quickly to allow time to print mail-in ballots.

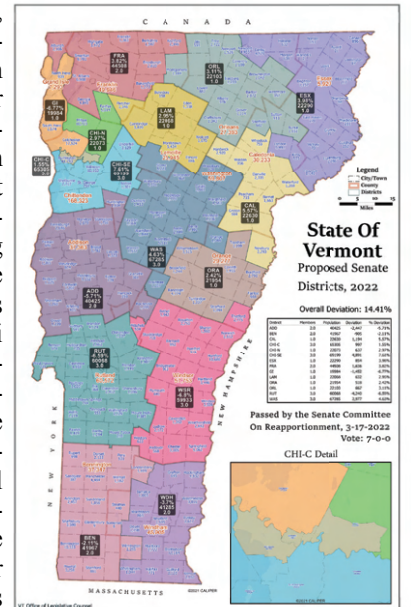
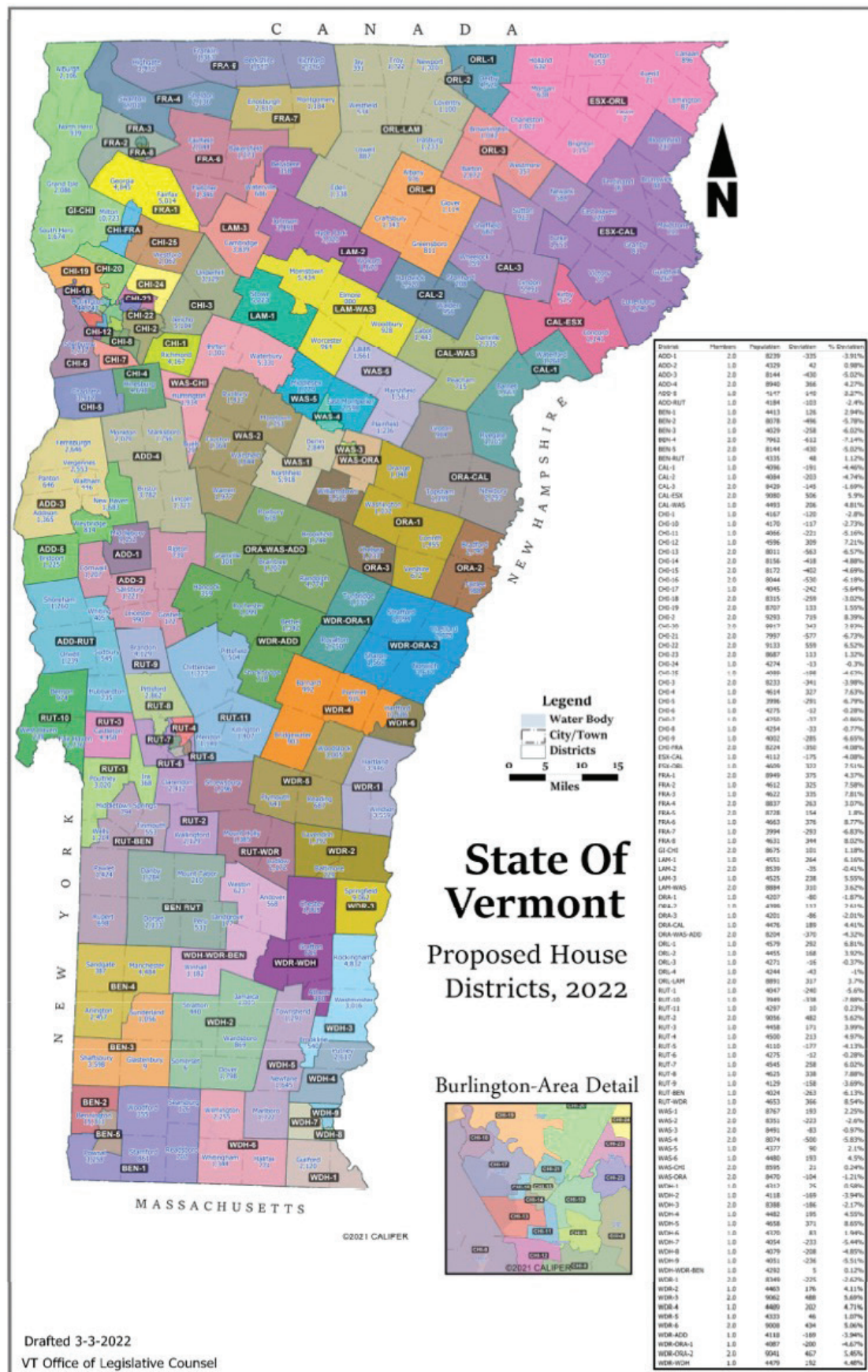
Redistricting uses census data

to ensure Vermont is following the U.S. Supreme Court's one-person, one-vote standard.

The maps also portray the realities of Vermont's migrating population — and the resulting shift in political power. Most notably, the Northeast Kingdom (Essex, Caledonia and Orleans counties) lost one senator to Chittenden County, mirroring population shifts from rural areas to the metropolitan center. Three senators

will now represent the Kingdom, and seven will represent Chittenden. This year's process also revitalized lawmakers' longstanding debate over whether to transition to single-member districts, as opposed to Vermont's current multimember model, in both the House and Senate. Despite much noise from those who say single-member districts would be fairest, legislators ultimately stuck with their existing model. Scott did not offer additional comments on H.722 upon signing Wednesday. When the Senate passed the bill in March, his spokesperson Jason Maulucci said "there are always winners and losers" every reapportionment cycle. But he added that Scott is particularly concerned about rural Vermonters losing representation in Montpelier. "We see the consequences of our (sic) demographic challenges

in numerous ways, and the further redistribution of representation from rural areas to more economically well-off parts of the state are another example," Maulucci wrote March 25.



Happy Easter, Sweet Pesach, and Ramadan Mubarak!

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Editor/Publisher

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Marketing Account
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Sepi Alavi
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Periodicals Postage Paid at Brandon, Vt. 05733

Postmaster, send address change to The Reporter,
58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753 • Phone: 802-388-4944
Email: news@brandonreporter.com, ads@brandonreporter.com

Published every Wednesday in Rutland County by the Addison Press, Inc., 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753.
Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspapers Association.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$45.00 • OUT OF STATE SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$55.00
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BRANDON REPORTER

Point-Counterpoint

Support both your local and independent schools

Editor's note: In the debate over education funding, there's often a misconception about independent schools in Vermont; towns that publicly tuition students to other schools; and how these schools work within the public education system that Vermont enjoys. This piece sheds light on those issues.

BY REP. SETH BONGARTZ,
D-Manchester and REP. SCOTT
BECK, R-St. Johnsbury

We are joining together to express our support for local schools - public and independent - and dispel misinformation that negatively portrays the way our communities deliver education. This issue is non-partisan.

Our constituents from the communities we represent are no different than the rest of Vermont; they value local schools, local control, and the education that is provided all Vermont children.

Eighty-eight Vermont towns publicly tuition students for some or all grades, and all but five of those tuition students at the high school level. Of the 85,806 students enrolled in Ver-

mont schools, 2,594 attend an approved independent school. Of those 2,594, 1,725 attend one of the traditional town academies located in Lyndon, Manchester, St. Johnsbury and Thetford.

These town academies largely predate public education, so the public education system grew up around them. Given the rural nature of the surrounding communities it would have been inefficient, duplicative, and expensive to also build public schools.

Thetford Academy is the oldest, founded in 1819. Burr and Burton Academy has been serving the students of its sending towns since 1829, St. Johnsbury Academy since 1842 and Lyndon Institute since 1867. These schools have never been public schools, but they have served their communities continuously across three centuries.

Local communities continue to desire the educational opportunities and offerings afforded by these institutions. They serve students regardless of socioeconomic background, provide special education services and

(See *Support all schools*, Page 10)

If it's good for public schools, it's good for taxpayer-funded private schools

BY BRUCE BAKER AND
REBECCA HOLCOMBE

Based on a UVM study, the Vermont legislature is updating the education funding formula so districts that serve more disadvantaged students have the ability to raise the revenues they need to care for their children.

The study used school spending and test scores statewide to estimate how much additional school spending is associated with the ability to educate different types of students to the state average test score. Those estimates informed how much more to 'weight' the formula for different kinds of students.

These newer, bigger proposed weights are an estimate of how much more districts need to spend to overcome harms to students caused by factors like low wages, unstable housing, exposure to environmental toxins, lack of access to health care, disrupted education, and trauma. The assumption is that spending

in schools can compensate for these harms.

The state could support paid leave, affordable housing, higher minimum wages, more affordable and accessible health care, and a fully-funded mental health system, so that all parents can care for their children. In the absence of that, Vermont turns to public schools as the last safety net.

However, Vermont does NOT weight the vouchers to private "independent" schools for which our Education Fund pays. It makes little sense to fund public districts based on estimated needs and costs, but then pay private school vouchers without regard for needs and costs of the students they enroll, especially since the legislature allows these private schools to decide which students are a "good fit," thus opening the door to a wide range of discriminatory practices.

Currently, the state relies on

(See *Equity for schools*, Page 10)



Lift your voice

SPRING IS COMING and so will this Prairie warbler. These birds favor the low vegetation on power lines.

Photo by Sue Wetmore



Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

The legislative dance

I was sitting down getting my thoughts together about this article and it occurred to me that I have spent considerable time and words in the past to explain to you the process of making laws and how it works. This process has been referred to many times as "making the sausage;" that is, when a legislator or legislative committee introduces a bill by the time that bill becomes law it is like making sausage — you never know what you are going to get until it is finished.

This week the online newsletter VtDigger expressed its opinion on how this all works by comparing the process to the popular dance we know as the "Hokey Pokey." Digger nails it when they say, and I quote "the process is known for being a little bit of a dance. The House puts their left foot in, the Senate takes their right foot out, and then everyone does the Hokey Pokey and eventually the Governor signs the thing!"

Finally, VtDigger writer Riley Robinson gives a clear and un-

derstandable description of the legislative process!

At this point in time in the legislative session, most House committees are working on bills passed over from the Senate for approval.

One notable exception to these are municipal charter changes, which can be taken up at any time. These changes require Legislative approval, usually a rubber stamp of the wishes of the voters from the requesting municipality. This approval is statutorily required as Vermont is a "Dillon State" (more on this in future articles).

Many of the requests are benign, such as asking for authorization to collect local options taxes, changing the way municipal officers are elected or the ability to change a speed limit in their community.

Living up to the tenor of this session for controversy, however, were several charter changes of note.

One such charter change request from the town of Brat-

tleboro was to allow 16- and 17-year-old citizens to vote and hold local offices in their community. That proved controversial in the House, but did pass (without my support), and was sent to the Senate where it narrowly passed. It was then sent to the governor for his signature.

Governor Scott vetoed the bill and sent it back to the Legislature citing the need for a statewide discussion on the issue. (Think making sausage). The House overrode the veto, but in a vote in the Senate the veto was sustained, thus the charter change was not approved and the issue for this biennium will see no further action.

In another astonishing action on a charter change, the city of Barre asked for various changes to their charter, including bonding the city officials and removing the First Constable from the list of elected officials, which strips the constable's authority. The city's voters also approved a charter change request that

(See *Legislative Wrap*, Page 11)

Letters to the Editor

SVCOA thanks volunteers

In celebration of April as National Volunteer Month, Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the dozens of compassionate, hard-working and committed volunteers who assist the agency and its clients each and every year.

SVCOA's volunteer team, which includes members of all ages from across both Bennington and Rutland counties, is essential to ensuring that key services are delivered, day in and day out, to thousands of older Vermonters across our service area.

From supporting older Vermonters through basic social interaction and companionship, to helping with SVCOA's Meals on Wheels and grocery shopping programs, home maintenance or modification projects, transportation assistance and money management service, among other supports, as well as serving on our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, SVCOA's volunteer team truly does it all and we are so grateful for their contri-

butions to the agency and the communities it serves.

Additionally, SVCOA's volunteer team has stepped to the plate and delivered throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing critical support and assistance, both internally and externally, during one of the most challenging times in the organization's history.

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the generous volunteers who help make SVCOA's work possible, and hope that the community will join us in celebrating their efforts.

