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YOUR AWARD-WINNING, INDEPENDENT, NONPROFIT SOURCE OF NEWS AND VIEWS

BUHS recent drug woes are part of a national trend

With incidents of opioid overdoses and unintended consumption of cannabis occurring over the past few months, the school administration is focusing on finding help for students in need

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro Union High School continues to grapple with what has become a national concern: drugs in school, especially post-pandemic.

On Dec. 22, Interim Principal Cassie Damkoehler confirmed that on the previous day, “two, possibly three” students visited the health office at the school “complaining of some odd symptoms that came on suddenly.”

“The students were unaware of any reason they would be experiencing these sorts of things,”

Damkoehler said in an immediate message to staff members and parents.

She later told *The Commons* there may have been other students with similar symptoms who did not report them and confirmed that two students were taken to the hospital by their parents.

Toxicology testing determined that the students had THC in their systems.

THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the major psychoactive component of, and one of 113 compounds recognized in, the cannabis plant. (A synthetic

■ SEE DRUG TREND, A4



MOBILE HOME communities grapple with FLOOD RISK

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, flood-damaged trailers await removal at Glen Park in West Brattleboro in 2011.

From Vermont to Montana, efforts are underway to protect residents in the most flood-vulnerable locations — like Tri-Park in Brattleboro — without sacrificing affordability

By Sarah Amandolare
Nexus Media News

Charlotte Bishop was standing at her kitchen window in January 2019 when she saw water streaming into her yard. A block of ice had clogged the brook that snakes around the mobile home park where she and her husband

Rollin live.

Bishop grabbed her keys and rushed outside to move their cars to higher ground. Within minutes, she was wading through knee-high water.

Bishop lives in Tri-Park Cooperative in Brattleboro, Vermont’s largest and oldest resident-owned mobile home community. The co-op represents

a crucial source of affordable housing for about 1,000 residents, but many of its lots are vulnerable to flooding. Bishop said her property has flooded about five times since the early 2000s, and while their home has been spared thus far, she still worries.

“I get paranoid, because I don’t want to lose everything,”

she said.

Ice jams are not uncommon in Vermont, but the heavier rains and earlier winter thaws — both related to climate change — will likely cause more flooding in communities near rivers and streams.

Now, the Bishops have the option to move to higher ground.

In partnership with the town of Brattleboro, the co-op has organized a \$7.9 million effort to relocate 26 homes out of the flood zone and into new mobile homes in safer locations within the park. Residents’ out-of-pocket mortgage expenses won’t change, according to the development firm working on the project.

The price of affordable housing

More than 20 million Americans live in manufactured housing — also known as mobile homes — which costs about half as much per square foot as traditional homes. Like Tri-Park Cooperative, they’re often on the outskirts of town,

■ SEE MOBILE HOMES, A4

Holton Home gets new life as cohousing

This winter, the defunct assisted-living facility will begin serving traveling health-care workers for the Brattleboro Retreat

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Closed in May 2022 after pandemic conditions resulted in a shortage of money and qualified nursing staff to run it, former assisted living facility Holton Home is now being transformed into housing for traveling health care workers.

The new incarnation of this historic building at 158 Western Ave. is a result of a collaboration among M&S Development, which is adapting the structure; Garden Path Elder Living, its owner; and the Brattleboro Retreat, whose temporary staff can find housing there in an almost-impossible rental market.

“Our intention is to support the Retreat as it increases its staffing levels while helping Garden Path rebuild its finances to pre-pandemic levels,” says Bob Stevens, president and principal of M&S Development.

“Because Holton Home will cater specifically to traveling health care professionals, this will hopefully help the community by freeing up local apartments for long-term rentals,” he says.

As described on the firm’s website (msdevelopmentllc.com), M&S has been helping communities “find local solutions to advance complex, multi-faceted

projects with profound social and economic impacts” since 2014.

The company holds a 10-year lease to retrofit and manage the building, and the Retreat has signed a memorandum of understanding to lease all 35 units for traveling nurses and doctors who need housing for a minimum of three months.

In turn, the health care providers will pay rent to the Retreat.

The term “traveling nurse” is employed when medical institutions hire medical workers from afar who are often paid a

■ SEE HOLTON HOME, A5



In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, volunteers drag debris to a dumpster at Glen Park, part of the Tri-Park Cooperative, in 2011.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO

A crash course at ‘when-Mom-dies school’

Susan MacNeil’s new memoir is part love letter, part cautionary tale, and part instructional manual

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—A little over a year ago, when her mother, Jean Brady, was a patient at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital, Susan MacNeil got the call.

Brady was 94, in declining health, and her hearing had become seriously diminished.

The call was not unexpected, but it’s one you never are really prepared for.

“I think this is it — I’m dying,” Brady told her daughter in Bellows Falls.

In the hospital, where they talked every day, Brady had been in intensive care, where instant access to amplified phones made

daily communication doable. But her mother had just been moved to the cardio unit, and the amplified phone had not been moved with her. There wasn’t one available.

For the next 18 minutes, while her mother died, MacNeil screamed into her cell phone, trying to make sure her mother knew how much she loved her.

Brady passed, with her daughter never knowing what her mother could hear in those last minutes of her life. It was traumatic for both of them, to say the least.

That happened on Jan. 26, 2022. MacNeil spent the rest of the year writing a memoir, *18 Minutes: A Daughter’s Primer on*

Life and Death.

The book is more than a tribute to her mother. It is also a book full of wisdom about living, about experiencing inevitable loss, and about trying to do both as well as possible, as well as how to handle it when we occasionally fail.

“I started writing it just to process my grief,” MacNeil said. “That last 18 minutes when she couldn’t hear me, I’ve tried to process it.”

It’s also a heads up for hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice. When a family member or friend is dying, it can be incredibly important to say goodbye, to say “I love you,” or to hold a hand. There are some simple ways to

■ SEE ‘18 MINUTES’, A3



Susan MacNeil, left, and her mother, Jean, during a visit to Gillette Castle in Connecticut.

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January 6



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 Recognizing that a vigorous exchange of ideas and information allows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, Vermont Independent Media:
 • creates a forum for community participation,
 • promotes local independent journalism,
 • fosters civic engagement by building media skills through publication of *The Commons* and *commonnews.org*, and through the Media Mentoring Project.

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The paper is published weekly, with early production schedules scheduled for most fifth Wednesdays of the month.

SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS
 We welcome story ideas and news tips. Please contact the newsroom at news@commonnews.org or at (802) 246-6397.

VOICES
The Commons presents a broad range of essays, memoirs, and other subjective material in Voices, our editorial and commentary section. We want the paper to provide an unpredictable variety of food for thought from all points on the political spectrum.

We especially invite responses to material that appears in the paper.

We do not publish unsigned or anonymous letters, and we only very rarely withhold names for other pieces. When space is an issue, our priority is to run contributions that have not yet appeared in other publications.

Please check with the editor before writing essays or other original submissions of substance. Email: voices@commonnews.org.

Editorials represent the collective voice of *The Commons* and are written by the editors or by members of the Vermont Independent Media Board of Directors.

The views expressed in our Voices section are those of individual contributors. Bylined commentaries by members of the Vermont Independent Media board of directors represent their individual opinions; as an organization, we are committed to providing a forum for the entire community. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Vermont Independent Media is legally prohibited from endorsing political candidates.

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Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations.

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In memoriam:
 Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman, Mia Gannon

Strolling of the Heifers' agricultural advocacy will live on, in a radically different form

The nonprofit organization morphs into Agritech Institute for Small Farms, with new emphasis on farming technology

By Randolph T. Holhut
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—When the COVID-19 pandemic dealt a knockout blow to Strolling of the Heifers in the fall of 2020 that resulted in the suspension of the nonprofit's operations, an end to its annual parade, and the sale of the River Garden, many speculated over what would happen to what remained of the organization.

On Dec. 14, the Vermont Secretary of State recorded a change of name from the Strolling of the Heifers to Agritech Institute for Small Farms, Inc.

On Dec. 30, the organization announced the new chapter in its nonprofit history, the final disbursement of its Strolling of the Heifers funds, and its decision to not revive the signature march of cows and farmers down Brattleboro's Main Street.

"The parade had a wonderful run," said Orly Munzing, who founded Strolling 20 years ago. "But when you talk to farmers, what they need is more technology, and that's the area the Strolling of the Heifers is moving to."

The Agritech Institute (agritechinstituteforsmallfarms.org) will start life with \$250,000 retained from the Stroll, which disbursed the balance of its assets to other Windham County nonprofits.

The "part think tank, part small farm accelerator" will be based in Montpelier and will aim to identify, test, and provide technical and financial support for ideas that improve economic and environmental viability and mitigate climate change.

Dan Smith, founding executive director of the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, will head the new effort, which

he co-founded with Roger Allbee, the former Vermont secretary of agriculture and the acting chair of the Strolling of the Heifers board of directors.

"We've been working with the Strolling of the Heifers board for over a year to position this new organization in a way to be an important clearinghouse for the development and greater adaptation of technology by smaller farms," said Smith, a lawyer who has focused on state and federal milk market regulation.

Helping small farms adapt to big changes

Smith said the institute "is really designed to be of service to advocacy and support groups that exist throughout Vermont and the Northeast to enable small-scale agriculture to prosper."

The initiative will work to establish a pilot program on 25 Vermont dairy farms. In addition to boosting farm finances, its organizers hope to help improve water quality and soil health through sustainable practices and incorporate such climate change mitigation solutions as carbon sequestration.

The project, although only just announced, already is reaping supportive reviews.

"The institute's proposed pilot program is a most welcome, and well-timed, addition to our policy tool kit and provision of support services for Vermont dairy farms," state Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbets said in a written statement.

Smith said that Agritech Institute is also working on developing a virtual fence, also known as "geo-fencing," a concept that is similar to an invisible pet fence.

He said that instead of a shock mechanism, the virtual fence



The Strolling of the Heifers parade — from which the nonprofit blossomed — was designed to raise awareness of local farms and farmers.



Strolling of the Heifers board chair Roger Allbee listens as Strolling founder Orly Munzing speaks at a Dec. 30 news conference in Brattleboro.

emits noise that tells cows to stay within the pasture's boundaries.

With this system, Smith said, a dairy farmer can move a herd using a computer or hand-held device, rather than having to physically open or close pasture gates.

Local nonprofits also boosted

Two Brattleboro nonprofits also benefited from Strolling's remaining funds to promote agriculture in southern Vermont.

The Downtown Brattleboro Alliance (DBA) will be receiving \$25,000 from Strolling "to carry on our mission, which is to connect people with the food they eat," said Munzing.

DBA Executive Director Kate Trzaskos said the organization does not have any immediate plans for using the money, but one will emerge after consultation with the organization's board of directors.

The Winston Prouty Center received \$175,000. Executive director Chloe Learey said the money would help fund a 300-unit apartment complex planned for the campus of the former Austine School for the Deaf.

"It was a big surprise and a huge honor to be on the receiving end," said Learey.

As for the big tents and other equipment that Strolling would use for its Dairy Festival after the parade, those have been given to The Brattleboro Retreat, one of the organization's longtime partners in the staging of the event.

The Stroll's legacy

The Stroll began in June 2002 as a parade that spurred national news outlets from *The Wall Street Journal* to the *Los Angeles Times* to juxtapose images of Spain's "Running of the Bulls" with local farmers prodding cows through downtown Brattleboro at a far more leisurely pace.

The event attracted thousands of people to Brattleboro and led to Strolling presenting other agricultural and food-related events, such as the Slow Living Summit.

Allbee characterized the event as "iconic," and said that it "became an inspiration to see how it brought attention to not only the dairy industry but agriculture and Brattleboro."

Growing in popularity over the years, the march helped fund a \$600,000 year-round budget to promote agricultural production, processing, and distribution — a \$4 billion Vermont industry responsible for nearly 15% of jobs in the state.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the cancellation of the past three parades and spurred the organization to shed its paid staff and suspend programming in 2020.

It later sold its headquarters — the River Garden, at 157 Main St. — to the Whetstone Brewery in 2021.

"Before the money runs out, we're putting everything on pause and reevaluating to see where we can go in the new normal," Munzing said at the time.

It took about a year for



Dan Smith leads the Montpelier-based Agritech Institute for Small Farms, formerly the Strolling of the Heifers, which launches in its new form with \$25,000 retained from the Stroll.

Strolling to map out what would best carry on its legacy of advocating for local food and farms.

With the Stroll is the end of its two-decade journey, Munzing said that now "it's time to cultivate new ideas and pass the torch to the next generation."

With additional reporting by Kevin O'Connor of *VTDigger.org*.

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'18 Minutes'

FROM SECTION FRONT

make this easier, and amplified phones is one of them.

MacNeil said she personally pushed Hartford Hospital to do a better job in that area. She says she felt some relief when the hospital finally purchased 250 amplified phones this year for patient use.

"When we didn't have an amplified phone at the very end, it was traumatizing for both my mother and myself," MacNeil said.

She describes the experience as "a cautionary tale for hospitals."

"We're an aging population, and we might live all over the country," MacNeil said. "People should be able to talk with their family when they are dying. It sounds like such a simple thing, but it means everything."

An ordinary extraordinary woman

There is much more to this memoir, though, than concerns about the tragedy of that last 18 minutes. The subtitle, *A Daughter's Primer on Life and Death*, is about how MacNeil's mother, once she got into her 80s, told her daughter that she would have to go to "when-Mom-dies school."

So they began to talk openly about life and dying, and Brady began leaving notes.

"She was amazing," MacNeil said. "She left notes all over the place, knowing I would find them. But I have to deal with that as I find each envelope."

MacNeil and her mother had an extraordinarily close relationship, which is not true of all families. "So many people have told me, 'You're lucky. I don't even like my mother. She won't be leaving me any love notes!'"

Part of the family closeness was the fact that Brady's husband died in 1985. A product of the 1950s, she didn't learn to drive until she was 47 and a widow. MacNeil said her mother went on her own to the local school and hired the driving instructor, a grumpy man who added to the challenge, but she nonetheless got her license.

Once she got her own set of wheels, Brady "was always up for an adventure," MacNeil said. And Brady and her children had many adventures, right up until her last years.

Independent to the last

Jean Brady married again for a time, but she would forever remain her own woman.

"She was always checking on her neighbors and taking care of them," MacNeil said, adding that her mother set an example for her own lifetime of volunteer work.

"She was relentlessly independent. She had her Senior Center she went to. She'd take the yearly senior driving course, and kept the certificates showing she'd passed. She had a giant beast of a car, a Buick. Drove right up to the end."

Brady had increased health issues as she aged, including from a serious fall that likely shortened her life, but she still lived on her own as much as possible. She resisted moving in with family, but stayed in constant touch with her daughter and three sons.

When her family suggested that she move to Vermont to live with them or that MacNeil move to Connecticut to live with her, Brady's response was immediate and totally expected.

"No, I need my own space and privacy," she would say. "I'm fine here."

In addition to leaving notes to her family and organizing her apartment to make it easier when she was gone, Brady also organized her own funeral and burial arrangements.

18 Minutes covers so much more, from lists to poetry to conversations and trip diaries.

"Now that she's gone I have an entirely new point of view about visiting hours," MacNeil writes in the book.

"We should think of every chance to be together with

someone we love as the ultimate visiting hours that we celebrate life," she continues, "not the scary visiting hours that make your heart beat quickly and cause shortness of breath as you fear the bad news while keeping your fingers crossed for something, anything good."

