

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

A community supported newspaper

Vol. 28, No. 14

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

\$1



EASTER BUNNY VISITS PROCTOR
Proctor Rink celebrates spring with a visit from the Easter Bunny.
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HELPING THE LIBRARY
Students from OV and Stafford learn forestry while culling lumber for Brandon Library.
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EASTER MUSINGS
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SCHOOL THREAT
Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian makes statement about incidents at Neshobe School this past week
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Skip Jennings remembers

BY GEORGE FJELD

Duane “Skip” Jennings has lived and worked in Brandon for all of his 92 years. And he’s played golf here for 65 years! Skip was nicknamed at 4 or 5 years of age when he wore a sailor suit he loved that had a hat with “Skipper” printed on it. Locally educated in Brandon, he graduated from Brandon High School in 1948.

Golf for Skip started in 1954 at 24 years of age when 2 friends at Whelden Coal–Gilbert Casey and Danny Lovell–talked him into playing with them at the Middlebury golf course. He borrowed Danny’s wife’s clubs and afterward Jennings said, “I didn’t like it” and told his friends that he
(See Skip Jennings, Page 2)



SKIP JENNINGS



HANNAH SESSIONS AND her husband Greg Bernhardt pose against one of their barns at Blue Ledge Farm in Salisbury. Sessions holds a copy of her new illustrated children’s book, *Rosalyn Thought She Was a Goat*.
Photo: Steven Jupiter

Children’s books and cheese: the creative life of Salisbury’s Hannah Sessions

BY STEVEN JUPITER

SALISBURY—It began with a forgotten lamb, a rejected baby from a flock of 30 sheep that Hannah Sessions and her husband, Greg Bernhardt, had sold to focus their attention on the goats that have since become their trademark and

livelihood on Blue Ledge Farm in Salisbury. The little lamb somehow evaded detection when all of its fellows had been shuttled off. Sessions and Bernhardt kept the critter and raised it with their goats. Before long, surrounded by its caprine cousins, it came to believe that it,

too, was a goat.

“We tried introducing it to other sheep,” said Bernhardt in one of Blue Ledge’s barns, “but she didn’t relate. She just wanted to be with the goats.”

“And that was the inspiration for *Rosalyn*,” added Sessions.
(See Hannah Sessions, Page 8)

Masonic Lodge promotes reading and fitness with bike raffle at Neshobe

BY STEVEN JUPITER

FORESTDALE—The Union Lodge of Masons in Brandon sponsored a “Read to Ride” bike raffle last Friday at the Neshobe Elementary School to promote both literacy and fitness. At a full-school assembly, names were drawn to present one student in each grade with a brand-new bicycle and helmet. Students earned one ticket per 20 minutes of tracked reading. A student who read for an hour, for example, would earn three tickets and thus three chances to win the bicycle designated for that student’s grade.

The assembly was led by Neshobe Librarian Hannah Fjeld.

The bicycles were purchased by the Masons from Green Mountain Bikes (GMB) in Rochester. According to Doon Hinderyckx of GMB, the seven bicycles (for K through 6) had a retail value of over \$4,000. The helmets were donated by the Brandon Recreation Department.

Before the drawing, as the entire school sat on the gymnasium floor before him, Mr. Hinderyckx spoke with the kids about bicycle safety
(See Bike raffle, Page 14)



CEDRIC TASHRO OF the Union Masonic Lodge in Brandon draws a name from a bucket held by Neshobe Librarian Hannah Fjeld. The Lodge sponsored a “Read to Ride” raffle to give away bicycles to promote literacy.
Photos by Steven Jupiter

Skip Jennings

(Continued from Page 1)

wasn't interested in playing again. But after hitting a few chip shots each day after work for 3 or so weeks, he asked when they could play again. He joined Proctor-Pittsford Golf Club in 1955 and never looked back.

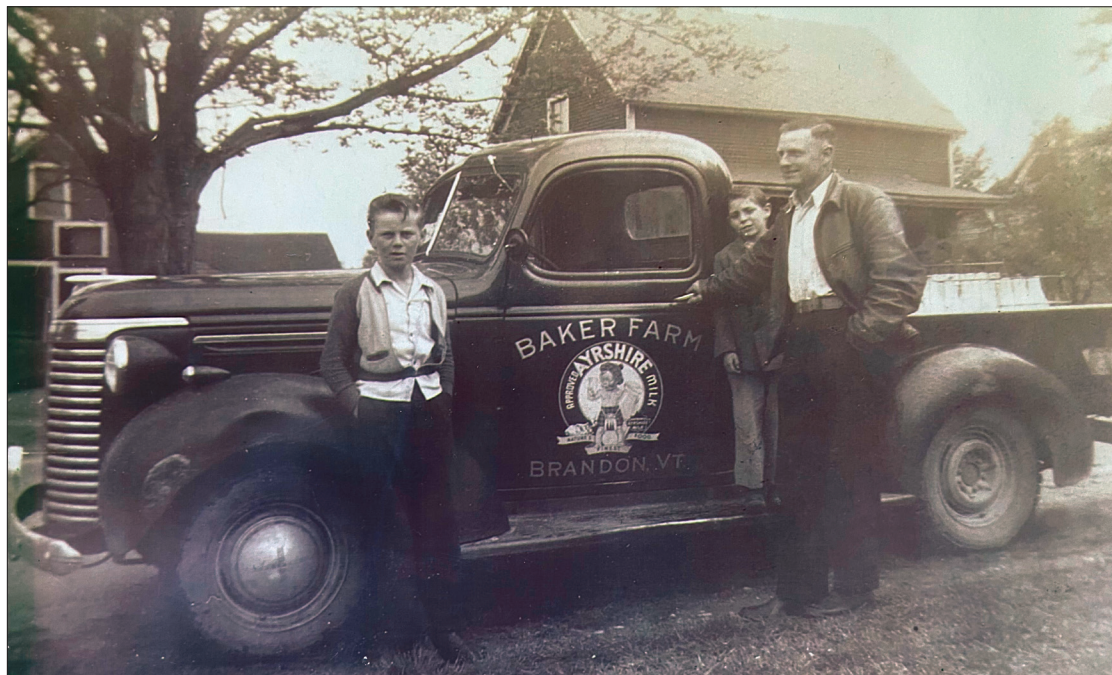
In 1957, Jennings was part of a group of 15-20 Brandon men interested in starting a golf club. Tom Whelan and Seeley Estabrook walked the site of the abandoned Brandon Country Club on Park Street Extension to see if they could resurrect the old course. The owner, from Bristol, had an idea that he could sell it to the school district as a site for a proposed Union High School. Though that didn't end up occurring, they had to look elsewhere. After considering the fields at Barnes' Flats, Bob Naylor and Herb Larock decided on the hay fields of Stewart Jones on the corner of Route 73 East and Town Farm Road. After Bob Naylor and Herb Larock worked out a purchase for \$10,000, these local guys spent evenings and weekends contributing free labor

it came time to roll and pack the dirt smooth they had the idea to use Dean's log truck instead of the hand hauled but lighter roller used on all the other tees and greens. That explains why decades of golfers found that green very hard and balls would bounce off of it too easily. The original 9 hole course was completed in 1958 and was expanded to 18 holes in 1996. The first golf course superintendent was Stan English and Stewart Jones did the mowing.

Jennings is a lifelong Yankees fan which figures prominently in his marriage. In 1956, he purchased a marriage license to wed Elenita Hayes. Growing up a Red Sox fan, Nita became a Yankees fan after following Mickey Mantle, who won the Triple Crown in 1956. They hadn't set a date but when Yankee Don Larson pitched a perfect game in the World Series in the afternoon of October 8th, they were so elated that he and Nita headed for the preacher's house in Leicester. They found him at home and asked him to marry them, then and there. The preacher's wife dried her hands after doing the dishes and witnessed the brief ceremony. They headed home separately to their parents' houses, keeping the marriage quiet for a couple of weeks. Finally, after announcing their wedding, they moved into the house Skip had built on Park Street Extension.

Jennings was also an avid Middlebury Panther hockey fan, getting hooked on hockey after watching his first Middlebury game against Boston University, which was highlighted by a team-on-team (all 20 players from both teams) brawl. Attending with a friend, he thought "This could be very interesting." He followed the Panthers for 60 years, only missing one home game in all that time.

Jennings' Dairy Products was started by Skip's dad, George Jennings, in 1947 at the request of Proctor Creamery to fill a community need. Skip graduated from high school a year later and started working for the business. Soon, it was his show and he kept at it for 44 years, retiring in 1992 at age 62. Long term Brandon residents will remember him delivering milk to their doorstep or refrigerator 3 times a week. As the owner of Jennings' Dairy, he was a one-man show. Starting at 4:30 in the morning, he would load the big white-and-green delivery truck with half-pint, pint, and quart glass bottles of milk from his refrigerated storage in Forestdale. Then off he'd go, stopping at nearly every house in town! Picking up the empty bottles and leaving the requested milk, cream, and eggs, he made his rounds.



BAKER FARM DAIRY truck, 1942. Skip on left with Charlie Capen and his son. Note the milk bottles in the back of the pickup.



SKIP JENNINGS AND his wife Nita were married for 66 years.

Photos provided

to the development. A share of stock was gifted to each worker who completed 50 hours of labor. Other shares were sold for \$50. A golfer from the Proctor-Pittsford course came and laid out the routing with stakes at tees and greens. Bert Baker hauled topsoil from his land on the "Creek Road" (now Champlain Street or Route 73 West), and dumped it at each stake. Herb Larock, a local logger, had 5 or 6 employees and 2 bulldozers. They spent mud season, when they couldn't be logging, working on the course. Herb took his dozers into the Neshobe River and straightened it as well as reinforcing the banks with stone. Pairs of volunteers were given a green or tee to work on. Skip and Dean Lee were tasked with constructing the 7th green. After shoveling and raking all that dirt, when



GOLF ON JANUARY 1, 2000. Bob Beauregard, Brian Coolidge, Stan English, and Skip. Bob, Stan, and Skip all took part in the creation of the course.

Skip said, "People didn't have fridges, some had iceboxes, so I delivered 3 days a week, either Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. "Starting out, I charged 17 cents a quart for milk." He continued "I knew where the key was hidden to a lot of houses and would go in and fill the refrigerator and lock the door on leaving." Following his last drop-off of the day, he headed to Proctor Creamery between 10 and 11 a.m. to return empty bottles and pick up milk for the next day. He'd move the milk to the Forestdale fridge to keep it chilled overnight. This meant moving 4-5 tons of milk, bottles, and milk cases daily. "We figured out each milk case weighed 36 pounds and I'd lift and carry 2-3 at a time, I moved them all 4 times,"

quipped Jennings.