Lastly, as demand on the agency's services continues to grow, SVCOA is always looking for new volunteers. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping out and positively impacting the lives of older Vermonters in our area, give us a call at 802-786-5990.

*Pam Zagorski
Bennington/Rutland
Executive Director, Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging*

Why I'm running for Secretary of State

BY CHRIS WINTERS

In a few short months, Vermonters will begin casting their ballots to determine party nominees for the fall elections.

With so many candidates running for Congress and Lt. Governor, you may not hear as much about the Secretary of State's race. I urge you to take a closer look. This small office packs a big punch: registering

businesses, preserving our most precious documents in the state archives, protecting the public by regulating 80,000 licensed professionals, assisting municipalities, providing campaign finance and lobbyist disclosures, and last, but certainly not least, overseeing Vermont's elections.

A well-run Secretary of State's Office makes Vermont-
(See Why I'm running, Page 6)



'Meaning of Life'

BY VICTOR NUOVO

Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

The meaning of history

Shakespeare's Tragedy of Macbeth is about a man who would be King; who, motivated by envy and ambition, achieved his life's goal by committing murder, only to be defeated in the end. His soliloquy is an expression of his despair after all his efforts had failed and he could look forward only to final combat and death.

"Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,

Creeps in this petty pace from day to day

To the last syllable of recorded time,

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing."

[Shakespeare, The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 5, Scene 5]

Vladimir Putin is driven by the same ambition, and it is likely is that he will fail and be reduced to despair, but his last combat, if

it should ever come, will not be hand to hand with swords and shields, but with weapons of mass destruction. In his last battle, if and when it should come, he will try to take the whole world with him. And Shakespeare has already written the finale: "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." We are living in very dangerous times.

And we should be thankful that Joseph Biden and not Donald Trump is President of the United States. He has described the war in Ukraine as a conflict between democracy and autocracy, and has allied our country on the side of democracy, which is surely the right side. He has had harsh words for Putin, accusing him of war crimes, and calling him a "thug", and no doubt more vulgar names than that in private. The fact that he has publicly used such harsh words suggests that he

has already decided that Putin is evil and must be destroyed. One does not keep faith with criminals and thugs.

He has warned China against supporting Russia in an effort to isolate him, and his goal is to reduce Putin's place in the world to that of a pariah. He has rallied the free world against Russian tyranny. But he has stopped short of using armed force on the ground or in the skies. His explanation is that to do so would be to start World War III. But as the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr

Zelensky has said, World War III began when Russia invaded his country. What our leaders fear might come, may already have happened, for Putin, crazed by a lust for power, will use every means at hand to prevail in his ill-advised schemes.

Against this grim background,
(See Meaning of Life, Page 11)

But, from a purely natural standpoint, mankind seems not to be a glorious creature at all, but an invasive species, the cause of massive environmental damage, capable of destroying all life on earth.

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Julia & Sam Fortsch are happy to announce that Madeline, William and Sam Jr. have a new brother,

GEORGE
born (4/11/22),

adding to Big Al Leavitt's ever expanding family of grandchildren.

Obituaries

Timothy Gary Beaugard, 59, Brandon

BRANDON —Timothy Gary Beaugard, age 59, passed away Saturday, April 9, 2022, at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Mass.

Tim was born in Middlebury on January 26, 1963. He was the son of Henry and Barbara (Senecal) Beaugard. He grew up in Brandon where he received his early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class 1981.

Following graduation, he began working at Ames Department Store in Rutland and later for Qualitat for several years. He had also worked at Vermont Tubs in the assembly department until they closed, then joined the staff at Walmart in Rutland.

He was a member at St. Mary's



TIMOTHY BEAUGARD

Catholic Church in Brandon. He loved horses and horseback riding. He enjoyed music and movies.

He is survived by his parents, Henry & Barb Beaugard of Brandon, and one sister, Cheryl Nicklaw, and her husband John, and their son, Colin Nicklaw, all of Leicester.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor at St. Mary's Church, will officiate.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to: St. Mary's Church, 38 Carver St., Brandon, VT or to Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

Proctor

(Continued from Page 1)

for any suspicious activity and report it to the town office or sheriff as soon as possible. Video footage, if anyone has recordings, would also be valuable information for the sheriff.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ramsey noted that he and Zion Growers had submitted the final paperwork — a thorough 16-page report detailing the economic development of the project — for the VCDP \$60,000 grant three days ahead of deadline. It was a big project of which he was glad to "hit the send button," he said. The town also submitted a revised \$47,000 proposal to the Mortimer

Proctor fund for a playground proposal adjacent to the skating rink.

In clear signs of spring, Ramsey also noted the gates to the Beaver Pond picnic area had been opened and notices of insect control spraying had been posted in preparation for late spring/early summer spraying.

Ramsey also reported that new redistricting measures will make Rep. Butch Shaw, R-Pittsford, the new state representative for Proctor.

In other action the selectboard:

- appointed Phillip Anderson to the Proctor Planning Commission;
- approved the local emergency management plan; and

- awarded the Willow Pump Station Project in the amount of \$849,055 to Zaluzny Excavating, a project that should begin this summer.

In an interesting twist under the item, "Good Stuff," Ramsey reported the town's website had crashed because of an inordinate amount of traffic. The good news, he said, is that one of the goals of the selectboard had been to improve the content on the site and get the traffic up.

The newly revamped website now has more content and far more use than ever before, Ramsey said, adding they have added more capacity to handle its higher usage.

Why I'm running

(Continued from Page 5)

ers' lives safer, easier and better. Without the right person in charge, Vermont will see an immediate impact in public safety, the economy, government transparency, and even democracy itself.

I am running for Secretary of State to make sure our elections are safe and secure, our voters have access to voting and to their government, our businesses have the support they need to operate successfully, and our office is transparent, responsive and helpful to all Vermonters at all times.

These aren't just talking points for me, they are deliverables. As a veteran public servant and Deputy Secretary to Jim Condos for the past seven years, I have delivered on these promises time and time again.

I am running as a problem solver who has done the job.

I am running as a public servant who is committed to this office and is dedicated to this work.

I am running to make things safer, easier and better.

I am running as the candidate who is ready to lead on day one.

I'll also bring my hard-earned experience and intimate knowledge of the operations of the office to the top job. I want to ensure stability and continuity at a time when conducting elections and running an agency has gotten more complicated than ever, at a time when it feels like everything we thought to be true is constantly changing.

As the first person in my family to go to college and the father of four children, I'm driven to make my state a better place - whether that's as a community volunteer, a school board chair, or as a baseball coach, I want to solve problems and be of service. As an attorney, I'm committed to fairness and leveling the playing field for

everyone. As a Vermonter, I want to leave things better than I found them.

Fortunately, I get to do that every day at the Secretary of State's Office.

I have worked hard to protect and preserve voting rights and ballot access for all Vermonters through safe, secure, and accurate elections. In fact, Vermont has received the #1 ranking in elections performance of all 50 states from MIT's elections performance index in the past two presidential elections.

I have created a nationally recognized system of right-sized professional regulation that protects the public while eliminating unnecessary red tape. It's a system that other states are now trying to copy.

I fought hard for the creation of an ethics commission, a one-stop business portal, efficient online services, and have been a strong advocate for transparency, accountability and the public's right to know.

Safer, easier and better. These are just a few of many examples of how the Vermont Secretary of State's Office is leading the way and I will keep fighting to make things safer, easier, and better. I will make sure that:


- Vermont has elections that are fair, accurate and accessible so that every qualified voter has their voice heard;
- We make it easy to start, maintain and expand a business through our business portal;
- We have a transparent and accountable government you can believe in; and
- We maintain the customer service and responsiveness we are known for.

In these uncertain times, I believe Vermonters want security, stability, and experienced leadership they can trust. I am ready to lead on Day One and I am asking for your vote.

Chris Winters




CHRIS WINTERS




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Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

Of Despots and Crackpots

If dictators and autocrats trigger emotionally-complicated responses from the world, it probably has something to do with being simultaneously loathsome and laughable. Trying to find the right response to these dangerous crackpots is enough to give anyone emotional whiplash.

Some kind of whiplash was certainly happening, for example, when the world first learned about the propaganda lunacy of Kim Young-il of North Korea years ago. The Supreme Leader apparently wanted his birth story dressed in nothing short of a messianic narrative.

His humble arrival to the planet, the state-sponsored story went, was heralded by a special glowing star and a big, old double rainbow. It was a laughable and ludicrous claim.

What was gravely undeniable, however, was that this mortal man was dressed in some pretty frightening military and nuclear power. It was, in the words of one Western journalist, "the most grotesque personality cult in the world." An entire nation, it seemed, was held hostage by the lies, fear, terrorism and ruthless oppression of one very small and evil man. (Dressed in a leisure suit with very ridiculous hair.)

Last month at a Moscow sports arena, the world again had to look on confusedly at the absurdist theater of another autocrat. Never mind messianic overtones, Putin was directly hijacking the words of Jesus himself to somehow serve his actions in Ukraine. "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for His friends" went the John 15 citation in Putin's speech. That a head of state would think a Biblical text on sacrificial love might be good

invasion-rally material was nothing short of jarring.

By some estimates the world is now home to over 50 dictators (military or single-party autocrats, authoritarians, depots). And according to Freedom House, an 80 year-old organization dedicated to reporting on civil liberties and political rights, only 20% of the world's population now lives in a "fully free" country. That is a number that has been consistently sliding since 2008, leading Larry Diamond, a Democracy expert from Stanford, to declare that the world is in a "Democratic Recession."

Any research you care to do on history's nasty fellas at the top is not a pleasant day at the library. It is (pardon the expression) a rather troubling freak show of some of the most unsavory portraits of humanity. Their behavior runs the full gamut from bizarre eccentricities to amorality, from self-delusions to exploitative ugliness.

If there are some personality disorders they can be counted on to all have in common, psychologists tell us, it is their inclination for narcissism, paranoia and even sadism. As accurate as Lord Acton's popular quote is on the corrupting influence of power, you can't help but wonder if he was being a bit polite.

All of which asks (screams, really) the age-old question: Does authoritarian power create villains or does the job merely attract them? While that might be an interesting academic question, history's lesson does not seem to be ambiguous: prolonged, unchecked, solitary power is fertile ground for megalomania. Let a guy marinate in power and eventually he seems more interested in amassing Rolls Royces, embezzling millions, raising cougars or

buying 500-foot super yachts, than in serving his country.

It is usually around this point that I circle back to another quote regarding power, this from my favorite author John Steinbeck. (Maybe he's not the foremost authority on politics, but he was no slouch on the subject of human nature): "Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power." Which might remind us of another important tenet of democracy – the towering importance of term limits.

Both Russia and China's leaders have now officially rewritten their constitution to prolong or abolish term limits. Putin, after some successful political maneuvering, is now poised to potentially rule close to 40 years. Chinese president Xi Jinping, after overturning his country's term limits in 2018, can apparently stay in office indefinitely.

And this leads to another lesson that (weary) history must apparently teach the world over and over again: The preservation of power is not a pretty thing to look at. Find a protracted, decades-long head of state, and chances are that life in the palace looks more like organized crime that organized government: suppression of the opposition, violence, and even targeted assassinations.

I do believe the news of Ukraine was upstaged only once in recent weeks. It was in regard to Tom Brady's return to football and extending that record-long career of his. It might concern us more that there are autocrats out there going for records of the likes of Fidel Castro. (50 years?!) Keep praying for Ukraine.

Covid new cases per day, rolling average

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

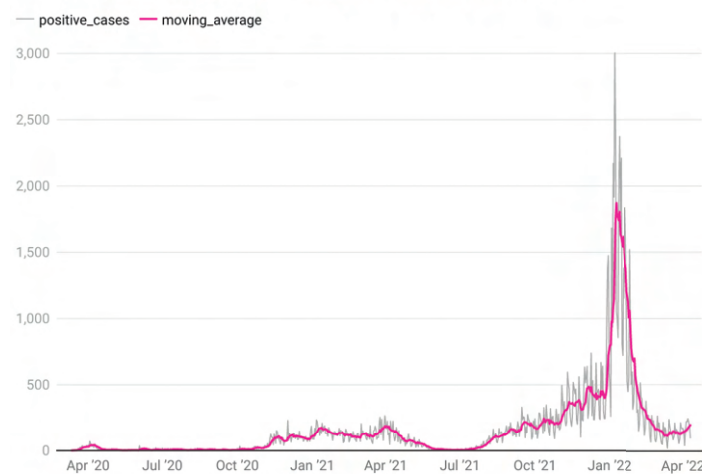


Chart: Erin Petenko • Source: VTDOH via Vermont Center for Geographic Information • Created with Datawrapper

VERMONT COVID CASES are once more on the rise. Does not include people hospitalized under investigation for Covid. There are reporting gaps when the department did not report data over a holiday weekend.

