

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

A community supported newspaper

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Wednesday, March 22, 2023

\$1

## END-OF-LIFE DOULA

Becki Lund is an end-of-life doula. Find out what that means and how she may be of help to your family.

PG. 6

## DIABETES PREVENTION

Rutland Regional Medical Center is holding a free yearlong diabetes-prevention course in Brandon.

PG. 14



## ROCK 'N' ROLL

Local bands Bodenbender and End User will crank it up at Town Hall on Saturday.

PG. 12



PG. 10

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Rep. Butch Shaw reports from Montpelier.

PG. 7



## TIME MACHINE

People once made clothing out of spun glass.

PG. 11



## OVUU debates free speech in wake of Christian Academy sanctions

BY GEORGE FJELD

Brandon - The annual Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) organizational meeting was not without controversy. The recent Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) suspension of Mid-Vermont Christian Academy over the forfeiture of a basketball game in which a transgender girl was to participate for Champlain Valley Union (CVU) was discussed. Issues of free speech and OVUU potentially withdrawing from the VPA were debated.

Kristen Hubert called the organizational meeting of the OVUU School District to order at 6:00 pm on March 15th. Kevin Thornton asked to add an item to the agenda which was delayed until the appropriate time. Phil Gore PhD. from the Vermont School Boards association then gave a 45-minute presentation over Zoom regarding foundations of good governance.

Reorganization then commenced with Laurie Bertrand reelected chair, Derek Larson, vice chair, and Barbara Ebling, secretary.

The board then appointed Bertrand, Ebling and Rebecca Watters to the RNESU board, and Thorton to be OVUU's representative to the Stafford Technical Center board. The consent agenda was approved, except for signing off of orders and meeting date and time. Bertrand reviewed the procedure for signing off of orders and it was approved. The meeting date and time were changed to the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm at the request of the superintendent who was not available on Wednesdays going forward.

Introductions were then entertained, with each member giving some personal reasons for being on the board as well as (See OVUU, Page 9)



## Prowling around town

A BOBCAT IS caught on a critter cam as it slinks through the snow in Brandon. These beautiful creatures lead generally solitary lives, patrolling a clearly defined territory in search of the rodents and birds they survive on. Photos by Zach Hoffman

## Brandon resident awarded 2nd Fulbright

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON — Monica McEnery has spent much of her career teaching teachers. As an Associate Professor of Education at Castleton University, she has helped train aspiring educators in Vermont for years. And now she's going to help train the educators of Kazakhstan, as she's about to embark on her second stint as a Fulbright Specialist in the Central Asian country of 19 million people.

The Fulbright Specialist Program is run by the U.S. Department of State and allows American educators to engage in

short-term projects at foreign educational institutions across



MONICA MCENERNY POSSES in a fur hat typical of Kazakhstan.

the globe. Ms. McEnery will be working at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, teaching classes on ethical perspectives on equity and designing curricula for middle-school students. She also helped them during COVID with best practices regarding educational technology.

"They're struggling with the same social and emotional pandemic issues we are," said McEnery at her home in Brandon, where she and her husband, Harry, have lived since 2016. "The impact of the social isolation on kids was very (See Monica McEnery, Page 3)





ONE OF VERMONT'S premiere Irish bands, Extra Stout, performs at the Brandon Inn for St. Patrick's Day.

Photo by George Fjeld

# Brandon celebrates St. Patrick's Day in style

BY GEORGE FJELD

BRANDON—Lots of folks turned out for St. Patty's Day celebrations across town. The Brandon Inn hosted their second event with Vermont's premier Irish band, Extra Stout. Consisting of Mary Barron, Sandy Duling, and Marcos Levy, they are a traditional Irish band that has been playing together for upwards of 25 years. They brought all of the

variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads of home and county; from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs, and polkas. After a much enjoyed dinner, guests enjoyed the traditional music.

Owner Joel McClaren said "We had a great party last year and here's another one!" Dinner included corned beef and cabbage as well as macaroni

and cheese and more. "Dinner was very good" exclaimed local Bonnie Robinson. She and her husband Doug enjoyed the dinner and music with their long-time friends Ken and Sandy Gagnon from Pittsford.

The Long Iron Restaurant at Neshobe Golf

Club served up some delicious Irish food! Chef Connie Bissette served up Irish Stew and corned beef with all the fixings to an appreciative crowd.

Dancing was on the docket as the Dunmore Hose company hosted their annual fundraiser at the American Legion. The Aaron Audet Band played popular covers and very danceable



THE DUNMORE HOSE Company sponsored a St. Patty's Day celebration at the American Legion in Brandon.

Photo by George Fjeld



GUESTS AT THE Brandon Inn enjoyed corned beef and cabbage, among other traditional St. Patty's Day dishes.

Photo by George Fjeld

tunes from 8pm to midnight. Folks from all decades of life were present to enjoy the great music.

Brandon Fire Department chief Tom Kilpeck was on hand along with many of the members of the Dunmore Hose Company. He stated "there is a real need for an increase in the number of volunteer firemen, not only in Brandon but across

the country." He is planning an event this spring to recruit new members.





# Pittsford Sb debate Act 250 plans

BY WILL ROSS

PITTSFORD—The Pittsford Select Board gathered last Wednesday to reorganize and discuss town business. The meeting opened with a vote to determine which members would fill the roles of chair and vice chair for the board. It was decided that Alicia Malay will continue as chair of the board and David Mills will continue as vice chair.

Town Manager David Atherton delivered an informative town manager's report. Atherton is hoping to submit a Class 2 highway-structures grant to replace a culvert at the intersection of Oxbow and Ager Road. The police department has submitted a survey to see if the town will be eligible to apply for a grant through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant program. The program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Additionally, the current sander needs to be replaced, and the new one will cost the town \$5,000.

There is some good news regarding the town's property values: the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for the town of Pittsford has been recalculated to 84% as opposed to the previous 77%. This means that the town's assessed property values are much more in line with current market values than previously thought. This is a substantial change and has beneficial implications for lower-

ing the education tax rate.

The main discussion of the evening was led by Rick Conway. Conway brought the board up to speed on the Act 250 plans regarding the intersection adjacent to the Mobile station. There are plans to restructure the intersection, remove the southbound slip lane onto Route 3, and add an additional lane to the roadway. Some residents have raised concerns about this project and feel that this restructuring will make the intersection less safe.

"It is really unfortunate that our representative, Butch Shaw, does not support the Planning Commission, Selectboard, Fire Department, and 400-plus signatures that don't support this project," said Conway. "I don't see how the whole process of Act 250 was properly administered because it is supposed to be open for public opinion, and in my opinion, that did not occur."

The deadline to file an appeal for this decision is April 4, so it was decided that Selectboard members would attend the Planning Commission meeting on March 23 to gain further insights before moving forward with a decision later in the week.

#### OTHER NEWS:

- Judi Tompkins was appointed to the Maclure Library Board of Trustees.
- The annual finance plan was approved.
- VTRANS road and bridge standards were adopted.



SUPPORTERS OF THE Brandon Free Public Library gathered at Town Hall on Saturday to celebrate the library's fundraising successes and mark the beginning of the public fundraising campaign.

Photo by George Fjeld

## Brandon Library announces start to public fundraising campaign

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—The Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) celebrated the next phase in its fundraising efforts at Brandon Town Hall last Saturday. Dozens of people came to hear about BFPL's efforts to date, to see the renovation plans, and to enjoy music, food, and drink.

BFPL Board President David Roberts addressed the gathering to announce that, to date, the library has raised \$1.83 million of the \$2.3 million it needs for the renovation of the historic li-

brary building in downtown Brandon. The amount raised so far represents donations from 78 individuals and families in the first round of fundraising. The library will now begin a more public appeal for funds to close the gap.

"Our amazing Campaign Committee has been working behind the scenes for nearly two years, garnering private support for our Great Renovation," said Roberts. "We have more work to do, and that's where we hope the community will come together to help us get the rest

of the way there."

In addition to private donations, the library will continue to seek federal and state grants.

BFPL Director Molly Kennedy took the podium next and explained in more detail the specific changes that will be made to the physical space of the library. She also discussed the library's temporary accommodations in the Selectboard room at the Town Hall, where they will set up their operations during the renovation. Special thanks were given to New England Woodcraft, who manufactured wooden book bins especially for this transition.

Music was provided by Shane Kennedy. Food and beverages were provided by Mae's, Red Clover, and High Rows Vineyards.

*"We have more work to do, and that's where we hope the community will come together to help us get the rest of the way there."*

—David Roberts

## Monica McEnery

(Continued from Page 1)  
similar."

McEnery first went to Kazakhstan as a Fulbright Specialist in 2016, to teach educational technology and applied linguistics. She reapplied in 2019 but was unable to return because of the pandemic. The Fulbright program allowed recipients of awards to postpone their trips, but the extension is set to expire in September of this year. McEnery will conduct several weeks of online classes from the U.S. and then spend June 15 – 30 in Kazakhstan.

"Castleton has been very accommodating. I'm going to take a sabbatical and write some articles about my experi-

ences in Kazakhstan that I hope to present at the Fulbright conference in Denver," McEnery said.

McEnery became involved with Kazakhstan through her brother, who is raising a family there with his Russian-born wife. Though, KIMEP is primarily an English-speaking university, McEnery does speak some

Russian as a result of time spent living in Russia as a child: her father was a diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service. In fact, they were stationed in Prague during the Russian Invasion of 1968 and her father was given an award for his service during the conflict. When asked about similarities between the U.S. and Kazakhstan, McEnery said, "We're more alike than different. We all put our families first. We all have a lot of the same challenges." "Most of the information they get is more from a Russian perspective than a Western one. They don't seem to realize how big and diverse the U.S. actually is. They seem to think of it as a very privileged place." A former Soviet Republic, Kazakhstan is the world's ninth-largest country by area but has a population of only 19 million. It stretches from the Caspian Sea in the west almost to Mongolia in the east. In many ways, both literal and figurative, it bridges Europe and Asia.

—Monica McEnery

*Almaty, where KIMEP University is located, is a cosmopolitan city of two million people. "It sort of has a New York feel, the people are very sophisticated. They prove that a lot of our assumptions about that part of the world are wrong."*

"The food is really spicy," McEnery added. "Very peppery but delicious. Their version of borscht (beet soup) is amazing."

Almaty, where KIMEP University is located, is a cosmopolitan city of two million people. "It sort of has a New York feel," said McEnery. "The people are very sophisticated. They prove that a lot of our assumptions about that part of the world are wrong."

And the whole point of the Fulbright programs is to build the international connections that allow us to correct our false impressions. Congratulations, Monica!



## BRANDON REPORTER

## Guest Editorial

## Coalition strongly opposes legislative proposal for 'Threat Assessments' of Vermont Students

Montpelier, VT—The Vermont Police Out of Schools Coalition is raising alarm over a Scott administration proposal now in the Senate Education Committee that would mandate “behavioral threat assessment teams” in all Vermont schools, and would explicitly require the inclusion of police officials on those teams. If passed into law, “threat assessments” could be conducted on Vermont students of any age with no due process or privacy protections, or other guidelines, despite many known problems with such assessments.

**Mia Schultz, Statewide Education Justice Organizer, Rights and Democracy** : “We all want safe schools, and we have policies and procedures in place to ensure our kids are safe. We can be so much smarter about advancing our shared goal of school safety—not by treating our kids as threats, but by supporting investments in Vermont schools and communities. That must include investing resources to address a mental health crisis that has worsened in recent years, rather than trying to import ‘tough on crime’ strategies into our schools.”

Vermont already has a long and well-documented history of disproportionately suspending and disciplining students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities, and

has done little to address widespread and well-documented bullying and harassment of students from those groups. Advocates are concerned that this initiative would represent a major step backwards on Vermont’s stated commitment to advancing equity and inclusion and combating systemic racism.

**Amanda Lucía Garcés, Director of Policy, Education, and Outreach, Vermont Human Rights Commission**: “Given how problematic ‘threat assessment teams’ are known to be, the legislature should prohibit them and focus its attention on existing frameworks for supporting students, teachers, and schools with the resources and programs they need to thrive. The Scott administration should recognize that Vermont communities want to invest in their kids and their schools, we don’t want to criminalize them or compound the challenges they are already facing.”