Susan MacNeil says she will be doing readings and book signings throughout New England in the months ahead, including at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls and Everyone's Books in Brattleboro. The book is also available on Amazon (tinyurl.com/696-18mins) as a Kindle eBook, trade paperback, and hardcover.

Hilltop Montessori School completes successful community toy drive

BRATTLEBORO—Upper Elementary students Solen Rosenberg and Eleanor Horton initiated this year's Community Toy Drive at Hilltop Montessori School. Building upon last year's inaugural project, which grew out of the passion to help children and their families who are unhoused and/or experiencing economic hardship, the students expanded their drive this year to include more families within the community.

Rosenberg and Horton

contacted early education programs and schools in Windham County. After they followed up with phone calls with directors, principals, and organizations, they were able to put together a list of children and their holiday wishes and needs.

The students created a Giving Tree in the front lobby where people could select a child for whom they would purchase specific items from their wish list. All together, they were able to make this holiday a little

brighter for nearly 50 children ages 10 months to 14 years.

While Rosenberg and Horton organized the Giving Tree, they also planned and implemented their toy drive campaign at Hilltop Montessori School with the rest of the Upper Elementary Classroom. They created a flier for the newsletter and visited each class from Children's House (pre-k and kindergarten) to the Middle School to talk about the toy drive and distribute fliers.

The students worked together making posters and collecting donations of toys, books, games, and winter clothing at pick-up and drop-off prior to the final week before winter break. Students Dylan Shine, Reine Beckwith, and Annie Donahue were also instrumental in organizing the gifts for each child and delivering to area programs and schools during the winter break.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION 2W1379 10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 - 6111

On December 28, 2022, Marylynn Scherlin 361 Huckle Hill Rd, Vernon, VT 05354 filed application number 2W1379 for a project generally described as the previous construction of an auto repair garage and a catering/take-out kitchen for a maximum of 2 employees. The project is located at 722 Pond Rd in Vernon, Vermont. This application can be viewed online by visiting the Act 250 Database: (<https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=2W1379>).

No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Tuesday, January 31, 2023, a party notifies the District 2 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://nrh.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 2 Office at: NRB.Act250Springfield@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact Stephanie Gile at the address or telephone number below.

Dated this December 29, 2022.

By: Stephanie Gile
District Coordinator
100 Mineral Street, Suite # 305
Springfield, VT 05156-3168
802-261-1943
Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov

Notice of Windham County Annual Meeting **TO ALL RESIDENTS OF WINDHAM COUNTY**

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A.133 Notice is hereby given that the Annual Windham County Meeting of the voters presenting the proposed budget for the county for the ensuing year will be held on:

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 4:00 PM at the Windham County Sheriff's Office 185 Old Ferry Rd Brattleboro, VT 05304.

If interested in attending this meeting via Zoom, please contact the Windham County Clerk at Countyclerk@windham-countyvt.gov. Please provide your full name and town in which you reside. The Zoom information, along with a copy of the proposed budget, will be emailed to you approximately 3 business days prior to the meeting date. Note: If you prefer to attend the meeting via phone, instead of via the web (Zoom), a dial-in number will be provided to you.

The following is a summary of the expenditures being proposed for the fiscal year

Beginning February 1, 2023.

County Clerk's Office, Windham County Courthouse	\$549,559.29
Personnel	\$247,240.66
Professional Services	\$37,000.00
Contract Services	\$300.00
Building & Grounds	\$203,000.00
Operational Expenses	\$19,570.00
Insurance	\$30,448.63
Donations	\$12,000.00
Windham Probate Court	
Building Expenses	\$0.00
Contract Services	\$0.00
Operational Expenses	\$0.00
Windham County Sheriff's Department	
Personnel	\$403,507.99
Professional Services	\$205,807.99
Contract Services	\$65,400.00
Building Expenses	\$7,000.00
Operational Expenses	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$77,125.00
County Capital Reserve Fund	\$0.00
TOTAL COUNTY EXPENDITURES	\$953,067.28
REVENUE	
Windham Superior Court Small Claims and Notary Fees	\$24,000.00
TOTAL COUNTY REVENUES	
County Capital Construction Fund	\$
TOTAL TO BE ASSESSED TO THE TOWNS OF WINDHAM COUNTY	\$929,067.28
The tax rate is based on last year's Grand List as this year's list is not published until the end of December, January. Estimated Tax rate FY 23/24 0.01089. Actual tax rate should be known by the Annual County Meeting in January 2023. Copies of the complete proposed budget are available to the public during the county court's hours of Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 4:30PM at the county (Superior) Court on Route 30, Newfane, Vermont.	
Carolyn Partridge, Assistant Judge	Lamont Barnett, Assistant Judge

Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC Rule 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

- Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2023 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
- You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
- Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
- Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
- You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
- You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **distribution lines**, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
- You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or **sub-transmission lines**, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

<p>Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584</p>	<p>Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431</p>	<p>Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496</p>
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2023.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List			
Name	Town/City of Affected Property		
Street Address	Home Phone Number		
Town	Work Phone Number		
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number?	Yes No
Electric Utility Account Number		(circle one)	
Best time to contact you			
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other (Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification:		Pole Numbers	
Utility Initials			
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15 TH , 2023			

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Mobile homes

FROM SECTION FRONT

in places that can be beautiful but also bring their own dangers.

Across the U.S., biased zoning has sited many manufactured housing communities in precarious “fringe environments,” such as floodplains and fire-prone urban edges, according to Zachary Lamb, a climate adaptation researcher at UC Berkeley. In Vermont, researchers found that about one-third of mobile home communities are at least partially in federal floodplains.

Now, many of those communities are grappling with how to keep their communities safe without driving up costs for residents, who often own their mobile home and rent their lot.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has funded research on tornado-vulnerable mobile homes in Alabama and Mississippi, and recently granted \$79,000 toward climate resilience research on mobile homes in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire.

And in Montana, where 10% of houses are mobile homes (compared to 5.5% nationwide), one nonprofit in the city of Great Falls is elevating lots above the floodplain.

Projects like this can take years of planning. Tri-Park’s has been in the works since 2008, when the town agreed to finance loans for water and sewage system upgrades if the co-op agreed to relocate flood-vulnerable homes.

But residents still need to decide whether to leave their current homes, and that’s “a deeply personal choice,” said Kelly Hamshaw, a lecturer at the University of Vermont who focuses on housing and disaster resilience.

Despite their flooding concerns, the Bishops are not planning to relocate because they don’t want to downsize from their four-bedroom home. The new homes will have only two or three bedrooms and less outdoor space.

The couple has worked hard over the years to clear brush from their lawn and plant gardens, and they often host their daughter and grandchildren when they visit from upstate New York, which they said wouldn’t be possible in a smaller home.

Rollin, a retired veteran who works part-time for a restaurant, worries the relocation project will push out young, growing families.

“What we’re talking about is turning this into a senior park,” he said.

Down the street from the Bishops, Richard Matteson and his wife Sandy have been living in their mobile home since 1988. Their peaceful lot has broad views of the hillsides behind the park, but it also abuts the brook.

The Mattesons, who are both retired and have mobility challenges, are planning to accept the relocation offer, as long as their costs won’t change. Matteson said that they’ve been evacuated “three or four times because of flooding and ice jams” over the years.

“It’s happening more often than it used to because of climate change, and I think it’s going to get worse instead of better,” he said.

A new model for mobile home buyouts

As residents decide whether to relocate, officials involved in the Tri-Park project hope it could represent a model for other flood-prone communities that wouldn’t benefit from standard FEMA buyouts.

Homeowners are typically reimbursed for 75% of the appraised value of their home. But for the owners of older or damaged mobile homes, that amount usually falls short of their actual relocation costs, according to Stephanie A. Smith, a state hazard mitigation officer at Vermont Emergency Management.

“That’s where Tri-Park comes in, as an example of a new model for buyouts within mobile home parks, centered around making people whole and making sure they have somewhere to live that’s safer and more resilient,” Smith said.

Tri-Park residents each pay the same monthly rent to the co-op for their lot — an amount that won’t change for those who relocate — and the cost of their new homes will be covered by the state’s new Flood Resilient Communities Fund, rather than federally through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In 2021, Vermont officials allocated \$4.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to the new fund, followed by an additional \$14.75 million in 2022.

Led by Vermont Emergency Management, the fund will help pay for flood-mitigation projects, like the Tri-Park relocations and buyouts for mobile-home owners whose moving costs wouldn’t be covered by a standard FEMA buyout.

That approach is inspiring ongoing climate change resilience research in Montana.

“There’s been a decade worth of work by researchers, nonprofits, and state agencies in Vermont to get to this point where the state is actively getting folks out of harm’s way,” said Kristin Smith, an economic geographer in Bozeman, Montana.

In her research with the nonprofit Headwaters Economics, Smith found that more than one in five mobile homes in Montana are situated in high-flood-risk neighborhoods — a statistic that the state has been waking up to.

After the Yellowstone River flooded a mobile home park in Fromberg, Montana in June — an event scientists linked to warmer temperatures — the state’s requests for federal aid “specifically called out mobile homes as an area that we’re concerned about,” Smith said.

The community of Glendive, Montana, is “taking the flood risk to mobile home parks really seriously,” Smith said. The levee protecting the Casitas Del Rio mobile home park from the Yellowstone River is “too short for the expected flood risk,” she said. The Army Corps of Engineers is exploring options such as raising the levee, or pushing it back to create more space for the river.

About six hours west, in Great Falls, the nonprofit



OLGA PETERS COMMONS FILE PHOTO

This 2012 photo shows empty lots at the Glen Park mobile home community in West Brattleboro, which bore the brunt of flood damage from Tropical Storm Irene the year before.

NeighborWorks Montana is guiding a relocation effort at another flood-prone mobile home park, Missouri Meadows. The organization has raised philanthropic and nonprofit funding to elevate the vacant lots above the floodplain, one by one, and then make them available for new residents.

There are no plans to elevate lots where current residents live, which means most residents will continue living in a floodplain,

according to Danielle Maiden, NeighborWorks Montana’s cooperative housing director. Flood risk is something that “folks who live in manufactured housing have gotten used to,” she said.

Back in Vermont, Matteson wonders why anyone was allowed to move into the low-lying areas of the Tri-Park Cooperative in the first place.

“They never told us when we bought this place that it flooded

here,” he said.

During the ice jam of 2019, when the roads around their house flooded, the Mattesons had to be rescued by a maintenance worker in a bucket loader. Their 5-year-old granddaughter was with them that day and was also rescued.

Now, Matteson would rather move than worry about having to be rescued again.

“We don’t have much choice in

the matter, really,” he said. “We’d just stay here and float away.”

This article originally appeared in Nexus Media News (nexusmedianews.com), an editorially independent, nonprofit news service covering climate change. It was made possible by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.

Drug trend

formulation of THC, dronabinol, is FDA-approved to manage chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and for appetite stimulation in HIV/AIDS anorexia.)

“We have not identified any laced food and therefore have not been able to determine if it had been altered or by whom,” she said. “It does not appear there was any shared food or candy between the students.”

In her message, the principal noted that “safety is always” her first priority and “being as transparent as I am able” her “close second.”

Going on to explain what happened, she noted that she found it “concerning not only from an educator’s point of view, but also as a parent of teens and a member of the BUHS community.”

Damkoehler said the health office made sure the students were not at immediate risk of harm and that their parents were called.

“As many can imagine, this is frightening on a variety of levels, especially for those actually experiencing it,” she said. “From the school’s perspective, we are looking into if and how someone could possibly contaminate any food or drink in the building with a possibly dangerous substance. We will make every attempt to find out this information and are open to sharing it with outside agencies, if required.”

Asking that all make efforts to “be safe with yourself and others,” Damkoehler encouraged not sharing or consuming food or drink if one is not aware of the source and it is not sealed prior to consumption.

“I know this is a common time of year for teachers to bring in baked goods and I am not frowning on this, but ask you to be aware of where they are placed and who has access to them if you are not in your space,” she wrote.

This incident comes after a Nov. 4 report, confirmed by the Brattleboro Police Department, that during the last week of September “multiple students” had overdosed at the school.

Following an investigation, a 14-year-old was arrested for sale of a regulated drug and cited to family court.

Plans and support over punishment

The day after the incident, the school held an all-student



KEVIN O’CONNOR/VTDIGGER FILE PHOTO
BUHS Interim Principal Cassie Damkoehler

assembly to explain what had transpired. After both incidents, administrators and staff members asked students to come forward with any information without fear of repercussion or judgment.

“Most important is to just get help and have it be more of a community safety kind of thing,” said Student Assistant Program Counselor Ricky Davidson this week.

Davidson said the approach the school has undertaken “is about understanding that addiction is a medical issue and a disease,” rather than approaching it from the decades-long response of “punishing” people for substance misuse.

“That doesn’t work,” said the counselor, describing the BUHS

approach as, instead, asking what school officials can do to help ease the effect of these problems on a student’s life in general and school work in particular.

Davidson does a lot around of work around substance “misuse and addiction issues” and helps kids come up with “a plan and support to make better decisions.” He said he believes students feel “safe and comfortable” talking with him about drug issues.

“I think they feel they can be real and I’m not somebody who’s judging them,” he said.

Even before the two incidents in 2022, BUHS had set into motion several initiatives to support students around education and help with substance use.

Davidson works with Turning Point, whose representatives run a biweekly recovery group at the school specifically for students.

“There are no teen rehab facilities in Vermont specifically geared toward drug/alcohol addiction treatment,” said Damkoehler. “I actually emailed a few politicians about it around Thanksgiving break and heard nothing.”

She noted that Davidson has been working to create a modified schedule for such students so that they could have more support built into their day while attending BUHS.

“In other areas, there are things such as recovery high schools, but developing something like that takes an incredible amount of time, and there are many legalities

FROM SECTION FRONT

surrounding it,” Damkoehler said.

A simple Google search reveals that schools in myriad states and even public libraries are experiencing similar situations.

“As a society, we’re still coming out of a very long trauma situation with Covid,” Davidson said. “When you think about it that way, people deal with those feelings and thoughts in all kinds of different ways and try to find ways to cope that aren’t always the best choices, and I think that’s what we’re seeing nationwide.”

Damkoehler said she believes it is “a combination of things contributing.”

“I think the opiate crisis really affected areas along the I-91 corridor,” she said. “In addition, we are dealing with a population of traumatized students following the pandemic, but not specifically related to Covid. Their way of life was completely altered when school was shut down, and they all lost a lot.”

“Add in the increase in both mental illness and the disease of addiction, and it’s created a nationwide crisis for our schools and students,” Damkoehler continued.

“In a perfect world, we would be able to keep drugs that are prevalent in our community outside the doors of the school,” the principal said. “While we cannot do that, we are committed to supporting our students and providing all we can to help those struggling.”

Police respond to unspecified threat at BUHS, BAMS

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Best wishes for a happy New Year appear not to have extended from all when students returned to classes on Tuesday, Jan. 3 in the Windham Southeast School District.

Instead of diving into their studies, students spent up to 30 minutes in their classrooms while police responded and ascertained they were safe, which they quickly did.

Unconfirmed reports suggest an alum might have made aggressive statements while involved in social media gaming, prompting the caution. Law enforcement responded, and it was quickly and easily determined that there was no threat and that regular activities could ensue.

While the incident has not been explained by Brattleboro police or school administration, Windham Southeast Superintendent Mark Speno

sent a message to the community saying, “Earlier this morning, out of an abundance of caution, our BUHS campus entered into a ‘shelter in place.’”

