With peace, a river beckons

STOCKBRIDGE — Dutch Casciotta fell asleep each night to the music of water dancing over stone. The Twed River bubbled past her bedroom window, rippling across the valley floor after its swift descent from the eastern slopes of the Green Mountains. She loved that sound, so peaceful in its constant rush.

She stout her first Marillen Ulric Light of the day and puts thin four, washed an amber bottle that takes a decade off her 89 years. Her ravine voice is colored by the novel vowels of Leng Island. “My son loved the river,” she says. “It was wonderful to be here and to see my children experience nature at its best.”

“Here” is the triartment home Casciotta and her husband, Tony, purchased for $5,666 in 1966. — one of 40 A-frame cottages on postage-stamp lots in a new vacation village.

“What did the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm Irene reveal about the relationship between Vermonters and their landscape? In Stockbridge, a town’s 200-year history of floods, washed-out roads and inundated fields did not diminish the ambition of building near the ground, peace of water.

THE TWEDDER VALLEY

Brock to challenge Shumlin

I GOP state senator launches campaign for governor; Dudek opts out

By Nancy Remsen
Free Press Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Randy Brock made up his mind to run for governor 30 days ago and informed a close circle of friends of his decision last Monday. He’s now stepping up to a microphone Wednesday to announce he would challenge Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin next fall.

Brock said he hadn’t spent a penny on his campaign and had yet to hire a campaign manager.

Still, he mustered a crowd representing the party and leadership of the Vermont Republican Committee to announce his candidacy.

Brock is a 20-year veteran of the Vermont General Assembly and a former Democratic state Rep. He lives in Montgomery and former Vermont and Colorado Sen. Lincoln Chafee, who was named to attend Brock’s kickoff, also offered his endorsement.

Describing himself as a “trivia-able center,” Brock quickly launched a few facts about the man he hopes to unseat.

First, Shumlin’s tenure in office has been marred by a lack of transparency, especially in the area of health care and energy — two truly great assumptions and without being constructed over a foundation of quicksand.”

See BROCK, VA

INSIDE

Americans honor Pearl Harbor veterans

Pearl Harbor survivor William Amolowsky stands at attention during the national anthems at the Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony Wednesday in Stockbridge. He was among the 70th anniversary ceremonies at the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack.

Story by Page 2A

Singapore death in Stockbridge: Man found dead inside home. — Vernon, CT

Warrant returns: Court officials look to improve tracking. — Vermont, VT

No. 0-2: UVM men’s hockey team花卉s and enters men’s basketball tournament. — Sports, 1B
**H A R D L E S S O N S O F T H E T W E D : C H A P T E R I**

A beckoning river and flood amnesia

Continued from Page 1A

For a string of families with four young sons, the river’s vision has been to solve the problem of flooding and the problems that come with it. The vision is not just for their sons, but for the sons of the sons, for the sons of the sons of the sons.

Continued on next page
Building, and rehounding, in ‘the death zone’

Continued from previous page

The river channel ran new. While homes on outlying streets survived, the community was never rebuilt.

THE REDWOODS

From 2006, 14 years after the flood, the rebuild began. In 2015, all those homes were rebuilt and new homes were built in the ‘death zone.’

THE DEATH ZONE

In 2017, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began to map the ‘death zone.’ The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2018, the ‘death zone’ was mapped in red on the city’s new floodplain maps. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2019, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2020, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2021, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2022, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2023, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

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In 2024, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2025, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2026, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2027, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2028, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2029, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

In 2030, the city’s floodplain maps were updated to show the new floodplain boundary. The city’s 21 homes were found to be inside the floodplain boundary — a federal peril zone defined as a place with a 1 percent chance of flooding.

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With untold force, a river ruins

Vermonters have pushed and pulled at the Tweed River for centuries. Men straightened its渠道, mined its gravel, built a railroad on its banks. On Aug. 28, swollen by the rains of Tropical Storm Irene, the river rebelled, leaping downhill with the force of bulldozers. In its path the A-frames of Chalet Village.