Proposals for “behavioral threat assessment teams” are being advanced by the Agency of Education and the Department of Public Safety’s School Safety Center. Those agencies commissioned and submitted to the Senate Education Committee “A Guide for Assessing & Managing Threats and Other Troubling Behavior that Impact (See ‘Threat Assessments’ Page 5)

**Bird feeders beware**

**THIS RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH is the smaller cousin to the white-breasted nuthatch and prefers conifers for its habitat. They are avid bird feeder visitors!**

Photo by Sue Wetmore

## Community Forums

# Bears are becoming active, Vermonters need to take steps to prevent conflicts

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has begun to receive reports of bears coming out of their dens as the weather warms.

Bear incidents have been on the rise over the past several years. 2022 saw high numbers of bear homes break-ins, and two bear attacks. Officials believe this trend is a result of Vermont’s healthy black bear population learning to associate people and food over multiple generations.

“Preventing bears from having access to human-related foods is key to successful coexistence with these long-lived and intelligent animals,” said Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s bear biologist.

The department asks Vermonters to take the following proactive steps for coexisting with bears:

- Take down birdfeeders between late March and December
- Store garbage in bear-proof containers or structures—trash cans alone are not enough
- Follow the steps on our web page for composting in bear country
- Use electric fences to keep chickens and honeybees safe
- Request a bear-proof dumpster from your waste hauler
- Feed your pets indoors
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally

“Now is the time for Vermonters to take down our birdfeeders, make sure our garbage is secure, and protect our backyard chickens and bees with an electric fence,” said Comeau. “This will help teach bears that our yards and neighborhoods are not good places to search for food—but it will only work if everyone does

their part.”

Vermont Fish and Wildlife also asks Vermonters to submit reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting birdfeeders and garbage, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds. Reports can be submitted on the department’s Living with Black Bears web page. The data help biologists keep track of bear incidents and provide early interventions to head off conflicts.

“At the end of the day, purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear,” said Comeau. “It is also dangerous for you, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it is illegal. If bears are finding food on your property, it is your responsibility to remove that attractant and report a problem before the situation escalates.”

## The REPORTER

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Current board members are Steven Jupiter, president; Dr. George Fjeld, treasurer; Barbara Ebling, secretary. Graphic design by Sepi Alavi

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# 'Threat Assessments'

(Continued from Page 4)  
 the Safety of K-12 Schools,” by “SIGMA, an Ontic Company.” That document specifies that threat assessment teams “typically include” an armed school police officer who may assist with “critical data collection, particularly social media,” “conducting interviews of subjects, targets, witnesses, teachers, staff, parents, and students,” and “independent criminal investigations, as needed and appropriate,” among other responsibilities. The Executive Director of Threat Management at Ontic, Dr. Marisa Randazzo, spent a decade with the U.S. Secret Service as their chief research psychologist.

The many problems associated with armed police in school settings—including the impact on marginalized and vulnerable students, which have also been well-documented—are not included in the guide.

**Indi Schoenherr, Policy Advocate, ACLU of Vermont:** “Just a few years ago, state leaders committed to advancing equity and combating systemic racism in our state. Given all that we know about continuing racial injustices in

our schools and in Vermont as a whole, and how little we have done to remedy them, this proposal—which would compound those injustices and harm marginalized students further—is both troubling and deeply disappointing.”

In testimony before the Senate Education Committee, Rachel Seelig, Director of the Disability Law Project at Vermont Legal Aid, cited research showing problems with “behavioral threat assessment teams,” including lack of clarity on best practices and insufficient training, resulting in due process violations and disparities based on race, special education classification, and mental illness. “Threat assessments” of children are known to have other negative consequences, including ostracization from community, school anxiety and feelings of isolation and rejection – all of which can further compound the mental health strains many students are already experiencing. Seelig noted that Board of Education Rules already allow removal of students who pose an immediate threat, though these rules are not applied con-

sistently.


**Rachel Seelig, Director of the Disability Law Project, Vermont Legal Aid:** “Our kids aren’t ‘threats’ to be assessed. They are children who need to be supported. This proposal would impose a law enforcement outlook on Vermont schools and treat certain students as threatening, rather than an integral part of the school community who need protection and support. Such an approach adds nothing to existing safety measures already in place, and is all but certain to harm our most vulnerable and historically marginalized children. We hope legislators will reject this misguided proposal and support our kids, families, and communities with the investments they need to thrive.”

*The Vermont Police Out of Schools Coalition includes Vermont Legal Aid, Vermont Human Rights Commission, Outright Vermont, Neighbors for a Safer St. Albans, Rights and Democracy, Youth 4 Change, The Root Social Justice Center, ACLU of Vermont, Rutland County NAACP, and The Education Justice Coalition of Vermont.*

**90th Birthday!!**

Lois Fjeld Torrey would love to hear from her Brandon friends on this impressive milestone coming up  
**March 30th.**

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 See page 17

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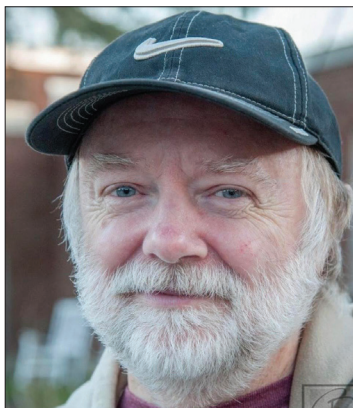
# Obituaries

## Ronald C. Lewis, 72, Brandon

RUTLAND—Ron Lewis, age 72, died March 7, 2023, at UVM Medical Center, with his wife and daughter lovingly supporting him as he peacefully moved on to another dimension. Ron was a native Californian, the only child of Earl and Lyn Lewis. He grew up in Walnut Creek, where he graduated from Ygnacio Valley High School and later attended several California State Universities, graduating from CSU-East Bay with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting and a minor in English from CSU-San Francisco. He met his wife Sally Short in San Francisco in October 1972, and they were married on June 8, 1974. Ron and Sally moved from California to Brandon, Vermont in 1979 to a new life in their adopted state. In 1982, they welcomed a daughter, Elizabeth, to their love and lives and both agreed it was their best work together ever.

Ron's career as a senior accountant and business manager spanned many years and a number of businesses, including Vermont Law School, Dubois and King, A Johnson Lumber, Mid Vermont Trucking, VELCO, Frog Hollow Craft Center, Boys and Girls Club, Garden Center Inc, and more.

Beyond his working life, Ron embraced many interests. These pursuits included founding and participating in the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club and the New England Panther Research Alliance. He was an avid Bigfoot



**RONALD C. LEWIS**

researcher and first-hand believer. He coached his daughter's AAU basketball team (Mountain Valley AAU, go Cheetahs). Ron collected and locally displayed thousands of antique valentines. He was a Master Gardener who took great pride in sharing plants from his home gardens. His lifelong fascination with the skies and beyond led to his association with the Green Mountain Alliance of Amateur Astronomers, Stellafane, Vermont Astronomical Society, and becoming an owner of many telescopes including his pride and joy, the Obsession. His biggest passion, however, was his love of poetry: reading, collecting, and most of all writing. He participated in the Otter Creek Poetry Workshop, the Poetry Society of Vermont, and was on a small panel responsible for selecting several of Vermont's poet laureates. He was very proud of his large library of poetry books and read from them daily. Rounding out his interests

were gold panning, watercolor painting, needle felting, jewelry making, and especially spending time with his grandsons.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Short, his daughter, Elizabeth Lewis, his son-in-law, Christopher Pepe, and his two adored grandsons, Forest and Samuel Pepe. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandniece and grand-nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and grand-nephew. He was a loving husband, devoted father, doting grandfather "Bev" and caring friend to many. He had many health issues that wore away at him over the years, but he held onto an attitude that life was worth living regardless, and there was always another adventure or learning experience to follow.

He will be forever missed by his family, friends, and the many people whose lives he touched. He will always be remembered as a man with a huge sense of humor, an insatiable need for knowledge, a collector and keeper of so much, and playmate and mischief-maker that made him the favorite with all kids, especially Forest and Sam. Remember him in your daily comings and goings as the Renaissance man.

A celebration of life will be held at a date to be determined in the future. Arrangements are by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## Rolland James Euber, Sr., 76, Brandon

RUTLAND—Rolland James Euber, Sr, age 76, passed away Monday, March 13, 2023, at Mountain View Center, with his family by his side.

Ron was born in Middlebury on July 18, 1946. He was the son of Alburton and Belle (Green) Euber. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his education. He was a veteran of the United States Army, having served a tour of duty in Viet Nam. Ron was a jack of all trades, but especially of butchering cattle and pigs for locals. He had worked at Stone's Turkey Farm in Orwell. He enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Surviving are 3 sons: Ron Euber, Jr of Brandon, Roni Ballard of Argyle, NY, and Shawn Euber of Starksboro; 2 daughters: Brandie Fletcher of Rutland Town, and Tammy Cram of North Carolina; 2 brothers: Alburton "Lucky" Euber of Crown Pointe, NY, and Timothy Euber of Rutland; 2 sisters: Monica McQueen of Brandon and Frances Lambert of Georgia. Also surviving are 9 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, & cousins. He



**ROLLAND J. EUBER, SR.**

was predeceased by his parents, 3 brothers (Warren Euber, David Euber, and Roger Euber) and 2 sisters (Lisa Genovesi, and Linda Cushman).

The graveside committal service and burial will take place, at a later date, in the family lot in Forest Dale Cemetery.

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](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com).

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

## A conversation with Becki Lund, end-of-life doula

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—"Doctors don't like to talk about death," said Becki Lund. "They do everything in their power to keep it from happening. But sometimes it can't be avoided and we need to be honest about that. Death is coming whether we talk about it or not."

It's a typically frank assessment from someone who doesn't mind broaching a topic most people spend their lives avoiding. Lund is an "end-of-life doula," offering to people in their final days, weeks, months, or even years, the kind of emotional and physical support that traditional doulas offer to expectant mothers and their partners during

childbirth. She's there to help ensure that the moment happens with as little stress as possible for all involved.

"When families don't plan, the last days can be extremely chaotic," she said. "No one knows what to do or who's supposed to do it. Families often end up arguing how to prolong a life that wants to end when those moments should really be spent helping their loved one transition. My job is to help keep things calm and organized."

Part of that job is making sure that the wishes of the dying party are known and respected.

"Where do they want to be? At home? In hospice? Who do they want to have

with them? Who do they specifically not want there? Hopefully these questions have already been answered before the last days when emotions can start running high and people often make decisions for their own comfort rather than the one who's dying."

Lund works with the dying and their families to sort out the where and how, even if the when is still murky or seemingly distant.

"I have clients who aren't sick but just want to know that all those issues are settled," she said. Lund helps clients with their advance directives—the set of documents that specify what kind of life-sustaining medical treatments one is or is

not willing to accept. The documents can be tricky and require supervision by a healthcare provider, but they're important. (See our accompanying article on advance directives by Dr. George Fjeld in this issue.)

"People don't die like they do in the movies," Lund states emphatically. "What we see in movies is a fantasy."

Anyone who has been through the experience with a loved one knows that when the final moments come, there's a strong impulse to try to keep it at bay. Lund cautions that we need to take our cues from the ones (See Becki Lund, Page 23)



**BECKI LUND, AN end-of-life doula, helps her clients avoid stressful, chaotic deathbed scenarios.**  
Photo by Steven Jupiter





## Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

### Back to work after the Town Meeting break

Returning to Montpelier after the Town Meeting break finds legislators gearing up for the “all hands on deck” portion of the legislative session. The pace of the action on the House floor has been very leisurely up to this point. Most of the action taken has been to make—with a few exceptions—corrections and additions to current state law. Now that “crossover” has passed for policy bills, the House and Senate action calendars are packed with bills to be acted on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The House is scheduled to debate 22 separate pieces of legislation while the Senate is scheduled to ponder 26 proposals. Going forward into the next week, the schedule will remain the same, resulting in marathon floor sessions.

The next legislative deadline is Friday, March 24, which is the crossover deadline for the “money bills,” which includes The Capital Bill, The Miscellaneous Tax Bill, The Transportation Bill, and finally The General Fund Budget Bill. It is interesting to note that only the House is subject to this crossover date, as the Constitution of the State of Vermont, in Chapter 2, Section 6, prescribes that “all revenue bills shall originate in the House of Rep-

resentatives.” However, when a revenue bill is passed to the Senate, the “Senate may propose or concur with amendments” to the bill. It is interesting to note this provision in the Constitution was added in 1836 and made necessary because the Senate was not part of the original 1793 Constitution. The House of Representatives created the Senate in the 1836 amendments to The Vermont Constitution. It’s always fun when the House members say to the Senators, “we created you, we can disband you!”