“Late this morning, area law enforcement contacted us because of a potential threat to the campus,” Speno wrote, acknowledging that “this is not the ideal way to start the New Year.”

“Out of an abundance of caution, administrators called for a shelter in place and students remained in classrooms during this time,” he wrote. “Administrators worked with local law enforcement to determine that the campus is safe and secure. We have since resumed normal activities.”

Speno thanked the police for their response, as well as “administrators and safety teams for decisive decision making and keeping safety at the forefront of those decisions.”

He implored the community to “please know that we took

these steps to ensure the safety of everyone on our campus.”

“Although it is very distressing to receive communication like this, the good news is that the systems that we do have in place worked,” he continued. “Communication was efficient and quick. In keeping the safety of students and staff at the forefront of all that we do, a decisive decision was made to enter ‘shelter in place.’”

Throughout the process announcements were made to students and staff.

Brattleboro Area Middle School Principal Keith Lyman confirmed his school was also apprised by police and students were kept in classrooms for 15 to 30 minutes.

“I feel this is a pretty isolated situation,” Lyman said, noting that police arrived “very quickly” and “clearly indicated to us the school was safe and we could go back to normal operations.”

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are nonviolent drug users.
—RALPH NADER

Holton Home

premium if they are willing to work for three to six months, explains Stevens.

“So a lot of shortages are filled by traveling nurses,” he says. “All of our hospitals and nursing homes have had travelers in the community, but they have to find housing.”

When a traveling nurse does find a place, it “uses up housing,” Stevens says.

Another benefit of this new use for Holton Home is that the health care workers won’t be living alone in a community where they are likely to be temporary residents.

“They’re often here by themselves for a short stint, and this also gives them a little more social connection,” Stevens says. “We thought it was a good communal model for that.”

Starting this week, about \$500,000 is being spent to paint, carpet, and furnish 35 units. The money is coming from capital that M&S and the Retreat are investing in the project, some of which could be offset by grants.

In the cohousing model, each unit is comprised of a private bedroom and bathroom, and tenants will share the common kitchen and dining areas. Common areas will be cleaned daily, while an outside cleaning service will clean individual bedrooms twice a month.

“We’re not changing the layout of the building; there are already bedrooms with bathrooms,” says Stevens. “And there’s a commercial kitchen, so we’re going to turn it into a shared kitchen, where everyone will have access to a locker, to a mini-fridge, and to numerous stoves.”

M&S will provide property management and after-hours on-call support.

Stevens says the first group of nurses who will move in by Feb. 1, and all units are expected to be filled by the end of that month.

“We’re excited that the building could be used in its current form for this time and it could also return back to elder housing,” Stevens says.

“When our primary lease is over with Garden Path, [if] they are ready to put it back into senior housing, they can,” he says.

“It seemed like a win” for all parties, he says, and, “if it works as a housing model, we can work to do more of these.”

Back on track

The Brattleboro Retreat, founded in 1834, is a not-for-profit, regional specialty psychiatric hospital and addiction

treatment center that offers “a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitation services for individuals of all ages and their families,” according to the facility’s website.

Holton Home was incorporated in 1892 as the Brattleboro Home for the Aged and Disabled by an act of the state Legislature after Dr. Henry Holton and other concerned residents expressed a need.

Garden Path Elder Living, a mission-driven nonprofit, was formed in 2015 by the merger of Holton Home with nearby Bradley House, which has been a senior living facility since 1990.

Garden Path closed Holton Home earlier this year, citing a decrease in residents seeking congregate elder care during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and moved remaining residents to Bradley House.

“This project allows us to get back on track regarding our finances,” says Garden Path’s Executive Director Bob Crego, who previously worked for Windham & Windsor Housing Trust as director of asset and property management.

Crego has witnessed the community’s housing struggles.

“From my background doing housing development, I know that workforce housing is the hardest segment of the population to address,” Crego says. “Putting these units online will be a huge boost to the supply of workforce housing in this community.”

The Retreat’s Erik Rosenbauer, vice president of government relations, communications, marketing, and emergency services, says hospital officials feel “fortunate” to collaborate with Garden Path and M&S.

The Retreat provides inpatient and outpatient mental health care for children, adolescents, and adults. A lack of clinical staff has inhibited the hospital’s ability to return to pre-pandemic staffing levels, which also limits the number of clients it can serve.

Hiring additional traveling clinicians is part of the hospital’s effort to reach its pre-pandemic level of 100 inpatient beds by June, says Rosenbauer.

“I see this project as a way for the Retreat to get back to full recovery and to more fully meet the needs of our community and the entire state of Vermont,” he says. “As the provider of inpatient psychiatric services for children and adolescents, we want to have as much capacity and space available as is needed.”

“Nothing is more painful

FROM SECTION FRONT

across the board than hiring new workers only to have the housing barrier prevent them from accepting the job,” Rosenbauer says. “Holton Home is a chance for us to overcome that last barrier and increase our workforce.”

WWHT considered apartments

Stevens also thanks Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) for that organization’s support of Garden Path.

Earlier this year, WWHT expended considerable resources to investigate the possibility of turning Holton Home into apartments.

WWHT Executive Director Elizabeth Bridgewater called the failure of plans to come to fruition “disappointing,” but says she is excited by the idea of short-term workforce housing.

“Despite that, this project contributes to the community’s housing, and that is a good outcome,” she says.

On Dec 21, the Brattleboro Development Review Board approved a change of use for Holton Home to another specialized residential structure that supports the cohousing living model.

The board has asked M&S to return later this year to discuss how managing Holton Home is going and to determine if any changes need to be made regarding operating the facility or parking.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

Holton Home, an assisted living facility on Western Avenue in Brattleboro that closed in May 2022, is being converted into housing for traveling healthcare workers.

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Submit resume with a minimum of 3 professional references to Sarah Tatro, Human Resources Manager, Town of Hinsdale, PO Box 13, 11 Main Street, Hinsdale, NH 03451. Resumes may be dropped off at the Selectmen’s Office at the Town Hall. Opportunity will remain position until filled.
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Town of Hinsdale, NH JOB OPENINGS

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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

Obituaries

• **Barbara Brooks** of Newfane. Died at her home on Dec. 20, 2022, with her children Tom and Amanda nearby. She said she wanted to be at home surrounded by family, and had asked God if He could please make it snow on the night of her passing. He obliged, even though it was not in the forecast. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut to Marjorie (Fairbanks) and Clarence Stacey, she grew up in East Dummerston and attended Brattleboro Union High School. She graduated from Castleton State College in 1957 with a degree in education. Her first job was teaching first grade in Wilmington, where she met the likes of Leon and Cleon Boyd. She remained close with many of her former students to this day. She was married to Norman Brooks of Newfane for 54 years until his death in 2013. Together they raised their four children. Tom Brooks (Kendra), the late Dawn McCormick, Jennifer Ellis, and Amanda North (Robert). She was adored by her 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. As her health declined, her friends and family visited her often, either to drop off a treat or to sit for a game of cards. Up until the day before she died, she continued to do the daily crossword puzzle, 1,000-piece puzzles, and would win 9 out of 10 games of cards or Chinese Checkers. In her last days, she worked daily on her mountain of Christmas cards she wanted to send out. She did not make it to the end of her list, but you were all in her thoughts. Barbara was very active in the community throughout her life. Her volunteer work ranged from being Sunday School teacher, softball coach, school board member, and guardian ad litem; to helping out at Moore Free Library, Newfane Church Ladies Aid, and the NewBrook Fire & Rescue Auxiliary, NewBrook Field Days, Newfane Heritage Festival, spelling bees, and organizing an annual Easter Egg Hunt. She was always reaching out to those in the community who were lonely, sick, or down on their luck. She kept her family in close contact by insisting they celebrate everyone's birthday, even as the family to continued to grow. She did not compromise on her values or family traditions, and had a special relationship with each of her grandchildren. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services will be held in the spring at a date to be determined.

• **Benoit de Crombrughe, 87**, of Putney. Died peacefully at his home on Dec. 4, 2022. He was born in Bruges, Belgium on Feb. 26, 1935 to Henry de Crombrughe and Anne-Marie Rotsart. He was predeceased in 2020 by Emma de Crombrughe, his beloved wife of 55 years. He is mourned and missed by his two daughters, Isabel Mendelsohn of Summit, New Jersey and Ines McGillion of Dummerston, and their families, including his seven grandchildren. Benoit was the second of seven siblings, and is predeceased by his elder brother François, and survived by sisters Marie-Thérèse and Geneviève and brothers Philippe, Bruno, and Dominique de Crombrughe. Gentle and kind, patient and compassionate, he was exceptionally intelligent and yet quietly humble, and beloved by all who knew him. He was passionate about his family, a

champion of basic scientific research, and proud of the achievements of everyone he mentored in his laboratory. Benoit graduated from the University of Louvain in 1961 as a medical doctor, and specialized in endocrinology. A two-year research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, between 1963 and 1965, marked a pivotal point in his life — he discovered his passion for scientific research, and met the love of his life, Emma de la Llosa. Following compulsory military service in Belgium, Benoit returned to the NIH in 1968 to pursue a career as a research scientist, performing laboratory work in molecular biology and studying gene regulation. In 1987, Benoit and his family moved to Houston, Texas, where he was Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. In 2019, Benoit and his wife moved to Putney, where they were welcomed by the Putney Commons community and enjoyed being closer to family. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Benoit was laid to rest next to his wife in Dummerston Center Cemetery on Dec. 11. Donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation (michaelfox.org) or the Houston Area Parkinson Society (hapsonline.org). To share a memory or send condolences to Benoit's family, visit atamaniuk.com.



• **Nancy Lou Farrell, 76**, of Vernon. Died peacefully at home with her family at her side on Dec. 18, 2022 following a period of declining health. Nancy was born in Colchester on May 4, 1946, the daughter of Owen and Helen (McLaren) Hutchins. She attended Brattleboro Union High School and went on to graduate from the Thompson School for Practical Nursing, alongside her sister, Brenda, where she received her LPN diploma. She worked most of her career in healthcare and was employed at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, which she retired from following 25 years of faithful service and care at the facility. Previously, she worked at Cedarcrest Home for Children, then located in Westmoreland. Prior to moving to Vernon 24 years ago, she was a longtime resident of Putney. Nancy enjoyed the outdoors, spending her time gardening (both flowers and vegetables), bird watching, reading, and going to the beach. She loved the time shared with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was an excellent baker known for her pies and rolls. Survivors include her five children: Duane Farrell and wife Lisa of Brookline, Travis Farrell and his wife Tracey of Vernon, Trampas Farrell and Brenda of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Lisa Kemp of Vernon, and Julie Acker and husband Nathan of Theford; brothers Jack, Daniel, and Owen Hutchins; sisters Monica Morris and Elaine Greenwood; grandchildren Nicholas, Andrew, and Alexander Kemp, with whom she shared a home, and Zoe Farrell, and Benjamin and Ada Acker; and great grandchildren Eira Leigh and Lucy Mae. Additionally, she leaves many nieces and nephews. Nancy was predeceased by brothers Raymond and Glen Hutchins, sisters Virginia Howard and Brenda Hatt, and her beloved grandson, Trevor Farrell. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In keeping with her final wishes, there are no formal funeral services scheduled.

Donations to the Maplewood Nursing Home Nurse's Fund, 201 River Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467. To send messages of e-condolence to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.



• **Jim Ferris, 68**, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully at Albany (N.Y.) Medical Center on Dec. 24, 2022. Born March 29, 1954 in Brattleboro, Jim was the son of Ronald and Pauline (Emmon) Ferris. He graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1972 and, upon graduation, worked as an assistant superintendent for Dunham Brothers, one of largest independent footwear wholesalers at the time. Jim later went on to Holyoke Community College where he pursued an associate's degree in radiologic technology. He had a career as an x-ray technician at Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Massachusetts, before going on to work at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, from which he retired in 2014. Jim built a life with his wife Vivian in Brattleboro, where they spent many weekends hosting family for barbecues, nature walks, and bonfires on their property. When Jim's daughters, nieces, and nephews were younger, he used to tow them along for tractor rides with his trusted dog Rusty following close behind. Jim always had dogs and cats and was the token animal whisperer to any pet he encountered. Jim was fond of the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing and hunting at family camps and spending time at Spofford Lake. Jim also loved spending time with his cousins and extended family at their lake house in Maine where the days were filled with outdoor games and boating, and the evenings making big potluck dinners while listening to their favorite old school rock and roll tunes. As a lover of all things outdoors, you could often find Jim helping family and his dear friend Rz out with landscaping projects around their property and was generous with offering his equipment and time to others. Jim enjoyed being around family and spent much of his time in recent years visiting with his brothers and sister who live close by. He enjoyed the mere company of his family and friends, reminiscing about the old times. You could also catch Jim tuning into his favorite baseball team, the Boston Red Sox. If he wasn't watching the game on TV, the radio would always be on full blast with the game playing in the background. Jim was a proud Vermonter who embraced everything New England had to offer. Jim is survived by his four daughters: Colleen Ferris of Brattleboro, Tara Sokolich of Naples, Florida, Jen Ritchie of Brattleboro, and Danielle Ritchie of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Jim is also survived by brothers Tim Ferris (Lorraine), Steve Ferris, and Rick Ferris (Marcie), and sister Helayne Barrett (Stephen) of Brattleboro. Jim was also survived by his many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Jim is predeceased by his parents and his wife Vivian Ritchie. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of his life will be held in the spring. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence, or for more information, visit csn.com.

• **Roger Myrick French, 77**, of Brattleboro. Died Dec. 14, 2022, at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital, from complications of pneumonia after having neglected his health for too long. Roger was born in 1945 in Bronxville, New York, and grew up



there and in Yonkers, New York, the oldest son of Amelia (McLean) and Roger P. French. One of Roger's early jobs was as a union drywall worker on the construction of the World Trade Center. Always preferring to work more independently, Roger was a salesman, usually of paper and packaging products (think Dunder-Mifflin, but without the hilarity). Roger repeatedly postponed his own education, career, and priorities in order to provide or care for others (think George Bailey, if you squint). In his younger years, Roger was known for his expertly waxed moustache and the ability to discuss it for what seemed like hours. He was a proficient genealogist long before there were computer databases. When home computers did arrive, he was the first on the block with a TI-99. His final computer set up would have been the envy of Gene Hackman's character in *Enemy of the State*, but without a demolition feature (that has yet been found, anyway). Roger was as comfortable torturing a verse of *Puttin' on the Ritz* as he was mangling *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida*. He was a lifelong student of all things and was rumored by some to have actually found more than one corner of the internet. Roger was a lover of gadgets (other than hearing aids), archaic trivia and sampling exotic foods (but lived in fear of the dread *allium*). In 2013, Roger relocated to Vermont and stayed initially with his brother, Walter French, and sister-in-law, Jodi French, of Newfane, for a period of 8 weeks, 6 days and 13 hours. At Fairview Village, his idiosyncracies were tolerated by neighbors and staff alike and, it turns out, he was appreciated by them far more than he probably ever knew or imagined. Hardest hit of all by the family curse of procrastination, he continued to spend years contemplating the possibility of thinking about considering how to research doing many things. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: His family asks, among Roger's legacies, that one be to inspire others to get around to doing it, whatever it is, before it's too late and to prepare an Advance Directive and to have those tough conversations to help guide loved ones. Otherwise you, too, might get an obituary written like this by your baby brother.