Glass bottles ended with the change to waxed-paper cartons in the 1960's. "Proctor Creamery didn't want them (the bottles) and I took all those glass bottles to the dump. They're probably still there." Jennings's workday ended around 1 p.m. and he headed home for lunch with his wife, Elenita. He didn't take vacations, only a few 3-day weekends off each year, usually to attend a Yankees game. Son Kevin would fill in for him. He said he'd be on vacation once he reached 62 years old. Now his vacation has lasted 30 years! After Proctor Creamery closed, he bought and sold milk from Cabot Creamery and finally HP Hood. Afternoons all summer were spent at the golf club and in winter he built an ice rink in his yard and

would skate for 1+ hours a day all winter.

He's spent the last 64 years enjoying the fruits of his labors at Neshobe Golf Club. His best round was 67 (4 under par) on the original 9 hole course. He's shot 73 (one over par) on the new 18 hole course. Jennings was never club champion but was runner up 3 times. He started "breaking his age" or shooting a lower score than his age in his seventies and has done so every year since. Skip has collected 8,000 golf balls from around the golf course but only has around 5,000 now! He's anxiously awaiting the opening of the course this spring and you can be sure to see him on the first tee or practice green most days this summer.

PROCTOR SKATING RINK SERVES PANCAKES AND EASTER BUNNY HUGS

BY STEVEN JUPITER

PROCTOR—About two dozen families came out to the Proctor Skating Rink on Saturday morning for pancakes and hugs with the Easter Bunny, who arrived on the scene in a Proctor Fire Department truck, much to the delight of parents and children alike.

Inside the clubhouse, Megan and Brian Cannucci, who run

the rink, served pancakes and hot chocolate while the Bunny (played with great commitment by Proctor Town Manager Michael Ramsay) made himself available for hugs, high fives, and photos.

Children from infancy to adolescence beamed as the Easter Bunny mingled with the crowd. Even the teens couldn't help smiling and accepting hugs.

Outside, Tim Garrow of Proctor, and his daughter Janelle, strew scores of pastel-colored eggs around the grounds for the kids to come find after their pancakes.

According to the Cannuccis, spring will be busy at the rink: a playground will be set up on the grounds and the roller-skating season will soon resume. Anyone who prefers rubber wheels to steel blades will be glad to get out on the rink again.



THE EASTER BUNNY gave lots of hugs to the kids who came to the rink to see him.



THE EASTER BUNNY (played by Town Manager Michael Ramsay) arrives at the Proctor Rink in a Proctor FD truck.

Photos by Steven Jupiter



RICH & LUCINDA Eckrote of Proctor brought their son, Bo, to see the Bunny and collect Easter eggs.



TIM GARROW OF Proctor helped out by scattering Easter eggs for the kids to find after breakfast.

SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023
check in is at 7:00 a.m.

Shotgun style tournament 8:00 a.m.
Banquet dinner post round
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BRANDON REPORTER

Editorial

The beauty of mud

I once spent a year in San Diego when I was in my early 20s, an experience which probably seems enviable to most people. It was sunny and 75 degrees nearly every day. I wore shorts on my November birthday for the first time in my life. You could pretty much count on “good” weather every single day of the year. You never needed to say “rain or shine” because all it did was shine.

And I hated it.

That probably sounds extremely ungracious. I mean, people move to Southern California from all sorts of gray places specifically for the reliability of the sunshine, so what was wrong with me that I found it annoying? It’s not that I don’t appreciate a beautiful summer day; I just don’t want a year’s worth of beautiful summer days. We need mud season to appreciate everything else.

April is a schizoid month in Vermont. It’s basically still winter, though spring is getting antsy for its turn. One day it’s sunny and warm and the next it’s frigid and snowing. The ground is squishy with snowmelt, the backroads are rutted and impassable. Our shoes are dirty. Our dogs are filthy. We don’t know what to wear from one day to the next.

And I love it.

Every spring in Vermont, mud and all, feels like a triumph: we made it through another winter. We endured the cold, the dark, the snow and ice. We emerge from our hibernation blinking like moles, ready to get back out there and root for grubs, metaphorically speaking.

Warm spring days are pre-

scious here. We plan carefully to maximize their output. There’s no time to waste. Hiking, gardening, fishing, or even just enjoying an evening outside with friends and family. Eventually the mosquitos will temper our joy until fall, when we get another brief interlude of carefree outdoor living.

The mud tells us those days are coming. Those isolated mounds of snow that linger in shady parts of the yard will soon be gone. The crocuses are here. Spring peepers entertain us with their croaking cantatas. It’s like a sip of cool water when we’re parched. Or a bowl of great stew when we’re famished. It revives us. It’s life again.

And, paradoxically, that’s probably a good way to explain what was missing in San Diego: the endless summer felt dead. We were zombies passing mindlessly through our lives, never sure what month it was because it just didn’t matter. Nothing happened in June that couldn’t happen in January. It dulled the senses. The stereotype of soft Californians isn’t totally baseless, though I’d wager they’d perk up fast if they had to figure out how to endure a New England winter.

When we moved to Vermont from New York, I thought I understood the seasons. After all, New York has them, too. But in New York, at least in the city, the seasons are simply cues for wardrobe changes. But we moved straight from the city to the woods of Hubbardton, where we kept ducks and chickens and suddenly had to think about winter literally in terms of survival. We had

(See *Beauty of mud*, Page 22)



Prodigal return

THIS BOBOLINK WILL be arriving soon from South America. It is one of the threatened grassland birds that utilize hay fields for nesting. An old name for this species is the "rice bird", from its tendency to feed on cultivated grains during winter and migration. During the 1800s the bobolink, like many birds, was slaughtered in large numbers for the meat trade.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forums

Slow Down for Frogs and Salamanders

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Vermont Fish and Wildlife is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when travelling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving roads near ponds and wetlands that salamanders and frogs cross during their breeding season.

“One of the benefits of checking out amphibian road crossings,” says Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff, “is that you can see many individuals and species in a short period and small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year. The spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group called the

“mole salamanders,” because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps, and are rarely seen until the next spring.”

Road crossings are also a great way to see rare or otherwise hard-to-find species, which biologists rely on for data collection. For example, the four-toed salamander is rare in Vermont, and its distribution is not well understood. This information is used by Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers in road construction plans that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to

more safely cross roadways.

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

Vermonters who wish to contribute to the Fish and Wildlife Department’s work to conserve frog and salamander populations can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form or on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Lions Club will be collecting food donations

I hope everybody is ready for Easter. If you are out and about Saturday shopping for the Easter meal on Sunday, please look for the Lions Club to be in front of Hannaford from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday collecting dona-

tions for our local food shelf. There are many in our community who will not enjoy Easter without your help. So please stop by to say hi and just donate an item for us. Every item collected goes to our local food shelf. The

Lions Club would like to thank in advance Hannaford and everybody who helped us with donations.

Frederick Pockette

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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Note to the Community from Brandon Police Chief David Kachajian

Neshobe Elementary threat was investigated once the report was made

Note On Monday, April 3, 2023, at approximately 8:30 a.m. the Brandon Police Department was made aware of an incident by a parent involving a student at the Neshobe Elementary School in Brandon in which the student had allegedly threatened to shoot both students and staff at the school last week.

The incident in question occurred last Thursday, but was not reported to law enforcement at the time. Prior to that incident, a parent had contacted the Brandon Police Department late this weekend concerning another incident at the Neshobe Elementary School in which a child had allegedly brought in a plastic sport bottle with a flint and striker. It should be noted that this incident was not reported to law enforcement prior to one of the parents in the school district making the police department aware of what happened.

Upon further investigation at the time, it was determined that the student didn't make any overt and/or direct threats towards staff or students but

did make the comment that he "Could make a bomb if he wanted to." The plastic sport bottle was determined to be just a plain sport bottle with no flammable or explosive liquid inside of it. It was also determined that the child did not have access to any weapons and/or firearms. As a result, the school administration did a threat assessment on the child and determined that there was no threat to the staff and students, but did take disciplinary action by suspending the child from the school.

When the Brandon Police Department learned of the second incident in-

volving the student that had threatened to shoot other students and staff members, an immediate investigation was opened and witnesses and school staff at the Neshobe Elementary School were interviewed. The Rutland County State's Attorney's Office was also notified of the complaint and were kept aware of the status of the investigation as it progressed throughout the day. The investigating officer, at

We would also like to assure everyone that our investigation determined that the child who had made the threats did not have any access to firearms or the ability to acquire them from anyone in his family.

— Chief Kachajian

ter and met with the child and both of his parents. The child was issued a Juvenile Citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court-Family Division in June for an initial hearing on the complaint.

The Brandon Police Department would like to assure all the staff, parents, and students that work at, have children at, or are students at the Neshobe Elementary School that this matter was immediately dealt with, by our agency, at the time that it was finally brought to our attention.

We would also like to assure everyone that our investigation determined that the child who had made the threats did not have any access to firearms or the ability to acquire them from anyone in his family.

The most important reason for this press release is to dis-

pel any rumors that have been spread throughout our community and over social media this past weekend about what had occurred, and to calm any fears that parents, staff, and students may have returning to the school moving forward. The child that had made the threats has been suspended by the school pending review of the circumstances by the school administration.

The Brandon Police Department takes all threats to the safety and welfare of our children and teachers very seriously and will do everything in our power and ability to make sure that everyone at our schools is kept from harm.

Respectfully,
Chief David Kachajian

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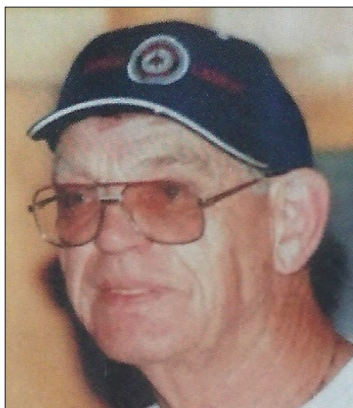


Obituaries

John Elmer Mallory, 89, Brandon

John Elmer Mallory, age 89, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, with family by his side.

John was born in Rutland on September 8, 1933. He was the son of Elmer and Iola (Sanderson) Mallory. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1951. John joined the United States Air Force and served until receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1956. John had worked for 37 years at the A & P Grocery Chain. He retired in 1996 as the Dairy Manager. He was a member of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge, Farmers Chapter & Council, as well as a member of Mount Calvary Commandry. He belonged to Brandon American Legion Post #55, where he served as Commander numerous times. He was also a former member of



JOHN ELMER MALLORY

the Brandon Fire Department and had been a scout leader, as well. He and his father Elmer helped establish Mallory's Garage in Forest Dale, where he worked with his son following retirement for several years.