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation, I’ve spent much of my time since January 23 on the development of the FY24 Vermont Transportation Program. This year’s request from the Scott Administration included hundreds of pages of projects and programs supported by a request to spend \$885 million on transportation-related functions of your state government. The committee combed through every request to understand where these funds were being spent. We listened to hours of testimony from over 85 witnesses including Vermont Agency of Transportation Representatives, members of the public, transportation advo-

cates, and legislators. Some of the programs include \$141 million in statewide paving, \$50 million in statewide bridge construction and repairs, \$45 million to operate the Department of Motor Vehicles, \$95 million to support our town highway systems in the form of grants, class 2 and 3 highway support programs, and various municipal assistance programs to construct or repair town bridges and culverts. We approved \$103 million to support Vermont’s public-transit programs including aviation, rail, and local public transit agencies.

Of special note, the committee has directed the administration to develop and start collecting a mileage-based user fee from all battery-electric vehicles registered in Vermont. The enabling language in the bill directs the Agency of Transportation to develop the plan and what the plan should include and the “how to” implement the plan. The Agency will report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on January 31, 2024 with recommendations for implementing the plan on July 1, 2025. The committee will review the plan and present it to The General Assembly (See Legislative report, Page 23)

## End of Life decision making is best done early

BY GEORGE FJELD, M.D.

Are you concerned about what happens to you medically if you can’t think, speak or communicate? Have you had to make decisions about healthcare for a friend or loved one when they can’t answer for themselves? These two scenarios are unfortunately common and very difficult personally and emotionally. Most of us don’t live our daily lives thinking about catastrophic events like strokes, heart attacks, and life-threatening accidents; we avoid them. When these events do happen, it is a great relief to have prepared a statement of your intentions for medical decisions. Being on either side of this situation, whether it’s you lying in a hospital bed unable to speak/hear or you standing at the bedside concerned about your loved one, decision making is very difficult. Life and death, quality of life, concerns about personal care (unable to perform personal hygiene), and the need for long term nursing care all come up in these conversations. Knowing the intentions of the person unable to communicate helps decision making tremendously.

Fortunately, there is a law providing the ability to create and register an Advance Directive, also known as a living will. This document can be completed in writing or online, without legal assistance. There is a guide with the document available. Completing it will enable you to designate a healthcare agent and substitute. These are the people with whom your healthcare team

will discuss your situation. It is important to talk with your agent about your wishes so they have a clear idea about what you would like in a critical situation. These are emotional discussions and should be approached with a lot of care. Be sure your agent understands your wishes and is willing to carry them out.

Some people, depending on health or life expectancy, ask their healthcare provider to fill out a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) or Clinician Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (COLST). These documents can allow withholding of CPR or other emergency care by first responders or rescue personnel when the individual and their provider have decided it will not benefit the individual. People with these orders in place can wear a necklace or bracelet declaring their wishes. These directives require in-depth discussion with your healthcare provider.

Anyone may complete an Advance Directive. Marion Bouchard, M.D. from Bristol, VT once told me “The only people who need an Advance Directive are those who don’t have them.” While this isn’t completely true, having one is the best way to ensure your wishes are carried out. The State of Vermont has a website where the Advance Directive can be registered so that it is available at every hospital in the state. Copies should be shared with family and caregivers. Please consult with your healthcare provider for more information.

## Still Not Vaccinated? Need a Booster?

COVID-19 vaccine clinics available throughout Addison County through March 31st.

Please call  
**Mountain Community Health**  
(formerly Mountain Health Center)  
for more information at  
**(802) 453-3911.**

MCH will be offering Pfizer Bivalent Boosters for all ages 5+.

Boosters are **FREE**  
**NO INSURANCE REQUIRED.**

**\*\* Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations available this Saturday March 25 from 9AM-12 Noon at Mountain Community Health, 61 Pine St., Bristol.**



 **Mountain Community Health**



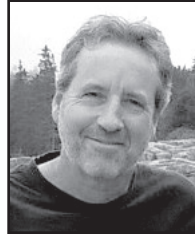
## Local students receive recognition at college

The following local students have been recognized for their academic achievement at college in Fall 2022:

**Michael Berdard** of Brandon was named to the Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington.  
**Livia Bernhardt** of Salisbury was named to the Dean's List at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.  
**Keith Carrera** of Brandon was named to the Dean's

List at Vermont Tech in Randolph.  
**Isabella Falco** of Florence was named to the Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington.  
**Rylee Tiraboschi** of West Rutland was named to the Dean's List at Vermont Tech in Randolph.

*Congratulations on your well-earned recognition!*



## Hard Tellin'

BY DAVE PRAAMSMA

### In Defense of Sentimentalism

I recently saw a movie called "A Man Called Otto." It was a shamelessly sentimental film with a predictable storyline, and it reduced me to a blubbing baby.

Years ago, as an undergrad studying literature, it was exactly this type of sentimental storytelling that was a high crime. Any obvious and unsophisticated attempt at yanking on audience's heartstrings was decidedly low-brow stuff. Weepy. Sappy. Gushy. Mushy. Corny. Schmaltzy. It was all porridgy prose for the toothless masses. And yet...

If we're honest, "sentimentalism" may be as much a problem with readers as with storytellers. Even the most stoic of us falls for that subtle invitation to get sappy, which may explain why we respond the way we do after getting emotionally ambushed. If we get conned into an emotion or two, at least we can hurl the accusation and hold our heads high. That puppy reunion scene that reduced us to unsightly mush? Sentimentalism! We were emotionally hijacked!

If there is a population especially at risk, it's got to be us empty-nesters in our 50's. Sure, we soldiered through our 30s and 40s, shoulders squared, stiff upper lip. And then it hits us: Nostalgia Sentimentalism. That

*I don't think my Otto film took any Oscars at the Academy Awards this past week. But if you can look past its sentimentalism, you might also notice that it's about one man rediscovering his humanity.*

melancholic whispering in our ears of years gone by. The kids are gone, the house is quiet, and then you find your spouse standing in that empty bedroom getting leaky over a lanyard you've found under the bed.

I heard tell of one family who was having a rather uneventful family camp reunion until the band rolled out a few 1980s songs. When they got to "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey, the otherwise stoic father grabbed the microphone and melted into a mushy mess of reminiscence. His deeply concerned children later asked the camp director to please avoid such music in the future.

Of course, triggers are everywhere: sights, smells, sounds... cheesy Bon Jovi songs from high school proms-gone-by. I was reminded of this recently on a trip with my wife to Mexico. We trekked into an historic little hill

town famous for its charming cobblestone roads and winding passageways. The two of us were having a completely sober emotional experience until we realized the place was overrun with classic old Volkswagen Beetles! It was the taxicab of choice. It also happened to be the memory-filled car of our dating years. All of it was just an interesting novelty until from a rooftop restaurant the sun started to set and a chorus of purring Volkswagen Beetles wafted up to our ears.

If I could be allowed at least one moderately emotional appeal, sentimentalism seems to have fallen on hard times. Sure, we might allow for a tear or two in a darkened theatre. Anything public beyond this is nothing short of poor emotional self-regulation. Emotional incontinence really. "An ostentatious parading of excessive and spurious emotion" according to one anti-sentimentalist.

And then of course there's that familiar bit of criticism from playwright Oscar Wilde: "Sentimentalism is nothing more than the luxury of having an emotion without having to pay for it." The big-hearted among us, apparently, are nothing more than emotional free-riders. Vicarious arm-chair emotionalists!

As a storyteller and card-carrying sentimentalist, I find it hard not to get a little melancholy.

"The world is made up of stories, not atoms!" I have quoted more than once to my stoic New England neighbors. (In the unseen and ancient battle between the rationalists and the sentimentalists, the sentimentalists are ahead I must say.)

I don't think my Otto film took any Oscars at the Academy Awards this past week. But if you can look past its sentimentalism, you might also notice that it's about one man rediscovering his humanity. Sure, it was little schmaltzy, but it was a good schmaltzy.

I realize it is customary at this point to insert "spoiler alert" here, but I'm sure you could see it coming anyway: emotionally crusty man, through the power of people, finds a way to enlarge his Grinchy heart.

It may be a cliché we've all heard before, but told the right way I think we could hear it again. In fact, maybe we should.

Call 247-8080 for details.

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## OVUU

(Continued from Page 1)  
their favorite movie and Zodiac sign. It served as a good general introduction around the board room.

Annual reading of the policies regarding school board membership was undertaken. These responsibilities include not acting for the board as an individual and restraining from investigating and/or acting on perceived difficulties with employees.

The board appointed Jeremy Gildrien as the Leicester representative to fill an empty slot.

The first reading of a policy change regarding elementary-school intradistrict transfer was completed. The fundamental changes include a rolling opportunity to request a change from the present policy of once a year. This means that a parent can request a change anytime during the year instead of only on March 1st. There will be a new application process requiring a legitimate reason for the requested change. Hubert reviewed the process and questions were answered. Hubert said that class sizes are getting lopsided and parents may request a change without ever visiting their home school. Greg Bernhardt spoke in opposition to the change as it goes against policies set up when OVUU was formed. Specifically, parents could request change without any reason. He felt it was going against promises made to the community in 2016. He is the only remaining board member from that time. A second reading will occur in April.

#### FROM THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES:

Kevin Thornton stated the current high-school system is failing and there needs to be a swing more toward a system that encourages students who will not attend college through programs like the CTE and Moosalamoo. Mr. Thornton noted that crises are created in instances like what happened with the Vermont Principals' Association expelling Mid-Ver-

mont Christian School, which forfeited a game against Long Trail School due to a transgender athlete participating on the opposing team.

A motion was made by Kevin Thornton and seconded by Erik Pearsons for the Otter Valley Union Middle and High School to withdraw from the Vermont Principals' Association until such time as the VPA recognizes the right to free speech and the value of dissent in a democratic society.

Mr. Thornton read the following prepared statement:

"I want to be clear about the issue here. It's not whether a trans student should have the opportunity to play girls' basketball. It's whether anyone can be allowed to object to a trans student playing a girl's sport, or indeed argue that trans women have unfair physical advantage in women's sports. All Vermont Christian did was forfeit a game. The CVU girls' basketball team won two games by forfeit this year when Mt. Mansfield and Essex, respectively, refused to play CVU over a matter of principle. Neither Mt. Mansfield nor Essex were punished by the VPA for their forfeits.

The VPA is taking the position that Mid-Vermont Christian's action was so hateful and repugnant, so far outside the bounds of acceptable discussion, that Mid-Vermont must be banned and shunned, in all sports and activities, presumably forever. This is a patently dishonest stance on the VPA's part. Whether trans athletes should be allowed to participate in women's sports is a heated topic in multiple sporting organizations nationally and internationally. The two most famous trans athletes in the world, Caitlyn Jenner and Renee Richards, have both concluded that athletes who have gone through male puberty have unfair advantages when competing against women. Multiple millions of people agree with them. To take the position that this topic can no longer even be discussed

is to attempt to silence and intimidate millions of reasonable, fair-minded people. Put simply, it's an attempt to punish and censor people for their ideas. That's why it's imperative that this board stand against the VPA and for free speech.

We have to ask, too, what's next? Can we expect Rice and Mount St. Joseph to be expelled from the VPA for teaching Catholic doctrine about sexuality in their religion classes? More importantly for us, will we be expected to suspend or otherwise punish any individual students

who may refuse to take the field against a trans opponent or who express an opinion such as 'men should not be allowed to play women's sports?' The recent incident in Randolph where a student was suspended for saying just that, suggests that we should fear the worst for the future of free expression of our own Supervisory Union. The VPA's harsh punishment of Mid-Vermont Christian confirms it.

The fashionable current notion of 'tolerance through coercion' is a curse. We are witnessing the construction of a cultural infrastructure of censorship characterized by a totalitarian urge to punish and silence opposition. Blinded by self-righteous exultation, the VPA has willingly joined the purge of the politically unclean. We should stand against them. Despite painful potential consequences, it's imperative that we teach our students, through our actions, that the basis of all liberty is freedom of conscience and free speech."