• **Norman S. Grubb, 95**, of Sarasota, Florida. Died on Dec. 9, 2022. He was born in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania in 1927. Formerly of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, Norman was a resident of Salisbury, Maryland for 30 years before relocating to Sarasota. Norman graduated from Ridley Park High School in 1947 and Bucknell University in 1952 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Following graduation, he pursued a long career in management with Monsanto, Firestone, and Piedmont Airlines, from which he retired in 1998. He enjoyed listening to jazz, playing the clarinet and being involved in civic and community affairs. Norman was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph R. and Bertha Dietrich Grubb; his wife of 51 years, Claire Hudson; and siblings Joseph and Marjorie. He is survived by his children, Dianne Copp (Robert) of Locust Valley, New York and David Grubb (Patricia) of Sarasota; grandchildren Christopher Grubb, William Copp, and Hilary Copp; and three great-grandchildren. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Norman will be laid to rest with his wife at Morning-side Cemetery in Brattleboro, where services will be held in the spring. Donations to The Children's Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21801, cfes.org. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.



• **Teresa Healy, 60**, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully at home on Dec. 21, 2022 after five years of living with cancer. She was born in England, an Irish and a Canadian citizen, and spent most of her life in Ontario, Canada. Since 2016, she has called Vermont home. She was an immigrant three times removed from the land of rock, trees, and water. A political scientist by training, she was the author of *Gendered Struggles Against Globalisation in Mexico* (Ashgate 2008/ Routledge 2020) and two edited collections on Canadian politics, *Harper Record: 2006-2008* and *Harper Record: 2008-2015*. Most recently, Teresa was completing a book, *Bounded Solidarity: The Many Faces of Conservatism in Simcoe County, Ontario*. As a student of liberation theology, Teresa completed a volume of prayer, *Prayerful: A Year of Practice*. Teresa was a well-known singer-songwriter, steeped in the Irish tradition. She recorded *She Pushed from Behind: Emily Murphy in Story and Song* and *Tangled in Our Dreams* with her husband, Tom Juravich, with whom she performed. A poet as well, she penned *Spiralling: A year in verse*. Teresa worked for many years in the Canadian labor movement, including at the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). She taught political economy at universities in Canada and the United States, including Trent University, Carleton

University, and at the School for International Training (SIT). An avid baker, she delighted family and friends with cakes of all kinds, along with the flowers, vegetables, and herbs that graced many a gathering in the garden she loved and cared for. Teresa is survived by her husband, Tom Juravich of Brattleboro; Tom's children Nicholas Juravich (Jean Seestadt), Mary Kratz (Adam), and Guy Juravich; and their grandchildren, Alden, Lily, Ben, and Russel. Teresa is also survived by her mother, Kay Healy of Tottenham, Ontario; her sister Anne Healy (Gavin Leeb and his sons Mitchell and Matthew) of Toronto; her brother Christopher Healy (Donna) of Tottenham; her nieces Natasha, Ashley, Tristen, and Kratz; her nephew Colin (Kristen); and her great-nieces and nephew Everleigh, Miguel and Sophia. Teresa was predeceased by her dear brother Stephen Healy (Sherry). Teresa is also survived by many extended kin in Ireland and England as well as dear friends and loved ones in many places across the globe. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: An in-person and virtual service will be held in a month near Tottenham, Ontario. Details will follow. In lieu of flowers, Teresa wishes that people donate their time and money to causes in their communities.

• **Elizabeth Ann (Betsy) Hutchins, 67**, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died peacefully on Dec. 7, 2022, after a short illness. Betsy was a graduate of Peabody (Mass.) High School, and was an antique dealer in New Hampshire for many years. She enjoyed online word games, fishing, and being with her friends and family. She was predeceased by her parents, Edwin and Doris (Donovan) Hutchins, and her partner, Paula Renock. She is survived by her loving companion, Ediel Byrne of Putney; siblings Doris (David) Ahern and Edwin (Helen) Hutchins, both of Beverly, Massachusetts; and several nieces and nephews, Renock family members, and many good friends. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of her life will be held in the spring in the Hinsdale area. Donations to Brattleboro Area Hospice, 191 Canal St., Brattleboro, VT 05301.

• **John Gerald Lawlor III, 71**, of Bellows Falls, died peacefully at his home following a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. John was born Feb. 5, 1951 in Bellows Falls, the son of John G. & Elizabeth (Stone) Lawlor, Jr. He graduated in 1969 from Bellows Falls High School and then served in the Air Force. He was stationed in Maine, where he met his beloved wife, Myra D. Milligan. The couple were married in Bellows Falls on June 17, 1972. They moved to Tampa, Florida, where John worked in a motorcycle shop (motorcycles being John's second love!) They later returned to Bellows Falls, where John worked at and became manager of Real to Reel in Walpole, New Hampshire for more than 20 years. He also held jobs at The Book Press, SEVCA, Bearcraft Industries and H.A. Manning. Among John's favorite activities were annual camping trips to Maine, drumming and music, playing pool, and entertaining. Friends will forever miss John's dry sense of humor. John was predeceased by his parents, his brother, Steven, and two sons, John IV and Eric. Survivors include his wife of 50 years and siblings Donna (Steven) Cenate, Brian (Andrea) Lawlor, Susan Lawlor, and Jeff Lawlor. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service and celebration of his life will be held in the spring at a time to be announced.


• **Mary R. McGrath, 87**, of Bellows Falls. Died on Dec. 21, 2022, at Sterling House in Bellows Falls. Mary was born on Nov. 24, 1935 in Kelso, Scotland, the daughter of the late Thomas and Mary (Russell) Donaldson. On Sept. 21, 1962, in Edinburgh, Scotland, she married Bernard B. McGrath, who predeceased her in 2015. Mary is survived by her son Barton McGrath and his wife Kim of Saxtons River; one sister, Ann Jackson of Kelso, Scotland; as well as six grandchildren. Mary was predeceased by her son, Ian McGrath. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Calling hours will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. Donations to Buddy Walk, NDSS, 1155 15th St NW, Suite 540, Washington, DC 20005.

• **Harry Charles Starkey Jr., 76**, formerly of Brattleboro. Died Dec. 25, 2022, at Somerford Place in Hagerstown, Maryland. He was born on Dec. 12, 1946, in Brattleboro, the son of Harry C. Starkey Sr., and Sarah Louise Taylor Starkey. Harry graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1964. He attended Vermont Technical College and graduated in 1966. He then served in the Vermont National Guard from 1967 to 1972. He also served in the Army Reserve in 1973. Harry married Linda Storme Gale on April 28, 1968, at the Baptist Church in Brattleboro. They were married for 54 years. Harry worked for the state of Vermont in the Soils Lab and the IT Department for 18 years. He then worked at the Review & Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland from 1985 until his retirement in 2018. There, he began his career in the IT Department

and became the IT Director in January of 2002. Harry was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 5, 1980. He joined the SDA church in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania after moving to Hagerstown in 1985 and served as a deacon and treasurer over the years. Harry was a lifelong Boston Red Sox and New York Giants fan. He loved watching games with his son, Chris, and grandsons. Harry loved his family and treasured vacations to Walt Disney World and Bethany Beach. His family was his number one priority, and he was a wonderful husband, father, and Pa. Harry is survived by his wife, Linda Storme Gale Starkey; a son, Christopher Todd Starkey and daughter-in-law Carrie Strider Starkey of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Rebecca Ann Highbarger and son-in-law Charles Leroy Highbarger, Jr., also of Waynesboro; a sister, Ann Starkey Devine of Eufaula, Alabama; and a brother, Robert Allen Starkey, Sr. of Elgin, South Carolina; granddaughters Makenzie Grace Highbarger and Kassidy Paige Highbarger; grandsons Nicholas Taylor Starkey and Samuel Cooper Starkey; and several nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral service was held Dec. 30 at the Williamsport (Md.) Seventh-day Adventist Church. Donations may be made to either the Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road, S.W., Suite 202C, Lilburn, GA 30047; or to the Children's House at Johns Hopkins, in care of the Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation, 6601 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228.

• **Brenda Lee Thomas, 63**, of Brattleboro. Died on Dec. 20, 2022 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Brenda was the daughter of Clarence and Ruth Thomas and is survived by siblings Brent Thomas of Whitingham, Bruce Thomas of Brattleboro, and Bonnie Harvey of Florida; daughter Katie Beam, granddaughter Abby Beriner, and many nieces and nephews and cousins who loved her very much. Sadly, Brenda had been fighting cancer for quite some time. She was a strong independent woman who fought hard to be around for family and friends, but cancer finally took this beautiful soul. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a ceremony to be announced at a later date. All are welcome.

• **Patricia A. "Patti" Zarella, 67**, of Putney. Died Dec. 2, 2022, with her family at her side, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire from complications following a stroke. Patti was born in Hyannis, Massachusetts on Oct. 17, 1955, the daughter of Arlene (Ferreira) Whittaker. She was raised and educated in Brockton, Massachusetts, attending St. Patrick's Parochial School and graduating from Brockton High School with the Class of 1973. On Oct. 23, 1982 at St. Colman Catholic Church in Brockton, she was married to her best friend, Joseph W. Zarella, who survives. She worked in early childhood education and had been employed at Landmark College in Putney. For many years, she owned and operated her own home daycare program for area children. Previously, Patti had been employed at the Putney Day Care. She had a special place in her heart for children and especially loved infants. With her husband and family, she attended the former Our Lady of Mercy Church in Putney and was a former communicant of St. Colman Parish in Brockton. With her husband, she was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Brattleboro Aerie #2445. Patti was a faithful and devoted wife and loving mother and grandmother whose life centered around her family. She took a special interest in her children and their endeavors, never missing a sporting or educational event. She enjoyed gardening, both flower and vegetable, socializing and spending time with her family and friends, and traveling with her husband. Cape Cod was one of her favorite places to visit; she spent her summers there as a child and continued to visit as an adult with her family. Patti was a caring and giving person who always put the needs of her family before her own. She was a strong woman who faced every challenge in her life with courage, dignity and positivity. She was a source of inspiration to all and she will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched. Besides her husband of 40 years, she leaves her three daughters, Joey Lynn Whittaker of Brockton, Amanda Zarella of Putney, and Ashley Zarella of Redondo Beach, California; her mother, Arlene Whittaker of Brockton; one brother, James Whittaker of Brant Rock, Massachusetts; and grandchildren Jayde Whittaker, and Madison and Justin Maynard. Additionally, she is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Patti was predeceased by her beloved grandparents, Jesse and Rosemarie Ferreira, and uncle, Gordon Ferreira. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Calling hours at Atamaniuk Funeral Home in Brattleboro will be on Thursday, Jan. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Donations to Putney Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 875, Putney, VT 05346; or to RescUE, Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302.



PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

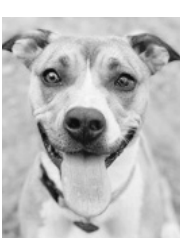
916 West River Rd,
Brattleboro, VT
802-254-2232
View pets at: wchs4pets.org

Webinar: "Why Does My Dog Do That?" with Janice Z Dog Training
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 • 1:00 PM 2:00 PM


This 40-minute Zoom session will cover my most-asked behavior questions, debunk a few myths, give you ideas for immediate help, and discuss when to consult a professional. When you register, you'll have a chance to submit a question you've been wondering about. I'll do my best to get to as many as I can during the session.

100% of the \$10 registration fee will go to support the work of the Windham County Humane Society. The session will be recorded and available afterwards, and is suitable for children.


To sign up, visit the events page at wchs4pets.org.



Hi, my name is **Tanesi** and I weigh 45 pounds! I will need a lot of patience and understanding, but once I get to know you I am sweet and loving. I came from the south as a stray and not much is known about me. I love to play ball and with rope toys. I may be able to live with another dog my size. I am not a fan of kids and should live in an adult only home. Cats are a little too exciting for me and I like to chase them. Please stop by and make my day by taking me home!



Hi, my name is **Maggie!** I am a sweet active dog looking for a new home. I am currently in foster. My ideal home would be one without other animals and would do best in a home with kids 13+. An experienced owner who knows my breed would be recommended. I am very loyal to my owners. If you want to know more about me please call.



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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

5

Visual arts and shows

PUTNEY "Elemental Abstractions: Works on Paper" by Joe Norris: Norris's paintings explore the area between representational art and total abstraction. Implying rather than rendering, viewers are invited to participate/engage with the image. Through color, composition, texture, he creates an essence, a feel for a subject matter. With typography, collage, graphic elements as a starting point to develop under-painting, plus transparent washes, these elements suggest a previous history adding to the sense of space/visual depth.

- ▶ Open to the public during scheduled performances in the theater and by appointment.
- ▶ Through Monday, February 13.
- ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

FRIDAY

6

Music

BRATTLEBORO Palaver Strings: "Painted Dreams" In Person (pre-concert talk via Zoom): "Painted Dreams" recalls sunnier times in the depths of a New England winter. It begins with Reena Esmail's "Nadiya for Violin and Viola," continues with subtle textures of Jeffrey Mumford's string quartet, "A Veil of Liquid Diamonds." An avid painter and composer, Mumford's work is "inspired by cloud imagery, suspended structures splitting off and recombining as analogous to the formation of layers of simultaneous musical development."

- ▶ 6:30-7:10 p.m.: BMC Artist-in-Residence Ashleigh Gordon, one of the night's performers, gives a pre-concert talk in the BMC Recital Hall. She'll interview composer Mumford via Zoom.
- ▶ 7:30 p.m.: Concert. Masking required.
- ▶ \$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
- ▶ Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysie Way. Information: Tickets: bmcvt.org, 802-257-4523.

Instruction

BRATTLEBORO DIY Creme Fraiche and Mascarpone Class: Make your own mascarpone and creme fraiche. Knowing how to make these two cheeses helps prepare home cooks for more complex recipes. Co-op Educator Lisa will guide up to ten students in making these sumptuous probiotic spreads.

- ▶ 3-4:15 p.m. Register by 1/5.
- ▶ Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information: Register: Education@BFC.coop.

Community building

BRATTLEBORO Gift Exchange Bingo! Bring a wrapped gift that's nice, useful, absurd, or homemade and play B.I.N.G.O to win a surprise that someone else has offered. This is a party to let go of things that may serve others better. Perhaps good fortune will prevail and you win something you absolutely needed and adore! Coffee, tea, treats that are traditional for celebrating Epiphany will be served.

- ▶ 6 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Information: RSVP: tinyurl.com/mrx4uy53. Registration in advance appreciated.

SATURDAY

7

Farmers' markets

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market: Weekly diverse indoor farmers' market. Local farm produce, meats, syrup, fresh baked goods, fruits, cider, preserves, handmade jewelry, pottery, soaps, more. SNAP shoppers turn \$10 into \$40 each week!

- ▶ 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through March 25 in the gymnasium.
- ▶ Through Saturday, March 25.
- ▶ Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market, 60 Austine Dr. Information: farmersmarket@postoilutions.org, 802-275-2835.

Well-being

BRATTLEBORO Food Choices with Robin Matathias: Whole Foods and Fiber: Learn how the human body acts like an ecosystem and how imbalances can make us sick. Discover how to prevent the top killers in the US through diet and lifestyle changes. We'll focus on eating whole foods, identifying processed foods, and incorporating more fiber in the diet by making simple changes in our daily food choices. We'll also read and interpret ingredient labels.

- ▶ Register by 1/6.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Room, 7 Canal St. Information: Register: Education@BFC.coop.

SATURDAY CONT.