Vermont reports 100 new Covid cases

BY ERIN PETENKO, VtDigger

Montpelier — Vermont reported 100 new Covid-19 cases, 28 hospitalizations and three additional deaths Monday. Combined with 233 cases on Saturday and 186 on Sunday, the state's seven-day average for new infections is 194, up from 171 on Friday, according to the Vermont Department of Health dashboard. Vermont's seven-day average test positivity rate was 9.3% on Monday, up from 8.7% on Friday. The test positivity rate

includes only PCR tests, not at-home antigen tests. The health department reported that 28 people were hospitalized with Covid as of Monday, down from 30 on Friday. That includes five people in intensive care, the same as Friday. The health department reported three additional Covid deaths on Wednesday, including one in March, bringing its total to 17, and two in April, the first two reported this month. In total, 623 people have died since the beginning of the pandemic.

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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.

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

14 17:

Holy Week at St. Thomas & Grace Church:

Route 7, Brandon village, corner of Prospect Street Holy Week services: Palm Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m. Procession with palms. Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m. (foot washing will be offered). Good Friday, April 15, 12 noon. Also Good Friday, Stations of the Cross on Zoom at 7 pm (request Zoom link via email to fvfarnsworth@gmail.com). Easter Day, 10 am – join us to celebrate the Risen Christ. Throughout Holy Week, feel free to visit our Faith Community Garden, with its shrouded cross, to sit quietly or pray. Franci Farnsworth, Senior Warden (and parish communicator) Tel 802-247-6154 Email farnswor@middlebury.edu

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.

22 June 11:

“We’re All At A Party Called Life on Earth.”

The Compass Music and Arts Center is excited to announce the opening of a compelling art installation by FROBERTAN, a collaboration between acclaimed artist Fran Bull with her partner Robert Black from 5:00–8:00 p.m. Master classes will be available as well April 30–May 1, and May 14–15. The fee is \$50 for adults per session (or \$75 for two sessions) and includes costs for materials and light refreshments. The fee for children under 10 years and accompanied by a participating adult is \$5 and for students is \$25. To reserve for a workshop, please call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail edna@brandon-music.net

“We’re All At A Party Called Life on Earth!”



LAUGHING HEADS III,

Photo by Don Ross

BRANDON — The Compass Music and Arts Center is excited to announce the opening of a compelling art installation by FROBERTAN, a collaboration between ac-

claimed artist Fran Bull with her longtime architect partner Robert Black called “We’re All At A Party Called Life on Earth.”

This astonishing and joyous installation — think of it as amazing painted figurative sculpture, architectural structures and works on paper — creates a rare opportunity to experience a festive and diverse collection of motley characters inspired by Commedia Dell’arte, Carnival, Boardwalk, Circus, the polychromed sculpture of the ancient Greeks and even Shakespeare’s fools.

Crafting this art over several years in her studio in Brandon, Vermont, Fran Bull, along with Robert Black, wish to convey the urgency for all humans to learn to live peacefully on earth. They do this through the diversity and celebratory attitudes of their sculptures.

“We are acutely aware that the pandemic has taught us that we are all connected, all related, that our lives are intertwined,” explained Bull. “This party is imagined as a metaphor for our very lives on the planet. It is envisioned as an incalculably precious, mirthful and sacred gift.”

The installation has been designed to be inviting and interactive. A recorded tour supports visitors as they engage with the artistic concepts.

A unique opportunity to engage in Master Classes with both artists will also be available. The classes will invite participants to step out of their typical routines and enjoy time to be creative, rethink, reflect, find perspective and to express themselves by creating new art.

The classes are to be held Saturday, April

30, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 15, 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

The fee is \$50 for adults per session (or \$75 for two sessions) and includes costs for materials and light refreshments. The fee for children under 10 years and accompanied by a participating adult is \$5 and for students is \$25. The exhibit runs until June 11, 2022.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 22, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

To reserve for a workshop, please call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail edna@brandon-music.net to make your reservation. For more information check out our website at www.cmacvt.org.

The Compass Music and Arts Center is located at 333 Jones Drive, Park Village, Brandon, VT 05733

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Fran Bull is an award-winning sculptor, painter, printmaker, performance artist and poet. She has been exhibiting her work worldwide for over 40 years. Her art is included in numerous museum and university collections, including the Brooklyn Museum, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Guilin Museum in China.

Bull’s early Photorealist art brought her international acclaim, but in the mid 1980s this more identifiable approach evolved towards art that could be understood as a visualization of unseen worlds. Today, Bull’s quest is to connect ordinary life to larger mythic and historical motifs, themes and

narratives.

Recent exhibitions include the Venice Biennale 2017 and 2019, the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury and the Cornell Art Museum in Winter Park, Florida. Her book of original etchings and silkscreened text, titled 31 Days, was recently acquired for the permanent collection of the Biblioteca Nacional de Catalunya.

Among Bull’s published books on art and poetry is choose your own title released in September 2019 by Damiani, Bologna. She makes her art in Brandon, Vermont and Barcelona, Spain.

Robert Black is an architect, artist, teacher and professional facilitator with diverse experience in design, construction, community building, group dynamics, and creating art installations. His life experiences include: parenting, business management, dramatic and music performance, public speaking, seminars creation, architectural history research, and studies in human behavior and spiritual practices. Robert has served and continues his public service as a Trustee on non-profit Boards.

Robert’s creative endeavors include 45 years as a licensed architect and personal art explorations in photography and collage. Collaborations with life partner, Fran Bull, have created art installations and special presentations in Vermont, around the U.S. and in other parts of the world.

For more information contact Edna Sutton at edna@brandon-music.net

Meet Guinness

(Continued from Page 1) handling firm in Wolcot, Vt., and from there to Brandon. Local donations raised \$3,550 to cover the purchase and start-up necessities and other donations will be used to cover some small first-year expenses that were not covered in the budget.

Also expenses, such as veterinarian services, have been provided free to the town from Dr. Robin Crossman at Otterside Animal Hospital in Brandon, “which is a huge savings to us and we’re very grateful for that,” said Chief Kachajian, adding that discounted pet food from Blue Seal in Brandon would help keep first-year expenses down as well.

“My intent,” Kachajian said,

Upcoming fundraiser for Guinness

Brandon resident Brianna Stevens-Clark will be holding a basket raffle for the Brandon Police Department to help raise more money for its K-9 program. The basket raffle is set for Saturday, April 23 at 11 a.m. at the Brandon American Legion Post #55. “Our hope,” Chief Kachajian said, “is that it will raise some more money for us so that we can have some ‘cushion’ to put aside for any unanticipated costs that might arise that wouldn’t necessarily be covered in our budget.”

“is to add a K-9 budget into our general police budget for FY 2023 to cover any expenses (including training) that we may need going forward, such as equipment replacement.”

The goal of the K-9 program at Brandon, the chief explained, was “multi-faceted.”

“I think having a drug-sniffing dog will act as a deterrent in the community to anyone thinking about trying to bring drugs into town,” he said, as one of the first benefits. “Having a dog trained in tracking will help us locate lost, missing,

endangered, or wanted people in a more-timely fashion and will act as a “force multiplier” for us since we have a small department and don’t always have enough resources to deploy when we are trying to locate people for whatever the case may be.

“The dog will also be trained in evidence location, such as finding guns that have been discarded by a suspect running through a neighborhood or the woods. Being able to recover items such as a gun used in a crime will obviously help us with prosecuting a case against a suspect, but it will also help us get potentially dangerous items out of the hands of individuals, such as children, that may inadvertently find the gun while walking through the woods or in an around a neighborhood.

“But I think the most import benefit is that having a K-9 on our department gives both the police officers and the community something to get behind. Most people love dogs and having some “Community ownership” of “Our dog,” I think, goes a long way towards

building a good relationship between the residents and the police department.

“The dog can also be a great “Ice breaker” between people in the community and the officer(s), especially small children, who just want to come up and pet the dog. We’ve already had some kids stop by the police station to “Meet” Guinness, and they’ve loved him. He is such a gentle and good-natured dog that the kids warmed right up to him.”

That good nature, which compliments a handsome coat of a tannish-brown underbelly and coal-black back, is reflected in his name, Guinness — a good Irish name, Officer Alnwick said of his choice, who is Irish himself and grew up playing the bagpipes and listening to Irish and Scottish folk music.

Alnwick said Guinness is about 40 pounds now (a bit low after his trip from Siberia), but should be about 90-100 pounds when fully mature. His dad, Alnwick said, comes from championship bloodlines and he’s looking forward to the upcoming training.

For now, however, it’s spending a lot of time on basic behavioral issues, and crate time when Alnwick is on patrol — as Guinness isn’t allowed to accompany him on patrol until he’s certified.

“Aiden is very enthusiastic about getting the K-9 program started,” Chief Kachajian said of the newest addition to the team. “I think he and Guinness are going to make a fantastic team. They’ve bonded really quickly and Guinness is extremely smart and has a great temperament.”

Let the budget dance begin

BY RILEY ROBINSON

MONTPELIER — The budget-writing process is known for being a little bit of a dance. The House puts their left foot in, the Senate takes their right foot out, and then everyone does the hokey pokey and eventually the governor signs the thing. This year, they will likely need to hokey pokey (cough: negotiate) a lot more, because the Senate Finance Committee just voted out a \$100 million bill that the House didn’t leave a placeholder for.

Gov. Phil Scott’s administration saw this coming. At his weekly press conference on Tuesday, Scott came out swinging at the House’s budget draft. Much of the critique was on how the House spent federal Covid relief funds. But the governor also called the House’s budget “out of balance.”

Rep. Mary Hooper, D-Montpelier, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, disagreed with that characterization.

“I wish they would point out to me where it is unbalanced. It is balanced,” Hooper said. “We did not spend more revenue than was available, which,

by my definition, is balanced.”

To be clear, there are always differences between the House and Senate versions before the budget gets ironed out. What’s different this year is the magnitude, with all the extra federal money.

“The stakes are higher with the amounts of money they’re dealing with, for sure,” said Downs Rachlin Martin lobbyist Patti Komline, who formerly served in the Vermont House for more than a decade. “You’re not gonna find a little outlier tax that’s going to make up the difference.”

At the heart of Scott’s concerns is the Senate’s economic development bill. It lays out grants for businesses, includes incentives for people to move to Vermont, backfills Covid-related leave for workers, and raises the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024. It uses about \$16 million from the general fund and about \$85 million in federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act. Big pieces of it, namely the millions in grants to businesses, seem to align with the governor’s wishlist.

It’s proceeding to the floor

as H.159, in a procedural twist — the real meat of H.159 went into last year’s budget, and the Senate is using the husk of that bill to get around the crossover deadline.

Sen. Michael Sirotkin, D-Chittenden, said he’s been working closely with the budget writers in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

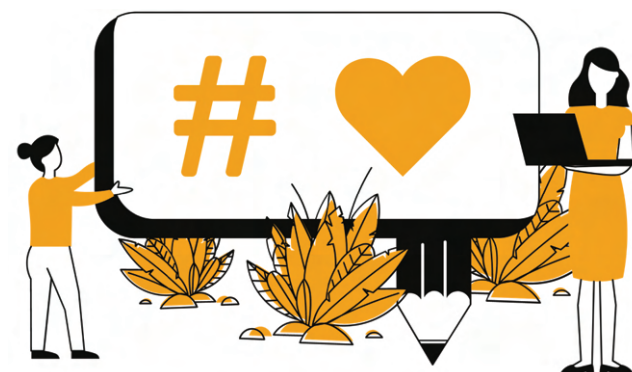
“The Senate-passed budget will include H-159,” Sirotkin said.