It was noted there would be no sports, debate, theater, par-

ticipation in the Vermont Drama Festival or any other VPA sponsored activities if the district were to withdraw. Natalie Steen asked how that would help the students at OV. Mr. Thornton stated they would learn that free speech is worth standing up

*It was noted there would be no sports, debate, theater, participation in the Vermont Drama Festival or any other VPA sponsored activities if the district were to withdraw. Natalie Steen asked how that would help the students at OV.*

for. Ms. Steen noted there are other ways to teach students about free speech and understands this is an important issue, but the Board would be punishing the district's students to do that. Laurie Bertrand suggested rather than eliminating all extra-curricular activities for the district's students, the Board could send a strongly worded letter to the VPA, based on what Mr. Thornton has provided.

Barbara Ebling noted this was not an item warned on the agenda and parents were not made aware to enable them to provide comments. Ms. Ebling suggested placing it on a future agenda, as information should be provided prior to an action being taken by the Board. Brent Scarborough asked if there is a way to get other districts involved and Ms. Bertrand advised that Board chairs from other districts could be contacted. Greg Bernhardt stated this would be irresponsible of the Board in taking away activities from the district's students, noting the Board can't take away something from their educational experience, as some students' activities are what keeps them in school. Mr. Bernhardt noted it would be absurd and did not think it should be entertained. He agreed that a letter could be written.

Brendan McLoughlin asked if anything like this had ever occurred before and what was the

context. Mr. Thornton did not think that anything like this had happened before. Paul Lathrop stated that as a coach, his mindset is that first teachings come at home. Mr. Lathrop stated one cannot punish the masses to teach free speech but need to teach in a different way. He noted hats off to the people that are changing to feel good to themselves and stated as a parent, he will teach his children how to adapt. Kristin Hubert stated she has been a part of VPA for 20 years and she has not seen a sanction that is as open-ended and is not sure how it will end. Her worry as a Superintendent is that the Board would be acting unilaterally with the community and would also be impacting all of the elementary schools if not a member of the VPA. She stated students, teachers, and communities are a big part of making OVUU a unified district. Derek Larsen asked if there is a policy that allows the Board to be talking about this issue and is the Board in the business of making this type of decision. Ms. Hubert stated it may apply to the Treatment of Students. Laurie Bertrand noted she would prefer a strongly worded letter to the VPA, as she would refuse to punish the district's students. Brett Mullins stated this is a sensitive topic and Mr. Thornton is not wrong for bringing it up as we have a country based on freedom of speech, but does not agree with the motion and would propose an amendment to change it to a letter to the VPA expressing the Board's concerns.

Kevin Thornton rescinded the original motion.

A motion was made by Natalie Steen and seconded by Brett Mullins to write a Board-approved position paper and send it to Vermont Principals Association.

This motion was also rescinded until further discussion at the next meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm

**SPREAD THE WORD!**  
Have an upcoming event that  
you'd like to have added to our calendar?  
LET US KNOW BY EMAIL AT [NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM](mailto:NEWS@BRANDONREPORTER.COM)



# OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Tecaer Chenaul

GRADE: 8th

SCHOOL: Otter Valley Union Middle School

MEDIUM: Tempera paint

TEACHER: Dasha Kalisz



#### STATEMENT FROM DASHA KALISZ

Tecaera Chennault, created this monochromatic tempera painting by mixing her own paint to make different tints and shades of blue.



# Time Machine:

A peek into the past



## Brandon hosted weavers that turned glass into dresses

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—When we think of fashion of the 1890s, we typically envision massive rear bustles and giant mutton-leg sleeves. We don't think of glass clothing. We don't think of glass clothing from any era, really. But indeed there was a moment in the 1890s, around the time of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, when the forces of fashion seemed intent on turning woven-glass clothing into "a thing." Then reality set in: glass is pretty darn fragile.

But in that brief period when the question "can we?" crowded out any consideration of "should we?", people absolutely gave it a go. And when the impracticalities finally became too obvious to ignore, glass clothing became something of a party trick, a neat little demonstration by glass blowers to entertain the masses.

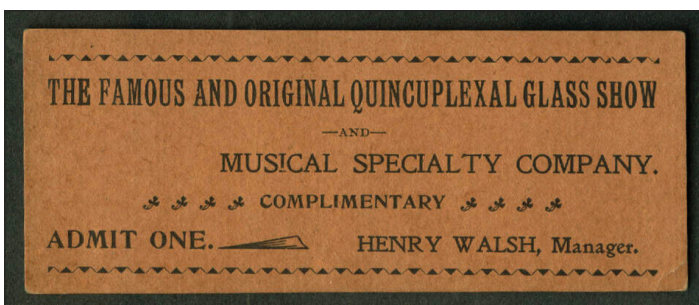
Henry Walsh's "Famous and Original Quincuplexal Glass Show" was one of these traveling spectacles. And they came to Brandon in March of 1900, astounding local residents with their ability to spin glass into all

sorts of wearable confectionery.

A Brandon Union article from March 16, 1900 notes that "the spinners' and weavers' display created great admiration, from the ladies present especially. The glass dress is a wonder..."

The glass was spun into exceedingly fine "threads" that were flexible enough to be woven, particularly when reinforced by other fibers, such as silk. It created a pliable "cloth" with a unique sheen (see photos). As long as one stood stock still and was content to simply look beautiful, glass clothing seemed enchanting. But even just the ordinary movements of the human body began to break the glass fibers fairly quickly and glass clothing as fashion gave way to glass clothing simply as art.

Eventually even the artistic merits of glass clothing seem to have bored the American people, as these glass shows faded into obscurity along with all the frocks and frills. Today, the few pieces that remain are mostly in museums.



## Learn to hunt wild turkeys with VT Fish & Wildlife

If you would like to learn how to effectively hunt wild turkey gobblers in the upcoming spring hunting season, consider attending the turkey hunting seminars being offered by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and volunteer instructors on April 1 and April 19.

Learning to Hunt Spring Turkeys, designed specifically for new hunters, will be held on Saturday, April 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Waterbury-Stowe Fish & Game Club, 5365 Waterbury-Stowe Rd, Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

This seminar will cover turkey biology, effective turkey calls, how to pattern your shotgun, how to butcher your turkey, and lots more. Lunch is provided, and all participants will go home with a new turkey call. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet a turkey hunting mentor who can go turkey hunting with them this spring.

A seminar on the Basics of Spring Turkey Hunting will occur on Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Vermont Wilderness School, Croker Hall, 60 Austine Drive, Brattleboro VT 05301.

This seminar will cover turkey biology, hunting tactics, scouting, and more.

For more information about the seminars, contact Nicole Meier at [Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov](mailto:Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov) or call 802-828-1193.

Registration for these upcom-

ing seminars is available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3hdkwxx3>

In conjunction with the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will also offer a virtual turkey hunting seminar series at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook Live on the following dates:

- March 21 -- Preseason Scouting.
- March 23 -- What's in Your Turkey Vest? Gear you need for spring turkey hunting.
- March 28 -- How to use Fric-

tion Calls.

- March 30 -- How to use Mouth Calls.
- April 4 -- The Importance of Patterning Your Shotgun.
- April 6 -- Roosting Birds and Other Hunting Tactics.
- April 13 -- Roundtable Discussion, Hunting Season Predictions, and Q&A

All seminars will be hosted on NWTF-Vermont's Facebook Page here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064292185352>



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# Calendar of events

## March

### Tuesdays

#### Maclure Library Story Time Playgroup

Looking for a fun, educational playgroup for your 2-5 year old? Look no further! From 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. join Miss Allie, a certified teacher, for a weekly FREE literacy-based playgroup. Light snacks will be provided, along with stories, crafts, songs, games, and more. To register, please email [allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org](mailto:allie.griffiths@rcpcc.org) with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

### Wednesdays

#### Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

The club has begun playing on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, call club representative Ronald Lewis at 802-247-5913, or visit our club's website at [www.gmttc.com](http://www.gmttc.com).

#### Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

Free math tutoring is available in downtown Brandon on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4 p.m. at Fellowship Hall — the smaller brick building next to the Brandon Congregational Church.

Larry Rowe is offering help to any Otter Valley students who have questions or difficulties with mathematics or would like help with their math homework. Rev. Sara Rossigg will be in her office — 20 feet away from the worktable — during these sessions to ensure everyone feels comfortable and is safe.

Call 802-236-9130 for more information.

#### Yoga Prana Shakti Zoom & Studio Chair Yoga, Gentle, Wednesdays

From 10:30-11:30 a.m. at 155 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland Lina Cloffe Hanson (Parvati) offers an Earth Conscious, Spiritual, Gentle Physical Yoga Practice. We meet on Mondays via zoom. Contact for Zoom link. (There is also a Monday Zoom only class)

Not everyone can get up and down off of the floor easily making traditional yoga classes difficult. If you have physical limitation or a health issue this might be the ideal class for you. With the help of a chair most people can practice yoga and reaping the benefits of increased circulation, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and more.

We spend a fair amount of the time exercising in a

## Local bands to headline Town Hall on Saturday

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—If you've been to the open mics at Sister Wicked in Brandon lately, you've probably already heard Bodenbender and End User, two local bands that have acquired a following for their eclectic, energetic sound.

Both Bodenbender and End User are local four-somes with the traditional array of vocals, guitars, bass, and drums, and both offer slightly caffeinated takes on a wide range of genres.

Bodenbender has been together for a little more than a year, coming together from Brandon, Leicester, East Middlebury, and Vergennes. Their lineup is Matt Viscido (vocals, guitar), Jason Kaye (guitar), Rob Fjeld (drums), and Tyler Neilson (bass).

According to Neilson, they started out "borderline folk" but have evolved into something edgier that draws

from hard rock, funk, reggae, and even punk. Their song "She Was Married," for example, sounds a bit like a Ramones tune played in the style of Pete Townshend, thumping and

shouty with a slightly scuzzy guitar. Neilson absolutely counts The Who among the band's core influences.

After a recent performance at Sister Wicked in Brandon, Bodenbender was approached to play Brandon Town Hall. "We weren't sure we were ready for a 3-hour show, so we asked End User to play the bill with us," said Neilson.

End User have been together since last summer and are more of an "alt rock" group with an early-90s grunge vibe. Think Pearl Jam/Smashing Pumpkins with a bit of a late 1960s Velvet Underground/Kinks groove. Their lineup is Tucker Hartman (guitar, vocals, songwriting), Ben Ransom (bass), Will Vandall (drums), and Caber



**BAND MEMBERS OF "End User" from l to r: Caber Wilson, Ben Ransom, Tucker Hartman, and Will Vandall**



**MATT VISCIDO**

Wilson (Leicester, Pittsford, and Vergennes). Both bands will be cast off the stage around the 7 p.m. and you will see Brandon Town Hall open at 7 p.m. If you like playing on the stage, Room in Ra-

seated position in the chairs but if possible, we also do exercises standing, using the chairs for support. The exercises can be adjusted for individual needs and we move at a comfortable pace. I think will soon notice a difference once you start. Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Lina (Parvati) has 20 plus years of experience teaching and a lifelong personal practice.

To stay tuned if there are any cancellations, follow on Facebook and get on email list. \$15/class

### Thursdays

#### Ukulele Group

Free at the Chaffee Arts Center from 12-1 p.m., for adults & 12+. This is not a class but a group enjoying playing the ukulele together, Must pre-register, There are a limited amount of in-house instruments to reserve.

Attendees will be led through specific sheet music by musician Steven Wilson. All levels are welcome.

#### Open Mic at Red Clover in Brandon

Join us starting at 6 p.m. for a rousing good time!

### Fridays

#### Chaffee Arts Center All About the Arts Free Class for kids 3-5

From 11am-Noon...FREE! Students will have fun creating and doing activities with art, music, literature, and more!