Community building

BRATTLEBORO Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Collection Service offered to Brattleboro residents: Offered by the BUHS Music Dept. for the 31st year and endorsed by the VT Dept. of Agriculture as well as the NH/VT Christmas Tree Assn. Members of the band and chorus will transport undecorated trees from homes to a community garden in West Brattleboro where they'll be chipped into mulch to be used by gardeners. Since the town doesn't offer curbside pick-up of trees, this saves residents the hassle of transporting them.

- ▶ Pickups are also offered for 1/14 and 1/21.
- ▶ \$10 donation.
- ▶ Brattleboro Union High School. Information: All pick-ups must be pre-arranged. Call at least two days prior to your desired date: 802-579-2362 or 408-693-4588.

W. MARLBORO Winter Tree Exploration: Come for an up-close look at some of the area's winter trees. Learn how to identify them without the assistance of leaves. Each participant will leave with a basic guide to the buds and twigs of the area. We'll be walking off trail but do not expect to cover significant distances due to the diversity of trees at the Center.

- ▶ 1 p.m. Meeting location: The Museum's Mountainside Center - Adams Cross Road in Marlboro, VT.
- ▶ Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Information: 802-464-0048, vermontmuseum.org.

Ideas and education

BELLOWS FALLS DNA Test Results Meet the Family Tree (In-Person/Zoom): "We'll focus on getting the most from your test results and how to best use features on a company's website. Testing alone is not enough. To be useful for genealogy, a family tree needs to be uploaded or created to connect results of the person who took the test to the profile card in their family tree. Then, it's possible to connect matches who are known relatives to their tree profiles. Tools/enhancements provide a way to sort matches to identify common ancestors."

- ▶ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. More info: windham-countyinfo@gmail.com Register: forms.gle/D5K6VDhdt36bbJw9. Zoom links will be emailed to registrants.

Film and video

PUTNEY Film Screening, "The Reverend," and Concert featuring Rev. Vince Anderson & His Love Choir: Film follows the spiritual/musical journey of Rev. Anderson. After coming to NY in the '90s to enter the seminary, he followed his second calling - music. With his band, The Love Choir, he's played a weekly show for over 20 years. Connecting again with his faith and intense soulful music, he began to preach spirituality that meets people where they are: He's deeply involved in social activism, working with progressive faith leaders to build inclusive communities.

- ▶ 2 p.m. Featuring Questlove and members of TV On The Radio, "The Reverend" is a rocking concert film and an intimate portrait of Rev. Vince's inspiring personal and spiritual life. Q&A with director Nick Camfield follows screening. Next Stage provides beer, wine, cocktail cash bar.
- ▶ \$20 in advance, \$24 at door.
- ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Tickets: nextstagearts.org.

MONDAY

9

Dance

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro School of Dance - Take Classes for Free this Week!

- ▶ Open to anyone.
- ▶ Through Thursday, January 12.
- ▶ Brattleboro School of Dance, 181-183 Main St. Information: 802-451-6482.

TUESDAY

10

The written word

"Finding the Golden Fleece: Writing Our Archetypal Journeys" with Writer/Journalist Elayne Clift (Online): What do heroic literary figures like King Arthur and Harry Potter, or real-life people like Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe, have in common? They have a great story to tell. Each has been on an archetypal journey - a heroic exploration, full of adventure, fraught with risk, ultimately rich with reward.

THE COLONIAL METROPOLIS silent film with music by Jeff Rapsis 1.7

RECYCLED PERCUSSION Two Shows! 1.14

DRAGONS AND BEASTS puppet magic for the whole family! 1.20

APPLE HILL STRING QUARTET 1.21

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SUNDAY

8

Music

BELLOWS FALLS Jake Swamp and The Pine plus Derek Sensale: Co-headline matinee concert with Americana Act of the Year nominee Jake Swamp and The Pine plus Derek Sensale. Jake Swamp and The Pine is Drew Zieff: one guy with a guitar, a voice, foot-stomping percussion, gumption. His live shows seamlessly ebb and flow between the energy of a full band and the intimacy of a singer-songwriter with songs ranging from powerful acoustic anthems to knee-slapping hoedowns to slow and somber waltzes.

- ▶ 3 p.m. Limited seating. Event recorded and filmed. Check CoVID protocol.
- ▶ \$12 in advance, \$15 at door.
- ▶ Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge St. Information: 802-289-0148; stage33live.com.

Community building

W. BRATTLEBORO "The Gift of Growing Edges" (In-Person/Zoom): Theatre Adventure is a resident thespian group dedicated to empowerment through theater arts for individuals with disabilities. During the service, we offer an "insider's view" of our work, inviting the congregation to actively engage with the process of change, learning, growing. Theatre Adventure actors and directors will share the personal journey of shining light on one's growing edge within the encouragement and care of an inclusive theater arts community.

- ▶ 10 a.m.
- ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: Zoom: Go to ascvt.org Sunday shortly before 10 a.m.

TUESDAY CONT.

With that as a framework for memoir writing, we'll explore our archetypal journeys as we reach for the "Golden Fleece" in our lives while enhancing our writing skills.

- ▶ 7-8:30 p.m. Offered by the Putney Public Library.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Online. Information: Register: emity@putneylibrary.org.

Kids and families

GUILFORD Storytime: "We begin a new year of Storytime. A special time for young children to engage with literature. Babies spend time cuddling while being read to. Older children discover new friends and new worlds. (They sometimes cuddle, too.) Parents get to spend some time with other parents of young children. Get set for a rollicking good time."

- ▶ 2-3 p.m. weekly on Tuesdays.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-257-4603; guilfordfreelibraryvt.org.

Well-being

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic: Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to 64 in our community who do not have health insurance or who cannot afford their high deductibles or co-insurance.

- ▶ 5-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.
- ▶ Brattleboro Walk-In Clinic, 191 Clark Ave. Information: 802-251-8484; brattleborowalkinclinic.com.

Visual arts and shows

PUTNEY "The Moment After: Recent Watercolors by Finn Campman": This series of landscape watercolors shows detailed, intimate, luminous watercolors of landscapes in Putney and nearby. One sees a certain personal attention to light and time in which the land is rendered timeless. Campman: "There are certain cherished moments when I'm offered the possibility of simply letting the world 'settle' on my senses. Discernment is unnecessary for only in the state of simple openness can this 'settling' manifest."

- ▶ Exhibit hours: Mon., Wed., Fri.: 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat.: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sign up for the Putney Library newsletter for latest announcements: https://putneylibrary.org/sign-up-for-our-email-newsletter.
- ▶ Through Saturday, February 25.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-387-4407; putneylibrary.org/events.

WEDNESDAY

11

Community building

BRATTLEBORO Parenting 4 Justice - Monthly Book Group: Dive deep into the topics of Social Justice, Parenting for Racial Justice, Parenting for Economic Justice, Parenting for Disability Justice, Parenting for Gender Justice, and Parenting for Collective Liberation. Facilitated by Abby Mnookin. Snacks provided; we also hope to offer childcare.

- ▶ 6-8 p.m. monthly, 2nd Wednesday. To sign up/have questions, email Abby at asmnookin@gmail.com. Some copies of "Parenting 4 Social Justice" by Abby Mnookin are available for loan from the library, can be purchased at Everyone's Books, or online. Hosted by Brooks Memorial Library and Parenting for Social Justice.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS "How can we make our town safer and more welcoming to walkers and cyclists?" (In-Person/Zoom): Presenters/attendees alike will consider this headline question. Among the organizations represented are: BF Community Bike Project, Windham County Trails Alliance, Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Bellows Falls Downtown Development Assn., Town of Rockingham's Economic Development Dept., Bellows Falls Historical Society. Forum sponsored by the Rockingham Walk-Bike Committee, an advisory group empaneled by the Select Board.

- ▶ 6 p.m. top floor meeting room.
- ▶ Free and open to the public.
- ▶ Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Zoom: Go to rockinghamlibrary.org and click on Rockingham Walk-Bike Forum Zoom link. More info: Rick Cowan: rickcowan@rockbf.org, 802-869-1681.

Community meals

DUMMERSTON Senior Lunch at Evening Star Grange (All are welcome): This week's menu includes meatloaf, vegetarian meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, marinated carrots and pineapple upside down cake for dessert.

- ▶ 12 noon: 1n-house meal served.
- ▶ 11:30-1 p.m.: Take-outs. Reservations strongly suggested so we make enough food for everyone.
- ▶ \$3 for ages 60 and over and \$4 for younger folks is suggested.
- ▶ Evening Star Grange, 1008 East-West Rd. Information: Call 802-254-1138 and leave your name, phone number, number of meals you would like.

Film and video

PUTNEY NXT: Rockumentary Film Series: Springsteen on Broadway (2018): Bruce Springsteen shares

WEDNESDAY CONT.

personal stories from his life and acoustic versions of some of his best-known songs in an intimate one-man show.

- ▶ 7-9:30 p.m.
- ▶ \$10 suggested donation.
- ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

Visit commonsnews.org for more listings with more details

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NIGHTLY 7 PM

EMPIRE OF LIGHT R

DAILY MATINEES 3:30 PM

NIGHTLY 6:50 PM

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG

DAILY MATINEES 4 PM

NIGHTLY 6:45 PM

M3GAN PG-13

DAILY MATINEES 3:55 PM

NIGHTLY 6:55 PM

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Palaver Strings offers 'Painted Dreams' at BMC

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center's Season Guest Series welcomes back Palaver Strings on Friday, Jan. 6. Included will be a pre-concert Meet the Composer talk from 6:30 to 7:10 in the BMC recital hall with Artist-in-Residence Ashleigh Gordon.

Gordon will interview one of the composers of the evening's offerings, Jeffrey Mumford, via Zoom.

Titled "Painted Dreams," the Jan. 6 concert recalls sunnier times in the depths of a New England winter. It begins with Reena Esmail's "Nadiya for Violin and Viola," and continues with Mumford's string quartet, "a veil of liquid diamonds." An avid painter as well as a composer, Mumford writes that his work is "inspired by cloud imagery, suspended structures that continually split off and recombine as analogous to the formation of layers of simultaneous musical development."

The concert concludes with "Souvenir de Florence," Op. 70, written by Tchaikovsky on one of his visits to Italy. "This epic piece is full of dashing escapades, romantic sentiments, and nostalgia for home, drawing on both Italian themes and the Russian melodies

of Tchaikovsky's homeland," say organizers.

Performers include Brianna Fischler, Maya French, Ashleigh Gordon, Domenic Salerni, Matthew Smith, and Nathaniel Taylor.

Palaver Strings is a musician-led string ensemble and nonprofit organization based in Portland, Maine. Founded in 2014, Palaver has established itself as a forward-thinking ensemble whose mission is to strengthen and inspire community through music.

According to the artists' website, in a musician-led model, "Palaver's musicians share artistic and administrative leadership, guided by a passion for engaging new audiences, addressing social justice issues, and amplifying underrepresented voices. Each year, Palaver presents a full series of live performances featuring diverse musical programming, cross-genre projects, and community collaborations."

The 7:30 p.m. concert will be held at the BMC. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and are available through the BMC website at bmcvt.org or by calling 802-257-4523. Please note BMC concert attendance requires masking for all attendees.



Palaver Strings

CHRISTINA WNEK



Composer Jeffrey Mumford will speak in a pre-concert Zoom discussion with BMC Artist-in-Residence Ashleigh Gordon.

AARP awards grant to Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts in Putney is receiving \$4,000 in grant funds from AARP Vermont, one of six grants awarded to Vermont communities to initiate or enhance winter placemaking demonstration projects.

The projects focus on creating or reinventing public spaces to improve safety, accessibility, and overall appeal on a temporary or permanent basis. Proposals from Burlington, Rutland, White River Junction, Mendon, Putney, and Swanton were selected from dozens of applications for the

initiative.

Next Stage Arts says it will use the grant to create an engaging outdoor art exhibition for the 50-and-over community on the maintained Putney Forest trails. The group will also hold walks and snowshoeing treks through the exhibit. A warming shelter with hot drinks and snacks will be available for participants.

This is the sixth year of AARP Vermont's Placemaking Grant Program, which aims to spearhead demonstration project efforts that will help build momentum for long-term livability

improvements with an emphasis on the needs of adults age 50 and over.

"This is an opportunity for six Vermont communities to take quick actions that can lead to a critical spark for longer-term progress," Kelly Stoddard Poor of AARP Vermont said in a news release. "We know that simple modifications can powerfully alter the health, economic, social, and ecological value of a community and when community members and local officials can see or experience a new or revitalized space, they are better able

to understand what is possible and how it can improve their community. Projects like these have led to exciting new improvements in communities across the state and country."

In support of these projects, AARP Vermont says it will provide technical assistance and publicity strategy, and assist project leaders in engaging with other local, regional or state partner organizations that can contribute to their success.

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Townshend Historical Society awarded Save America's Treasures grant for restoration of Stone Arch Bridge

TOWNSHEND—The Townshend Historical Society has been awarded a \$221,000 Save America's Treasures grant from the national Historic Preservation Fund, to be administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. Together with a matching sum raised by the Historical Society and the town of Townshend, the grant will partly fund restoration of the West Townshend Stone

Arch Bridge.

The West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge carries Back Windham Road across Tannery Brook at the east edge of West Townshend village. Local farmer and self-taught stone mason James Otis Follett constructed the bridge in 1910. With its span of 37 feet, it holds the distinction of being the longest dry stone arch bridge built by Follett in Townshend and the last bridge

that he built before his death in 1911.

While its arch remains structurally sound and it continues to carry local traffic, erosion over the years caused by runoff, freezing and thawing, and, more recently, use by heavy vehicles, has caused serious structural damage to its foundation and walls.

The restoration process will be carried out by a team of certified dry stone masons using the same techniques as the original builder. The project's goals are to restore one of the town's historic treasures and to give the bridge another hundred years of

useful life. The total cost of the project, slated to begin in spring of 2024, is estimated at \$800,000. As of this date, \$250,000 remains to be raised.

Questions and comments about this Save America's Treasures grant, the preservation project, and continued fundraising may be directed to Townshend Historical Society at info@townshendvt.org or P.O. Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353.

For more information about the West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge and Townshend's five other stone arch bridges, visit townshendvt.org.