He is survived by 2 sons: Eric J. Mallory & his wife Brenda of Forest Dale, and Kevin M. Mallory of Palm Springs, CA & his long-time companion;

Sharon Perry of Brandon; and his grandson, Matthew Mallory and his wife Jennifer. And his great-grandchildren: Austin, Emmett and Jasper Mallory. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Jessica Mallory.

A gathering "In Celebration of His Life" will be held on Friday, April 7, 2023, from 1-4 PM, at Brandon American Legion Post #55.

A private graveside committal service and burial, with Military Honors, will take place, in the family lot, at Pine Hill cemetery, at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to, Brandon American Legion Post #55, Brandon, VT 05733 or The Dodge House, 95 Crescent Street, Rutland, VT 05701.

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

Audrey Madge (Lee) Scarborough, 85, Leicester

Audrey Madge (Lee) Scarborough passed peacefully at her home in Rutland on Monday, December 5, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.

Audrey was born July 26, 1937 to Frank E. and Dorothy Dean Lee in Benson, VT. Audrey graduated from Brandon High School in 1955. After graduation, she worked at the Ayrshire Breeders Association. She married Kenneth (Bucky) Scarborough on September 30, 1955 and made their home in Leicester for the first 57 years of their marriage, moving to Rutland Town in 2015. While their daughters were young, Audrey was a full-time Mom. She was active in the Leicester PTO, was instrumental in starting the Leicester swimming program, and was Treasurer of the Salisbury Congregational Church. In 1964, Audrey began her life-long career at First Brandon National Bank, working her way from book-keeping to Vice President and



AUDREY SCARBOROUGH

manager of the FBNB branch in Pittsford, retiring in 1998. She was treasurer for the BHS Alumni Association for 30+ years.

Audrey loved animals, especially horses. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles, cooking a nice family meal, coffee with the girls, yearly fall trips to Maine, and winters in Florida. She was predeceased by her parents, 3 brothers (Allyn, Edwin, Dean) and her sister, Anna.

She is survived by her husband, Bucky; daughters Vicki Scarborough of Sarasota, FL and Lisa Shaddock (Chris) of Mendon; 2 grandsons, Lema Carter (Ashley) and Blair Shaddock (Makayla); and 2 great-grandchildren (Gabriel and Camellia Carter), a special niece Jude Butterfoss, and several nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, April 15th at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT. beginning at 12:00 pm with a brief service at 12:30 followed by lunch.

Memorial contributions in her name can be made to VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland, VT 05701 or Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763

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



Legislative Report

BY BUTCH SHAW

Whirlwind of activity

The past two weeks have been a whirlwind of activity on the House floor. In marathon sessions lasting well into the late evening hours, sometimes as late as 11pm, 38 House bills were approved and moved to the Senate for possible modification and approval. We should remember that there is no guarantee that a House bill sent to the Senate will be passed into law. Conversely when the Senate sends their bills to the House, the same applies. Let the games begin!

Some of the bills I have been tracking are:

H.492 "Setting the property tax yields and non-homestead property tax rates". This is the bill that sets the state portion of your education-tax rates for your local school budgets. This bill shows a moderate increase of approximately 3% in your state education tax property tax rate. It should be noted that the bill includes the funding of \$29 million to support universal school meals for all students and that it fully funds the statutory stabilization reserves. I did support this bill.

H.479 "Fiscal Year 24 Vermont Transportation Program". I have previously reported on this bill in my March 22 column where I stated that the bill passed out of my committee, Transportation, on an 11-0-0 vote and I supported the bill as introduced. The bill was then sent to the Ways and Means Committee, where an amendment to the bill to increase fees charged by the Department of Motor Vehicles was added to H.479. An example of some of the fees that will be increased are Drivers Licenses, Vehicle Registrations, Vehicle Inspection Stickers, Vanity License Plate surcharges, ATV and

Snowmobile Registrations, Municipal and Volunteer Registrations and other services provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The average increase in the fees would be 20% to Vermonters, an unprecedented amount during my time in the Legislature. When H.479 was presented to the House floor for a full vote with the fee amendment attached, it was passed on a vote of 100 yes and 39 no. I could not support this bill with a very regressive tax attached and voted no on the T-Bill for the very first time in my Legislative career.

H.492 "The General Fund Budget." Also known as the "Big Bill." This must-pass bill supports all of state government and is likely to receive a gubernatorial veto. This year's edition of the Big Bill represents a record spending amount of \$8.5 billion and is an increase of 12% over the Fiscal Year 23 base budget. Just for context a normal budget increase has been around 3.5% for the past several years. The Appropriations Committee worked long and hard on this bill but spent an additional \$150 million in reserve funds which Governor Scott had requested to be used in the out years as match money for the millions of dollars in Federal Infrastructure Grants Vermont is scheduled to receive in the very near future. The Speaker is so sure of the Governor's veto that she has set June 20-22 for a veto-override session. The bill passed out of Appropriations with a vote of 8 yes and 4 no, which is highly unusual as the Appropriations Committee normally works very hard to get an 11-0 committee vote. The bill passed on (See Legislative report, Page 22)

Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing.

For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com. Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



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Students help cull timber from Hawk Hill for Brandon Library

BY STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—A forest is a living thing in itself, not just a habitat in which other living things reside. And as with any other organism, its health can vary over time. By selectively culling trees from a forest, we can help ensure that the forest as a whole continues to thrive.

In a multiple-birds-with-one-stone move, students from Otter Valley Union High School (OVUHS) and Rutland's Stafford Tech Center worked with the Bennington County Forester to identify and remove problematic trees from the vast woods behind OVUHS to help maintain the forest's health and to provide lumber for the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL), which is about

ment of the land. The Committee gave Schmidt the go-ahead and he pulled in Mr. Creagan from Bennington County. Normally, the Forester from Rutland County would have been involved but the position is currently vacant.

"As a lifelong conservationist," Schmidt wrote in an emailed statement, "I wanted to take advantage of an opportunity to see Hawk Hill managed in a way that promotes many benefits: healthy trees, clean air, clean water, biological diversity, and a stronger community of people."

Hawk Hill was the site of the earliest permanent European settlement in Brandon, back when the town was still called Neshobe, around the time of the Revolution. A series of trails winds through the woods, taking hikers past stone walls and foundations—the remnants of the settlers' homes. The woods are used for recreation, some hunting, and for educational purposes. The Moosalamoo program at

OV makes extensive use of the forest and it was students from Moosalamoo who participated in this project, in addition to the students from Stafford.

Eric Sanborn of Brandon brought his portable sawmill to the parking lot at OVUHS to mill the logs that were culled. One truck held the sawn lumber that will be used to make shelves and countertops, and another held scraps that will end up as kindling and firewood. Surprisingly, some of the discarded wood came from the centers of the logs.

"The very center of a tree isn't stable wood," Creagan explained. "It was formed when the tree was young and growing quickly, so the grain isn't tight and there are often a lot of knots where branches started to split off."

The team milled about 1,000 usable board feet. The project helped protect the health of the woods, gave the students hands-on experience with practical

forestry, and donated needed lumber to the library renovation, all while creating a symbolic link between the earliest days of

the town and the library building, which was itself built in the 1830s. Not a bad deal at all.



STUDENTS STACK THE sawn maple that will be used to make shelves and counters for the Brandon Library.

Photos by Steven Jupiter

to begin a major renovation.

"Most of what we took was maple," said Cory Creagan, Forester for Bennington County. "We went through the woods with the kids and identified six maples and one pine that were defective or were in some way preventing more desirable trees, such as oak and cherry, from thriving. The oaks and cherries provide food for wildlife and taking out certain maples gives them room to grow. Students have been involved at every step and have learn about a range of topics, including forest ecology and the importance of species diversity, natural-resources management and planning, and wildlife-habitat management."

Len Schmidt, a Brandon resident who logged his own land for much of the wood he used to build his own house, initiated the project. His stepdaughter is Molly Kennedy, Director of BFPL. He brought the idea to the Hawk Hill Committee, which is a subcommittee of the OV School Board tasked with the manage-



THE CREW THAT oversaw the project (l to r): Len Schmidt, David Roberts (President, BFPL), Molly Kennedy (Director, BFPL), Eric Sanborn (sawyer), and Cory Creagan (Bennington County Forester)



FORESTER CORY CREAGAN teaches students from OV and Stafford about forest ecology and management as they select trees to cull.

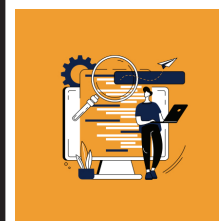
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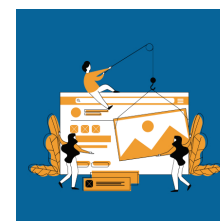
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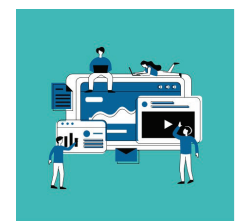
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Welcome Before & After Work or School!

Hannah Sessions

(Continued from Page 1)

Rosalyn Thought She Was a Goat is Sessions's first children's book, a based-on-real-events story of a little lamb, Rosalyn, who grew up thinking she was a goat. When given the opportunity to reunite with her "kind," Rosalyn comes to appreciate the beauty of her individuality and rejects the easy comfort of conformity.

Sessions wrote the story and created the spare-yet-sophisticated illustrations over 10 years ago, but the demands of children and the farm left the manuscript languishing in a drawer until she and Bernhardt made the decision to publish it now that their kids—Livia and Hayden—are both off at Bates College, Sessions's and Bernhardt's own alma mater in Maine.

"We're empty nesters now," said Bernhardt. "I took a class

in graphic design at CCV and was able to put the book together from Hannah's loose sheets."

For Sessions, the allure of children's books is the multiple levels on which they can be understood.

"Children's books are amazing in that they often have two stories in them: a surface story and an underlying story," she said. "On the surface this is a story of a sheep leaving a goat farm and finding her way back, but the understory is about realizing that as an individual, there is real value and opportunity in being unique, and as a community we need diversity to function."

Sessions grew up in Cornwall and went to Middlebury Union High School. Bernhardt is from the suburbs of Philadelphia. They met at Bates College, where they both studied



THE MILKING PARLOR at Blue Ledge Farm. The goats' teats are treated with iodine before milking to ward off infections.

art, and bonded over a debate about the classic children's book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.

"We disagreed about the central premise of the book—that unconditional love is enough," said Sessions.

"But we came away from that conversation understanding each other's perspective," added Bernhardt.

And from that conversation a relationship was born that took them back to Sessions's native Vermont and into the cheese business for 23 years before coming full circle with this new venture as creators of their own children's book.

As we discuss Rosalyn and the multilayered nature of children's literature, Sessions and Bernhardt prepare their dairy

goats for their afternoon milking. The milking parlor is a row of stations where the lactating animals are fed while relieved of the milk that's been collecting in their udders.