One free book per student will be given weekly (while supplies last) thanks to our partners at Rutland Free Library. Adult must accompany children under age 4. Must pre-register by Wednesday each week  
Instructor: Lori Sullivan;  
Minimum 3

#### Maclure Library Knitting Circle

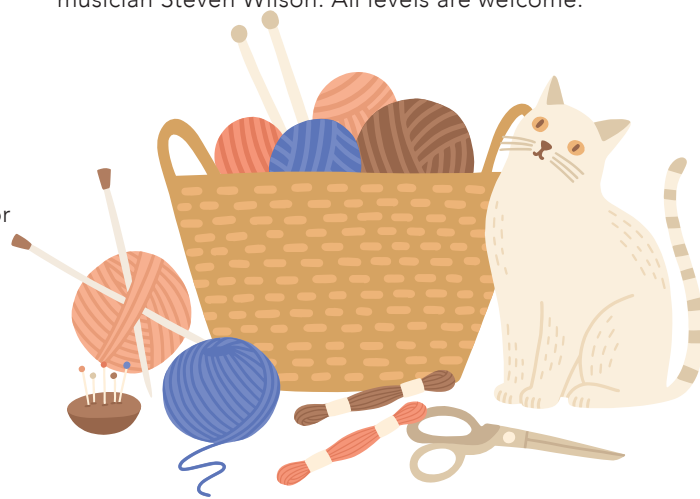
Come join us weekly to share projects from noon – 2:00 p.m.

## Audubon D & H Bird Walk

Park in downtown Poultney and meet where the rail trail crosses Main St near the Poultney Pub. 8:00 a.m.

This will be an easy 3-mile bird walk open to all. Hoping to see lingering winter birds and early spring arrivals.

Contact [birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org](mailto:birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org) for more info.





## Sundays

**Brandon Town Hall Painting with Crystal**  
Crystal Ketcham leads an all ages painting event!  
Yes, you CAN paint! More info, contact Crystal at ceastman88@gmail.com

Friday



**DF Bodenbender belts one out.**

(with acoustic guitar). They hail from Brandon, VT and Rutland. The duo promises an energetic show to help shake the last of the winter doldrums. If sitting in your house all winter has got you stir crazy, come out to move to the music, head over to Brandon Town Hall on Saturday, March 25. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission \$10. Don't miss what you hear, End User will also be performing on April 7 at the Underground Listening Room in Randolph.

"The study of art is the most important study a garden designer can pursue."

\$5 donation suggested.

## Thursday 23rd

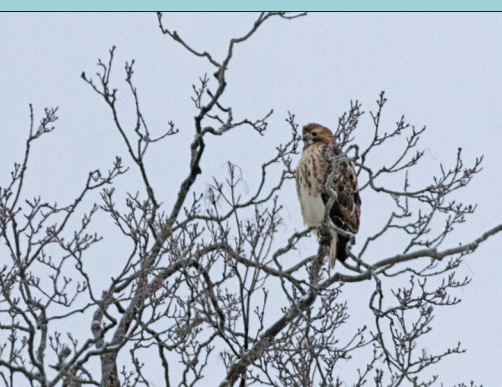
**NXT Curator Series: Poster House's Angelina Lippert**

Join us from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Next Stage Arts presents a lecture by Angelina Lippert, chief curator at Poster House in New York City, the first and only museum in the United States dedicated to the art and history of the poster.

What is a poster and how is it different from a print, a handbill, or a flyer? What makes a poster valuable?

Join Angelina Lippert, chief curator and director of content at Poster House in New York City, the first and only museum in the United States dedicated to the art and history of the poster, and learn about how this ephemeral medium marries the worlds of art and commerce. This talk will cover the birth of posters in the mid-1800s, major stylistic movements, important moments in printing history, and a glimpse into the wide array of exhibitions Lippert has curated on posters.

## Rail Trail Poultney, VT - April 7



from Thursday, March 23, through Saturday March 25 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m. at Casella Theater.

Betty Lou Spence is a shop girl who falls in love with her boss, initially winning him over because she has the illusive quality, IT. When class differences divide Betty from her beau, she triumphs by putting her sense of justice -- and her special charms -- to good use.

Inspired by the language and melodies of the silent movie era, and based on the 1927 Paramount Picture, IT, the new musical offers today's audiences a light-hearted escape from life's complexities - just as silent films once gave to audiences in the Roaring '20s.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Tickets can be purchased or reserved by contacting the Casella Theater Box Office from Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at (802) 468-1119.

View Online: <http://castleton.meritpages.com/news/Castleton-University-Theater-Arts-Department-Presents-The-IT-Girl-March-23-26/34048>

## Saturday 25th

**Come Celebrate the Vermont Tradition of Maple Sugaring at Baird Farm!**

Free Sugarhouse and Sugar-bush Tours  
Boiling (Weather Permitting)  
Mount Holly Beer Co. Serving Maple Themed Beer  
Maple Tastings  
Free Rosemary Waffles  
Come Alive Outside - Outdoor Maple Activities  
Maple Giveaways  
Tabling and Beef Raffle Hamilton Cattle Co.,  
Tabling with Farm-blox and Information on Modern Sugaring Equipment.

1:00pm : Tree tapping with 2 special guests on both days

## Sunday 26th

**Champlain Philharmonic Spring Concert Series**  
The Champlain Philharmonic will feature Vermont composer Kyle Saulnier with Stefanie Weigand on vocals. There will also be works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Grieg, Copland, and Duke Ellington.  
The Champlain Philharmonic will return to Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on March 25 at 7:30pm and Grace Congregational Church in Rutland on March 26th at 4:00pm to perform their Spring Concert Series entitled, "Nostalgia."



## Loud and Proud! Sundays through April 30th (except April 16th)

Jeff Ladd, Extraordinary Dad, presents Loud and Proud! It's an opportunity for kids 7th grade up to 19 years to play music together. Whether bass, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, drums, bongos, come and play with other teens you know or don't know! Bring your band, bring yourself and play!

Hosted at the Brandon Town Hall, participants will enter and exit through the side door. There will be a drum kit on site. Bring your instruments or contact Jeff on FB. Upon arrival musicians must stay upstairs, because there are other events happening downstairs. It's going to be great!

The program will feature the world premiere of a new work by VT Composer, Kyle Saulnier, entitled "The Sun upon a hill." VT vocalist, Stefanie Weigand will be the featured soloist who will also perform Rachmaninoff's Vocalise. The rest of the program will include Copland's Fanfare for a Common Man, Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Grieg's Symphonic Dances, and a medley of Duke Ellington hits. More info at [www.champlainphilharmonic.org](http://www.champlainphilharmonic.org).



## Fridays March 31st

**St. Ambrose Annual Lenten Fish Fry Join us for "ALL YOU CAN EAT" FISH FRY**  
Meal includes Fried or Baked Haddock, French Fries, Coleslaw, Fresh Baked Dinner Roll, Beverage & Dessert.

Serving Times & Dates:  
5 p.m. to 7p.m. on Fridays March 3rd, March 17th, March 31st  
\$: Adults - \$15.00, Children 9 & under - \$7.00, Immediate Family of

5 - \$40.00.

For more info, call St. Ambrose Church in Bristol VT @ 453-2488

## Thursday 23rd Sunday 26th

Castleton University Theater Arts Department Presents **The IT Girl**  
Castleton University Theater Arts Department presents its spring musical, **The IT Girl** at Casella Theater

*Goings on  
around town*



# Free diabetes-prevention workshop to be held in Brandon

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—As the saying goes, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” This is especially true with Type-2 diabetes. Taking early steps to fend off the disease is much easier than trying to live with the condition itself. But that journey can be tough to make alone. And so Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) is sponsoring a free diabetes-prevention workshop in Brandon that begins on March 28.

The program will be facilitated by Joanne Lemay, who has 24 years of experience in health care and has herself struggled with pre-diabetes.

“I’m on the journey right there with everyone else,” said Lemay.

Though weight-management is certainly part of the program—a reduction of 5% to 7% of body weight is generally sought—it’s not the focus or the main goal in itself. Instead, the class will teach participants how to structure their lives so that they exercise more, eat more thoughtfully, and make sustainable changes to maintain better health.

“It’s really about Vermonters helping each other, taking small steps each week,” said Lemay. “It’s not a diet. It’s about changing behaviors. It’s an evidence-based program put together by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).”

The program lasts a year, with weekly meetings for the 16 weeks, then switching to every other week, and ultimately transitioning to every month. In each session, the group discusses a particular theme and learns a new skill. For example, participants learn how to read nutrition labels and plan meals. Each session

will also have 4 or 5 pages of accompanying reading from materials compiled by the CDC and provided free by RRMC.

“It’s a very personal journey,” said Gerianne Smart, Communications Director for RRMC. “Joanne is an incredible instructor. She’s there to provide tools and help keep people on track.”

“The goal is to build skills to last beyond the program,” added Lemay. “Some people use the structure of the program to

*“It’s really about Vermonters helping each other, taking small steps each week. It’s not a diet. It’s about changing behaviors. It’s an evidence-based program put together by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).”*

—Joanne Lemay



**JOANNE LEMAY** will be leading a free diabetes-prevention workshop in Brandon, beginning on Tuesday, March 28. She poses with the materials she’ll use in the course in her office at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

maintain their healthy habits, but others learn what they need to and are able to move forward

on their own. Everyone is a bit different.”

“I see it as a support group,” says Colleen Wright, Assistant Director of Brandon Recreation. “This is simply a way to keep people on a healthy track, interact with others on their journey, and offer support. After birthday season at my house, and also St. Patty’s Day, I need to be held accountable!”

According to the CDC, approximately 10% of the U.S. population lives with diabetes (roughly 37 million people), of whom 90-95% live with Type 2. Unlike juvenile diabetes (Type 1), which is a genetic condition present at birth, Type 2 is an acquired condition that often results from a combination of poor nutrition and physical inactivity. Diabetes of either type can cause heart disease, kidney disease, and vision loss. It can also require daily intake of manufactured insulin.

Yet even those currently at risk

for Type 2 can turn things around and stave off the disease if they take control of their situation and make sustained changes to their lives.

There were 12 people signed up for the upcoming class at the end of last week. According to Lemay, there’s room for several more. The class is free and you don’t have to register online. You can simply show up.

The classes will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 in the conference room at the Brandon Museum (next to the Baptist Church, across from Ace Hardware, on Grove Street) in Brandon, starting on March 28.

“You don’t need to bring anything but an open mind,” said Lemay.

For more information, and to find out about other workshops being offered throughout Vermont (for example, chronic pain management, quitting smoking, high-blood pressure), visit myhealthyvt.org.

**St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
19 Conant Square, Brandon

**Brandon Congregational Church**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
1 Carver Street, Brandon

**Brandon United Methodist Church**  
Sunday 11:15 a.m.  
1 Franklin Street, Brandon

**Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary’s) Catholic Church**  
Saturday 4 p.m., & Sunday 11 a.m.  
38 Carver Street, Brandon

**Brandon Baptist Church**  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
13 Champlain Street, Brandon

**One Church Brandon**  
Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.  
97 Frog Hollow Road, Brandon, VT

**St. Alphonsus Catholic Church**  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
2918 US 7, Pittsford

**Living Water Assembly of God**  
Sunday 11 a.m. via Facebook Live  
76 North Street, Brandon

**Forest Dale Christian Fellowship**  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
1895 Forest Dale Rd, Brandon

**Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church**  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
3325 US Route 7, Pittsford

**Pittsford Congregational Church**  
Sunday 10:15 a.m.  
121 Village Green, Pittsford

**Church of Wildwood**  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
347 Holden Road, Chittenden

**Union Church of Proctor**  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
5 Church Street, Proctor

**St. Dominic Catholic Church**  
Sunday 9 a.m. Feb, Apr, Aug  
45 South Street, Proctor



## CHURCH Directory

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
Sunday 9 a.m.  
5 Gibbs Street, Proctor

**St. Bridget/St. Dominic/St. Stanislaus Kostka**  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Masses rotate monthly between the West Rutland/Proctor Parishes. 2023 February - St. Dominic; March - St. Stanislaus-Kostka; - April - St. Dominic; May - St. Bridget; June - St. Stanislaus; July - St. Bridget; August-St. Dominic



Like all things vintage?

Mimi's Photos

are on page 16!



# Montpelier round-up by VtDigger

## Many bills made it across the crossover threshold. Some did not.

BY SARAH MEARHOFF

Happy Crossover Day to those who observe!

For those of you with real hobbies and interests outside of the golden dome, that means today is the (first) deadline for bills to clear at least one committee in one chamber of the Vermont Legislature. Those that don't — with a few notable exceptions, as described below — are unlikely to become law this session.

Before we run through which bills survived and which met their Crossover Day fate, let's review the standard disclaimers and caveats: For one thing, money bills get an extra week, because they're special. For another, no bill is ever really, truly dead.