Be Sure To Check Our Full Program Schedule @ brattleborotv.org

bc tv LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Jan. 2-8
CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

<p>Sing Nowell - Songs & Carols for Midwinter and Christmastide: Wed 11a, Thurs 1:30p, Sun 5:30p</p> <p>Here We Are with guest Ken Burns - Filmmaker: Mon 8p, Tues 10a, Thurs 12p, Sat 9p</p> <p>Brooks Memorial Library Events - Buddha as Political Actor 11/16/22: Mon 11a, Fri 9:40p</p> <p>Keeping Up with Senior Solutions - Ep 25 - Sharing Housing Interviews with Annamarie Pluhar: Tues 12:30p, Thurs 10:45p</p> <p>Mitchell Giddings Fine Art - Brian D. Cohen and Chard DeNord: Mon 5:45p, Thurs 10:30a, Sat 9:30p</p> <p>The World Fusion Show - Ep 142 - Pablo DeReyes: Wed 1p, Fri 3:30p, Sun 9:30p</p> <p>Brattleboro Literary Festival - Nancy Rubin Stuart: Tues 6p, Thur 10:30p</p> <p>Media Mentoring Project - The Power of Cartoons: Mon 10p, Thur 9a, Fri 5:30p, Sun 1:30p</p> <p>Around Town with Maria - The Brattleboro Christmas Tree Lighting 12/22/22: Mon 1p, Thurs 10pm, Sun 6:30a</p> <p>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue. 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed. 6:00a, Thu. 1:00p, Sat. 12:00p, Sun. 5:00p</p> <p>WTSA News: Mon-Fri. 12:00p & 6:00p</p> <p>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed. 2:00p, Sun. 11:00a</p> <p>Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue. 9:00a, Fri. 7:00a, Sun. 10:00a</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed. 10:00a, Sun. 3:00p</p> <p>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed. 6:30a, Sun. 8:00a</p> <p>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat. 4:00p (LIVE), Tue. 6:45a & 2:00p</p>	<p>Fall 2022 Landmark College Commencement: Tues 10a, Wed 7:45p, Sun 4a</p> <p>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 12/21/22: Mon 11:45a, Tues 6p, Wed 1p</p> <p>VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Mtg. 12/12/22: Fri 6:15p, Sat 1a</p> <p>Putney Selectboard Mtg. 12/14/22: Sat 12:30p</p> <p>Brattleboro Development Review Board Mtg. 12/21/22: Mon 3:30p, Tues 5:30a, Sun 12p</p> <p>Windham Central Supervisory Union 11/16/22: Fri 8:45p, Sat 5p, Sun 9p</p> <p>River Valleys Unified School District Bd Mtg. 12/19/22: Tues 3:40a, Thurs 9a, Sat 8p</p> <p>Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 12/19/22: Wed 6p, Fri 1a, Sun 7a</p> <p>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 12/12/22: Sat 3p, Sun 10:30p</p> <p>Windham Elementary School Bd Mtg. 12/20/22: Mon 9:30p, Fri 10:30p, Sat 10:45p</p> <p>Windham Southeast School District Bd Mtg. 12/20/22: Tues 12:55p, Thur 5p</p> <p>Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 12/20/22: Tues 11:55a, Thurs 1:30a</p> <p>Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Bd Mtg. 12/21/22: Fri 5:15p, Sat 9a, Sun 7:45p</p> <p>Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 12/19/22: Tues 10p, Thurs 12:35p, Sun 4p</p> <p>Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon. 9:00a, Tue. 5:00p, Wed. 12:00p, Thu. 10:30a, Sun. 11:00a</p> <p>The David Pakman Show: Mon. 8:00a, Tue. 9:00a, Wed. 5:00p, Fri. 10:30a, Sun. 5:00p</p>
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Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org

BCTV's Program Highlights are sponsored by **The Commons**. BCTV's municipal meeting coverage helps **Commons** reporters stay in touch. Read about it in the Town & Village section at www.commonnews.org.

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~ Frank Biolsi, Brookline, VT

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Film screening, concert at Next Stage features Rev. Vince Anderson & His Love Choir

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts presents a screening of *The Reverend*, a documentary feature film, followed by a discussion with director Nick Canfield, on Saturday, Jan. 7, at 2 p.m. The subjects of the film, the Rev. Vince Anderson and his band, known as The Love Choir, will perform at Next Stage later that day at 7:30 p.m.

"Monday nights in Brooklyn are world-famous because of Reverend Vince and His Love Choir," Next Stage executive director Keith Marks said in a news release. "He's the musician of the musicians of New York, attracting a packed house every Monday

night with a who's who list of attendees dancing. This has been a dream of ours to bring this documentary film of him, followed by Vince and the Love Choir."

The band, which defines its style as "dirty gospel," features trumpets, guitars, and keyboard every week for performances in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York.

The Reverend follows the spiritual and musical journey of Anderson. After coming to New York in the 1990s to study to be a Methodist minister, he dropped out to follow his second calling — music. With The Love Choir, he has played weekly for more than 20 years.

Reconnecting with his faith and using his "intense soulful music," he began to preach a type of spirituality that "meets people where they are, that is open to all, and that moves everyone who sees him play," says the news release. Reverend Vince "is also deeply involved in social activism, working with other progressive faith leaders at home and around the country to build inclusive communities."

The 86-minute concert film was filmed over several years and features Questlove and members of TV On The Radio.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door and are available at nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar for the evening concert.

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Submit resume and letter of interest to: eesjobs@wsesdvt.org with Facilities Coordinator in the subject line or mail to: Business Operations Manager, Early Education Services 130 Birge Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Early Education Services is an equal opportunity employer.

We encourage applicants who could add diversity to our educational community.

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www.wsesu.org/socjus

VIEWPOINT

Vermonters support trapping? Not so fast.

The state's biased, skewed survey does not represent Vermonters' actual attitudes about trapping, an inhumane and completely unnecessary recreational activity

RECENTLY, THE Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department fielded a survey on Vermonters' attitudes towards trapping.

Despite spending \$45,000 on this survey — more than twice the revenue generated through trapping licenses each year in the state — documents obtained via a public records request show that the Department seemed more interested in advancing a pro-trapping agenda than in genuinely understanding the public's attitudes.

Despite this bias, with vaguely worded survey questions, the results still reveal that most Vermonters oppose trapping.

The survey didn't clarify what types of trapping the questions were referring to, so respondents answered without knowing whether the survey was asking about live-capture cage traps (like Havahart traps), leg-hold traps, or body-crushing kill traps (such as Conibear traps).

This confusion skews responses because some respondents approve of trap use if animals accidentally caught can be released or, if not released, if the animals

LISA JABLOW is a board member of Protect Our Wildlife (protectourwildlifevt.org), a statewide advocacy nonprofit based in Stowe.

die quickly.

However, the traps that the Department regulates are almost exclusively either leg-hold or body-crushing kill traps that rarely offer the ability to release animals unharmed or ensure quick kills.

Leg-hold traps generate such pain and fear that animals will chew through their paws to escape; others are preyed upon while immobilized and suffer injuries not visible to the naked eye, such as dislocations and severed tendons.

Body-crushing kill traps often don't kill instantly when the trap slams shut on the animal's head or tail instead of the neck.

And in terms of releasing a wild animal uninjured from a leg-hold trap, imagine trying to release a bobcat from such a trap without injuring the animal or yourself in the process. We suspect most of

■ SEE SURVEY, B2

YOUTH VOICES



North American river otters

DMITRY AZOVITSEV DAPHOTO.INFO, VIA WIKIPEDIA

Fifth graders on otters and trapping

LUCA MNOOKIN, BRATTLEBORO

I love otters, and I hope that you do, too

IMAGINE YOU are walking near a river and you see a river otter playing in the water, twisting and turning. It is a few feet long, maybe 2 to 3 feet. Sleek and dark, tumbling over others of its kind. It looks

like it's dancing!

Believe it or not, these otters are in danger of getting trapped.

Hi, my name is Luca, and I am a fifth grader at Academy School. We have been studying Vermont river otters for about a month, and we have learned a lot.

We have also been learning about trapping otters in Vermont, where the trapping season goes from late October until the end of March. You do need a license to trap Vermont otters, but that does not make trapping any better. Trapping otters is wrong.

Traps are very dangerous for pets and other wild animals, and it is the same for otters.

Otters are also trapped in traps intended for other animals, such as beaver.

If a trapper traps a mother otter, her pups will die because they cannot live without their mother bringing them food.

Most of the bait used is fish (which many animals like), and when the otter or other animal goes in to get the fish, it is killed, and its pelt is not always even used.

Otters are a very important species to their ecosystem, and if they disappear, the ecosystem will be unbalanced.

Otters eat about 25% of their body weight per day! Their main diet includes fish, frogs, crayfish, turtles and muskels, which help the ecosystem

balance.

Otters are very interesting animals.

A river otters' lifespan is eight to 10 years in the wild, and about 25 years in captivity.

Otters can live in the winter when the water is frozen. They can breathe through cracks in the ice and sometimes even take over old unused beaver lodges!

Otters live in holes, riverbanks, and hollow logs near wetlands, streams, rivers, ponds, and shallow lakes.

Otters are very resourceful, but that cannot help them when it comes to traps.

Otters are very important to the ecosystem and to me, and learning about people trapping

■ SEE SURVEY, B2

COLUMN



A sign with the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom" — in English and both central and northern Kurdish — appears at a rally in Canada in October. Inset: Gilbert Stuart's portrait of Abigail Adams.



Where is Abigail Adams in today's political discourse?

Misogyny is at its most extreme because powerful men simply cannot abide a world in which women too are powerful, whether in their homes, communities, states, or countries

IN ALL THE TALK about encroaching autocracy in the United States and elsewhere, politicians, pundits, media personalities, and others need to remember the words and wisdom of the revolutionary second first lady, Abigail Adams, who admonished her husband to "remember the ladies."

Another first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, echoed her predecessor in a recent CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour when she called out the absence of misogyny in various analyses of forces at work when countries descend into autocracies and dictatorships. She was right to do so.

ELAYNE CLIFT (elayne-clift.com) has written about women, politics, and social issues from the earliest days of this newspaper.

IN THE GROWING discourse about various factors that prevail when democracies slide into autocracy, white supremacy, race, class, and caste quickly rise to the surface as identifiable and frightening factors. But not a word is uttered about the systemic oppression of women, which has been part of

■ SEE POLITICAL MISOGYNY, B2

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■ Otters

FROM SECTION FRONT

otters has made an impact on me. I hope people will stop trapping them soon.

Otters are an important part of their ecosystems, and humans are just killing for their fur or just for fun. I do not think it should be legal to trap river otters in Vermont. I hope you will agree and take action to help stop trapping otters in Vermont. You can start by writing to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department (fwinformation@vermont.gov) and telling them how you feel.

Otters deserve to be free and not to be in danger of being trapped. I love otters, and I hope that you do, too.

Luca Mnookin is a fifth grader at the Academy School in Brattleboro.

ELSA ANDERS, BRATTLEBORO

Help protect Vermont river otters from trapping

WHEN I WAS walking on a trail at Sweet Pond with my grandmother and my sibling, I saw an otter just barely peeking its head over a rock. It was an incredible experience that I hope I will get to repeat — but I am worried I won't be able to.

Hi, my name is Elsa. I am 10 years old. I would like to talk to you about the river otters we have here in Vermont.

About 900 licensed people trap and kill furbearers every trapping season. Trapping season stretches all the way from Oct. 22 through March 31 which is a good part of the year. Because licenses are only \$23, people can actually make money by trapping otters and selling their pelts.

Otters are very important to their ecosystems because they help to keep the population of primary consumers down so that there are plenty of producers. Without otters there would be way too many fish (such as rainbow trout), mussels, crayfish, frogs, turtles, and insects. That would make many things tip out of balance.

River otters are also very fun to have around. They are interesting, cute, and playful and you

don't get to see them very often — an otter can close its ears and nose so water does not get in and stay underwater. They live in wetlands, swamps, streams, and large ponds. It would be a shame to lose them.

Traps not only kill otters but they hurt them and their ecosystems. If a trap does not immediately kill an otter, it often will die in an even more gruesome way.

If the trap is underwater, the otter will most likely drown, and if the trap is on land it will either starve or more likely be killed directly by a human. This may include strangling, bludgeoning, and drowning, which are all legal. There are no laws against placing traps in state parks, national wildlife refuges, and even some private land (with permission of the property owner).

Non-targeted wild animals are sometimes accidentally caught in traps as well as cats, dogs, and other pets. Imagine walking your dog on a public trail and having it get stuck in a body-gripping kill trap. You would have to watch it die — there's nothing you could do.

Otters are not the only important animal being trapped. If too many other wild creatures are trapped it could cause additional problems. Hunters are not required to record what they accidentally trap so we don't have much information about how many non-targeted species are caught.

Traps can also end up separating mothers and pups because during trapping season mothers are often out playing or hunting while the babies aren't old enough to leave their dens and burrows. If the mother gets killed, the pups probably won't survive because the dads don't take care of them until they are older and the pups rely on their mother's milk before they can see or swim.

Although bobcats and coyotes are both threats to pups in Vermont, humans are the species that otters have to worry about the most.

I would love to have your help protecting Vermont river otters from trapping, whether that means making licenses more expensive, making rules around trapping stricter, helping to inform more people, or creating a place where river otters can be safe in Vermont.

Please help the otters remain something we could see whether we are going on a walk at Sweet Pond or hanging out by the river.

Elsa Anders is a fifth-grade student at the Academy School in Brattleboro.



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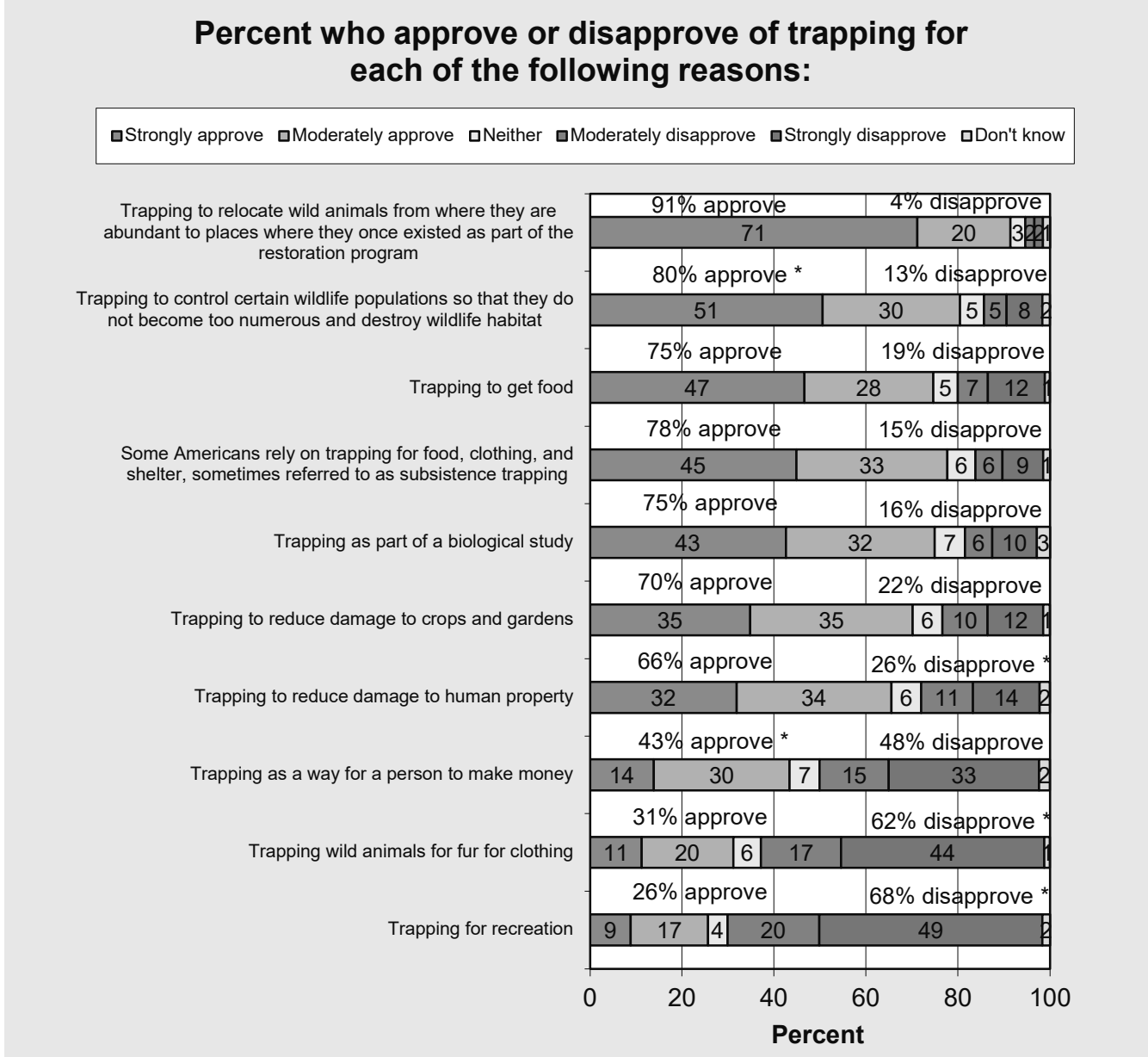
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Some results from the recent survey "Vermont Residents' Attitudes Toward Furbearer Management," conducted for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

■ Survey

FROM SECTION FRONT

these non-target captures end up dead.