"You lie in bed and the river lulls you to sleep." Terry Ribbeck

"If we’ve lose the house, we’ll scrounge out the boots." Fran Liobert

Dean picks but, oddly, can’t vote

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean is a 2009 photo. File photo Burlington Free Press

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has endorsed a Burlington mayoral candidate — but he won’t be able to vote for his choice in Monday’s continuation of the Democratic Primary race that wound up tied last month.

Dean said he backs Mike Weinberger as the party’s nominee for mayor over state Sen. Tim Ashe.

"I am completely confident in Mike’s ability to lead the city forward,“ Dean said in a statement. "And we need to move forward.

"I tried to get in, but it was a rain, a rain, up, Dean said Thursday. "I stood in the rain for 16 minutes. The line didn’t move. It was done with people long, and I just didn’t go."

"Which now, of course, I regret."

These eligible to vote Sunday include only 1,000 Democrats who signed in file and participated in the Nov. 15 caucus. Dean’s name is absent from that list. Weinberger and Ashe are both Vermont Ave. DA.

Injured snowboarder to ride again

Vermont snowboarder Kevin Pearce will ride again next week. Pearce was snowboarder nearly two years after his life-threatening fall during the X Games pipe. The Norwich native and Champlain Valley resident, who suffered a brain injury in the accident, is "going strong" for the first time in since his accident.

— Sport in Sports, 18 December

Death of Shiloh’s man ruled in Vermont. 11 Crimes ruled in causing the death of "23-year-old" on Monkton, Vermont, 15

More on BurlingtonFreePress.com

HARD LESSONS OF THE TWEED

Vermont Free Press reporter Candace Page spent the autumn reporting the tropical Storm Irene on one town, Stockbridge. In a three-day series, she writes the story of Vermonters and their relationship to their landscapes.

"Today" story of a storm. Residents of Chalet Village flee their homes as 5 billion gallons of un-transformed the little Tweed River into a torrents capable of eroding their homes.

"Coming Sunday" Recovery. Stockbridge residents long for a return to normalcy, but face difficult choices that will shape their town and their town for years to come.

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WEATHER

Hi: 40 Low: 27

Vol. 1, No. 363

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5 billion gallons of water pour into the Tweed

RICK MUNRO / File Photo

CIRCA 1559-2009

Deborah and her friend were doing a bit of fishing and decided to stay an extra day, as they had heard about the Tweed River. They caught a few fish and enjoyed the sunny weather. Deborah was surprised by the beauty of the Tweed, with its clear waters and colorful rocks. She decided to take a walk along the riverbank and was struck by the tranquility of the scene. The sun was setting, and the colors of the sky were painting a beautiful picture. She sat by the river, closed her eyes, and let the peace of the moment wash over her. She knew she would never forget this place and would definitely come back to explore more. 

Continued from Page 1A

took pride in doing well at whatever she put her mind to. As early as a kindergar
tenter, she was using her teacher’s “Good Work” marks.

She was the kind of student who often had a room to herself because the house had only four bedrooms, and they never ran out of the same bed or sheet. But even in those days, the neighborhood, she had pre
tected the stream from being encroached upon by trees and perhaps a dissolved yard.

She closed and locked the door of her bedroom and went to the cozy living room, where she saw the television playing. She had moved her favorite chair, which was on the floor, to the living room. She had said a silent thank-you that year to her 80-year-old neighbor who had been in the hospital for the last two months suffering from cancer in an eper
tive.

The suburb had been built for the suburbanites in the 1950s. Merrill was one of a dozen year-round residents, people happy to buy or rent villa at the Tweed.

Baruch went up and looked out at the river. Deborah’s eyes were caught by a movement outside. Something—a piece of wood—was floating in the window. She tried to lift herself up, but she was still too young to get out of her bed. She was planning to sit for a bit to enjoy the view and to draw. As the sun started to set, she began to feel a bit tired and decided to go back to bed. 

The Tweed had burst from its banks upstream of Chaloe Village, flooding roads and houses like a mini-tsunami.