Sessions and Bernhardt have 160 goats at Blue Ledge, of which 120 to 130 are in the lactation lineup at any given time. Theirs is solely a dairy operation. With a staff of 10 part-time employees, they collect about 800 lbs. of milk daily and transform it into a wide range of cheeses, ranging from fresh, spreadable chevre to hard, ripened cheeses, some of which are blended with cow and sheep milk.

"We try to sell as much as possible in Vermont," said Sessions. "About 80% of our cheese is sold through Vermont distributors."

Blue Ledge cheeses can be found locally at Hannaford in Middlebury and Rutland, at the Middlebury Food Co-op, and at their own farmstand.

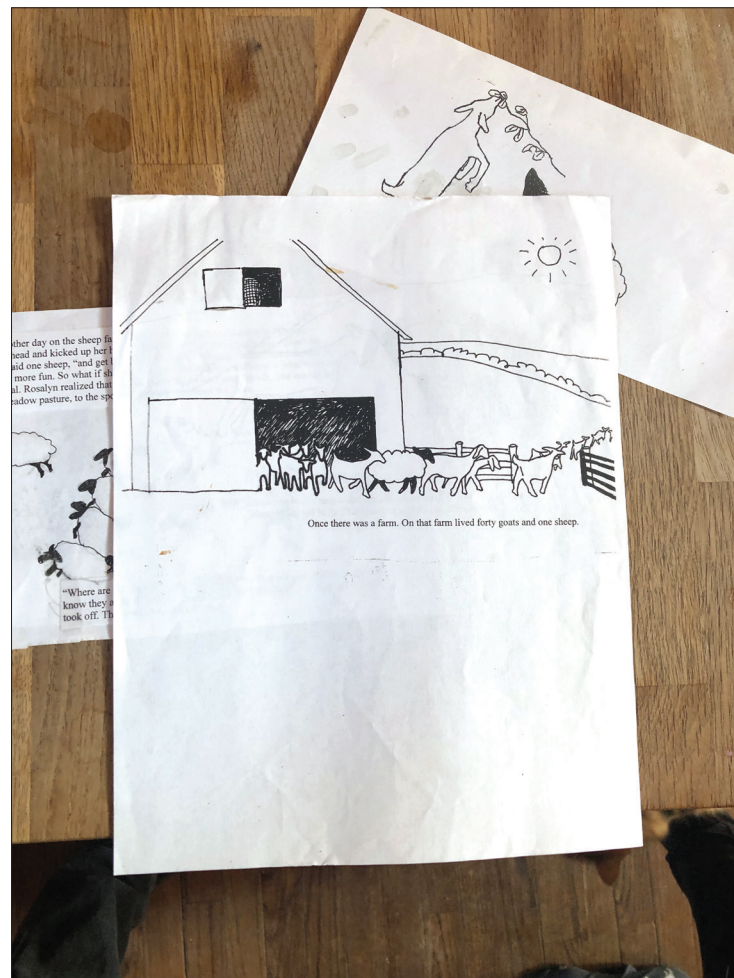
"Every ounce of our cheese is spoken for," stated Sessions. "We often sell out of our most popular cheese, like our Lake's Edge ash cheese."

Between the two, Sessions is more the goatherd and Bernhardt more the scientist.

"My passion is the animals. Greg is really the one making the cheese," Sessions asserted and Bernhardt readily acknowledged.

"I love the laboratory aspect of cheese-making," Bernhardt said. "There's a very scientific approach to it that suits my personality."

(See *Hannah Sessions*, Page 9)



SOME OF THE original illustrations and text for Rosalyn that Sessions made 10 years ago.



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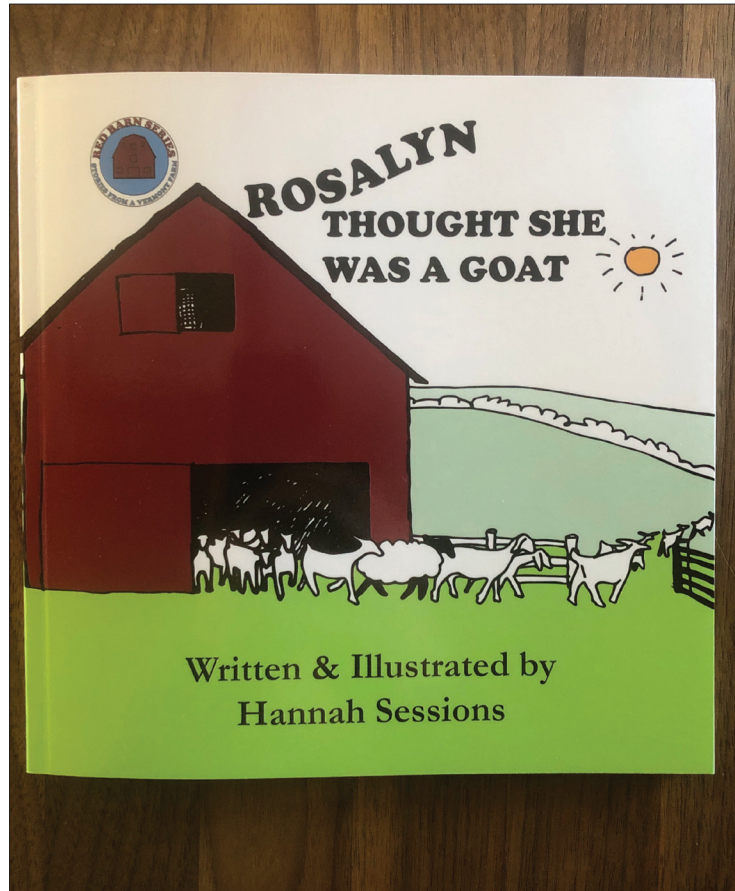
Hannah Sessions

(Continued from Page 8)

One of their newest flavors is a honey-orange chevre. “The honey-orange is amazing, but not all our experiments work

Northern Daughters Gallery in Vergennes and Bernhardt is represented by the Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury. Sessions’s paintings tend to

Sessions’s paintings tend to



HANNAH SESSIONS'S NEW illustrated children's book, *Rosalyn Thought She Was a Goat*.

out,” Sessions laughed, recounting a failed attempt several years ago to make feta.

As if the goats and cheese weren't enough, both Sessions and Bernhardt are painters with gallery representation. Sessions currently has a show at

feature farms and farm animals, rendered in a gestural yet realistic style that captures the personality of the animals and the atmosphere of Vermont farms.

But the process of creating and promoting Rosalyn has



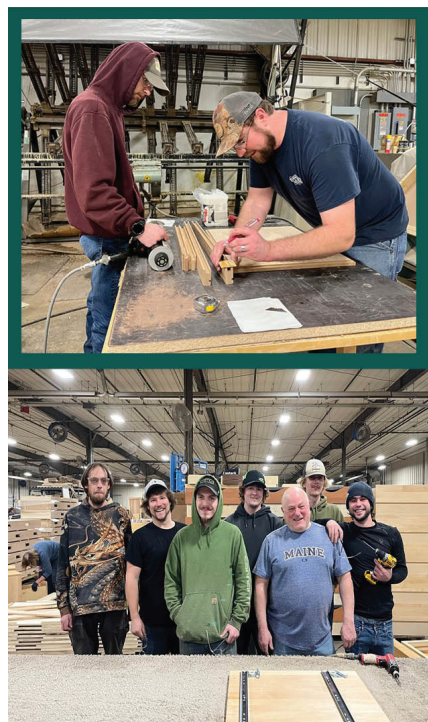
Sessions feeding goats in one of the barns at Blue Ledge Farm in Salisbury.

whetted Sessions's appetite to continue with children's books: “My next one will likely focus on music and how it affects both animals and humans in profound ways.”

Rosalyn Thought She Was a Goat is available at Blue Ledge Farm in Salisbury, The Bookstore in Brandon, Blue Seal in Brandon, The Vermont Bookshop in Middlebury, Triple K farmstand in Whiting, and Kamuda's Market in Pittsford.



The farmstand at Blue Ledge Farm in Salisbury. The book and the farm's cheeses are available for purchase there.



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OUR CREATIVE KIDS

ARTIST: Mrs. McKay's 3rd-grade class
GRADE: 3rd
SCHOOL: Lothrop
MEDIUM: Found objects and repurposed
paper tubes
TEACHER: Matt Aucoin



STATEMENT FROM MATT AUCOIN

Mrs. McKay's 3rd-grade class was studying Native American Kachina dolls and used repurposed paper tubes and found objects to create their own in Matt Aucoin's art

class at Lothrop. Kachina dolls are a tradition among the Hopi people who live primarily in Arizona today. The dolls represent the immortal beings that act as messengers between the human and spirit worlds.

BRANDON REPORTER

Sports



OV BASEBALL TEAM, 2023, l to r: Luca Polli, Brian Stanley, Gavin Perry, Caleb Whitney, Isaiah Wood, Luciano Falco, Matt Bryant, Ben Adams, Andy McEnemy, Jordan Beayon, Alec Beaulier, Richard LaFontaine, Noah Howe. Photo provided

Otter Valley baseball is ready for the 2023 season

BY FREDERICK POCKETTE
BRANDON—The Otter Valley Otters varsity baseball team is back and looking for the success that slipped through their fingers last

year. A dozen of this year's members played on last year's squad and are working hard to improve greatly on their 6-11 results from 2022. "The guys are buying in," coach

Mike Howe commented. "They don't like losing and the commitment level is pretty good right now." "Our pitching and defense are

solid," Howe continued. The Otters' top two innings guys from 2022, Jordan Beayon and Andy McEnemy, return to the mound this year as seniors with a year of

experience they can build on. The strength on the hill doesn't end there. Lucca Polli, who according to Coach Howe has worked hard to
(See OV baseball, Page 21)

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RUTLAND

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Calendar of events

April

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 with your child's name, age, and contact information for your family.

Friends Zone

The Friends Zone will be initially open 3 hours per week at the Brandon United Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m. at 1 Franklin Street, Brandon.

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.

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 Conscientious, 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 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.

Corn Hole at the Godnick Adult Center

By request, we will have drop-in cornhole in the Rec Hall on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

Play with whoever shows up each time or just practice your cornhole skills!

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

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

\$5 donation suggested.

Park in downtown Po
the rail trail crosses Mai
Pub. 8:00 a.m.

DKG Gamma Chapt
School will host the 17
for Hunger. Pre-order

Holy Week Schedules

Pittsford Congregational Church: Maundy Thursday (April 6): service at 6:30 P.M.

Good Friday (April 7): service at noon.

Easter Sunday (April 9): service at 10:15 A.M.