THE SURVEY uses the term "regulated trapping." A Department email exchange reveals that inserting the word "regulated" before "trapping" improves respondents' favorability towards trapping.

But what does "regulated" really mean?

One might support "regulated" trapping if they assume that the opposite might mean unregulated. But let's take a look at what Vermont's "regulations" currently allow:

- No trail setbacks or signage on public lands where trapping occurs
- No bag limits or limits on the number of traps that may be set by one trapper in an area
- No humane standards for killing trapped animals (bludgeoning, drowning, strangling, and other grossly inhumane methods of killing are currently used)
- Children trapping without adult supervision
- Not requiring trappers to report trapping of non-target animals such as bears and protected species like owls and hawks
- Baited body-crushing kill traps on land, including our shared public lands, putting people's pets at risk
- For some animals like

otters, seasons that last almost half the year

PUBLIC RECORDS ALSO reveal that a Department staff member in charge of the survey questions was advised by a Department furbearer biologist not to include survey questions that reference trapping when it's used to manage populations or relocate animals as part of a restoration program, since those uses are not relevant to trapping by the public in Vermont.

Nevertheless, those two reasons for trapping were still included in the survey. Not surprisingly, those two uses are the ones that garnered the most support, thus skewing

the results toward support of trapping.

As an aside, the survey also revealed that the majority of respondents enjoy seeing animals like bobcats and otters in their area, so why does the Department allow these cherished animals to be trapped? Despite concerns over the bias in the survey questions chosen, the results are still resoundingly clear that the majority of Vermonters oppose trapping.

It should be outlawed as the archaic, inhumane, and completely unnecessary recreational activity that it truly is.

■ Political misogyny

FROM SECTION FRONT

dictatorial regimes and cultures throughout history.

Examples abound from ancient times to now, with women being treated like second-class citizens in almost every country and culture.

In ancient Greece, women were thought to hinder democracy as the weaker sex. Considered property, they lived in seclusion without rights, valued only as the bearers of male progeny.

In medieval times, religious institutions kept women quiet and voiceless, while the idea of women as property prevailed into more modern times as women were "owned" by their fathers and husbands by virtue of economic indenture and lack of agency in male-dominated societies.

Fast-forward to the 20th and

21st centuries and consider the fact that women were denied the vote in the United States until 1920, and dictators like Hitler and Ceausescu mandated childbearing, rendering women nothing more than semen vessels and property of the state — something we are seeing emerge in our own country.

Women continue to have limited access to leadership positions, economic parity, and agency over their own lives — largely legislatively ignored and increasingly court ordered.

The question is why.

The answer? It is intentional, overtly or unconsciously, because in a world dominated largely by (white) men terrified of losing patriarchal power, women are immensely threatening.

The fact is, powerful men know that women have priorities that are different from theirs, and that those priorities are grounded in a profound commitment to human rights and social justice, not in greed, moral and financial corruption, massive profits, or overwhelming power.

They also know that women are deeply intelligent, strategic, capable people and that they are organizing as never before.

ONE HAS ONLY to look at the brave women of Iran who are willing to face torture, rape, and murder for "Women, Life, Freedom," or to consider the courage of Kurdish women who fought on the battleground and Rohingya women standing up to their oppressors.

Or to remember the abuelas of Latin America who never gave up the fight to find their missing children, the women of Liberia and India whose work saved lives and changed policy, the French and Ghetto resistance-movement women who helped win a war.

Then there were the women who shared their personal stories about rape and sexual abuse at global conferences and with

local newspapers, the million women who marched in Washington, D.C. the day after Donald Trump became president; the women artists, writers, musicians, photographers, organizers; the mothers demanding gun legislation; the lawyers who raised an army of volunteer lawyers overnight to litigate on behalf of immigrants at airports or helped a 10-year-old raped child escape forced childbearing.

The examples go on and on and on.

That is why male retaliation against women in Iran is so violent, why rape is increasingly a war crime, why the Supreme Court of the United States has rendered women property of the state, why domestic abuse and gun violence against women are on the rise, why books by and about women are banned in such high numbers, why women are going to jail for having a miscarriage.

And, more broadly, that is why teachers can no longer teach history, talk about marriage equality, use certain words, or encourage girls to play sports, to dream of becoming president, and so much more.

It all paints a portrait of misogyny at its most extreme because powerful men simply cannot abide a world in which women too are powerful, whether in their homes, communities, states, or countries.

The very thought of sharing the podium or the parliament on a pay scale with females is completely abhorrent because deep down powerful men know that women bring skills and experience to bear on pressing issues of our time, so they resort to further and deeper methods of domination, exclusion, and abuse.

And that is why we must include misogyny in the public and private discourse surrounding our deep concerns and increase acknowledgement that our democracy, and democracy elsewhere, are indeed in a precarious and perishable place.

It is why women are choosing, and working hard, to revolt against the evils of autocracy that could well render them "a leaf in the whirlwind of time," a destiny that political philosopher Hannah Arendt warned us all against.

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AROUND THE TOWNS

BUHS music dept. offers Merry Mulch Christmas tree collection service

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Union High School music department is once again offering the Merry Mulch Christmas tree collection service to Brattleboro residents.

This program, in its 31st year, is endorsed by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture as well as the New Hampshire/Vermont Christmas Tree Association. For a \$10 donation, members of the band and chorus will transport undecorated trees from homes to a community garden in West Brattleboro where the trees will be chipped into mulch to be used by the gardeners.

Since the town does not offer curbside pick-up of trees, the service saves residents the hassle of transporting their own trees. Three Saturday pick-up dates are being offered: Jan. 7, 14, and 21. All pick-ups must be prearranged by calling one of the following numbers at least two days prior to the desired date: 802-579-2362 or 408-693-4588. Proceeds will benefit a spring trip to New York City.

Genealogy Group discusses DNA tests and family trees

BELLOWS FALLS — The Windham County Genealogy Interest Group will meet on Saturday, January 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rockingham Library and over Zoom. This meeting's focus will be on DNA test results coupled with family trees.

DNA testing companies are heavily promoting their products by offering sales for the holidays, which means that many more matches will be coming to those who have already tested, according to event organizers. Those who are testing for the first time now have many more possibilities than in the past. Testing companies have also made changes to their websites. In this meeting, the focus will be on how to get the most out of test results and talk about how to take advantage of the features offered on each company's website.

To register for this program or to share questions about DNA test results, go to bit.ly/696-genes. Zoom links will be emailed to registrants. Meetings are free and open to all with an interest in family history. For more information, contact windhamcountyig@gmail.com.

Senior lunch served in Dummerston

DUMMERSTON — Evening Star Grange and Senior Solutions present their first senior lunch of the new year on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Grange hall in Dummerston Center, with an in-house meal served at noon and take-outs available between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The menu includes meatloaf, vegetarian meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, and marinated carrots with pineapple upside-down cake for dessert.

Reservations for this meal are strongly suggested so that they can make enough food for everyone. Interested diners should call

the Grange at 802-254-1138 and leave their name, phone number, and the number of meals they would like. A donation of \$3 for those 60 and over and \$4 for younger folks is suggested. All are welcome.

Clift leads writing workshop at Putney Library

PUTNEY — Writer and journalist Elayne Clift will present an online writing workshop sponsored by the Putney Public Library this January.

What do heroic literary figures like King Arthur and Harry Potter, or real-life people like Harriet Tubman and Harriet Beecher Stowe have in common? They all have a great story to tell. But it's more than an exciting narrative: Each of them has been on an archetypal journey — a heroic exploration, full of adventure, fraught with risk, and ultimately rich with reward.

As they seek to find meaning in a complex world, these characters or real people are changed forever by experiences that include mentors, villains, jesters, and other archetypes. With that as a framework for memoir writing, participants will explore their own archetypal journeys and reach for the Golden Fleece in their lives while enhancing their writing skills. Participants should come prepared to reflect, write, share, and be awed by the power of narrative.

Clift, a Vermont Humanities Council Scholar, is an award-winning writer and journalist, a writing workshop leader, and an adjunct lecturer. Her work has been widely anthologized and appears in numerous publications internationally. A regular columnist for several New England newspapers and blogs, including *The Commons*, and a reviewer for *The New York Journal of Books*, she has written for various publications and is a regular contributor to *Artscope* magazine.

This workshop will be presented online Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register by emailing emily@putneylibrary.org.

Guilford park project launches 60-day race to raise \$20,000

GUILFORD — According to the Guilford Park committee, the starter pistol has been fired

for a 60-day race to raise \$20,000 more for the construction of the Guilford Community Park. The committee has been working for over a year on plans to build a park behind the Guilford Country Store, alongside the Guilford Community Church, in the center of Guilford's Algiers Village.

The park they envision is complete with green spaces, a pavilion, a walking labyrinth, a children's play area with a slide and swings, a basketball half-court and net, and a fire pit.

If community members and businesses donate \$20,000 by Feb. 28, the park can qualify for a matching \$40,000 Vermont Community Development "Better Places Program" grant, which will allow the park committee to have everything on their wish list, according to Dunham Rowley, one of the organizers.

Rowley said the vision for this park is one where community members of all ages can socialize and foster community through shared recreational experiences.

The large and artfully designed timber-frame pavilion will accommodate community events such as concerts, weddings, family reunions, and a host of other activities. A labyrinth will be set into the ground for a "meditative walk" using the classic seven-circuit design inspired by ancient mystics and used across Europe and the United States.

The plans received a permit and the blessing of the Act 250 process, the committee says. Now, the only thing that stands in the way of a finished park is the \$20,000, which needs to be raised under a tight deadline. To donate, visit Patronicity.com/GCP or mail a check to Community Collaborative for Guilford (CC4G), 475E Coolidge Hwy, Guilford, VT 05301, with Guilford Community Park (GCP) in the memo line. Donations are fully tax-deductible. For more information, call 802-579-4572 or email drowley021@msn.com.

Weekly chess club begins at RFPL

BELLOWS FALLS — The Rockingham Free Public Library plans to host a weekly chess club, led by Mike Sola. All levels of players will be welcomed. Interested parties may contact Sola (mikesola@gmail.com) with their preference for day and 2-hour time period. Sola will set the schedule once he receives responses.

Available days and times are Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Rec. Dept. taking reservations for birthday parties

BRATTLEBORO — The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department would like to announce that it's now taking reservations for skating rink and Gibson-Aiken Center birthday parties. For more information, or

to book a party, call the Gibson-Aiken Center main office at 802-254-5808.

Skating rink birthday parties may be booked during any hours that public skating is scheduled. Price includes admission for 10 children, 10 skate rentals, birthday cake and a private room to have the party. The cost is \$120.

Gibson-Aiken Center birthday parties may be booked for Saturdays between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m. (includes set up and clean up time). Price includes cake, basketballs, kickballs, wiffleball set and bases, and the use of the large conference room for cake and snacks. The suggested party size is 10 to 12 people. The cost is \$120.

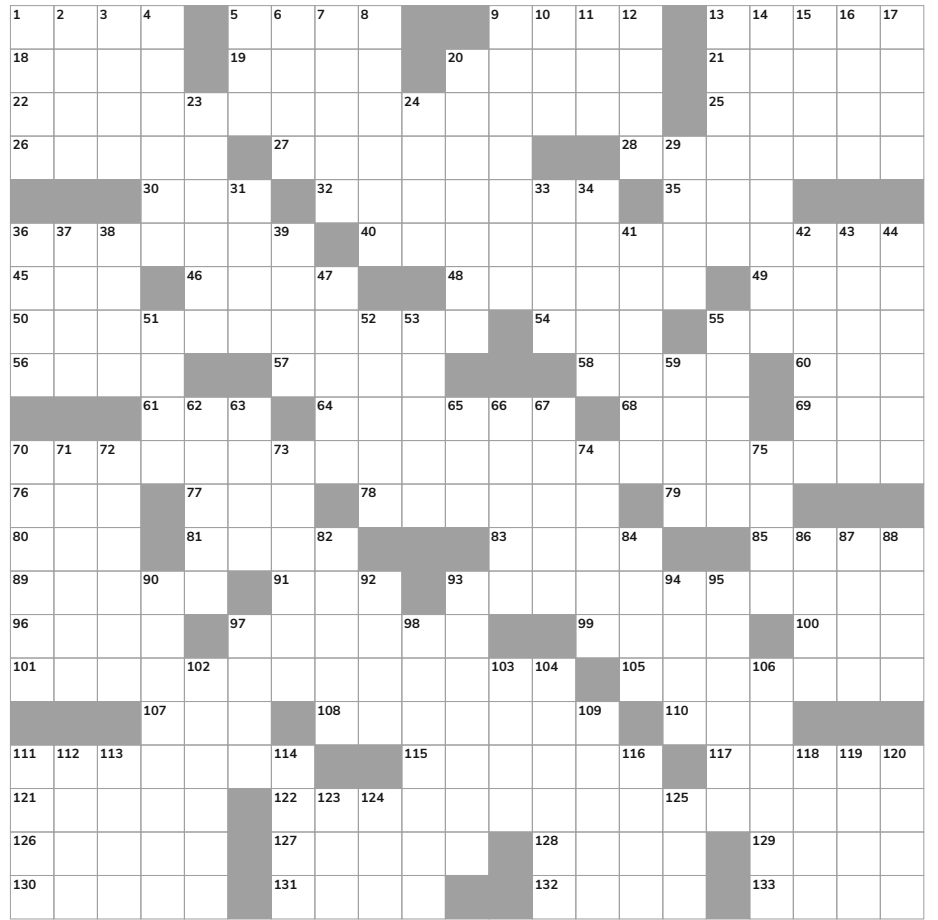


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"Change of Heart"

Across

1. Low-quality
5. Provide for free
9. Word on a door
13. Backup strategy
18. Ctrl-Z command
19. Bryce Canyon state
20. Hermès product
21. Unrepentant critic
22. Show one's wildebeests loyalty?
25. Accustom: Var.
26. Respect
27. "Dear Evan ___"
28. Pickup baseball site
30. Ruminant's chew
32. Mrs., in Milano
35. Marshy ground
36. Like games without win-win outcomes
40. Comments starting with "because" or "since"?
45. Had
46. Athletic outfit?
48. Bit of guinea pig food
49. Extend one's tour
50. Courtroom rarities?
54. Hands-on science class
55. Wiley portrait subject
56. "Don't forget..."
57. Manhattan sch.
58. Brass instrument
60. Part of LGBTQ+
61. "Ochre the Moon" nail polish brand
64. Tops
68. Ipanema setting
69. Be mendacious
70. Sold naming rights to a stadium?
76. Letters after Gov. Chris Sununu's name
77. The Red or White, but surprisingly not Blue
78. Pasta option
79. "Not typing right now" abbr.
80. With 119-Down, Mount Suribachi locale
81. RPM indicator
83. Central Park designer Calvert ___
85. Archipelago part
89. Leo follower
91. Ford of fashion and film
93. Intake plan that doesn't involve much shellfish?
96. Italian volcano
97. Shin bones
99. Green Hornet's sidekick
100. College application part, casually
101. Start of an answer to "Can you name any Sondheim shows?"
105. "Dream on!"
107. Vote in favor
108. McCartney, informally
110. Cellist Jacqueline du ___
111. Outlandish
115. Inedible oranges
117. Stealthy mercenary
121. Asteroids maker
122. What you might have to do if a guest book is left outside?
126. Orion's left foot
127. Gussy oneself up
128. Iowa relatives
129. FDR's place
130. College application part
131. Not just want
132. 55-Across poster word
133. Burger side