There are myriad ways lawmakers can resuscitate legislation that appears long gone. For example, they can tack measures on as amendments to separate bills, stretching the definition of germaneness to the outer limits of the human imagination. There's the tried-and-true method of just throwing it into a big ol' omnibus bill. Who will notice, right? Or, in the first year of the biennium, lawmakers can always trot out the classic refrain, "That's a two-year conversation." Translation: "We're putting this off 'til next year."

So, with that out of the way,

let's take a look at which bills are in, and which are out:

IN

S.9, which would amend the authority of the state auditor to examine books and records of any contractor providing services to the state.

S.17, which would reform rules governing the conduct of sheriffs in Vermont.

S.18, which would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and e-liquids.

S.25, which would prohibit manufacturers from selling cosmetic and menstrual products in Vermont if they contain certain chemicals, including the chemical group PFAS.

H.31, which would establish a study group to analyze the health and environmental impacts of pesticide and chemical applications on lakes and other water bodies.

S.36, which would allow warrantless arrests for assaults and threats against health care workers and disorderly conduct at health care facilities.

S.39, which would raise legislators' pay and qualify them for health insurance and child care.

S.42, which would divest the state's pension funds — with several exemptions — from the fossil fuel industry.

S.102, which would expand labor organizing protections.

S.103, which would expand the definition of workplace

harassment.

H.53, which would nix the Department of Motor Vehicles' ability to suspend a person's driver's license solely because they haven't paid the fine for a moving violation.

H.127, which would legalize and create a framework for betting on sports in Vermont.

H.158, which would expand Vermont's "bottle bill" to include most containers and make manufacturers responsible for recycling.

H.171, which would bring the state's adult protective services law into the 21st century.

H.190, which would remove the residency requirement for aid-in-dying care.

H.222, which would create statewide syringe disposal and require municipal zoning to treat recovery residences as a single-family use, among other changes.

H.230, which would seek to reduce the frequency of suicides by requiring locked gun storage in specific cases, mandating a 72-hour purchase waiting period and giving family and household members the ability to petition the court for gun removal.

H.270, which would amend the adult-use and medical cannabis program, in part by increasing the total amount of THC sold in a single package from 50 milligrams to 100. Limits on the concentration

of THC would remain unchanged.

DR 23-0910, which would add restrictions on public tuition dollars in private schools.

DR 23-0756, which would tighten school safety regulations.

OUT

S.16, which would scrap the clergy exemption from mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect.

H.27, which would expand the state's definition of domestic abuse to include coercive and controlling behavior.

S.77, which would fine GPS

providers \$2,000 for failing to give drivers explicit notice about the maximum vehicle dimensions allowed through Smugglers Notch.


H.81, which would grant owners of agricultural equipment the "right to repair" their own machinery, or hire an independent mechanic.

H.156, which would incrementally implement Green Mountain Care through universal primary care.

H.173, which would prohibit the manipulation of children for the purpose of sexual contact.

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Jim & Liz McRae

## Dem Melanie Carpenter appointed to House

BY SARAH MEARHOFF

There's soon to be a fresh face in the Statehouse halls. Knowing that Friday was sure to be a slow news day, Gov. Phil Scott's office announced the appointment of Hyde Park Democrat Melanie Carpenter to the House. Carpenter will assume the seat vacated by former Rep. Kate Donnally, a Democrat who resigned from

her post in January.

According to a Friday press release, Carpenter owns and operates Zack Woods Herb Farm in Hyde Park, and previously worked as principal of Stowe Middle School from 2008 to 2013. Before that, she taught 7th and 8th grade and worked as a literacy specialist at Peoples Academy Middle School in Morrisville. Scott on

Friday touted the "diverse perspective" he said she will bring to the Statehouse given her work as a farmer, small business owner and educator.

House Speaker Jill Krowinski's chief of staff, Conor Kennedy, told VTDigger on Friday that Carpenter will likely be sworn in Tuesday.

## Vt. Secretary of Education to leave his job

BY PETER D'AURIA

Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French will leave his job next month for a leadership role at an education nonprofit, state officials announced Friday.

French, who has led Vermont's Agency of Education since 2018, will take an unspecified "senior leadership role" at the Council of Chief State School Officers, an organization of state education

officials.

"It has been an honor to serve as a member of Governor Scott's cabinet and his team," French said in a press release sent at noon on Friday.

(See Dan French, Page 22)

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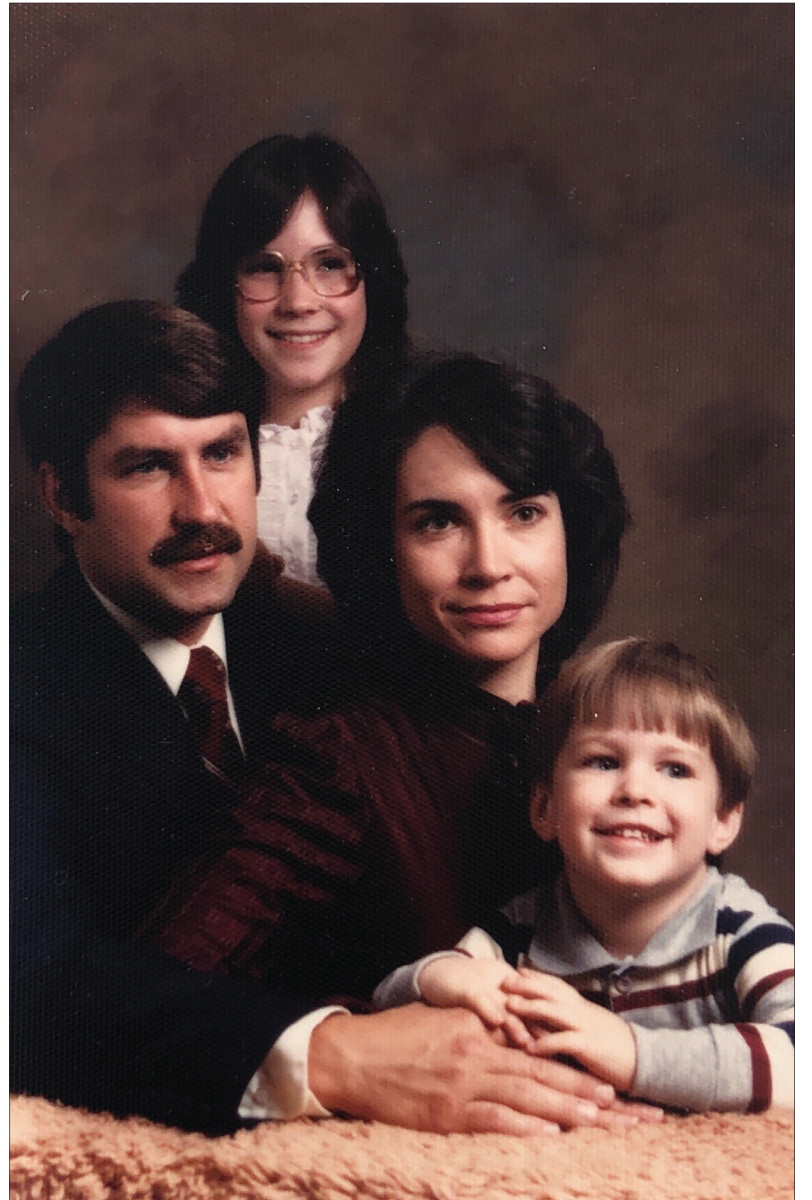
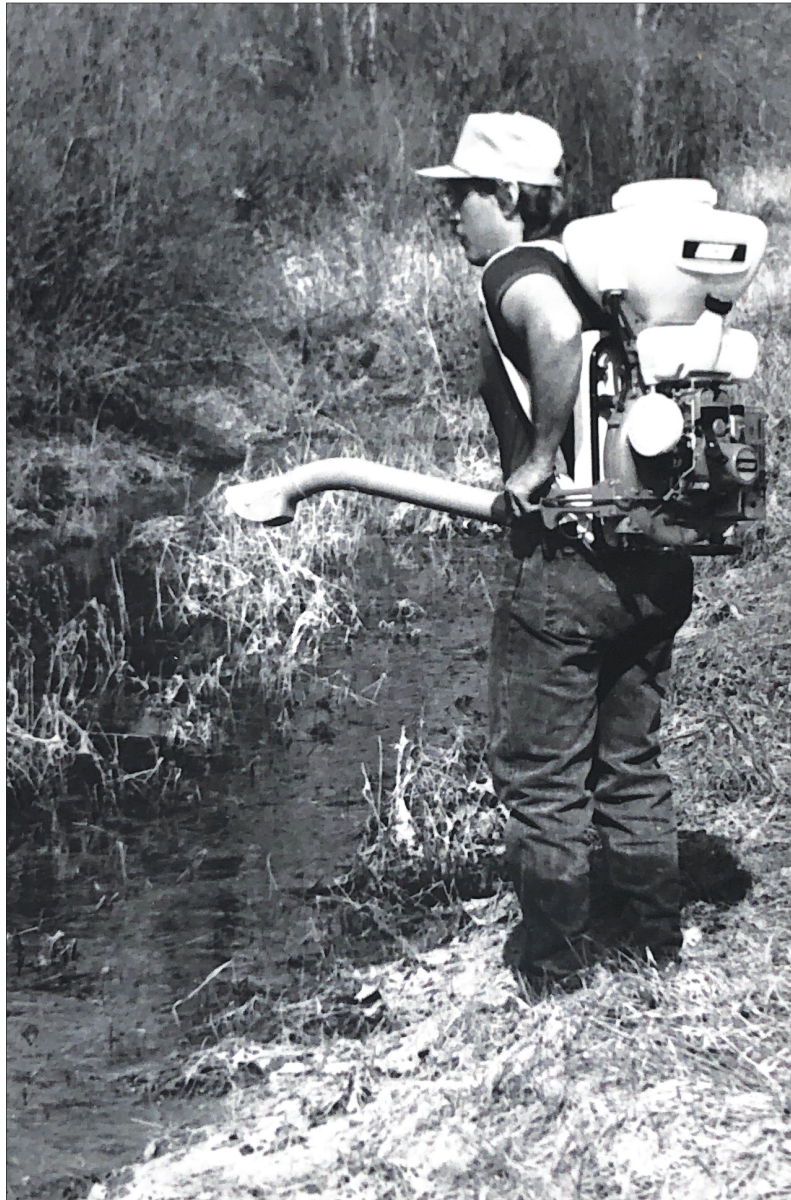


# Mim's Photos

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



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





# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Influential American political family
5. \_\_\_ Chantilly, \_\_\_ de Menthe
11. Within
12. Pleasure seekers
16. Computer manufacturer
17. Home to college sports' Flyers
18. Fungal disease
19. Sleepwalk
24. Spielberg sci-fi film
25. Seasonable
26. Taxis
27. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
28. Thin, narrow piece of wood
29. "Mystic River" actor Sean
30. Ingenuous
31. Musical composition
33. Turkish surname
34. High or hilly area
38. Wilco frontman
39. Pour it on pasta
40. Electric car company
43. Sea eagle
44. Walk with difficulty
45. Sign of healing
49. Boy
50. Protein-rich liquid
51. Washington city
53. Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
54. Thought over
56. Scads
58. News agency
59. Standard
60. Deadlock
63. Pre-Columbian empire
64. Removed
65. French commune

## CLUES DOWN

1. Large, dangerous animals
2. Straighten out
3. Family tree
4. Large stinging paper wasp
5. European river fish
6. Cut down in size
7. Denotes past
8. Larry and Curly's partner
9. Samoyedic ethnic group
10. Male parent
13. Specific gravity
14. Demeaned oneself to
15. Rigidly
20. Yankovic is a "weird" one
21. Belonging to me
22. Path
23. Airborne (abbr.)
27. Level
29. Atomic #94
30. Born of
31. Midway between northeast and east
32. Northeastern bank
33. Defunct airline
34. Having no purpose
35. A low wall
36. Swedish city
37. Earn a perfect score
38. Atomic #81
40. Beginner
41. Give off
42. Incorrect letters
44. Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
45. Idyllic
46. Popular beer
47. A way to fine
48. Evildoer
50. More withered
51. Seventh note of a major scale
52. Commercial
54. Abnormal breathing
55. Moved more quickly
57. City of Angels
61. Partner to Pa
62. Equally

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12					13	14	15	
16					17				18				
19				20	21			22	23			24	
25						26					27		
28						29				30			
				31	32				33				
34	35	36	37					38					
39						40	41	42					
43					44					45	46	47	48
49				50					51	52			
53			54					55					
56		57					58				59		
60						61	62				63		
				64							65		

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# 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.