St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church, Brandon:

Palm Sunday (April 2): 10 am - Procession with Palms - Palm Sunday Service with The Rev. Canon Lee Crawford as celebrant and preacher.

Maundy Thursday (April 6): 6:00 pm - We will gather around a table in the undercroft to share a simple meal, to read and reflect on Jesus' last supper text, to share a foot-washing rite (by either participating or meditating

on the same), and to celebrate Eucharist. We will then move upstairs to strip the altar and observe a silent watch for prayer and meditation. The celebration will begin at 6:00 pm with supper; it will end following the silent vigil.

Good Friday (April 7): At noon, we will join Christians in Brandon for the traditional Walk of the Cross (cancelled the past three years). Meet in at the park in the center of town (those who aren't able to walk can go directly to St. Mary's Church to meet up with the walkers and the cross).

Easter Sunday (April 9): 10 am - Festive celebration of the Risen Lord with The Rev. Susan McGarry as celebrant and preacher.

Socialize with old friends, make new ones. Sip some soup while you sip a drink. Be puzzled for a bit, sorting out a puzzle, or hold an Ace in the hole until the right moment to play it. If so inclined, you can bring to the table a struggle of your own to work on or your thoughts on developing the Friends Zone or improving our lives.

The door is open. Our minds are open. Our hearts are open.

All are welcome in.

For more information contact pastors Reverend John Hardman-Zimmerman (hazfm@hotmail.com or (802) 282-7532) or Vicki Disorda (vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com or (802) 345-4125).

Wednesdays

Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to



Wednesday 12th

Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series presents The Sky Blue Boys singing wonderful old-time ballads and parlor songs.

The Sky Blue Boys, a duo comprised of Willy and Dan Lindner (who formed Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite

ventures, 108 Vermont Route 100, West Dover. Tickets will be available at the theater door on the day of the showing. General admission tickets are \$15 or \$40 with a subscription to Fly Fusion Magazine.

For information about this screening along with advance tickets, contact the host at hallerj@orvis.com.

Event attendees can win fly fishing-related prizes and awards from Film Festival sponsors. One person will be selected winner of the 2023 Grand Prize valued at thousands of dollars of merchandise.

For information about the film festival, contact info@flyfilmfest.com.

Saturday 15th

Concert: The Beauty We Love at the UU Church of Rutland

Grammy Award-winning cellist Eugen Friesen and singer/songwriter Elizabeth Rogers present an evening of creative music.

"The Beauty We Love" will be an intimate evening from 7:30–9:30 p.m. concert featuring:

Eugene Friesen, a graduate of the Yale School of Music, has toured the world as a soloist and as a member of the Paul Winter Consort with whom he's recorded over 20 CDs, four of which won Grammy Awards. He is a trailblazer on the cello, his innovative improvisational style and original techniques – and twenty years teaching at the Berklee College of Music in Boston – have influenced generations of players. Friesen's program, including sounds and ideas drawn from travels on six continents, features a diverse repertoire that includes his original music, J.S. Bach, electronics, natural soundscapes, and the poetry of Rumi to paint a portrait of a world united in hope.

Elizabeth Rogers sings stories of the large and small themes that run through a human life. Her voice – which has been compared to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell – has a delicacy, clarity, and purity that perfectly underscores her insightful lyrics.

Soup Bowls 2023—Thursday, April 13

tickets and choose the window of time you want to pick up your soup and bowl.

DKG Gamma Chapter and Rutland High School will host the 17th annual Soup Bowls for Hunger Thursday, April 13, from 4-7pm at Rutland High School. Order online starting March 13 drive-thru pickup on April 13.

Go to www.soupbowlsrutland.org to pre-order your soup and raffle tickets and choose the window of time you want to pick up your soup and bowl. You can also make a donation. All proceeds go to local food shelves. Questions? Email knawnfahey@gmail.com

Thank you for your support for food shelves.

ultney and meet where in St near the Poultney

er and Rutland High th annual Soup Bowls your soup and raffle

Plowboys), will perform at Wallingford Town Hall at 75 School Street in Wallingford on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. The duo has built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. The Sky Blue Boys have expanded the accompaniment to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added many newer songs including several of their own compositions. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. Please support local live music and attend the Sky Blue Boys concert on Wednesday, April 12th. Mill River Interact Club will be hosting a bake sale.

75 School Street, Wallingford.

NXT Rockumentary Film Series: Festival Express (2003)

Join Next Stage Arts, Next Chapter Records, and Epsilon Spires from 7–8:30 p.m. for a screening of Festival Express, a 2003 documentary film about the 1970 train tour of the same name across Canada taken by some of North America's most popular rock bands, including the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, The Band, Buddy Guy, Flying

Burrito Bros, Ian & Sylvia's Great Speckled Bird, Mountain and Delaney & Bonnie & Friends. The film combines footage of the 1970 concerts and on the train, interspersed with contemporary recollections of the tour by its participants.

Introductory remarks from Jessamyn Fiore, Epsilon Spires' Board President & daughter of the film's cinematographer, Bob Fiore.

15 Kimball Hill, Putney.

Thursday 13th

The 2023 International Fly Fishing Film Festival is coming to Middlebury

The screening, at the Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St., will showcase fly fishing films from all corners of the globe. The films begin at 7:30 with the theater doors opening at 7 p.m.

The event is hosted by Green Mountain Ad-



Earth Day Audubon marsh walk – April 22

Rutland County Audubon will hold a special Earth Day walk around the West Rutland Marsh including a scavenger hunt and snacks at the halfway point.

Meet at 8 am at the parking area near the boardwalk

kiosk on Marble Street. Go halfway (about 2 miles) or all the way (4 miles) with us. Questions or info: 802-287-9338. Young attendees should be accompanied by an adult.

\$20. 117 West Street Rutland.

Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a concert with New England's acclaimed folk/roots quartet Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem feature 4-part vocal harmonies, indelible songs, fiddle, acoustic and electric guitars, bass, and a homemade percussion kit of cardboard boxes, tin cans, caulk tubes, packing-tape tambourines, bottle-cap rattles, Mongolian jaw harps, and a vinyl suitcase. Over the past 20 years, the quartet has toured its uplifting, healing performances to concert halls, festivals, and residency engagements across North America, and has released seven CDs on Signature Sounds. From the Newport Folk Festival to California World Music Festival and beyond, this band's steadfast brew of wit, camaraderie, and musicality leaves audiences everywhere humming and hopeful, spirits renewed.

In the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of American roots music, Rani, Andrew Kinsey, Anand Nayak, and Scott Kessel have always been standard-bearers, with a particular knack for pairing words and music. From bluegrass barnstormers to sultry swing, old-time gospel to bluesy folk-rock, they consistently turn in lush arrangements of original songs alongside artful re-workings of a melange of music.

7:30–9:30 p.m. at Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill, Putney. \$22.00–\$25.00.



Bomoseen State Park Bird Walk

We will meet in the state park parking area. 8:00 am. We should see waterfowl, bald eagles and the first birds of spring. This will be an easy 3 mile bird walk open to all. All are welcome! Contact birding@rutlandcountyaudubon.org for more info.



The Brandon Museum hosts Artifact Roadshow with Castleton University Archeology Department April 27

Have you ever found an artifact in your garden and wondered how old it is? Do you have objects that date to the early history of Brandon? If so, bring them to the Artifact Roadshow provided by Castleton University Archeology from 6:00–8:00 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall. While there will not be financial appraisals, Castleton archaeologists Matthew and Ellen Moriarty and their students will help

identify your artifacts and determine their age and function. If you have no artifacts, come anyway to see this unique event. Information from the roadshow will become part of a local project documenting the history of Castleton and surrounding areas. Time permitting, they will also take photos and create 3D models of the artifacts.



Bike raffle

(Continued from Page 1)

and the importance of wearing helmets. Several students shared their own experiences of being protected by helmets during falls from their bikes.

“You tracked hundreds and hundreds of hours of reading,” Ms. Fjeld told the kids.

Ms. Fjeld then asked the crowd whether the raffle had spurred anyone to read more than they normally would have. Almost all the kids raised a hand in the affirmative. Ms. Fjeld also emphasized that the drawing was an opportunity to practice empathy: those who won should empathize with the disappointment of those who did not and those who did not win should empathize with the joy of those who did. But so everyone ended up feeling like a winner, especially having

done so much reading, each student at Neshobe received a coupon for a free creemee at Brandon House of Pizza.

Members of the Union Lodge and St. Paul’s Lodge (both of Brandon) drew the winning names:

- Kindergarten: Braylin O’Dell
- 1st Grade: Connor Mack
- 2nd Grade: Aryanna O’Dell
- 3rd Grade: Trevor Tyminski
- 4th Grade: Shennay Ingram
- 5th Grade: Landon Euber
- 6th Grade: Jordan Hemple

Congrats to all the winners, and to all the students who kept their noses buried in books, which is an accomplishment in itself. And those creemees were probably super sweet on Saturday, when we got an early touch of spring warmth.

The St. Paul’s Masonic Lodge of Brandon also showed its support

for the community recently with donations to the Brandon Food Shelf and the Brandon Area Toy Project (see photos).

The Union Lodge and St. Paul’s Lodge share the Masonic Lodge building on the corner of Park Street Extension and Country Club Road in Brandon, though they are two separate Lodges. St. Paul’s Lodge is Brandon’s “hometown” Lodge, founded in 1852. Union Lodge was founded in Middlebury in 1794. After the Union Lodge sold its historic building in Middlebury, however, an agreement was made with St. Paul’s Lodge to share the building in Brandon.




THE FULL-SCHOOL ASSEMBLY in the gymnasium at Neshobe School in Forest Dale where winners of the “Read to Ride” raffle were drawn.



L TO R: Cedric Tashro of Union Lodge, Jim Selleck of Union Lodge, Neshobe Librarian Hannah Fjeld, Doon Hinderyckx of Green Mountain Bikes in Rochester, Seth Hopkins of St. Paul’s Lodge.