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Down

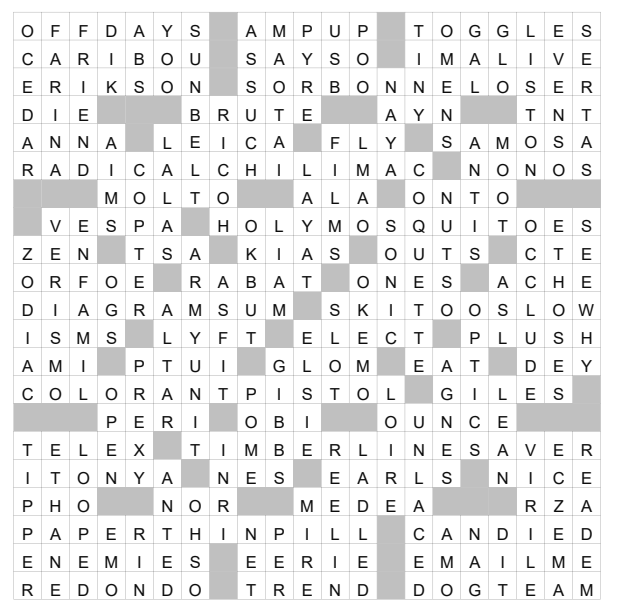
1. Word on a door
2. Aboard
3. Norse Allfather
4. Highly ornate
5. Ctrl-X command
6. Texter's "Then again"
7. Yucatan natives
8. Of spoken sounds
9. Boston terrier feature
10. Coffee dispenser
11. The SEC's Tigers
12. More, to a minimalist
13. Wunderkind
14. Attire worn on shore leave?
15. "Being Mortal" author Gawande
16. Infamous emperor
17. Author Harte
20. Union contracts?
23. Springfield clown
24. Links org.
29. Partner in crime
31. Number for two
33. Slowing, musically: Abbr.
34. He has 99 names
36. Architect Hadid
37. Bibliography abbr.
38. Workout count
39. Podcaster Maron
41. Given new life
42. Legendary crossword constructor Merl "Eternals" star Nanjiani
44. Fixed, in a way
47. Hebrew prophet
51. Shark's activity?
52. Gets in on the deal
53. ___ node
55. Switch positions?
59. Latvian capital
62. Basil-based sauce
63. Notion
65. Futbol cheer
66. Artillery firing
67. Patriots' all-time interceptions leader
70. Table protector

71. Friends of
72. Actress Bella
73. Stratagem
74. "Ugh, not my day today"
75. "Just teasin'"
82. Bindle carriers
84. Penetrating look?
86. iPhone voice
87. Levi's alternative
88. Engrave
90. Northwest Indiana?
92. "Rent" role
93. Enters enthusiastically
94. At the apex of
95. Title character not appearing in "The ___ Legacy"
97. Bulgarian ruler
98. Like some stages

- and chefs
102. To an uncanny extent
103. Saag paneer go-with
104. Popular trading card game based on a manga series
106. Unnerves, with "out"
109. Slow tempo
111. Uncover
112. "Really??"
113. Turns back, in a way
114. "Baseball Tonight" ailer
116. Where to get off
118. Do perfectly
119. See 80-Across
120. Over
123. Vexation
124. "Huh"
125. Giggling syllable

Last issue's solution

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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Colonels sweep Huskies to finish first month of season

Being the southern-most Division I school in Vermont has long been a problem for Brattleboro in basketball, since with the exception of Mount Anthony and Burr & Burton, all the rest of their competition is located to the north. This means a lot of long bus rides to places such as Burlington, St. Johnsbury, and Rutland.

Logistically, it would be easier to play nearby New Hampshire teams such as Keene, ConVal, or Monadnock, or Massachusetts teams such as Amherst, Greenfield, or Northampton. The Colonels would get a chance to play against strong competition with shorter bus rides.

The problem, said Colonels boys' basketball coach Jason Coplan, is that Massachusetts or New Hampshire teams don't want to play Brattleboro "because there's nothing in it for them. It doesn't help their records for their state tournaments because they don't count wins against out-of-state teams toward their ranking."

But when the Monadnock Huskies needed to fill out its schedule this season, it turned to Brattleboro and the result was a rare home-and-home series for the Colonels — two games in three nights against a tough opponent, with just one short bus ride to Swanzey. Brattleboro swept the series with a 52-43 win in Swanzey on Dec. 28 and a 58-43 home victory on Dec. 30.

In the Swanzey game, senior guard Cam Frost sank five three-pointers to lead the Colonels with 19 points. Senior forwards Tate Chamberlain and Jody Allembert chipped in with 12 and nine points, respectively.

The game in the BUHS gym was particularly intense, as the raucous near-capacity crowd gave the proceedings a play-off-like feel. Coplan said the Colonels played well on defense, forcing 19 turnovers, but it led to Frost, Chamberlain and senior center Paul McGillion playing with four fouls by the fourth quarter.

Monadnock was equally aggressive on defense as they forced 17 turnovers by the Colonels. Foul trouble caught up with Monadnock in the fourth quarter as two of their starters fouled out and the Colonels went 9-for-12 from the free throw line to secure the win.

Chamberlain was the high scorer with 20 points, while Frost added 18 points and senior forward Tristan Evans scored eight points. The



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT, deputy editor of this newspaper, has written this column for more than a decade and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at news@commonsnews.org.

Colonels, now 4-1, start its league season this week with games against South Burlington, Mount St. Joseph, and St. Johnsbury.

Boys' basketball

- Foul trouble in the final quarter was Leland & Gray's undoing in a 61-54 loss to the host Proctor Phantoms on Dec. 20. Accurate free throw shooting by Proctor helped to break open a close game, with Carter Crossman leading the way with 23 points, while freshman Chase Razzanouski had 11 points and 18 rebounds.

- Leland & Gray then improved its record to 2-2 with a 53-28 win over West Rutland on Dec. 29. The first week of the new year features a road game against Bellows Falls and a home-and-home series against Arlington.

- Twin Valley picked up a 47-37 road win against the West Rutland Golden Horde on Dec. 20. It was the Wildcats' first win of the season. Liam Wendel scored a game-high 17 points for the Wildcats. Noah Dornburgh added 14 points and Caleb Dupuis chipped in 11 points. David Noel led the Horde with 14 points.

- Bellows Falls lost on the road to Hartford, 67-43, on Dec. 27. Colby Dearborn led the Terriers with 12 points, while Peter Kamel had four points and 14 rebounds and Jamison Nystrom scored nine points and dished out six assists.

- Two nights later, BF took care of business with a wire-to-wire 64-39 win over Arlington at Holland Gymnasium. The Terriers took a 22-5 lead in the first nine minutes of the game, and cruised from there. Dearborn had another big night with a game-high 19 points. Nystrom added 11 points, Jake Moore had nine points and blocked three shots and Kamel pulled down eight rebounds for the 2-3 Terriers.

Girls' basketball

- Before the holiday break, Brattleboro put together a good effort in a 55-22 road win over Woodstock on Dec. 21. Mallory

Newton led the Colonels with 17 points, Reese Croutworst added 14 points, and Abby Henry chipped in with 10 points.

Unfortunately, the Colonels then got a reality check on what they have to do to be competitive in Division I when perennial powerhouse Champlain Valley came to the BUHS gym on Dec. 27 and completely dominated the hosts in an 80-22 rout. Shelby Companion led CVU with 22 points. Addi Hunter added 16 points, and Elise Berger had five points, six assists, and five steals. Croutworst and Kaitlyn Pattison had six points for the Colonels.

Brattleboro then hosted Essex on Dec. 29 and the result was a 69-41 loss for the Colonels. It was a more competitive contest than the CVU game, as Pattison scored 12 points to lead the 2-3 Colonels and Croutworst and Montana Frehsee added eight apiece.

- Leland & Gray went into the holiday break with a pair of wins. On Dec. 19, the Rebels picked up a 46-39 road win over the Proctor Phantoms on Dec. 19. The Rebels trailed at half-time, 24-21, but put together a strong second half to secure the victory. Maggie Parker led the Rebels with 15 points, while Mary Sanderson added 12 points. Isabel Grab led the Phantoms with 20 points.

- Two nights later in Townshend, the Rebels jumped out to a 14-point halftime lead and hung on for a 35-24 win over the Poultney Blue Devils. Samantha Morse led the Rebels with 11 points.

- With a 37-30 win at Arlington on Dec. 30, Leland & Gray improved to 7-1 and are ranked second in Division IV.

- Bellows Falls rolled to a 68-10 win over Twin Valley on Dec. 19. Tela Hartly scored a game-high 13 points for the Terriers, while Veronica Moore and Izzy Stoodley followed with 12 and 11 points, respectively. Taylor Smart scored four points and Bianca Place added three points for the Wildcats.

- BF followed up that effort with a 64-22 win over Mill River on Dec. 21 in North Clarendon. Delaney Lockerby had 14 points and Laura Kamel had 11 points for the Terriers.

- The winning streak ended for the Terriers with a 56-42 loss to Poultney on Dec. 27 at Holland Gymnasium. Emily Handley led the Blue Devils with 15 points, all coming on three-pointers. Lockerby was BF's high scorer with nine points, with Nola Sciaccia adding eight points.



Colonels guard Tristan Evans (10) goes up for a shot during the first half of their game against Monadnock on Dec. 30 at the BUHS gym.

On Dec. 29 in Hartford, the Terriers lost 57-19. Kamel led BF with 15, Eryn Ross added 10, and Lockerby chipped in seven. Charlotte Jasmin led the Hurricanes with 20 points. BF enters the new year with a 2-4 record.

- Green Mountain dominated from start to finish in a 49-7 win over Twin Valley on Dec. 21. The visiting Chieftains got 18 points and six steals from ninth-grader Colie Roby and 15 points, 13 rebounds, four steals, and three blocks from eighth-grader Callie Spaulding.

Girls' hockey

- It was not the best of home debuts for Brattleboro, as the Burlington-Colchester SeaLakers rolled over the Colonels, 10-0, on Dec. 19 at Withington Rink. The SeaLakers dominated from start to finish, putting 30 shots on the Colonels' goal to take a 6-0 lead after two periods. The highlight of that stretch came in the last 70 seconds of the second period when the SeaLakers scored two shorthanded goals while the Colonels had a 5-on-3 power play.

- "They outmuscled us and outskated us," said Colonels coach Anne Brewer, who is starting her first season behind the Brattleboro bench.

- Holley MacLellan led the SeaLakers with three goals. Karissa LeClair added two goals, and Leighton Guyette, Brynna Swift-Herzog, Fiona McHugh, Georgia Wool and Camryn Poulin each scored one goal. Goaltender Olivia Dallamura earned the shutout victory.

- Freshman goalie Lakota Offenburger did what she could to keep the Colonels in the game in the face of the SeaLakers offensive onslaught, and Brewer said the rest of her team showed similar determination. "They have good energy and a lot of heart," Brewer said. "To their credit, they kept working hard out there despite the score."

- Two nights later, things were just as rough for the Colonels with a 9-0 road loss to Woodstock. The Wasps scored five goals in the first period and four more in the second period.

Gracelyn Laperle, Hannah Gubbins, Lily Gubbins, and Cassidy Haley all scored twice, and Isabel Konijnenberg had a goal and four assists. Goaltender Meridien Bremel stopped the only two shots she faced to earn the shutout.

- The Colonels then picked up their first win of the season on Dec. 28 with a 6-1 victory over Rutland. Brattleboro put 54 shots on goal in an strong effort.

Boys' hockey

- Six different skaters had goals as Mount Mansfield beat Brattleboro, 6-3, on Dec. 19. Aidan Soutiere, Garret Carter, Alex Brown, Alec Spensley, Colby Garrapy, and Owen Jones all scored for Mount Mansfield. Carter had two assists, and Brown, Garrapy, and Jones each got credit for an assist. Declan Heney made 21 saves in goal to earn the victory.

- Evan Wright had a pair of goals and Alex Dick added another for the Colonels. Darek Harvey and Matthew Gordon-Macey divvied up the goaltending duties as Harvey made 24 saves and Gordon-Macey had 14 saves.

- On Dec. 21 at Withington Rink, the Hartford Hurricanes cruised to a 7-0 win over the Colonels. Ozzie DeFelice and Ezra Mock each scored two goals for Hartford. Nick Daniels, Cavan Benjamin, and Blaine Gour each added a goal and Lochlan Park had three assists. Sean Keliher and Frankie Cushing split time in goal to combine on the shutout victory.

- After a week off to digest that loss, the Colonels traveled to Rutland on Dec. 28 and lost 6-0. Rutland dropped down to Division II this season, and the change seems to have done them good as they scored four goals in the second period to end all thoughts of a Brattleboro comeback. Rutland got two goals from Cam Rider, another goal from his brother Colin Rider, and goals from Anthony Rock, Riley Rodrigue, and Aiden Good.

Nordic skiing

- Luke Rizio was a one-person team for Twin Valley last season as he ended up as the Division I boys' individual

champion. This season, he's skiing for Mount Anthony, but is still just as good as he was last season.

- In the season opening meet on Dec. 22 at the Wild Wings ski area in Peru, Rizio won the boys' 5K race in 11 minutes, 40 seconds, more than a minute ahead of second place finisher James Underwood of Woodstock. Mount Anthony won the boys' meet with 16 points. Woodstock was second with 35.

- In a skate race at Woodstock Nordic Center on Dec. 28, Rizio won the boys' race with a time of 10:54 as Mount Anthony had the top four finishers to win the event.

Senior bowling roundup

- The fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League ended on Dec. 29 with Good Times (55-35) leapfrogging Keglers 4 (54-36) in the final two weeks to win the season title.

- Trash-O-Matic (47.5-42.5) finished third, followed by the Strikers (44.5-45.5), Lucky 7 (44.5-45.5), Old Farts (41-49), Split Happens (40.5-49.5), and Slow Movers (33-57).

- In Week 18 action, Diane Cooke had the women's high handicap game (244) and series (675). Pete Cross had the men's high handicap game (256), while Marty Adams had the high handicap series (669). Slow Movers had the high team handicap game (863), while Lucky 7 had the high series (2,501).


- In scratch scoring, Chuck Adams led the men with a 622 series games of 226, 205, and 191. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 603 series that featured games of 223 and 191. John Walker had a 592 series with games of 205 and 202, while Marty Adams had a 567 series with games of 198 and 194, and Gary Montgomery had a 538 series with a 193 game. Cross had a 197 game.

- Shirley Aiken had the women's high scratch series (468) and game (182). Nancy Dalzell rolled a 178 and Cooke had a 171 game.


Colonels defenseman Liliana Carignan (5) and goaltender Lakota Offenburger (33) protect the net in their home opener against the Burlington/Colchester SeaLakers on Dec. 19 at Withington Rink.



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