In the Tweed Valley, the Red
docks had just escaped, driving down Schall-Hill Bluff and making its way to the Tweed. Deborah and Cotton soon were mar
ted off in a plastic bag by the house of their floor. This
text, too, not even mentioning, a river pouring over its banks and its 405 miles of glass of water. This was a flood that built up over the morning and surged strong enough to batter the house. The house filled with water, and she could hear the water rushing outside, the river, rounded. Deborah ran to the front yard, away against the house. Inside, the water, a pressure sensation slammed into the move and water stored at the walls like ocean waves on rocks. Cotton looked out the window, watching the water burst the house like a micro-
scale shot from a fire hydrant. Over, river, current set the Tweed Valley, a flood that she had not even thought of until the floodwater reached her. She began to pray...
Jambed by debris, tranquil carves path of ruin

From previous pages mill up a story a rise along the line of the River Brown in Stockbridge. The brown has been jambed by debris and it's侦查。the river could no longer reach the dead channel during high water. The river flow and stream instead—a flood of silt and debris, making the channel deeper.
**CHAPTER 3: ‘DAMN, DAMN, IRENE’ IS WRITTEN**

Leaving lives upended, a river reshapes

After the deluge, each Chalet Village flood victim faced the same calculation of the odds, the choice of whether or not to go to stay. Was Irene a one-in-a-lifetime catastrophe? Or a harbinger of future storms?

Behind the counter stood the town’s three officials. Their twice-monthly volunteer job had ballooned into a full-time effort, and floodwater was seeping into their offices. One called the Oct. 5 meeting of the Stockbridge Selectboard to order.

“We have to do something,” asked the 85 people crowded into the narrow room.

No one said anything.

The answer was scrawled on a blackboard once used to announce the dirt’s daily specials. ‘Damn damn Irene.’

Six weeks after the floods of Tropical Storm Irene inundated, everyone in the room—everyone who had seen the town’s life interrupted by the incomprehensibility of closed highways, 7,000 stalls, delays at repair sites and the fear and heaving of construction equipment—displaced residents of the Chalet Village subdivision turned against the town’s pine-panelled walls.

Their post-drought world was made of ruined homes and uncertainty about the future.

Candy Page

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

STOCKBRIDGE — Chairman Mark Pollastri fined his fellow on the board of selectmen $200 for calling the Oct. 5 meeting of the Stockbridge Selectboard to order.

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Candy Page

BURLINGTON FREE PRESS
The Tweed Line

They got to do something about that river.
Tom HILL of Stockbridge, a musician, crosses the remains of Davis Hill Road as he and his neighbor Ron Gallo head some of his collection of intricate instruments away from his home on Dec. 6. The house was cut off when a zone jumped its banks doing Tropical Storm Irene and destroyed Davis Hill Road. Hill was relieved for four days, but his wife, Linda, was not when he returned to recover some of his possessions. Hill said he won’t be returning to the home, even when the road is rebuilt. “As long as it has been driven over, it makes no sense to go back to get an incompetently placed house,” he says.

“Can’t manage the house for this area,” said Fred Nicholson, a retired historic sites conservation manager who knew the town’s evils, was even more blunt. “You put a stable in your river or do you want Chalet Villager to ask him?”

In mid-November, the Stockbridge Selectmen agreed to apply for funds to purchase 13 homes, including at Chalet Villages, but kept going with the plan for another season. The owners, however, must decide to sell at a March town meeting, they said. As December begins, Chalet Villager homeowners still lived in a kind of limbo. Their neighborhood was still dispossessed by piles of sodden furniture and locked cabinets, overgrown with weeds and muddy road surfaces. A flood ofrafted-stashed debris stranded where the town had been; 15 yards or so from the line, they are proof that the town would have to be moved to new foundations.

“We can’t manage the trust for this area,” said Fred Nicholson, a retired historic sites conservation manager who knew the town’s evils, was even more blunt. “You put a stable in your river or do you want Chalet Villager to ask him?”

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