3	9			8				6
				9		4	2	3
7		4			1			9
	1		7	5				3
2			9					
				4				
9						7	4	
6				5	8			
		8						

Level: Intermediate

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

N	E	V	A		D	E	S	V	A	E	R	L	S	
V	C	N	I		T	V	A	E	R	L	S	T	E	
W	H	O	N		P	A	V	A	R	H	V	L	S	
D	E	R	E		I	S	N	O	C	E	R	F	E	
W	O	C	A		T	V	R	E	S	E	S	Q	V	L
B	A	V	S		C	R	M	L	I	E	N	R	E	
I	V	A	N		T	S	T	E	C	N	E	U	S	
A	D	E	M		T	D	N	A	V	A	E	R	L	
L	Z	E	R		T	U	D	E	T	E	R	L	S	
F	I	E	N		N	N	E	T	A	V	A	E	R	
F	R	D	S		S	B	V	C	A	L	T	W	I	
I	V	A	T		A	V	A	E	R	N	W	O	S	
T	O	G	R		L	U	U	N	R	E	C	V	S	
S	T	S	I		N	O	D	H	O	T	O	N	E	
S	S	E	M		E	R	E	C	H	S	N	B		

2	5	3	9	7	6	8	1	4	8	1	4	8	1
1	9	8	5	4	2	7	3	6	3	9	6	3	9
4	7	9	3	1	8	2	5	2	6	9	5	2	6
7	9	6	4	2	1	3	8	5	8	5	8	5	8
5	1	4	8	3	9	6	9	6	2	7	2	7	2
8	3	2	9	5	7	9	4	1	9	4	1	9	4
6	8	5	1	9	3	4	2	7	2	7	2	7	2
3	2	4	7	6	5	1	5	6	8	9	6	8	9
9	1	7	2	8	4	5	2	8	4	5	2	8	4

## Make sure your pet has identification!

Losing a pet is a very emotional thing. It's really important that all animals have identification so they can be returned to their owners. An ID tag on your pet's collar is the easiest method. The tag should include your name, address, telephone number, and the pet's name. If there's extra space, the phone number of the veterinarian is also a good idea. If you move, make sure you get a new tag for your animal with your new contact information. Some companies embroider your pet's name and phone number on the collar. Pets can also be microchipped. Many humane societies and veterinarians have a scanner which identifies if an animal has a microchip. If there's a microchip, a phone call is made to identify the owner. You must update your registration with the microchip company if you move. Either way, please take a moment and check that your favorite pet has identification so you can get him/her back safe and sound in a hurry! If you have any questions, please call the Rutland County Humane Society at 802.483.6700.

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



#### MEET CARLOS - 9-MONTH-OLD. MALE. CATTLE DOG MIX. BROWN/WHITE.

Cattle dog lovers, meet Carlos. This handsome boy is looking for a breed-savvy home where he can gain confidence. Carlos has lived with other dogs and would benefit greatly from having another confident and social k9 friend to learn from. He has also lived with cats and was fine. He is a smart pup who is eager to please and loves to learn, plus he is very food motivated! He needs someone who will give him the structure, and exercise he needs. He really loves attention and is an affectionate boy.

#### MEET PETUNIA - 1-YEAR OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. CALICO.

Petunia is a "make the most of every moment" girl! She zips around the room playing with toys and is delighted if you play with her. She loves to explore everywhere and everything. She is in one of our cat rooms and is getting along just fine with everyone so she can go to a home with other cats. She is a little too spunky right now to be a lap cat but she does love to be petted.



## RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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# OFF THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Here are some new books that'll be on the shelves when we reopen April 11th!

### Old Babes in the Woods by Margaret Atwood

Includes fifteen short stories. The two sisters of the title story grapple with loss and memory on a perfect summer evening; "Impatient Griselda" explores alienation and miscommunication with a fresh twist on a folkloric classic; and "My Evil Mother" touches on the fantastical, examining a mother-daughter relationship in which the mother purports to be a witch. At the heart of the collection are seven extraordinary stories that follow a married couple across the decades, the moments big and small that make up a long life of uncommon love—and what comes after.

### Weyward by Emilia Hart

In 2019, under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, worlds away from the abusive partner who's been tormenting her. But she begins to suspect that there is a secret lurking in the bones of the cottage, hidden ever since the witch hunts of the 17th century. In 1619, Altha awaits trial for the murder of a local farmer who was

stampeded to death by his herd. As a girl, Altha's mother taught her their magic, rooted in deep knowledge of the natural world. The evidence for witchcraft is set out against Altha and she knows she'll need to use her powers to stay free. In 1942, as World War II rages, Violet longs for the robust education her brother receives, but is trapped by societal convention in her family's crumbling estate. She also longs for her deceased mother, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death. The only traces Violet has of her are a locket bearing the initial W and the word "wayward" scratched into the baseboard of her bedroom. A story of three women over five centuries, and a legacy of secrets and witchcraft.

### Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton

Birnam Wood is an undeclared, unregulated, sometimes-criminal, sometimes-philanthropic guerrilla gardening collective that plants crops wherever no one will notice. For years, the group has struggled to break even. When they come across an abandoned farm, cut off by a landslide, the farm could mean a shot at solvency.

But the enigmatic American billionaire Robert Lemoine also has an interest in the place: He has snatched it up to build his end-times bunker, or so he tells Birnam's founder, Mira, when he

catches her on the property. He's intrigued by Mira and by Birnam Wood; although they're poles apart politically, it seems they might have enemies in common. But as their ideals and ideologies are tested, can they trust one another?

### River Spirit by Leila Aboulela

When Akuany and her brother Bol are orphaned in a village raid in South Sudan, they're taken in by a young merchant, Yaseen, who promises to care for them, a vow that tethers him to Akuany through their adulthood. As a revolutionary leader rises to power—the self-proclaimed Mahdi, prophesied redeemer of Islam—Sudan begins to slip from the grasp of Ottoman rule, and everyone must choose a side. A scholar of the Qur'an, Yaseen feels beholden to stand against this false Mahdi, even as his choice splinters his family. Meanwhile, Akuany moves through her young adulthood and across the country alone, sold and traded from house to house, with Yaseen as her inconsistent lifeline. Everything each of them is striving for—love, freedom, safety—is all on the line in the fight for Sudan.



# All was (fairly) quiet on the Brandon front

## Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — In a relatively quiet week, Brandon police received reports of fraud, investigated possible drug sales in town, and dealt with several mental-health issues, in addition to the usual traffic stops, fingerprinting, and property watches.

On the afternoon of March 14, police received a report of a business owner's check that had been fraudulently cashed at a local credit union. The case is still under investigation.

The following day a motorist came into the station requesting police assistance because he had locked his keys in his vehicle at the Brandon Gap in the Town of Goshen and needed assistance gaining entry into his car. A towing service was contacted for the male for a vehicle lockout.

On March 16, police received information about possible drug activity in Brandon and opened an investigation. Later in the day officers assisted Vermont State Police-New Haven in locating a woman on Franklin Street for a welfare check. A parent walked into the station to report that their son had been assaulted by another student at the Otter Valley Union High/Middle School and sustained a concussion. An investigation was opened into the incident.

Jesse Euber, 29, ran afoul of Police on March 17, when he was caught and arrested for driving with a criminally suspended license. Euber also had an outstanding warrant for failing to appear in court. Per the warrant issued, Euber was released from the police station and issued a citation to appear before the Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division, on March 20.

Later that day a resident called from Van Cortland Road claiming that he was being harassed and threatened by his neighbors. Police found that no crime was committed.

A Brandon resident had their wallet stolen from their unlocked vehicle on Lovers Lane in the early hours of the morning of March 18. The incident is currently under investigation. Police remind all residents to please make sure that their cars and homes are locked at night and that they do not leave valuables inside vehicles that can be an easy target for thieves.

Late in the morning of that same day, police received a report of fraud concerning money that had allegedly been wrongly obtained from the Vermont State Housing Authority from Covid-19 relief funds. Investigation is ongoing.

Just before dinnertime, officers responded to a report of an elderly woman who appeared confused and walked into the caller's residence

for an unknown reason. The elderly woman was brought back to her residence by a family member.

Police rounded out the week on March 19 with a welfare check on Pratt Road, where it was believed a female was having suicidal ideations. Once the officer had located the woman in question and determined that she was not in danger of harming herself, he provided her with some support information should she wish to speak with someone at a later time.

Near the end of the working day, police assisted a family who were dealing with a defiant child and had come into the police station looking for help.

In other activity Brandon Police:

### On March 13

- Made routine business checks at Union Street Grocery on Union Street and Foley's Taco and Bean on Park Street.
- Took fingerprints for employment, U.S. citizenship application, an intern, a hemp license and a nursing license.

- Patrolled Center Street
- Patrolled Carver Street, Rossiter Street, Union Street and Church Street due to a complaint of a suspicious male in the area.

### On March 14

- Took fingerprints for teaching license and nursing license.
- Received report of a fraudulently cashed check.

### On March 15

- Took department intern on a ride-around.
- Enforced speed on Wheeler Road due to various recent complaints of speeding vehicles.
- Patrolled Park Street.
- Assisted a motorist who had locked himself out of his car.
- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street.
- Stopped speeding vehicle on Grove Street and issued a warning.

### On March 16

- Opened an investigation into drug sales downtown.
- Assisted Vermont State Police-New Haven in locating a woman on Franklin Street for a welfare check.
- Opened an investigation into a juvenile assault at Otter Valley Union High School.
- Made a sex offender registry check on a resident of Brookdale (See Police report, Page 19)

# THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION

This work of preparing and cleaning the library for the move has been going on since last summer when we started to sort, pack and transport items from the basement. We'd like to thank **Bobbi and Bert Torstensen, Dennis Reisenweaver, Susan Stone, Cee Denney, Harmony Van Eaton, Sue Paro, Tom and Carolyn Whittaker, Barb Nelson, Ed and Cindy Thomas, Joe and Melly Flynn, Wyatt Waterman, Cecil Reniche-Smith and Greg Smith.** Boxes came from **Carr's Gift Shop, Amy Myers, Cee Denney and Walgreens Pharmacy.** This past week **Devon Fuller** painted in the Town Hall to freshen up the space for our move. **Robert Black** finished setting up the layout and **Mike Howe and OV's baseball team** arrived to make moving about 250 linear feet of books look like a breeze! Drivers were **Harry McEnery, Bob Merkert, Ken Smith, John Peterson and Gary Meffe.** **Diane Snyder** provided scrumptious treats, and **Doreen O'Mara** packed for us. Thank you all who have pitched in with their time and talents. This is truly a community effort!



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# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

Street.

## On March 17

- Made traffic stops on Franklin Street and Park Street for traffic signal violation, stop sign violations and speeding. Issued a ticket and two warnings.
- Arrested Jesse Euber, 29, for Driving with a Criminally Suspended License.
- Investigated a harassment complaint on Van Cortland Road.

## On March 18

- Responded to a burglar alarm on Pearl Street.
- Began an investigation into a theft on Lovers Lane
- Received a report of fraud involving Vermont State Housing Authority and Covid-19 relief funds.
- Received report of a mental health issue on Carver Street.
- Patrolled Park Village
- On March 19
- Made traffic stops on Pearl Street, Mulcahy Drive, and Wheeler Road. Issue tickets for stop sign vio-

lation and speeding and a warning for equipment violation.

- Investigated drug activity in Brandon.
- Received an accidental 911 call.
- Made a welfare check on a Pratt Road resident.
- Enforced speed limit on Wheeler Road, issuing one ticket.
- Responded to a Franklin Street for a juvenile having a mental health issue.
- Assisted a family with a defendant child.

## Spending package extending emergency housing becomes law without Scott's signature

BY LOLA DUFFORT/VT DIGGER

Gov. Phil Scott will allow a wide-ranging spending package that extends emergency housing in hotels for unhoused Vermonters to pass into law without his signature, his office announced Monday.

The bill, H.145, sets almost \$19 million aside to keep those currently in hotels there until May 31. After that, eligibility will narrow to people fleeing domestic violence, families with children, those aged 60 and over, pregnant people, people with disabilities, and certain households that recently lost their housing.