The House and Senate had a sort of divide-and-conquer plan for this session, according to Hooper and Sirotkin: The House would tackle workforce issues, while the Senate would take on other economic development measures. So the House put funds toward education, particularly nursing programs and the trades, Hooper said. Sirotkin worked on a package that, he said, seeks to balance the needs of employers and employees.

Now, “there are competing interests for the money,” Hooper said.

“There’s some big price ticket items that they have to find a meeting of the minds on,” Komline said.

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Support all schools

(Continued from Page 4)
in the Northeast Kingdom, technical education as well. These academies attract students from other states and countries adding diversity to our school communities.

The four town academies save the Education Fund precious resources. Vermont's Agency of Education tracks spending by district type. Their latest report indicates that districts operating an elementary school and publicly tuitioning their high school students have budgeted spending (includes special education) of \$16,656, versus \$20,458 in districts that operate a public school for all grades. Much of this savings to the Education Fund is

due to the fact that independent schools fundraise for capital construction.

Arguments that independent schools add cost to the education fund are based on two faulty premises:

- first, that there are public schools in the areas where independent schools exist with the capacity to serve the same students - there are not.

- second, that the marginal cost of education decreases in public schools as student counts increase. That is also not the case. Larger districts in Vermont, according to AOE, have higher pupil budget spending than small districts.

The independent school land-

scape also includes many smaller schools that are important to educating Vermont students. Many, including therapeutic independent schools and others, offer specialized services and programs or smaller environments to meet the diverse and publicly unmet needs of Vermont's children.

No school - public or independent - can meet the needs of every child. These specialized schools, which receive referrals from every school district, save children who would otherwise not get the services they need.

In many cases geography affects Vermont's public and independent school landscape. The "Vermont Only" perspec-

tive (that only Vermont students should attend schools based in Vermont) undermines local control and overlooks key facts — such as 12 Vermont counties and 70 Vermont towns share a border with another state or province. And roughly equal education dollars flow into Vermont as go out.

Some commentators use the term "private schools," rather than the proper terminology of "independent school," and equate Vermont's history of paying tuition across three centuries to a "voucher system." Their intent is to inflame the misinformed notion that our rich history fits into national policy debates around charter schools and

voucher models. When, in fact, independent schools have coexisted with public schools since the public school system evolved around us.

In this case, Vermont is again leading the country with an honest, straightforward and excellent education mosaic that serves our children with love, empathy and care. Our public and independent school models may differ, but both produce quality outcomes. They are all part of our educational success; let's not undermine one at the expense of the other.

Equity for schools

(Continued from Page 4)
statewide average public school spending levels to set tuition rates for students who take vouchers to private schools. A 2015 analysis found that Vermont students who take vouchers to private schools are more advantaged than the average Vermont student. Failing to adjust tuition voucher rates for needs makes inequality even worse..

Moreover, if the legislature continues to exempt districts that don't operate public schools from the excess spending penalty that applies to districts that operate public schools, it incentivizes smaller and wealthier districts to close their public schools to limit what they have to pay into the Education Fund.

These two related policies-weighting vouchers and applying the same high spending penalty to districts that don't operate public schools- must be changed

at the same time, unless the legislature's goal is continued erosion of both equity and the state's public education system.

Changing weights in the funding formula would make it possible for less wealthy, sparsely populated, and remote districts to raise more revenue to support their children. The resulting increase in spending won't be offset by reductions in other districts, because there are limits to the cuts many districts can and will support, especially when their schools compete with "independent" schools that are dependent on voucher-funded students, sell themselves based on low student to teacher ratios, and are not required to comply with the same statutes and rules that apply to public schools

Currently, private schools that serve more privileged students are "overfunded" through their vouchers, including in private

schools with exclusionary enrollment practices. The rest of the state helps pay, in ways that incentivize more privileged districts to close their own public schools.

The UVM report produced a simulation to inform weighted funding, which can also be used to inform weighted vouchers. Using the weights in the UVM simulation, high school students who:

- are not economically disadvantaged and not living in remote rural areas would receive vouchers for about \$10,000,

- are economically disadvantaged would get vouchers closer to \$35,604,

- are eligible for English Language Learning (ELL) services are eligible for another \$13,502,

- are economically disadvantaged and eligible for ELL would have vouchers worth \$40,506.

For example, a high school

student in Lyndon who is not disadvantaged would receive a base voucher of \$10,000 to take to Lyndon Institute (or Phillips Exeter Academy, which otherwise provides education free to families with incomes under \$75,000) as the legislature allows. An economically disadvantaged student who was also an English language learner would bring a voucher worth about \$40k, supposedly to provide additional support services. Of course, there is currently no way to verify if and how those "support" dollars would be used in private settings. One Massachusetts private school said Vermont's "vouchers save the school dollars to give to other students with financial aid needs." These could include students from other states.

If voters in a Vermont voucher school district want to provide larger vouchers for wealth-

ier children, they could do so through a vote. However, they'd also be subject to the excess spending penalty, just like districts that operate public schools.

We don't think Vermont should pay vouchers to private schools that do not have open enrollment and which are not designated as a public education replacement for a sending district by a vote of their electorate. But since this is the system our elected leadership prefers, they can at least protect our wallets and children by weighting the tuition vouchers for which taxpayers are forced to pay.

Editor's note: Bruce Baker is a professor at Rutgers Graduate School of Education and Senior Fellow at the Learning Policy Institute. Rebecca Holcombe (MBA, Norwich resident, parent) is the former Vermont Secretary of Education.

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Meaning of Life

(Continued from Page 5)
reflecting about the meaning of life leads one to ask about the meaning of history.

There are two sorts of history: natural and human, which is to say, all of reality passes through time; Darwin wrote the definitive work of the history of nature as an evolutionary process; human history began with the human species, a species, with many noble gifts, causing the Psalmist to describe “Man” as a little lower than angels (Psalm 8:4-6), whom God granted dominion over the earth. Dominion is power, which it is Vladimir Putin’s desire to possess and wield to fulfill his vain political ambition.

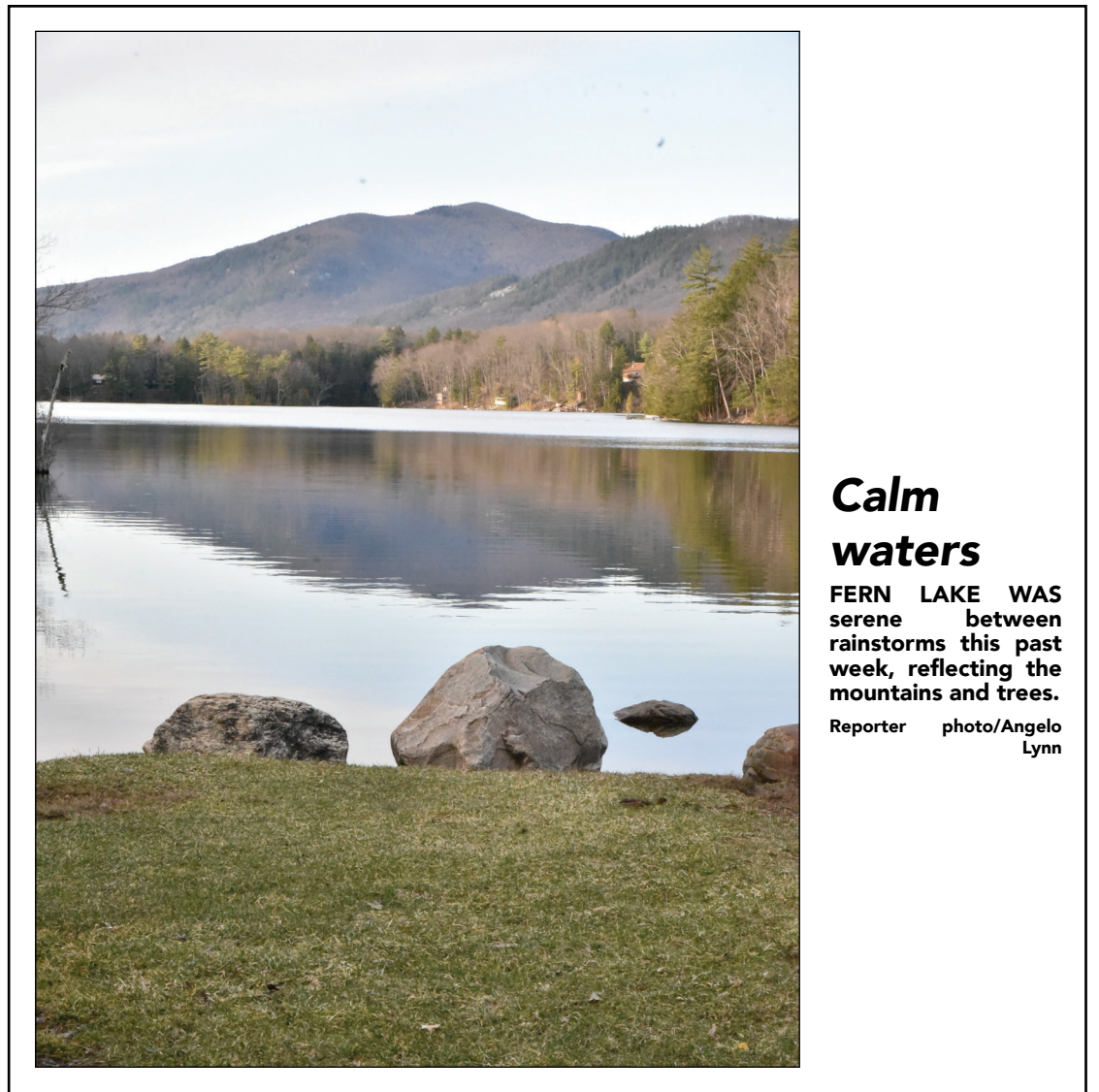
But, from a purely natural standpoint, mankind seems not to be a glorious creature at all, but an invasive species, the cause of massive environmental damage, capable of destroying all life on earth. In the light of the environmental crisis, the Psalmist would have had to change his tune, were he writing his poem today. Mankind is an invasive species, whose universal motive, if there is one, is cruel and suicidal. But I digress, and in any case, the people of Ukraine prove to us every day that our species also has a capacity for noble qualities, in particular, the courage to resist evil.

History as an academic subject is the study of the founding of civil societies and their struggle

to exist, not only by overcoming hostile forces of nature but in a struggle for power within and without. The Philosophy of History is the study of history in search of meaning, especially moral meaning.

From Vladimir Putin’s actions, we may infer that his philosophy of history is “might makes right”; in contrast, the people of Ukraine are acting out the very opposite meaning: “right makes might”. There is a moral power in their resistance that Putin cannot understand, and, in the end, it may not be able to withstand, that is, if history really does have any meaning, other than Macbeth’s cry of despair.

So does history have a positive moral purpose? I should like to think so; and it is the goal I have been aiming at in this series of essays. But Putin’s madness has made me doubt that this is so. And this doubt has prompted me to look to my teachers for guidance. In particular, to Reinhold Niebuhr, a moralist, political realist, and philosopher of history. In 1949 he published a book entitled Faith and History. It was the first philosophical book I ever read from cover to cover, as an undergraduate and it made me resolve to attend Union Seminary in New York and become his student. I am rereading it now, and will have more to say about it in the next essay. Please stay tuned.



Calm waters

FERN LAKE WAS serene between rainstorms this past week, reflecting the mountains and trees.

Reporter photo/Angelo Lynn

Legislative wrap

(Continued from Page 4)
would authorize the “City of Barre to fly only the City, State, United States and POW/MIA flags.” The house was told the citizens of Barre overwhelmingly approved the charter change requests. In a startling turn of events, however, the two state representatives from Barre, and others, have offered an amendment to remove the flag provision from the citizen’s request. This amendment created quite a stir on the floor of the House and eventually the entire bill was reassigned back to the Committee on Government Operations where the entire charter change faces an uncertain future.