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<p>St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church Sunday 10 a.m. 19 Conant Square, Brandon</p> <p>Brandon Congregational Church Sunday 10 a.m. 1 Carver Street, Brandon</p> <p>Brandon United Methodist Church Sunday 11:15 a.m. 1 Franklin Street, Brandon</p> <p>Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary’s) Catholic Church Saturday 4 p.m., & Sunday 11 a.m. 38 Carver Street, Brandon</p> <p>Brandon Baptist Church Sunday 11 a.m. 13 Champlain Street, Brandon</p> <p>One Church Brandon Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m. 97 Frog Hollow Road, Brandon, VT</p> <p>St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Sunday 9 a.m. 2918 US 7, Pittsford</p>	<p>Living Water Assembly of God Sunday 11 a.m. via Facebook Live 76 North Street, Brandon</p> <p>Forest Dale Christian Fellowship Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1895 Forest Dale Rd, Brandon</p> <p>Furnace Brook Wesleyan Church Sunday 9 a.m. 3325 US Route 7, Pittsford</p> <p>Pittsford Congregational Church Sunday 10:15 a.m. 121 Village Green, Pittsford</p> <p>Church of Wildwood Sunday 11 a.m. 347 Holden Road, Chittenden</p> <p>Union Church of Proctor Sunday 10 a.m. 5 Church Street, Proctor</p> <p>St. Dominic Catholic Church Sunday 9 a.m. Feb, Apr, Aug 45 South Street, Proctor</p>
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CHURCH
Directory

<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church Sunday 9 a.m. 5 Gibbs Street, Proctor</p> <p>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</p>	
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Maple the Cow by Matt Lucin

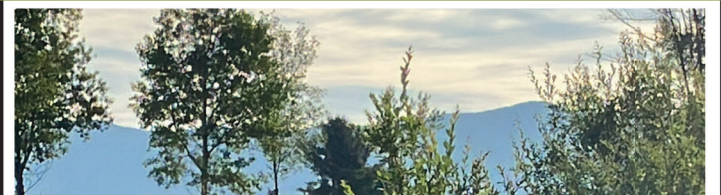


Life's simple joys

NOAH HOWE ENJOYS a creemee from Brandon House of Pizza on one of the first warm days of the year. Photo by Chelsea Howe.

REAL ESTATE

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Sudbury is a town of quiet beauty, rolling fields, and quintessential country roads. This 1.75 acre property sits on one of these special roads - Willowbrook Road! A lightly used State boat

access to Otter Creek is close by. Just a quarter mile to Route 73 to access Brandon and Middlebury in minutes. **\$49,000**

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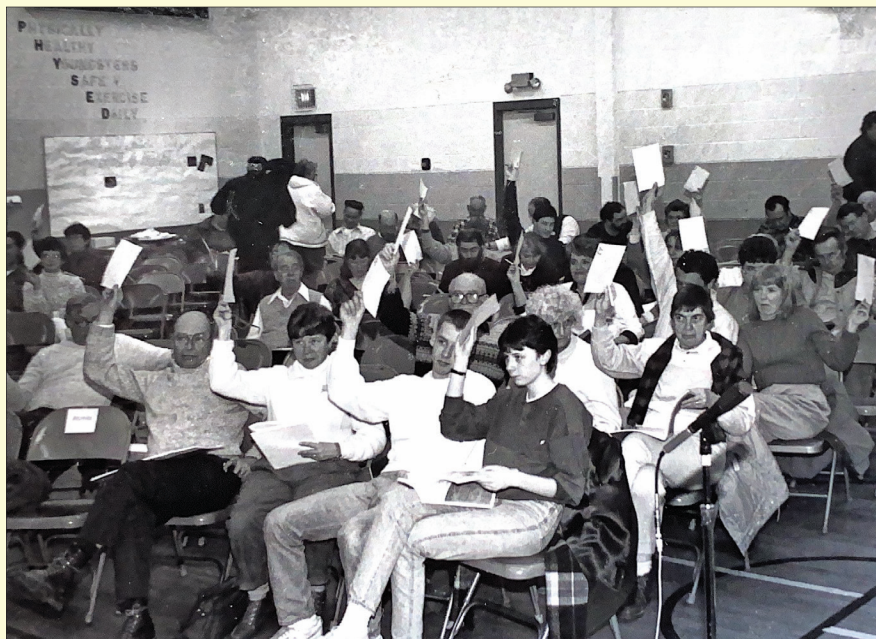
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Mim's Photos

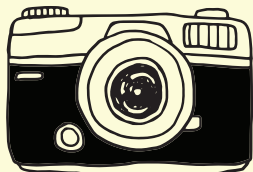
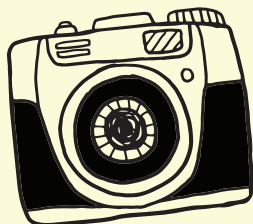
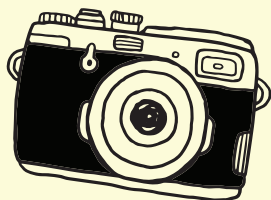
Can you identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives? Let us know!

Recognized



Terry Ferson was able to recognize the voters in the front row, from left to right as Seth Clifford, his wife, Carrie Clifford, their son Seth Charles and his wife.

Sue Wetmore also recognized some people in this photo. From right to left in the second row is Betty Barbarise, (raised hand) to her left Edna Jones, then Joe Barbarise.



Dennis Marden emailed in recognizing the three ladies printed in the March 29th issue of the Reporter. He recognized the photo as a scene from the Neshobe School Players production of "A Christmas Carol", 1992. Left to Right... Hannah Maxwell (Charity Lady), Terra Reed (Charity Lady) and Heidi Berry (Ebenezer Scrooge).



Terry Ferson called to recognize the man on the left as Ed Olsen who ran Olie's Appliance Repair in Brandon. The other man, (second from the right), is John Moulton. The woman beside John, (third from the right), is Wendy Rowe.

Sue Wetmore was also able to recognize some people in this photo. From left to right: Ed Olsen, Jeanne Tardif, Pat Cotroneo, Joan Rowe, John Moulton. She wasn't able to recognize the woman receiving the check. Does anyone know her name?

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

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Colas
7. Single-celled animals
13. The rear car of a train
14. Endangered
16. It cools your home
17. Helper
19. "The First State"
20. More aged
22. Partner to cheese
23. Type of wrap
25. From a distance
26. Satisfies
28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
30. Cooking utensil
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
33. Able to perform
34. Big man on campus
36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
38. Porticos
40. Alban and Peter are two
41. Gets up
43. Humble request for help
44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
45. Unhappy
47. Hint or indication
48. A way to plead
51. Digits
53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Jewish calendar month
56. Author Gore __
58. Peacock network
59. White poplar
60. Promotional material
61. A period of calm
64. Take too much
65. Emit energy
67. Something you can take
69. Mended with yarn
70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

1. Calm down
2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
3. One who pretends
4. Hang glide
5. Distinctive practice
6. Mariner
7. Peaks
8. Queens ballplayer
9. Geological times
10. Twofold
11. Atomic #13
12. Tranquillizing
13. Metric weight unit
15. Indicates
18. Unwanted rodent
21. Partly cooked with hot water
24. One who can be recommended
26. Resembles a bag or pouch
27. Midway between south and southeast
30. Sets up for a photo
32. California white oak
35. More (Spanish)
37. After B
38. Decorated tea urn
39. Island
42. Car mechanics group
43. Wordplay joke
46. Cut a rug
47. Prickly plant
49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
50. European buzzard
52. Influential linguist
54. West African languages
55. Siskel's partner
57. Skinny
59. Oblong pulpit
62. Consumed
63. Small, mischievous sprite
66. Powerful lawyer
68. Indicates position

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		
13								14						15	
16			17					18					19		
20		21				22				23		24			
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56				57		58				59					
60			61		62				63				64		
65		66							67			68			
	69								70						

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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.

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

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

Rutland County Humane Society Hosts A Neuter-A-Thon!

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. 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 2 locations. The first location is the RCHS shelter, 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford, on April 3, 10, and 24 and the second location is 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 9am—12 noon. No cats will be accepted after 12 noon. Drop off in Middlebury is between 8am—11am. No cats will be accepted after 11am. Cash only; exact change required. Help spread the word about this great opportunity!

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



MEET WILLOW - 5-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. BLOODHOUND. BLACK/RED

If you know the bloodhounds, you know that they come with their fair share of allergies and health concerns. She is doing very well on her medications, and she must remain on them. Willow is a bit of a trash panda and will consume objects that she shouldn't. Willow is also on a special diet due to allergies, so keeping human food away from her is important. She is very affectionate and loves to be around people. She will make a great companion for a family who is willing to give her this. She has lived with kids and seems to do well with other dogs, making her a great family companion.

MEET MARGARET - 3-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK AND WHITE.

Easygoing and content describe her best. Margaret is a sweet, laid-back lady. She will follow you from room to room when she is up for some head scratches or belly rubs. She is currently in our Community Cat Room where she is doing well with other cats. She also has lived with kids and did great, but she does like her space respected. If she sounds like the girl for you, give the Adoption Center a call at 802-483-6700.



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

OFF THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS AND NEWS



Here are some new titles in Junior Fiction and Young Adult that will be waiting for you when we reopen!

The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen by Issac Blum (YA)

Hoodie Rosen's entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but things haven't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. However, the people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once. And then, he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary—who happens to be the daughter of the obstinate mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of anti-Semitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence. Soon, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known.

Himawari House by Harmony Becker (YA, graphic novel)

Living in a new country is no walk in the park. Nao, Hyejung, and Tina can all attest to that. The three of them became fast friends living together in the Himawari House in Tokyo and attending the same Japanese cram school. Nao came to Japan to reconnect with her Japanese heritage, while Hyejung and Tina came to find freedom and their own paths. Though each of them has her own motivations and challenges, they all deal with language barriers, being a fish out of water, self-discovery, love, and family.

The Honeys by Ryan La Sala (YA)

When his twin sister dies under horrific circumstances, genderfluid Mars pushes to go to the private school she'd been attending, convinced that a group of girls called "The Honeys" has something to do with her death. There he finds a community of hidden masculine toxicity, bullying, and dark secrets. But as the year continues, Mars finds his memories faltering and something messing with him. Can he survive long enough to find out what?

Wildoak by C.C. Harrington (J FIC)

Maggie's stutter makes school especially difficult and she'll do almost anything not to have to speak. When her father threatens to send her to a facility for "treatment," her mother suggests instead that she go and stay with her grandparents for a few weeks. While exploring Wildoak Forest, she encounters a snow leopard cub, abandoned by its owner, who deemed it too wild. Told from Maggie's and the snow leopard's points of view, Wildoak is a magical tale of friendship and the interconnectedness of our world.

Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee. (J FIC)

When her grandfather falls ill, Maisy's mom takes them both to visit and help out with the family's Chinese restaurant, The Golden Palace, in Last Chance, Minnesota. It's there that Maisy discovers more about her family's history, that you can tell a lot about someone by what they order, and that the Golden Palace holds many secrets, including the reason Maisy's mom and grandmother have been estranged for so long.

Business as usual for the Brandon Police Dept.

Brandon Police Report

March 27

- Brandon Police Department (BPD) responded to a residence on Franklin Street on a report that one juvenile was threatening to "beat up" another juvenile who lived there. Upon investigation, it was determined that the juvenile complainant had been using racial epithets against the other, who is African-American, causing a conflict between the two boys. The responding officer spoke with the juveniles and advised the complainant that he was the actual cause of the conflict through his use of racial epithets. The complainant was advised to cease contact with the other boy, who was in turn advised to block the complainant on social media.