Each year, early in the legislative session, lawmakers pass a budget adjustment act to true-up the current fiscal year's budget. Once a

sleepy affair, the legislation has ballooned in size and importance in the pandemic era as Montpelier has contended with unprecedented surpluses and federal aid packages.

This year, the most contentious item concerned Vermont's housing programs in hotels, which the state dramatically scaled up in the early days of the public health emergency, and for which federal funding dries up March 31.

A House-passed version of the budget adjustment bill had set aside \$21 million to keep everyone eligible for housing in motels through June 30, the end of the current fiscal year. The Senate-passed version also anticipated continuing the program until that date — but with new eligibility requirements kick-

ing in a month prior. House budget negotiators ultimately decided to accept the Senate's position, which also includes \$2.5 million to expand shelter capacity.

There are roughly 1,800 households living in motels right now. The Department for Children and Families estimates that 1,045 households currently in the program will remain eligible after May 31.

Though a veto was not widely expected, Scott's decision to allow the spending deal to pass into law was not a given. House and Senate budget writers basically funded all of his proposals, but Scott had criticized lawmakers for wanting to spend more than initially contemplated by the administration.

# REAL ESTATE



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## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



### ARIES March 21-April 20

Requests from friends, associates and family this week can have your nerves on end, Aries. You may have to escape the crowds to recharge. Plan a getaway

### TAURUS April 21-May 21

You are awesome at staying on track when you need to be, Taurus. That is what makes you a potentially ideal fitness guide. Try to inspire others to be regimented as well.

### GEMINI May 22-June 21

There is nothing wrong with putting rose-colored glasses on from time to time and looking at the world in a more positive way. A more positive outlook can be helpful, Gemini.

### CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, be sure that your generous nature does not come at the expense of your own

well-being. You tend to put other people's needs before your own quite often.

### LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Leo, for some reason you are having problems finding balance in your life right now. You may have to experiment a little bit to see if new strategies might work.

### VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Let others in on some of your secrets, Virgo. You can't hold everything in all of the time, and you have been shouldering a lot of responsibility for some time.

### LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, the personalized touches you put on any project will showcase your personality and passion. Think about embracing a crafty task to really showcase your talents.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, friends are lining up to be quite helpful of late. When you figure out how much you're getting done with the assistance of others, you may be more welcoming of it in the future.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Overcome resistance to listening to another person's side of the story, Sagittarius. Embrace this person's desire take the lead on something at work or in your home life.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A changing environment has you figuring out how to adapt your schedule and your skills, Capricorn. With a support team in your corner, you can achieve quite a bit.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Spending is a tad out of control this week, Aquarius. Money is flying out of your wallet at a rapid rate. You may need to be a bit more choosy with your spending moving forward.

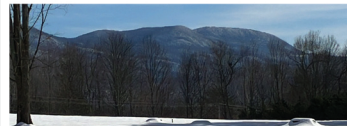
### PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Wait a few more days before making major decisions as your emotions are high right now, Pisces. You want a level head to prevail.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- March 23 Akira Kurosawa, film director (d)
- March 24 David Suzuki, academic, environmental activist (87)
- March 25 Aretha Franklin, singer (d)
- March 26 Robert Frost, poet (d)
- March 27 Sarah Vaughan, singer (d)
- March 29 Jonathan Van Ness, TV personality (36)
- March 30 Amy Sedaris, actress and comedian (62)

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The Rutland County Humane Society and Homeward Bound join forces in April to offer \$5 male cat neuters

## CatSnip: a partnership to prevent unwanted kittens

PITTSFORD- The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS), Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, and Community Cats Podcast are proud to partner up for a cat Neuter-A-Thon during the month of April.

All three organizations share a goal of reducing the number of unwanted kittens that will be born between April and October of this year. In 2022, RCHS and Homeward Bound saw a total of 588 community kittens enter our respective shelters.

To get ahead of this annual influx, prevent unnecessary suffering, and free up resources for other life-saving initiatives the organizations will be offering \$5 male cat neuters at the RCHS shelter, 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford, on April 3, 10, and

24 and at the Homeward Bound shelter, 236 Boardman Street in Middlebury on April 1, 22, 28, and 29. No appointment is necessary but all cats must arrive in a secure carrier or trap and should skip breakfast! Drop off in Pittsford is between 9 a.m.—12 noon. No cats will be accepted after 12 noon. Drop off in Middlebury is between 8 a.m.—11 a.m. No cats will be accepted after 11 a.m. Cash only; exact change required.

Rutland County Humane Society's Executive Director Beth Saradarian shares: "Cats tend to wander, sometimes from one county to another, so we're excited to partner with our Addison County colleagues to outsmart the Tomcats and reduce unintended breeding in both Rutland and Addison counties!"



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# Montpelier round-up by VtDigger cont. from pg. 15

## HHS pushes bill aimed at reducing overdoses

**BY KRISTEN FOUNTAIN**  
 The House Human Services Committee pushed a bill forward on Friday with a variety of fairly uncontroversial provisions aimed at reducing opioid overdoses.  
 The bill, H.222, is a grab bag of different changes intended to improve access to harm reduction supplies, medication-assisted treatment and peer support. Among them: It would order the Department of Health to create state-

wide programs for needle and syringe disposal and for the distribution of overdose reversal drugs, including at kiosks accessible to those at risk.  
 It would require the Department of Vermont Health Access to ensure that the state's Medicaid program covers at least one type of opioid use disorder treatment in each therapeutic class: methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone. It also would make several technical changes intended to

remove or ease existing prior authorization requirements for Medicaid patients who need those treatments.  
 Finally, it would require that municipal zoning laws treat certified group homes for people in recovery from substance use serving fewer than eight people as a permitted "single-family residential use." This parallels a current law requiring the same for residential care homes of other types.

## Dan French

*(Continued from Page 15)*  
 "It has been a privilege to serve as Secretary of Education for a Governor who is deeply committed to the future success of all of our students."

Deputy Secretary of Education Heather Bouchey will take over as interim secretary after French's departure, officials said.

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# Becki Lund

(Continued from Page 6) who are transitioning.

“They know when it’s time,” said Lund. They often start talking to people from their past, who’ve already gone. When that process starts, it’s important to let it happen. Sometimes, even holding their hand can feel like a restraint and keep them from leaving peacefully.”

Lund comes from a family of nurses and began nursing school herself, though she ultimately opted for a career in retail. After she raised her children, however, she felt called back to healthcare in a different capacity.

“I really started doing this when I was a teenager,” she said. “I worked at Addison House [nursing home] in Middlebury. I was just a regular worker, but families started asking me to sit with their loved ones if they couldn’t be

there. I never thought it was a scary thing. Even when my own great-grandmother died, when I was little, I remember thinking ‘Isn’t this beautiful that we can all come together as a family?’ We need to give the same respect to death as we give to birth.”

When asked if some folks “roll their eyes” at her, Lund laughs. “Of course, sometimes. But I just try to understand where they’re coming from.”

Her job is to keep things running smoothly, she said. She can’t be the one feeding into the

anxiety. If there’s been enough time, she will have conferences with the family well ahead of the final moments.

*“We’re all just energy, energy doesn’t disappear, it just changes form. We may be losing our loved one in the physical form we knew, but we don’t lose the memories, we don’t lose the relationship we had with them. And that relationship can still evolve as we live with their memories.”*

—Becki Lund

Part of Lund’s ease with death is that she doesn’t see it as a termination but rather as a transition.

“We’re all just energy,” she said. “Energy doesn’t disappear, it just changes form. We may be losing our loved one in the physical form we

knew, but we don’t lose the memories, we don’t lose the relationship we had with them. And that relationship can still

evolve as we live with their memories.”

Lund offers free workshops at local libraries to help familiarize area residents with what she does and with Vermont laws governing advance directives. The next such session will be at Shoreham Congregational Church on April 15 at 2:00. You can find out more about her services on her website [ladimoravt.com](http://ladimoravt.com).

“Don’t be afraid to talk about death,” she said. “Talking about it doesn’t make it come any faster. But not talking about it can make it a much worse experience than it has to be. People spend months planning their weddings, why wouldn’t you want to spend some time, if you can, planning your final days?”

# Legislative report

(Continued from Page 7)

for approval.

The House committee voted out the “T-Bill” on Friday, March 17th on an 11-0-0 vote of approval. It should be noted that the committee reduced the administration’s \$885 million request to \$880 million and did so without eliminating programs!

I can be reached at any time by email at [bshaw@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bshaw@leg.state.vt.us), by phone 802-483-2398 or by mail at PO Box 197, Pittsford, VT 05763. I am always available to have a conversation concerning our Legislative District and your Vermont State Government.

Representative Butch Shaw  
Pittsford-Proctor

## TOWN OF PROCTOR VERMONT Special Town Meeting Warning

The legal voters of the Town of Proctor are hereby warned to meet at the Proctor Free Library Community Room, 4 Main St, Proctor, VT 05765 at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 to transact the following business by floor vote:

### Article 1:

Shall the voters disapprove amendments to Proctor’s Public Nuisance Ordinance as adopted by the Selectboard on January 23, 2023 which provide as follows:

### Section II, G. 7:

The keeping of livestock including swine, hogs, cattle, horses, fowl, and other animals on property in any manner that constitutes a public health hazard or in a manner that does not comply with the conditions for keeping certain animals as stated in Section III.


### Section III, Conditions for Keeping Certain Animals

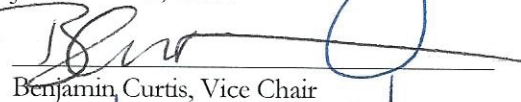
A. Nonconformity with the provisions and conditions listed hereinafter regarding the harboring or keeping of animals within town limits shall constitute a public nuisance:

1. Harboring or raising of livestock is prohibited, including but not limited to horses, cattle, sheep, swine hogs, or fur bearing animals without the written approval of all owners owning property within one hundred (100) yards of the premises on which the livestock is being kept.
2. No livestock, swine or hogs shall be kept within 100 feet of any residence, dwelling house, or street. Livestock pens and yards must be kept deodorized by the application of dried muck, dry earth or some other effective absorbent or disinfectant; provided, nevertheless, that no person, persons, firm, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity shall keep or maintain more than 4 swine or hogs within the limits of the city.
3. No fowl or chickens shall be kept on property in such a manner as to cause a public nuisance and the buildings and yards shall be kept deodorized by the application of dry earth or some other effective

absorbent or disinfectant. All fowl and chickens kept within the town limits shall be confined in an enclosure, and shall not be permitted to run at large. No more than twelve (12) fowl or chickens may be harbored on a single premises.

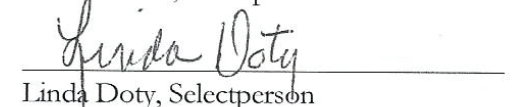
4. It is prohibited for any person to own, possess, or harbor a rooster within town limits.
5. No more than four (4) cats and/or dogs over six (6) months old shall be harbored or kept on a property or premises.
6. Required agricultural practices as defined in 24 VSA §4413(d) shall not constitute a public nuisance.

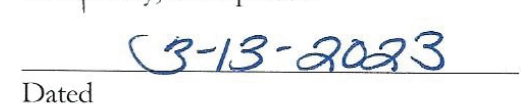
  
Judith Frazier, Chair

  
Benjamin Curtis, Vice Chair

  
Thomas Hogan, Selectperson

  
Bruce Baccei, Selectperson

  
Linda Doty, Selectperson

  
Dated

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

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

If you wish to opt out and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted a No Spray Zone request for your property last year, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit a No Spray Zone request last year, please send a letter listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone numbers, the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at <https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request a District employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

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

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

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779 | [ocwicd@gmail.com](mailto:ocwicd@gmail.com) | <https://ocwicd.com>  
Additional information is available at <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol>

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the Otter Creek Watershed (OCW, formerly known as the BLSG) Insect Control District will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Pittsford, and Proctor to control mosquito larva populations. Those treatments will use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTi), *Bacillus Sphaericus* (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterial larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

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

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

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

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



# Winter's last stand



Winter ain't over in Vermont til it's over. Even as the days grow longer, we're likely to see snow through April.

Photos by Steven Jupiter & Sepi Alavi

## Addison County's Hometown Dealer



36 Boardman St.,  
Middlebury VT 05753  
802-388-6718  
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,  
Middlebury VT 05753  
802-388-9961  
stonecdjr.com