Finally, in H.746 “Municipal Charter City of the Burlington” was introduced. This change, approved by Burlington voters, would remove the City Council’s power “to restrain and suppress Houses of Ill Fame...and to punish common prostitutes and persons consorting therewith.” This simple change to remove ancient

language from Burlington’s Charter has been interpreted by some in the Legislature, including the representatives from Burlington, to decriminalize prostitution and make houses of “Ill Fame” legal in Burlington. The bill was quickly moved to the Committee of Jurisdiction where it faces an uncertain future.

As the end of the 2021-2022 biennium approaches, with a possible adjournment date of early May, it is teeing up to be a very exciting and ruckus ending. I am looking forward to the final debates on many of the issues at hand!

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

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

Gov. Phil Scott delivers keynote address at Rutland Regional Annual Meeting

RUTLAND —Governor Phil Scott praised the efforts of healthcare workers Wednesday during the keynote remarks for Rutland Regional Medical Center’s Annual Meeting on April 7. The governor, who addressed a crowd at the Paramount Theater, said that healthcare workers stepped up to care for patients and their communities throughout the two years of the pandemic.

“More than any other area, healthcare across Vermont has been tested. And I can assure you, as someone who has been watching over the whole field, you rose to the challenge and met that test and served us well,” said Governor Scott. “You were also key to our success in vaccination where we consistently led the nation with the highest vaccination rates across the country.”

“None of this could have happened without your front-line staff,” he added. “They went above and beyond to help Vermonters keep healthy, all while facing workforce shortages, wearing pounds of pro-

ective gear, pulling double and triple shifts, comforting patients and families ... and doing all of this while managing the same stress in their own lives as the people they serve.”

The Wednesday meeting was the first time Rutland Regional has held an Annual Meeting in person since the pandemic took hold early in 2020. Roughly 100 members of the hospital corporation, called “corporators,” as well as the public turned out to hear from hospital leadership as well as the governor.

In addition to Gov. Scott’s address, the corporators at the annual meeting also elected new members of the corporation and new members to the hospital’s Board of Directors. They also heard from hospital leadership including President and CEO Claudio Fort, the president of the medical staff, Dr. Phil Lapp, and Joan Gamble, the chair of the Bowse Health Trust.

In his remarks, President and CEO, Claudio Fort recognized the staff and hospital leader-

ship for meeting the needs of the community everyday but especially during the past two years of COVID.

“Despite the fact that we are done with COVID, it remains to be seen if COVID is done with us,” remarked Claudio Fort. “We stand ready and willing to do our part. I remain inspired by the grit and selflessness of our employees. As we move forward from the crisis stage of the pandemic, they continue to show up to do what is needed to be done.”

Recognized at the meeting were Dr. Michael J. Kenosh and John W. Casella, both of whom retired from the Board after many years of service.

The meeting concluded with a special presentation in honor of longtime board member and outgoing Board Chair, Joe Kraus. To view the interactive annual report, please visit: 2021-2022 Rutland Regional Annual Report.

OVUUSD bu

When is the budget re-vote and how do I vote?

The OVUUSD Budget is April 26, 2022. Voting is in person at regular polling locations on that day or you can go in to town offices for early voting or to request an absentee ballot before then to vote. The informational meeting is virtual on April 25 at 6:30 pm a link can be found on the RNESU Calendar.

What are the main points in this budget?

This budget proposal is a 5.5 cent decrease (4%) in the unified tax rate, bringing the tax rate back to pre-merger rates. Ed Spending is up 9.7% due to the way the formula works. However, OVUUSD Ed Spending is nearly \$1000 below the statewide average. Primary drivers in this budget are the inflation impact on utilities and fuel and contracted salary and benefit increases as this category is 80% of the budget. No new programs are added to this budget proposal from the current year. Lines are adjusted to meet student needs.

Why are we voting again?

The budget was defeated in a vote on March 2. Fewer than a third of the usual voters turned up to vote. We are required to pass a budget each year to fund the schools

Why didn't you mail the ballot to me like my town did in early March?

The VT Legislature allowed town select boards to choose to mail Municipal ballots in March. Pittsford and Brandon chose to do this. Goshen, Whiting, Sudbury and Leicester did not choose to mail ballots. School districts can only mail school ballots IF ALL towns agree to mail. Thus, as 4 out of 6 towns did not mail ballots, the schools could not do so. The April 26 election will also be in person



What are the drivers

ReVote - reduced \$5000 in health insurance
Included 11 PreK tuitions: 5 new lottery students
Neshobe & OCA increased part time
OCA reallocated clearing contract
OVUHS reallocated SRO contract
OVUHS added 1.0 FTE Vocational Educator
OVUHS added 1.0 FTE paraeducator
OVUHS eliminated 1 out of district tuition
No other programmatic changes as we have
Also Included: salary and benefits as board approved
and other non-program costs based on previous

What is in the budget a

The new budget proposal is \$22,705,955. The bulk of this increase is in the contracted services budget is primarily made up of staff, salary and benefits line would be more in the Of note, the unified tax rate decrease town by the Common Level of Appraisal were appraised. Thus some towns g

OTTER VALLEY
BRANDON
SUD

Sample Ballot
A. TO VOTE, complete

Article 2: Shall the voters of Twenty-two Million Seven Hundred (\$22,705,955) which is the amount ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated education spending of \$17,044 per pupil is 9.7% higher than spending

Budget re-vote

Reasons for the budget?

Increase costs for new staff and policy tiers
 10 students & 6 currently enrolled students
 Hire para educators to full time
 Contract to custodial position
 Hire to middle school health teacher
 Hire Teacher to support student job placements
 Hire educator to meet students' need
 Student placement based on student's needs
 District has already "right sized" the district
 Line by line adjustments to utilities, supplies
 Prior spending and estimated increases



And what is the tax impact?

\$22,705,955, which is an increase of 7.85%. The
 projected salary and benefit line. Of note, the
 rate as we serve students; thus changes in the
 most impacted. No new programs are added
 in this budget.
 Increase by 5.5 cents. This rate is affected in each
 district, which is based on how recently homes
 have gone up while most towns go down in taxes.

OFFICIAL BALLOT OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BRANDON, GOSHEN, LEICESTER, PITTSFORD, SUDBURY, AND WHITING, VERMONT SPECIAL BUDGET RE-VOTE VOTING APRIL 26, 2022

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

Please carefully fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:

ARTICLE

Shall the school district approve the school board to expend
 Twenty-two Million Seven Hundred Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Dollars
 (\$22,705,955) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the
 ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in
 education spending of \$17,044 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized
 pupil is 9.7% higher than spending for the current year.

YES
 NO

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

The legal voters of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District (Unified Union District) comprising the
 voters of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting are hereby notified
 and warned to meet virtually on April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to conduct the following business:

Meeting link and dial in information can be found on the calendar on the RNEU website: <http://www.rnesu.org>.

Article 1: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of
 expenses for the ensuing year.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, April 26, 2022 for the purpose of voting the following
 articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being
 brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member
 districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent
 districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Brandon American Legion Post #55
Town of Goshen	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Goshen Town Office
Town of Leicester	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Pittsford Fire House
Town of Sudbury	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Whiting Fire Station

Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-two Million
 Seven Hundred Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$22,705,955) which is the amount the
 school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this
 proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,044 per equalized pupil. This
 projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.7% higher than spending for the current year.

Dated at Brandon, Vermont
 Recorded
 April ____, 2022

Received and
 April ____, 2022

Laurie Bertrand
 Laurie Bertrand, Chair
 Otter Valley Unified Union School
 District No. U053

Charlene Bryant
 Charlene Bryant, Clerk
 Otter Valley Unified Union School
 District No. U053



Early action

OV'S JORDAN BEAYON was one of the team's pitchers facing the Middlebury Tigers line-up in a Monday afternoon scrimmage at OV's field ahead of the regular season. Beayon makes a quick pitch to first baseman Ethan Blow to keep a runner close to the bag.

Reporter photos/Angelo Lynn



Vermont's trout fishing season opened April 9

MONTPELIER — Despite lingering snow cover in some areas of the state, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says anglers can still have fun and be successful early in the season if they keep a few strategies in mind.

“Just like any other time of year, anglers fishing early in the spring should adjust their tactics based on conditions,” said State Fisheries Biologist Shawn Good. “Trout will become more active with warmer water temperatures. If you can find a good location and present your bait or lure without spooking the trout, you’ll have a good chance of catching a few fish, and enjoy a nice day outside.”

Good adds that finding a

small to medium low-elevation river or stream that is not too murky from spring runoff can be key. Trout are coldblooded and may be slow to bite especially with low water temperatures, so it is important that they can also see your bait, lure or fly.

Larger baits can often be more effective for enticing early-season trout into biting. Spinners should try nightcrawlers, egg imitations, or bright colored spoons and spinners. Fly anglers may find success in the early season by drifting large, more visible flies such as wooly buggers, streamers, or San Juan worms along the bottom in slower pools and runs.

Trout will often hold close to the bottom in the deeper areas of

streams during high flow conditions to conserve energy. Choose locations and tactics that allow you to fish using a slow retrieval right along the bottom. Focus on deep holes behind current breaks created by big boulders, downed trees or log-jams where trout may be resting. If possible, approach the hole from downstream as trout will often orient themselves facing the current.

While Vermont offers excellent and diverse fishing opportunities for wild trout, stocking also occurs in many lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers where wild trout populations are low or absent. This generally happens in April and May each year once the ice has melted and following spring runoff.

“Early in the season, like on opening weekend, you’ll probably have more success if you focus on waters known to hold wild trout,” said Good. “Despite unpredictable weather during early spring, each year anglers report catching impressive trout during opening weekend.”

Good also reminds anglers to check the department’s website frequently as updates are made to the Trout Stocking page. “This is a great tool for anglers to see what nearby waters have been stocked, as the page gets updated several times per week,” said Good. Visit this link <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/Fish-StockingSchedule.aspx> and click the “See What’s Been Stocked” button to stay informed as the

spring progresses.

Anglers who like to fish and release their catch don’t need to wait for opening day. Nearly all waterbodies are now open year-round to catch-and-release fishing for trout in Vermont. Check the 2022 Vermont Fishing Guide and Regulations which is available free from license agents, and it is on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website at this link: <https://www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/>

A helpful overview of the new fishing regulations can be found at: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/new-2022-fishing-regulations-overview>.

Frogs, salamanders are on the move

MONTPELIER – Vermonters are reporting a particularly horrendous mud season this year, keeping some off the roads. But the warm, rainy nights in early spring give us another good reason to avoid even the paved roads: breeding frogs and salamanders that are on the move.

“At this time of year, amphibians cross roads in large numbers to reach vernal pools and other waters for breeding,” says Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff. “If you find a crossing, you can see many individuals and species in a short period and small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year. Spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group called the ‘mole salamanders’ because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps and are rarely seen until the following spring.”

Biologists rely on amphibian

road crossing events to document rare or otherwise hard-to-find species. For example, the four-toed salamander is rare in Vermont, and its distribution is not well understood.

This information is used by Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers in road construction plans that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to more safely cross roadways.

Groff is encouraging Vermonters to explore their nearby roads and report amphibian road crossings to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (<https://www.vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form>). If you can safely take photos of the amphibian species crossing, please include them.

Vermonters who wish to contribute to the Fish and Wild-

life Department’s work to help frogs and salamanders can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form or on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.



VERMONT FISH AND Wildlife is asking drivers to be cautious when travelling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving near ponds and wetlands where salamanders and frogs are crossing during their breeding season.

VTF&W photo (Spotted Salamander by Luke Groff/Wood Frog by John Hall)



HIKERS AND CLIMBERS can help nesting peregrine falcons by avoiding several Vermont cliff areas this spring and early summer.

VTF&W photo by Tom Rogers

Some cliff tops and overlooks closed to protect nesting peregrines

ROCHESTER — Hiking Vermont’s hillsides is a great way to enjoy a spring day, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont recommend people check to see if the area they are planning to hike or climb is open. In addition to the many trails that are currently closed to reduce impacts during mud season, several cliff areas are closed to protect nesting peregrine falcons.

“Peregrine falcons are very sensitive to human presence during their breeding season, so we ask climbers and hikers to please maintain a respectful distance from all nests,” said state wildlife biologist

Doug Morin. “The areas closed include the portions of the cliffs where the birds are nesting and the trails leading to cliff tops or overlooks.”