- Fingerprints were taken at the BPD station for a coaching position.

- A ride-along was conducted with the BPD intern.

- BPD responded to a two-car crash on Forestdale Road. There were no injuries and both vehicles had to be towed. It was determined that a tire had come off one vehicle while traveling, striking the other vehicle. No tickets were issued.

- Directed criminal enforcement patrol was conducted in Park Village on Mulcahy Drive in Brandon. No suspicious activity was detected.

- Welfare check was conducted on man who claimed to be suicidal. Mutual Aid AMS responded to assist BPD and the man was advised to consult his doctor the next morning.

- BPD responded to a hang-up call on Fox Road. Officers spoke with the resident and determined it was a phone malfunction.

March 28

Fingerprints were taken at the BPD station for a coaching position.

A residential property watch was conducted on Fox Road for a resident on vacation.

A resident on Mulcahy Drive reported suspicious activity around her apartment, including individuals entering her home on an ongoing basis.

A residential property watch was conducted on Richmond Road.

Fingerprints taken at BPD for nursing licenses.

Report of a sexual assault on Conant Square in Brandon. Investigation ongoing.

BPD responded to a 5-person altercation on Mulcahy Drive. No injuries were reported.

March 29

- Single-vehicle crash on Basin Road. EMS, BPD, and Brandon Fire were dispatched to the scene. It was determined that defective equipment and excessive speed for the weather conditions were the cause of the crash. Operator of vehicle suffered minor injuries but refused transport to the hospital.

- BPD responded to a call from Barlow Avenue in Brandon about a young child playing in the street. The officer on scene had responded to similar calls about this child and was able to locate the child and her older sister, who was supposed to be watching the child. The officer lectured the older sibling about responsibility and advised her to keep an eye on her younger sister.

- Internal report created at BPD for police intelligence. Not for public viewing.

- Fingerprints taken at BPD for coaching positions.

- Hit-and-run incident reported after the fact at Champlain Farms on Grove Street in Brandon. Incident documented for insurance purposes.

- A vehicle was towed near the intersection of Mulcahy Drive and Arnold District Road after having been left there for 48 hours, at which point it was considered abandoned.

March 30

- A welfare check was requested by an employer who had received a text from an employee who claimed she was "dying." The responding officer was able to contact the employee and determined that she was having a mental-health crisis. The officer provided the woman's landlord with information about available mental-health resources.

- Fingerprints taken at BPD for coaching, nursing, teaching, and school chaperone.

- Officers conducted a civil standby on Wheeler Road as a woman removed her property from her former residence after a domestic-assault incident.

- BPD responded to a call on Rossiter Street regarding a flickering light inside a home whose owner was known to be absent. It was determined that the flickering light was simply a decorative light fixture that was flashing.

(See Police report, Page 19)

THE GREAT LIBRARY RENOVATION



WE'RE SETTING UP IN THE DOWNSTAIRS OF THE TOWN HALL! THE LIBRARY RE-OPENS TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH AT 10AM

One more week until we open in the Town Hall! We are still walkable from downtown and you'll find convenient parking in the public lot of the new Mobil station. Much work is going on setting up the shelves and systems that our library is based on! Thank you to **Gary Meffe** and **Bruce Ness**. Thank you again goes to **Mike Howe** and the **OV baseball team** for hefting all those books! Our drivers this past week were **Harry McEnery** and **Gary Meffe**. Thanks for the help moving the furniture to **Tracy Holden** and **Andrew Chestna**. And thank you to **Nancy Iwanicki** for her help in organizing books.

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

March 31

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the Walgreens parking lot at 1 a.m. Officers made contact with the operator and no nefarious activity was detected or suspected.
- An altercation was reported between two girls at Otter Valley High School. No criminal activity occurred and the matter was referred to the school administration.
- A parent contacted BPD about a student at Neshobe Elementary who threatened to “blow up” the school. Investigation by the school and BPD determined that the child posed no threat. See Chief Kachajian’s statement about recent incidents at Neshobe in this week’s issue of The Reporter.
- A 911 hang-up call from Old Brandon Road was determined to be caused by a defective landline.

April 1

- BPD responded to reports of a problem vehicle on Wheeler Road. The vehicle was located and the owner was spoken with at their residence.
- A concerned mother called BPD seeking guidance about her daughter’s custody situation. The mother felt that it was not in the

child’s interest to be in her father’s custody. The case is now under DCF investigation.

- An unwanted guest had to be removed from a residence on Mulcahy Drive.
- BPD was notified by State Dispatch that a potentially suicidal male was heading to Brandon from his home in New Hampshire. The male later returned to NH and his family alerted BPD that he was home safe.
- An erratic vehicle was reported on McConnell Road but BPD was not able to locate it.
- BPD responded to reports of a vehicle that may have left the scene of an accident. Officers were able to contact the registered owners of the vehicle, who were not involved in the accident, but were unable to locate the operator who was driving.

April 2

- A local property owner on Franklin Street asked BPD to document a financial dispute between him and a commercial tenant on the property.
- BPD responded to a building alarm on Pearl Street. It was determined to be a false alarm.
- A driver was stopped on McConnell road for using a cell-phone while driving. The driver was issued a citation.



The Silver Bells celebrate Easter in style

AMELIA DANYOW POSES with Goofy, while Natalie Joslin and Ashlynn Ketcham sit with the Easter Bunny and Mickey Mouse at the fundraiser held by the Silver Bells of the Brandon Area Toy Project at the American Legion Post #55 in Brandon last Saturday.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

ARIES March 21–April 20

Aries, your emotions may cloud your judgement in the days to come. It's better to seek the advice of a third party who can guide you without the added drama.

TAURUS April 21–May 21

Messages from the universe could come across as confusing or vague, Taurus. You might need someone with cosmic intuition to help you sort out what is going on.

GEMINI May 22–June 21

A stagnant energy has been surrounding you lately, Gemini. Fortunately, you are able to brush that away soon enough and feel rejuvenated.

CANCER June 22–July 22

Cancer, if you haven't devoted enough time lately to taking care of yourself you might awaken this week with a foggy head. Take care of yourself.

LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Responsibilities could have you feeling overburdened, Leo. The trick is to ask others to lighten your load. There are bound to be several volunteers willing to lend a hand.

VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Virgo, try not to compare yourself to others this week. Everyone is unique, with his or her own strengths and weaknesses. An unfair comparison could dampen your spirits.

LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

You might find it challenging to articulate your feelings to a romantic partner, Libra. If you stumble over saying the words, why not write them down, instead?

SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Sometimes your pragmatic side gets into a tussle with your optimism, Scorpio. Being a realist doesn't have to mean you can go your way.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Sagittarius, while you may feel like sleeping the week away, awaken to the possibilities before you. Numerous opportunities await, so answer the door when they knock.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

It is alright to feel uncertain about what the heart wants, Capricorn. Not everyone has things all figured out. Ponder your likes and dislikes to determine your path.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Aquarius, messy work and small mistakes can sabotage all of your hard work thus far. Buckle down and focus on the details. Have someone check that everything is perfect.

PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

People around you may be more temperamental than usual, Pisces. Avoid offering any unsolicited advice until things quiet down.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- April 6 Virginia Hall, WWII secret agent (d)
- April 7 Ravi Shankar, musician (d)
- April 8 Mary Pickford, silent film actor (d)
- April 9 Paul Robeson, singer (d)
- April 10 Cosimo di Medici, Renaissance banker, patron of the arts, (d)
- April 11 Ethel Kennedy, advocate, Robert F. Kennedy's widow (94)
- April 12 David Letterman, TV host (76)

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OV baseball

(Continued from Page 11)
 get stronger this off-season is slated to throw a number of innings as well. "It's not just about throwing with these guys anymore; it's about pitching," stated Howe.

It's not hard to get even more optimistic about their pitching when you look at the catcher who will be leading their staff. Luciano Falco returns for another year behind the dish and continues to develop as a catcher. In addition to his physical skills, Falco is now learning the mental aspects of his demanding position, which should only make him and the pitchers he leads even stronger.

When asked about the rest of the starters, Coach Howe said basically that they're still figuring that out as

a group by pushing each other and competing with each other during practice. Some things are known though, and those decisions seem to come from a point of strength, not inexperience. For example, the second, third, and shortstop positions will be filled by three-year starters. "I don't want to say every day will be different," declared Howe, "because it won't. But guys are fighting for spots right now and that's great because it makes us better."

When I asked Coach about this year's offense, his response was right to the point: "If the guys buy in on executing all the little things that are necessary for baseball, and needed for baseball, I think our production will be up considerably this year."



JORDAN BEAYON WARMING up.



ISIAIH WOOD IN the batting cage.

This year's team will be tested with a schedule that includes three Division 1 opponents. That test begins this Saturday in Bellows Falls against a Terrier squad that was a #3 seed in last year's playoff. None of that fazes coach Howe. "I am confident that if we execute, and do the things we are capable of, we can play with any team in the state," he said.

In addition to this year's team, the numbers to keep this thing going look pretty good. There are currently 26 players in the middle-school program and in the senior-high program, meaning the Otters will be fielding a seventh-grade team and an eighth-grade team, along with the junior varsity and varsity teams. If you like baseball, come on out and support the Otters. They will not disappoint you.



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after May 1st, 2023, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of PermaSease 4-4 (a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide) and Fyfanon (in the malathion family) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for PermaSease 4-4 or Fyfanon. 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>.

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

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, 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 an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, 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 an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

In accordance with paragraph 6.07 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has applied for a permit to conduct truck-mounted mosquito adulticide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:

Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair
or
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwicd@gmail.com
<https://ocwicd.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 522-6973
Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

Legislative Report

(Continued from Page 6)

the floor of the House with a vote of 111 yes and 38 no. I could not support this bill due to the high increase in spending of 12% and the spending of Vermont's reserve funds.

I can be reached by email at 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
Vice-Chair House
Committee on Transportation

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15th, 2023, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), *Bacillus sphaericus* (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived 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 OCW mail or email address below.

In accordance with paragraph 6.06 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has obtained a permit to conduct larvicide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:

Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair
or
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwicd@gmail.com
<https://ocwicd.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
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(802) 522-6973
Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

Beauty of mud

(Continued from Page 4)

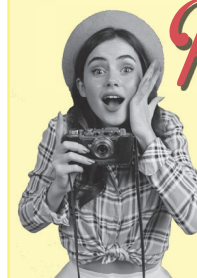
keep an eye out for paw prints in the snow around the coop. And the appearance of the mud in the spring signaled relief from those stresses. If we got all the birds through the winter alive, we patted ourselves on the back for a job well done.