Biologists and community scientists are just now identifying which cliffs are occupied by peregrines, and not all sites have been visited to-date. Once closed, these sites will remain closed until August 1 or until the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department determines the risk to nesting falcons has passed. As sites are visited in April and if nesting falcons choose new sites, additional sites may be added to the closed list at [\[fishandwildlife.com\]\(http://fishandwildlife.com\).](http://www.vt-</p>
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- Bolton Notch (Bolton) – UUW cliff – cliff access and climbing closed
- Deer Leap (Bristol) – cliff-top and climbing closed
- Eagle Ledge (Vershire) – closed to hiking and climbing
- Fairlee Palisades (Fairlee) – cliff-top closed
- Marshfield Mt (Marshfield) – portions closed to climbing
- Mt Horrid (Rochester) – Great Cliff overlook closed
- Nichols Ledge (Woodbury) – cliff-top and climbing closed
- Prospect Rock (Johnson) – overlook closed

- Red Rocks Park (S. Burlington) – southern cliff access closed
 - Rattlesnake Point (Salisbury) – southern overlook closed
 - Snake Mt (Addison) – entire western trail closed
 - Stimson Mt (Bolton) – climbing closed
- Audubon Vermont conservation biologist Margaret Fowle works with volunteers and other conservation professionals to monitor the sites throughout the nesting season. “Peregrine falcons were removed from Vermont’s endangered species list in 2005, and the population continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers

and partners,” said Fowle. “In many cases the lower portions of the trails remain open, and we encourage people to enjoy watching peregrine falcons from a distance with binoculars or a scope.”

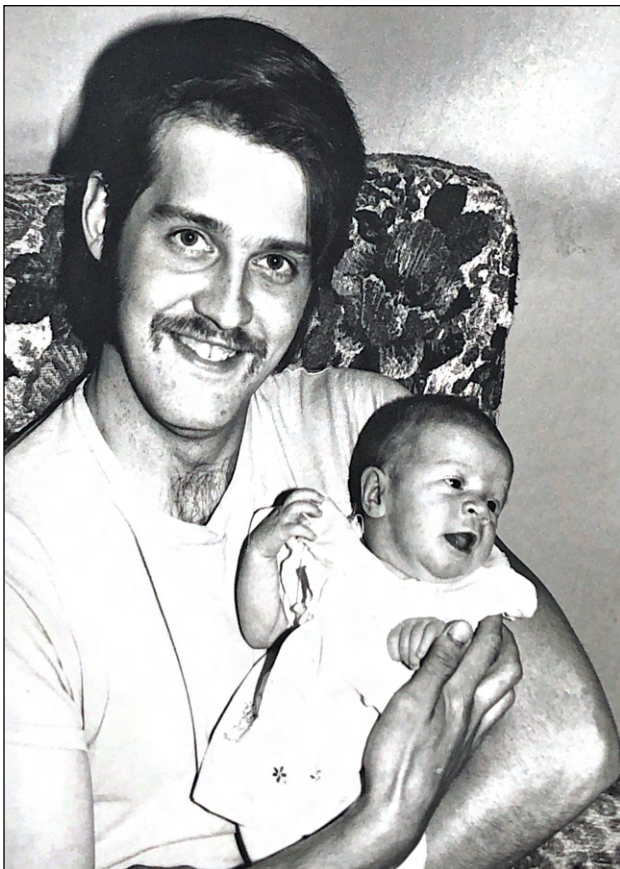
What you can do to help Vermont peregrines:

- Respect cliff closures, and retreat from any cliff where you see peregrines;
- Report any disturbance of nesting peregrines to your local State Game Warden;
- Report any sightings to Margaret Fowle at margaret.fowle@audubon.org.



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!



Coleen Mitchell of Brandon called to recognize the married couple pictured in the April 6th edition of The Reporter. They are James Dodds and Susan Winter who were married in 1992.

Recognized



Melly Flynn emailed us to identify the two small girls with their baby brother pictured in The Reporter's April 6th edition. They are Teagan (left) and Kelly Smith and Gregory is their brother. Their parents are Dave and Jane Smith, and they lived on Carver Street. The picture was taken, I believe, in 1992, since a year later they had moved from Brandon.

E-mail ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify someone in these photos. Or call us at 247-8080

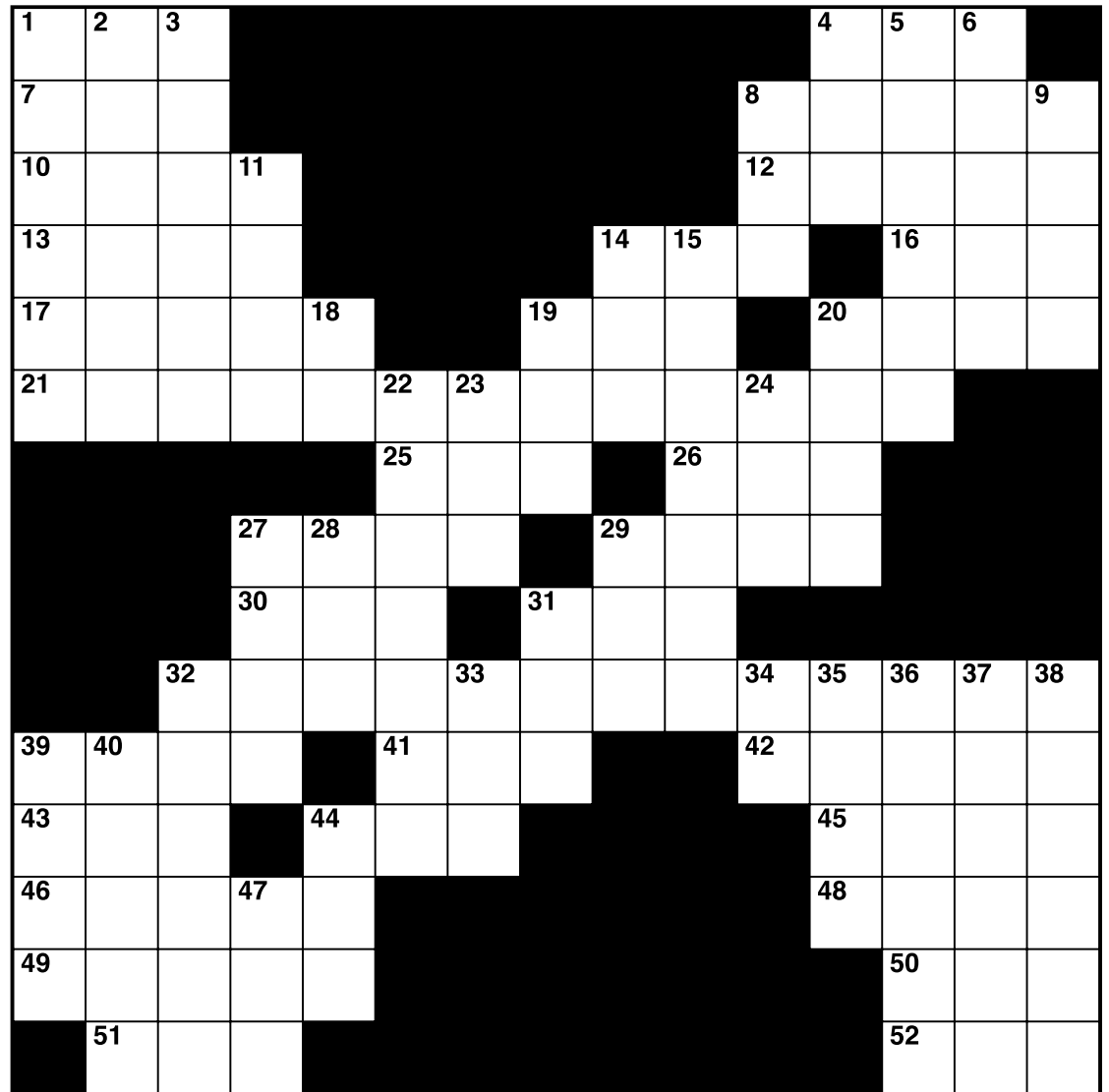
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Runs PCs
4. An entertaining, eccentric person
7. Small, faint constellation
8. Indigo bush
10. Not excessive
12. African antelope
13. A way to fly a glider
14. Tough softly
16. In the course of
17. Early Mesoamerican people
19. A way to drop down
20. Mistake!
21. Housing developments
25. Baseball stat
26. No (Scottish)
27. Type of cuisine
29. British Army infantrymen (abbr.)
30. Marry
31. Buffer solution
32. Legendary rock band
39. Recording industry show
41. A way to consume
42. Lake in Botswana
43. Political action committee
44. Field force unit (abbr.)
45. Very eager
46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
48. Nocturnal insect
49. Challenged to perform
50. Thus far
51. Famed NYC arena
52. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Small, purple-black fruit
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. Split pulses
5. Northwestern Mexico town
6. Edible fruit
8. Upper-class southern young woman
9. Sums up
11. The most worthless part
14. Dash
15. Sufferings
18. Clearinghouse (abbr.)
19. Indian title of respect
20. Poems meant to be sung
22. Actor Cooper
23. Luke's mentor ___-Wan
24. Clumsy person
27. Figures
28. Polish Baltic coast peninsula
29. Old cloth
31. Explosive
32. Automobiles
33. 007's creator
34. The Volunteer State
35. Old Irish alphabet
36. Japanese city
37. Portrayed emotion
38. Observers
39. Mimicked
40. Polite reference to a woman
44. Male parent
47. Peter Griffin's daughter

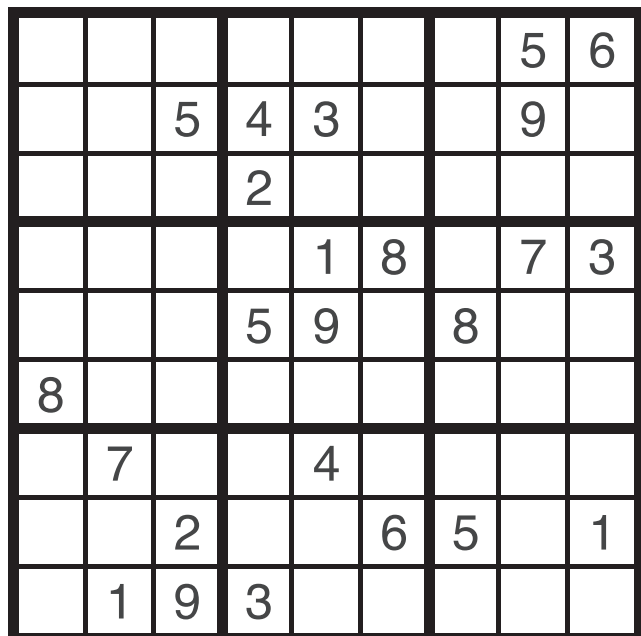


Sudoku

Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

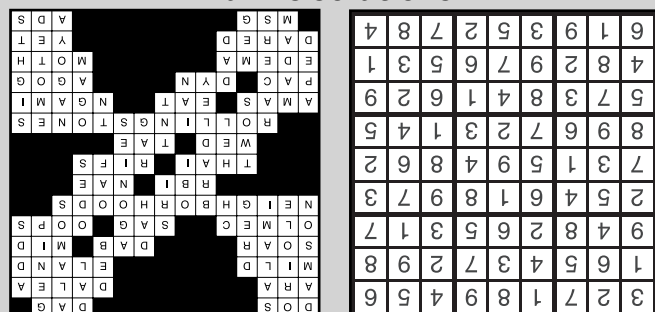
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number

must appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out where to fill in the missing numbers by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers that are filled in, the easier it gets to solve.



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle solutions



Easter Safety Tips from Rutland Cty. Humane Society

Spring has arrived, and while you are getting ready for the Easter holiday, you might have chocolate bunnies, Easter grass in baskets and lilies at home! The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) wants to remind you to also think of your pets during the holiday. Lilies, beautiful and fragrant, are deadly to cats so please be very aware of your felines if you have lilies in your home or garden. All parts of the lily, including pollen are toxic to cats and cause sudden severe kidney failure and death, if not treated promptly. Chocolate is harmful to both dogs and cats and should be kept out of reach of curious canines and felines. Easter grass, if eaten, can pose a deadly threat. It's enticing due to the interesting sounds it makes, how it feels on animal's gums and its movement in the breeze, but it can be very harmful if ingested. Keep an eye out for your pets this spring so you can enjoy without worries. For any questions, please contact the RCHS Adoption Center at 802.483.6700.

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

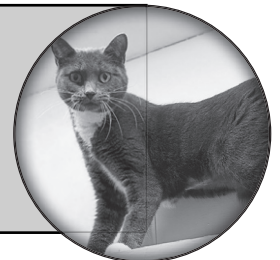


FRANK - 4-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. LAB MIX. BLACK.

My name is Frank and I arrived at RCHS on March 19 from a shelter in Texas. Not only am I adorable, but I am also a total sweetheart! I love to give hugs and meet new people. I enjoy all of my walks with the staff at the shelter as I am settling into Vermont. I know that my family is here in Vermont just waiting for me as I have been patiently waiting for them. I would make a great companion for an active family who enjoys going for walks, playing fetch, and of course who likes getting hugs and kisses from their 4-legged friend!

LUNA - 7-MONTH-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR. GREY & WHITE.

This shelf is my favorite spot at the moment, and where you are most likely to see me when you visit. I came to RCHS from a busy shelter in West Virginia, and I'm still coming out of my shell. I'm a very timid cat, and while I am currently doing well in a community cat room, I would much prefer a home with no other cats or dogs. I'm not a fan of overstimulation so my ideal forever home would be a relaxed one with adults and teenagers. I may come off as aloof and grouchy, but really all I need is patience and time to fully open up.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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



ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.



Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Adult Biographies

Hello, Molly! by Molly Shannon, Sean Wilsey

At age four, Molly Shannon's world was shattered when she lost her mother, baby sister, and cousin in a car accident with her father at the wheel. Held together by her tender and complicated relationship with her grieving father, Molly was raised in a permissive household where her gift for improvising and role-playing blossomed alongside the fearlessness that would lead her to become a celebrated actress. Witty, winning, and told with tremendous energy and heart, Hello, Molly!, written with Sean Wilsey, sheds new and revelatory light on the life and work of one of our most talented and free-spirited performers.

Adult Fiction

Let's Not Do That Again by Grant Ginder

Nancy Harriman is running for Senate, and she's going to win. This is what she's worked so hard for over the years after her husband's untimely death (which was definitely not her fault) and inheriting his seat in the House of Representatives. There's just one problem: her grown children, Nick, recently heartbroken, is floundering in his attempts to write a musical, and his sister Greta is smart and pretty, but completely unmotivated by anything.

Did you know?

Bring the kids and join us Saturday April 23 from 11-3 for a come-and-go Spring Party! We'll have games, crafts, and story time at 11. While you're here, stop by the book sale from 10-4!

But then one morning the world wakes up not to Nancy making headlines, but Greta. She's in Paris. With extremist protestors. In order to save her campaign, not to mention her daughter, Nancy and Nick must find Greta before it's too late.

Juvenile Graphic Novels

Sir Ladybug by Corey R. Tabor

Ladies and gentlebugs, presenting the duke of the dandelion patch, champion of truth and justice, the one, the only—Sir Ladybug! Sir Ladybug never shies away from a quest, even when he'd rather be playing a video game or baking a cake. So when a caterpillar needs rescuing from a "monster" (a hungry chickadee), Sir Ladybug and his trusty friends—his herald, a roly-poly

named Pell, and his squire, a snail named Sterling—hatch the perfect (delicious) plan.

Young Adult Graphic Novels

Fine: A Comic About Gender by Rhea Ewing

As graphic artist Rhea Ewing neared college graduation in 2012, they became consumed by the question: What is gender? This obsession sparked a quest in which they eagerly approached both friends and strangers in their quiet Midwest town for interviews to turn into comics. Questions such as "How do you identify" produced fiercely honest stories of dealing with adolescence, taking hormones, changing pronouns—and how these experiences can differ, often drastically, depending on culture, race, and religion. Tender and wise, inclusive and inviting, Fine is an indispensable account for anyone eager to define gender in their own terms.

Magazines

We have a new magazine for kids! Smore Magazine is a quarterly magazine that introduces science topics to kids of all ages. The current issue includes the topics Rethinking Robots, and 3D-Print Anything (Even Houses!).

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Police in Brandon had their hands full with domestic issues in the past week. The week began on April 4 with a call to assist Middlebury rescuers with a female on Mulcahy Drive that had attempted to commit suicide. Due to the severity of the injuries that were inflicted by the individual, a Life Net EMS helicopter was requested and the woman was later flown from the scene to the UVM Medical Center in Burlington for emergency surgery.

Later in the week, On April 6, police were called to an incident on Franklin Street, where police arrested a juvenile for domestic assault. The juvenile was cited to appear in Rutland Family Court on May 9, 2022 to answer for the charge.

The next day they responded to two separate domestic disturbance, one on River Street, where a verbal argument/dispute between a married couple occurred. It was later determined that no physical violence took place and that one of the parties that was involved was intoxicated. The second call came from Carver Street, in which the resident's 18-year-old son was throwing items around the home and breaking their belongings. No arrest resulted from the incident.

In other activity, Brandon Police:

On April 4

- Responded to a report of suspicious activity from a resident on Hollow Road. The resident reported what sounded like several rapid-fire gun shots in the area as well as a suspicious vehicle driving past her residence a short time

later. The area was searched but no vehicle was located nor the source of the gun shots.

- Assisted Burlington Police in attempting to locate a stolen phone showing in Brandon.

- Assisted Pittsford Police with the service of an Abuse Prevention Order on West Creek Road in Pittsford.

Welfare Check W Seminary St. Welfare check requested at a residence on West Seminary Street by a family member who had not heard from his elderly sister for several days. The subject was found safe and sound and had been out with her husband.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street near Arnold District Road. Two vehicles stopped for speeding. One ticket and one warning issued.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

On April 5

- Responded to a motor vehicle complaint of a motorcyclist operating negligently on Forest Dale Road. The area was canvassed, but the vehicle was not located. Police increased patrols in area.

- Received a lost cell phone, which is being held in their lost/found property inventory.

- Made traffic stops on Paint Works Road, Forest Dale Road, and Champlain Street. Of the three vehicles stopped on Forest Dale Road, one received a ticket for speeding. On Champlain Street, a motorist was pulled over for failing to stop at a Stop sign.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

On April 6

(See Police report 19)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



LEO July 23-Aug. 23.

Leo, if you have been lacking a regular exercise regimen, this could be the week to make some changes. Participate in an organized sport if heading to the gym isn't your thing.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

It's a good time to put your ambition into action, Virgo. You're likely to be full of energy and you have had plenty of good ideas just waiting for an outlet.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, do not hesitate to take on projects this week, particularly those that show your management skills in action. Others will be quick to complement your organizational prowess.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Expect to feel a renewed sense of energy and purpose this week, Scorpio. This will motivate you to finish existing projects or to get started on new ones.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

This week you may be feeling extra creative and ambitious, Sagittarius. Use your strengths to work on an artistic project or one that is outside of your comfort zone.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

This is a good week to tackle projects that require you to get up and go, Capricorn. It may involve heavy yard work or even rearranging furniture.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, any lethargy you've been feeling will likely vanish in the days to come. Fresh air and physical exercise can be just what you need to feel reenergized.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, it is time to take charge of your health. Consider all aspects of well-being, including physical and mental health.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 14 Zhang Yimou, film director (72)
- April 15 Benjamin Zephaniah, actor, poet, writer, singer (64)
- April 16 Merce Cunningham, choreographer (d)
- April 17 Karen Blixen, writer (d)
- April 18 David Tennant, actor (51)
- April 19 Ali Wong, comedian (40)
- April 20 Tan France, fashion designer (39)

ARIES March 21-April 20

Aries, now is a great time to try your hand at a new creative pursuit. You may be surprised at the results. Encourage others to join and embrace a collaborative effort.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, this is the ideal week to get outdoors more. The great outdoors can be a medicinal, so take advantage of any opportunity to bask in the fresh air.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Gemini, it is easy to get frustrated with a close friend or romantic partner who is less ambitious than you. Try to be patient, as each person moves at their own pace.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Try to get some group activities together this week, Cancer. This can be valuable if it has been some time since you socialized. Enjoy the change of pace.

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Brandon Police

(Continued from Page 18)

- Responded to a call from Otter Valley Union High School, where some students had discharged a fire extinguisher in the auditorium causing a mess. The matter was forwarded to BRAVO for a restorative justice resolution and/or restitution.
- Assisted the family of an elderly woman on Carver Street, diagnosed with Dementia, regarding possession of the elderly woman's vehicle.
- Responded to an alarm at 61 Court Drive. Accidental activation, no emergency.
- Conducted directed speed enforcement on Grove Street. One operator was given a verbal warning for speeding.
- Made traffic stops on Grove Street, Marble Street/Park Street, Forest Dale Road and Franklin Street, all for speeding violations. Four warnings for speeding were given, while one operator was ticketed for both speeding and operating without liability insurance.
- During a directed patrol on Franklin Street for school zone motor vehicle violations gave one operator a warning.
- Conducted property watches at Olivia's Croutons on Forest Dale Road and Walgreen's on Union Street.
- Took fingerprints for school employment.
- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street. No activity was reported.

On April 7

- At the request of a caretaker, made a welfare check on a male residing at a house on Carver Street. The responding officer found the male inside of the residence not in good health and requested that an ambulance respond to evaluate the subject for various medical issues. The male was later transported to the hospital for treatment.
- Responded to a request from New England Woodcraft for an officer to stand by while they terminated an employee at their factory on North Street. The employee was cooperative and subsequently issued a trespass order not to return to the property per request of the business. The individual left the property without any further issues.
- Investigated a call of suspicious activity on Grove Street, where suspicious lights were flickering at the Brandon Medical Center. The lights were found to be light reflecting off of decorative paper wind turbines in front of the property.
- Responded to reports of traffic hazards on the Goshen/Brandon

town line and on Barlow Avenue/Union Street. The first was a report of a fallen tree near Brandon town line on Route 73. No tree was found, and the Vermont agency of Transportation was notified. The second was a large branch in the middle of the roadway near the intersection of Barlow Avenue and Union Street. The branch was removed from the road by the responding officer.

- Conducted a routine property watch at RNESU on Court Drive.
- Conducted a foot patrol at New England Woodcraft on North Street.

On April 8

- Responded to a River Street woman who reported that she is being stalked by someone her husband had a previous relationship with.
- Investigated a complaint of loud backfire on vehicles, on Franklin St. Further patrols to be conducted in that area.
- At the request of Rutland County Community Health, conducted a welfare check on a client residing on Carver Street that had

commented earlier over the phone that she was thinking about committing self-harm. The responding officer made contact with the female subject and determined that she was okay and did not intend to harm herself.

- During speed enforcement on McConnell Road, stopped two operators for local speed limit violations. One operator was issued a ticket.

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license, for school employment and for school coaching.

- Conducted a routine property watch on Corona Street, where the business was found unsecured. The building was checked the door locked.

On April 9

- Assisted a citizen on Grove Street, whose property had been destroyed by pigs. More to follow.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity on Carver St. The residence was checked and found to be a cat causing the dogs to be alarmed.
- Responded to a report of

traffic hazard consisting of an oil drum and bike on Forest Dale Rd. Town highway department was notified for removal.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Grove Street and Franklin Street. One operator was stopped on Grove Street for speeding and was issued a warning.

- Received a 911 hang up from Deer Run Road. No response needed.

- Conducted a routine property watch at Cattails Restaurant on Grove Street. The business was secure.

- Conducted a foot patrol on Center Street.

- On April 10
- Responded to an agency assist for a medical call on Town Farm Road. Patient refused medical care.

- Made traffic stops on High Street/Marble Street and McConnell Road for speeding. Warnings were issued.

- Conducted routine business checks at Brandon Florist on Grove Street, and at Union Street Grocery; all were secure.



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Brandon

(Continued from Page 1)

David Atherton confirmed that he had checked with state and legal authorities that was the case, adding that it had at first “sounded too good to be true.”

The board approved such a motion unanimously.