So here we are at the tail end of winter/beginning of spring. The mud is upon us, in all possible senses. Soon there will be leaves on the trees again and those first few weeks of green will seem shocking after months of gray and brown. But we will savor those precious months of sunshine because in Vermont they don't come easy.

Steven Jupiter

Like all things vintage?

Mim's Photos



are on page 16!

Community members continue to search for missing Middlebury teen

BY OLIVIA Q. PINTAIR/VT DIGGER

MIDDLEBURY—Volunteers have launched a community effort to assist Middlebury police in locating a 17-year-old high-school student, who was last seen by friends and family last Wednesday.

Rebecca Ball, who is white with blue eyes and short light-brown hair, was seen around 4 p.m. March 29 while walking near the southern end of Wright Park and the Trail Around Middlebury trailhead after leaving an appointment in the area. She was wearing a red flannel shirt, black pants and a green necktie, according to police, and was not carrying a coat, nor a phone.

Middlebury Police Sgt. Jason Covey said that authorities believe Ball, who is autistic, may have left the appointment feeling dysregulated. “It sounds like maybe she didn’t really want to be at (the appointment),” Covey said. “It’s not uncharacteristic of her to seek space to cool down, which was our understanding of how this began.”

Nearly a dozen agencies, including Vermont State Police, contributed to efforts to locate Ball late last week, covering 900 acres in and around Middlebury on Friday alone, according to state police. Police said Friday that Ball’s disappearance was not suspicious, but there were concerns for her welfare.

Formal search efforts ceased Saturday night after state police wrote that “ongoing investigation has identified the possibility that Ball may be evading efforts to be located.” According to Covey, Middlebury police continue to investigate Ball’s disappearance and official searches may resume if new information points toward a particular area.

Meanwhile, a community-led volunteer search group continues daily to look for Ball, reporting back to Middlebury police. Amanda Vincent, a Middlebury resident helping to coordinate the search, said the group began by going door-to-door on Friday, seeking information on Ball’s disappearance, and more than 50 people searched Middlebury on foot on Saturday, tracking their steps and reporting data to Middlebury police.

In a comment on a Facebook page helping to coordinate the search, Jeanne Fair, Ball’s mother who lives in Iowa, wrote that “the best way to communicate with my daughter is in a calm and even voice.”

“I want her to come home,” Fair said in an interview. “I can’t imagine what she’s going through being cold and hungry and alone and without her medications. I’m living a parent’s nightmare.”

Daniel Ball, Ball’s father, said he has been staying at their apartment in Middlebury since Ball disap-

peared, following instructions from police to wait at home in case his daughter returns there.

“Everyone keeps telling me it’s normal for someone around her age to try to do independent stuff like that,” he said. “But when you’re dealing with a child with a disability, and she was on medications, which she hasn’t taken at least since last Wednesday, it really does change the equation quite a bit.”



REBECCA BALL

Daniel Ball said that if his daughter were “hiding out with somebody, and they haven’t brought her forward because of fear of repercussions at this point, (don’t) worry about that because right

now the entire effort is to get her home safe.”

Police said they encourage Middlebury residents and business

owners to review any outdoor security camera footage they may have access to and search any unsecured outbuildings, vehicles or structures where the missing teen may have taken refuge.

Anyone who might find Ball should refrain from approaching her directly and should instead call the Middlebury Police Department at 802-388-3191, since Ball may be particularly unnerved by approaching strangers, officials said.

On Sunday night, following the conclusion of official search efforts, hundreds of community members gathered at Triangle Park in

Middlebury to hold a vigil for Ball, lighting candles and singing songs as the sun set. At the vigil, Rev. Paul Olsson of St. Stephen’s church offered prayers for Ball’s safe return.

“Most teenagers might be a little intimidated by a church full of mainly adults,” Olsson told VT-Digger. “But she’s been coming by herself. Just solo. (Ball) very much wanted to be part of things and has worked pretty much Sunday by Sunday to find ways to be more involved. . . . She’s shown a great deal of interest in becoming more a part of a community in a deeper way.”

BRANDON, VT, MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER 12 V.S.A. SEC 4952 ET SEQ.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust

v.

Andrew Montroll, as administrator of the estate of
Bobbi-Jo Piscopo a/k/a Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom a/k/a Bobbi-Jo Sundstrom a/k/a Bobbi Jo Sundstrom
occupants of: 45 Carver Street, Brandon VT

In accordance with the Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure entered December 22, 2021, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Bobbi-Jo Sundstrom to Summit Financial Center, Inc., dated May 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 175 Page 439 of the land records of the Town of Brandon, of which mortgage the Plaintiff is the present holder, by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Summit Financial Center, Inc. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. dated May 25, 2005 and recorded in Book 175 Page 454; (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated March 19, 2010 and recorded in Book 206 Page 462; (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated April 2, 2012 and recorded in Book 215 Page 753; (4) Assignment of Mortgage from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity, but solely as Trustee for NRZ Pass-Through Trust VI dated April 1, 2016 and

recorded in Book 231 Page 612; and (5) Assignment of Mortgage from Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity, but solely as Trustee for NRZ Pass-Through Trust VI to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust dated February 15, 2022 and recorded in Book 253 Page 792, all of the land records of the Town of Brandon for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 45 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont on May 4, 2023 at 10:30 AM all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

• Being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom by Quitclaim Deed of Richard C. Sundstrom, dated March 3, 1998 and recorded in Book 131 at Page 39 of the Town of Brandon Land Records, described as follows, viz:
• Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom and Richard C. Sundstrom by Warranty Deed of Bobbi-Jo Piscopo Sundstrom dated April 17, 1992 and recorded at Book 110, Page 163 of the Brandon Land Records and in which deed said lands and premises are described as follows:
• “The premises conveyed

herein are known as 45 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont.

• Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bobbi-Jo Piscopo by Warranty Deed of Bernard T. Greene and Melanie A. Greene dated July 7, 1991 and recorded in Vol. 107 at Page 335 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.

• Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Bernard T. Greene and Melanie A. Greene by Warranty Deed of Charles E. Greene, Jr., and Bonnie L. Greene dated November 10, 1977 and recorded in Vol. 83, Page 364 of the Town of Brandon Land Records.

• The premises are more particularly described by the deed in the record chain of title recorded in Vol. 75, Page 436 as follows:

• The brickyard house and lot, so-called, situated on the westerly side of Carver St. in the Village of Brandon and being bounded as follows: on the north by lands of Thaddeus A. Denton, on the east by said Carver Street and on the north and west by the so-called brickyard pasture now owned by George Knapp. It is believed that the “north” in the last quoted line is a typographical error, and should read “south”.

• Reference is hereby made to the aforesaid deeds and their record and to the reference therein contained and their records. All in further aid of this

description.”

Reference is hereby made to the above instruments and to the records and references contained therein in further aid of this description.

Terms of sale: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a bank wire, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within sixty (60) days after the date the Confirmation Order is entered by the Court. All checks should be made payable to “Bendett & McHugh, PC, as Trustee”.

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

DATED : March 28, 2023

By: /s/ Rachel K. Ljunggren
Rachel K. Ljunggren, Esq.
Bendett and McHugh, PC
270 Farmington Ave., Ste. 151
Farmington, CT 06032

Moveable Feasts: A sermon

BY MICHAEL F. DWYER

PITTSFORD—Christmas falls every year on December 25. To determine the dates of Passover and Easter for 2024, most of us would have to consult a calendar. As moveable feasts, the central celebrations of Judaism and Christianity follow a lunar calendar different from our typical chronology.

The Jewish New Year begins with Rosh Hashanah celebrations in late September or early October. Each of the twelve lunar months starts with a new moon. Passover, which can last up to eight days, begins on the full moon of the seventh month, named Nissan. In the Christian story, Jesus went to Jerusalem to share a Passover meal with his disciples, then came his death and resurrection. In the early centuries of Christianity, the followers of Jesus used a similar calculation to establish their remembrance of Jesus rising from the dead. In the year 325, the Council of Nicaea, convened by Emperor Constantine, established that Easter must be celebrated on the first Sunday on or following the vernal equinox. Thus, Easter could happen as early as

March 22 or as late as April 25. A reminder that the Greek and Russian Orthodox world still adheres to the ancient Julian calendar and celebrates Easter with great solemnity a week later than other Christians.

How we name holidays may also reflect how we observe them. Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, “eastre,” which means springtime. In that context comes a range of associations not explicitly religious: daffodils, lilies, Easter bunnies, peeps, chocolate eggs, along with new Sunday-best clothes and dress shoes.

My earliest Easter memory, from age three-and-a-half, reaches back to Sunday, April 14, 1963. Having seen magazine photos of John-John Kennedy similarly attired, I loved wearing my new Buster Brown suit. Our neighbors had given me a stuffed toy dog, whom I named Pierre after their French poodle. My mother, whose hat-wearing days would only extend only a few more

years beyond this date, carried her new St. Joseph Missal with its changes to the Latin Mass following Vatican II. Note her folded gloves. Behind us, the hardy forsythia bush always harbingered spring. I remember receiving three Easter baskets, one of which held a beautiful sugar-crystal egg, too pretty to crack and eat. Of course, there



PASTOR MICHAEL DWYER with his mother, Easter 1963.

are memories of a special Easter Sunday dinner, usually ham in my extended family.

In Romance languages, the word for Easter (Paques in French, Pascua in Spanish, Pasqua in Italian) derives from the Hebrew word Pesach, “Passover.” Rituals of Passover vividly recall the liberation of

the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt. In ancient times, the Seder meal included the sacrifice of a lamb, cooked and eaten with unleavened bread. The story from Exodus is retold. Christians believe that Jesus became the sacrifice, and his resurrection a victory over sin and death. The apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians: “For Christ, our paschal lamb has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” Several Easter hymns underscore Easter’s connection to Passover as this one with words that originated with John of Damascus in the 8th century:

- Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
- God had brought hid Israel into joy from sadness:
- Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.
- Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
- With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;
- Comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus’s resurrection.

Having celebrated Easter from the pews or choir stalls in many churches over the last sixty years —dramatic Easter Vigils, sunrise services, choral performances— I now have the privilege of leading a congregation in worship on this most sacred of days, all part of my lifelong journey of faith. Passover and Easter have, at their core, ritual and remembrance of extraordinary events that lift us up from earthly strife. History abounds with fractures of intolerance and alienation among people who profess to follow a religious creed. As violence continues to be done and said in God’s name, we must continue to seek broader understanding, to develop compassion, to practice kindness, to promote justice, and to care for one another and our world. Hate has no place in any faith. These moveable feasts of Passover and Easter transcend time. May they serve to remind us that ancient celebrations are not end points but starting points that continue to reveal the love of God for all of creation.

Michael Dwyer is Pastor of the Pittsford Congregational Church.

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