That led to a discussion on which projects might use ARPA funding. Atherton made a strong case for applying much of the million toward a list of current infrastructure projects, totaling almost \$2 million, that were detailed in The Reporter two weeks ago. That list includes:

- \$400,000 to fix the Arnold District Box Culvert, of which \$200,000 comes from VTrans, and another \$200,000 seeks town or other funding;

- \$594,811 toward Union Street Sidewalk and curb replacement, of which \$300,000 is a grant from VTrans;

- \$120,000 for phase 1 of rebuilding Town Farm Road for the first 3/10ths of mile in front of the Neshobe Golf Course, of which 100% is town-funded;

- \$160,000 for a new salt shed, of which 100% is town-funded;

- \$292,000 to address the New England Woodcraft storm-water problems, of which 100% is funded by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources; and

- \$400,000 to replace the Newton Road Pump station, of which \$360,000 was already dedicated to ARPA funding, with \$40,000 not yet funded.

Of the total project costs above, total outside funding is \$1,152,000, leaving \$814,811 for the town to fund.

Atherton noted that the town was in good financial shape, in terms of long-term infrastructure projects to be completed, and that if these projects were paid for with ARPA money the town would be “ahead of the game going forward.”

“Let’s please use ARPA money for these projects because they are things we have to do, and it’s money for free... It’s like paying down your credit card so you don’t have to bor-

row money and pay interest on it,” Atherton said, “and these projects, on the whole, benefit everyone.”

But others had additional ideas.

Jim Emerson of the Brandon Energy Committee had spoken earlier to be on the next meeting’s agenda so the Energy Committee could propose projects to be financed with those same ARPA funds, adding that once-in-a-lifetime projects could be built that would generate recurring revenue for the town.

Town Recreation and Economic Development Director Bill Moore added that there were a few recreation projects, including a tennis court, that the town needed. Another suggestion was looking into fixing the roof at the Brandon Town Hall.

In the end, Board Chair Seth Hopkins, moved to take up the discussion more fully at the April 25 meeting, which would allow the board and others to gather more information and make more concrete proposals at that time.

“I think the smartest thing to do is to take a very comprehensive look at all the projects that we need to fund, and other options, and see what it looks like,” Hopkins said, adding then the board could start to allocate the ARPA money. Projects using ARPA money have to be designated by the end of 2024, and the money needs to be spent by the end of 2026.

POLICE CRUSIERS

The board also considered a proposal from Police Chief David Kachajian to buy another police cruiser. He said of the six vehicles the police department currently has, one of the 2009 Chargers is no longer working, and the crew is currently at six officers with two more officers currently in training at the police academy and due to join the department this late summer.

Kachajian said he had contacted several auto dealers, all of whom reported difficulty in getting new cars because of

tight supply and high demand, but that G. Stone Motors in Middlebury could guarantee a Ford Explorer cruiser by this coming August at a price of \$45,242, with a ‘ready for the road’ package. Two other bids from dealers further away (McGee Ford and MHQ, also a Ford dealer) were slightly lower (\$42,580 and \$43,082, respectively) but did not include “the lighting or ready for the road package,” items that would add a couple thousand dollars. Furthermore, Kachajian said, those dealers could not provide a vehicle until well into 2023.

After going over the bids, selectboard member Tim Guiles asked about the possibility of buying an electric patrol cruiser, which led to a lengthy discussion on those pros and cons.

At the end of the discussion, Atherton recommended the town’s Energy Committee review the pros and cons of purchasing an electric cruiser, find suitable bids and report back to the selectboard at its April 25 meeting.

OTHER ACTION

In other news, the selectboard:

- passed along praise of the town’s highway department for a job well done this past winter and in cleaning up the roads this spring. That praise came from former selectboard member Doug Bailey, who noted the crew had done “a great job” this winter and should be congratulated.

- went into an executive session and authorized Hopkins to write a letter to the town’s Trustees of Public Funds saying the selectboard found no conflict of interest would arise from the trustees considering a grant to the Brandon library for a project one of the trustees (who is recused) is involved with. In another action, the board postponed a regular review of town manager Dave Atherton to next meeting when selectman Tracy Wyman could also be present.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF PITTSFORD SELECT BOARD VACANCY

Pittsford Selectman Hank Pelkey has resigned his seat on Pittsford’s Select Board, effective April 6. Therefore, there is now a vacancy on the Select Board which the remaining Selectmen will attempt to fill by an appointment. Any appointed Selectman would have to stand for election to a full term in March of 2023.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please so state in a letter addressed to the Select Board, in care of the Town Manager, P.O. Box 10, Pittsford, VT 05763 OR via manager@pittsfordvermont.com. In your letter/email, please state the reasons for your interest, describe your ties to the community and outline any relevant work experience you may have. (A resume is welcome but is not required). Please also include a list of at least three (3) references.

There is a modest semi-annual stipend paid to each member of the Select Board. Any questions may be addressed to the Town Manager at (802) 483-6500 x20.

Deadline for Applications: May 4, 2022.

Thank you.

TOWN OF PITTSFORD NOTICE OF VACANCY ON SELECT BOARD April 6, 2022

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 961(a), the Selectboard of the Town of Pittsford, Vermont hereby gives notice of a vacancy created by resignation in the office of Select Board effective April 6, 2022.

The Selectboard, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 963, will make an appointment to fill this vacancy at its meeting on May 18, 2022. The person appointed will serve until a town election is had.

CITIZENS’ RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE: Titles 17 V.S.A. § 2643 and 24 V.S.A. § 963 grant citizens the right to petition for a vote to replace the Selectboard’s appointee at a special town meeting. If a special town meeting is called, the newly elected town officer will remain in office for the balance of the unexpired term. If a special town meeting is not called, the Selectboard’s appointee will remain in office until the next annual town meeting.

To exercise this right, citizens must present a petition calling for an election for this office signed by five percent of the legal voters of the Town to the Town Clerk prior to the next annual Town Meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION pertaining to this notice and its contents may be obtained by contacting the Town Manager at (802) 483-6500 x20 during normal office hours or via email at manager@pittsfordvermont.com.

Deadline for Applications: May 4, 2022.

Thank you.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2022.
Alicia Malay, Selectboard Chair

TOWN OF PITTSFORD WATER & SEWER COMMISSION VACANCY

Pittsford Water & Sewer Commissioner Hank Pelkey has resigned from Pittsford’s Water & Sewer Commission. Therefore, there is a vacancy on the Water & Sewer Commission which the Pittsford Select Board will attempt to fill by an appointment.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, please so state in a letter or email addressed to the Select Board, in care of the Town Manager, P.O. Box 10, Pittsford, VT 05763 OR via manager@pittsfordvermont.com. In your letter/email, please state the reasons for your interest, describe your ties to the community and outline any relevant work experience you may have. (A resume is welcome but is not required). The ideal candidate would be a customer of Pittsford water and/or sewer service, but this is not required. There is a modest semi-annual stipend paid to each member of the Water & Sewer Commission.

Please contact the Town Manager with any questions: (802) 483-6500 x20.

Deadline for Applications: May 6, 2022

Thank you.

Governor says he won’t veto

Toxic chemical bill to pass both House and Senate

BY EMMA COTTON, VtDigger
MONTPELIER — A bill that supports those who have been exposed to toxic chemicals has, for the third time, cleared both the Vermont House and Senate. This time, however, Gov. Phil

Scott is planning to sign it.

The bill, S.113, would give Vermonters who have been exposed to toxic chemicals an explicit right to sue chemical companies for medical monitoring expenses. A number of

Bennington residents who have been impacted by widespread PFAS contamination have long advocated for the bill’s passage.

Scott has vetoed two similar measures in the past, express-

ing concerns about potential impacts on the business community. But according to spokesperson Jason Maulucci, the governor does not intend to block the latest version. He said the bill has “come a long

way towards meeting the concerns the governor expressed with previous iterations, and it provides a good example of when the legislature chooses to work to find consensus instead of conflict.”

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If you have the passion, we will train.

Contact us at humanresources@sccvt.org or by phone at 802-388-6388.

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) and resume, **no later than Friday, April 15,**

to: John Haverstock
Pittsford Town Manager
P.O. Box 10, Pittsford, VT 05763
manager@pittsfordvermont.com
(802) 483-6500 x20

The Town of Pittsford is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Like all things vintage?



Mim's Photos

are on page 16!

OVUUSD

(Continued from Page 1)

budget are two seemingly conflicting points: first, the new budget proposal is up 7.8% over the previous year, yet the budget has a 5.5 cent decrease (4%) in the unified tax rate. That reduction in taxes actually brings the district tax rate back to pre-merger days six years ago.

Driving the budget increase is a new three-year master teachers' contract that raises the wage grid by about 7% the first year and 3% the next two years. That agreement will bring RNESU's teachers' pay up to about the middle of the pack among eight regional schools, whereas today the wages are next to the bottom among those schools and administrators reported difficulty retaining teachers. Contracted salary and benefit increases make up about 80% of the district budget.

Other factors driving increased cost are higher levels of inflation on fuel and other commodities and inflationary expenses in general.

Importantly, said Superintendent Jeanné Collins, no new programs were added to this year's budget from the current year.

Other cost drivers to the budget included: adding 11 pre-K tuitioning students and a couple of para-

educators between Neshobe Elementary, OVUHS and Otter Creek Academy were modified to yield slightly more coverage.

As for COVID-relief funds, the RNESU district received \$9.7 million "to support district-wide COVID response and recovery services from March 2020 to Sept. 30, 2024. That spending and programing is entirely funded by the federal government to negate the impact of hybrid and in-home schooling during the pandemic, and will be phased out once those funds are spent.

Interestingly, OVUU is one of the few rural districts in the state that has not seen declines in student enrollment. On the contrary, student population throughout the district has held steady and seen some growth. While that is good news in terms of state funding and a steady population growth among families, it's important to note, Collins said, "the increasing behavioral and social emotional needs of our students returning from two years

of COVID-impacted instruction." Part of that need has been addressed through the \$9.7 million in federal dollars, but the effects are widespread, she said.

DISTRICT UPSIDES

Collins and Board Chair Laurie Bertrand cited several strengths of the district as examples of programs that had strong community and school support, including: the Walking Stick Theater, quality athletic programs, SOAR after school programs, universal Pre Kindergarten, maker space program at OVUHS, local tech program on big equipment, Lifetime Activities program, 4-Winds Nature Program, college dual enrollment and more.

Bertrand said she hoped voters will turn out in higher numbers for the April 26 revote, and hoped they understood the board's primary objective.

"The message I want to send to voters is this: Our budget and our focus should be from a student outcome lens. We know that

kids are trying to recover from this pandemic and that they need more support, whether that be academic or social-emotional," she said. "We also need to support our teachers, staff and administrators as they have been on the front line.

"The Board wants to center its focus on student outcomes and provide kids with opportunities within a reasonable budget," she added.

"We believe that students should graduate ready to move onto the next phase of their life, whether that be college, entering the job market, or something else. We believe his budget does that."

An informational hearing open to the public will be held at the school on Monday, April 25, a day ahead of the April 26 vote.

"The Board wants to center its focus on student outcomes and provide kids with opportunities within a reasonable budget,"

—Laurie Bertrand

Nolan raises funds in Senate race

BY LOLA DUFFORT, VtDigger

Christina Nolan, a former U.S. attorney for Vermont running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican, has raised \$156,842 thus far in her campaign, a figure that leaves her well behind the candidate she is most likely to face in the general election.

After spending \$55,295, Nolan had \$101,546 in her campaign account as of March 31, according to a filing submitted this week to the Federal Election Commission. Nolan is the first Senate or congressional candidate to have submitted filings so far this quarter.

Nolan was taking donations

as early as Jan. 11, so the FEC reports reflect a little under three months of fundraising. It is not yet known how much U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., raised in that same period, but the figure he raised in the first six weeks of his campaign far outstrips Nolan's total to date.

Welch, the front-runner in the Democratic Senate primary, had nearly \$2.5 million in the bank at the close of 2021. He raised about \$550,000 between announcing his candidacy on Nov. 22 and the end of the quarter on Dec. 31. At the time, he also transferred over a \$2.1 million war chest from his House campaign account.

Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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