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

WSESD sex abuse probe moves to new phase

Board says some type of report about the outside investigation is forthcoming — at some point

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The fact-gathering phase of the sexual abuse investigation in the Windham Southeast School District will wrap up soon, if it hasn't already.

That's what Chair Kelly Young announced at the board's May 23 meeting.

The investigation has been ongoing since the board hired attorney Aimee Goddard of Annis & Goddard, a Brattleboro-based law firm, on Dec. 21, 2022 to serve as independent investigator into sexual abuse charges against educators dating back to the early 1970s.

Young said anyone "who has been considering making a report

but hasn't done so" is encouraged to do so soon by calling 802-451-0905 or sending an email to report@wsest.info. More information is available at southernvermontlaw.com/wsest.

She asked for continued patience from the public, adding that the board is taking the issues under investigation seriously.

Board has been hands-off by design

In the past several months, board members have met in executive sessions with civil litigation attorney Kendall Hoechst of Dinse, a firm in Burlington, who was hired to serve as a "firewall" between the board and Goddard.

"The community did not want the board to be involved in the

■ SEE INVESTIGATION A5

Another life for Miss Bellows Falls Diner?

New owners plan thorough restoration of historic eatery with eye toward a 2025 reopening

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—After being closed for the last three years, the historic Miss Bellows Falls Diner appears to be headed for new ownership under a community nonprofit, a thorough restoration, and a reopening in 2025.

Rockingham for Progress, Inc. signed a purchase-and-sale agreement in January with owner Brian McAllister, with plans to close in mid-June on the sale of the 1941 Worcester Lunch Car.

In December, Jeff Dunbar, a local resident and a village trustee, broached "the idea that

something has to be done to reopen the diner" — a central fixture downtown since 1942 — with Charlie Hunter, an artist and community activist.

Dunbar called the diner a vital link between the village's past and its future and said that it should not be left idle and decaying. Hunter agreed, noting that many similar diners in recent years had been sold and moved.

Not wanting the same fate for the Miss Bellows Falls, the two began pulling together a team whose members possessed the skills, contacts, and will to make the project happen.

■ SEE DINER A6

Remembering the **FALLEN**, honoring the **LIVING**



From left, World War II veterans George Stone Sr., Walter Schwarz, and Richard Hamilton chat before the start of the annual Memorial Day service on the Brattleboro Common on May 29.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

In Brattleboro, Veterans and families gather for Memorial Day service

By Randolph T. Holhut

The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—On a sunny late May morning on the Common, three men sat on a bench in the shade of a maple tree.

These three local residents shared a common bond of being among the last living witnesses to the greatest conflict the world had ever known.

This trio of World War II veterans didn't have to speak, or stand, in front of the crowd gathered there for the annual Memorial Day service on May 29. Just their presence spoke volumes.

George Stone Sr. was a young man in Maine fresh out of high school when he enlisted in the Army in 1941, not

long before the U.S. declared war on Germany and Japan in December 1941.

He ended up as a combat engineer, landing on the beaches of Normandy in June 1944. He said he drove a Caterpillar D7 armored bulldozer across Europe, clearing obstacles for advancing troops.

He is celebrating his 99th birthday on May 31 in Brattleboro. He had a long career as a heavy equipment operator for Lane Construction, driving his D7 to build instead of destroy.

His daughter, Valerie Gragen, said her father got a Croix de Guerre from General Charles de Gaulle for his service in France. She said he was waiting to be shipped to Japan to participate in the planned U.S. invasion of the island when

■ SEE MEMORIAL DAY, A2

'Unsung heroes' use music to bring people together

Peter and Mary Alice Amidon will be honored with award from Compassionate Brattleboro

By Nancy A. Olson
Special to The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, local performers and teachers of traditional music, dance, and storytelling, are the 2023 recipients of the Brattleboro Unsung Hero Award

from Compassionate Brattleboro.

The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 13, at 5:30 p.m., at Centre Congregational Church on Main Street.

The citation describes them as "two remarkable musicians" who have "sung so often and so beautifully for the living and the dying, for justice, love and compassion, for members of our community, both new and long-standing, and for children of all ages."

The Amidons' story as a couple begins with a chance meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at a contradance.

"In 1975, I was working as a mental health worker at McLean Hospital in Belmont, just outside of Cambridge," Peter said. "I had been introduced to contradancing a few months earlier by my then-girlfriend, Annie O'Brien," and he had been going to dances with her regularly.

She also introduced him to "the

whole Cambridge/Boston traditional music scene: Irish tune sessions, group singing sessions, Morris dancing, folk music get-away weekends," he said.

"The night I met Mary Alice was the first contradance I had been to without Annie," Peter said.

The previous year, Mary Alice was studying for a master's degree in education at the University of New Hampshire in Durham when she was taken to her first contradances in Unity, Peterborough, and Nelson, New Hampshire. In the fall of 1975, she had the opportunity to work at a preschool in Cambridge, and she went to the contradance at the YWCA.

"Peter walked in ahead of me," she said. "When I saw him, I said, 'He's the one,' and I've been insanely happy ever since."

In spring of 1976, Mary Alice and Peter were on a three-month

■ SEE AMIDONS, A6



COURTESY PHOTO

Peter and Mary Alice Amidon

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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:
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 • promotes local independent journalism,
 • fosters civic engagement by building media skills through publication of *The Commons* and commonsnews.org, and through the Media Mentoring Project.

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SUBMITTING NEWS AND TIPS
 We welcome story ideas and news tips. Please contact the newsroom at news@commonsnews.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@commonsnews.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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The Commons distributes 8,150 copies per issue to 250 drops in almost every Windham County town, as well as in neighboring towns in Windsor County (VT), Cheshire County (N.H.) and Franklin County (Mass.). Please get in touch (circulation@commonsnews.org) if you would like us to consider adding your business.

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

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

Memorial Day

FROM SECTION FRONT

the war ended in August 1945. Walter Schwarz of Brattleboro said he'll be 97 in a couple of months. He joined the Army Air Forces in 1945 and was in flight training in Mississippi when the war ended.

While he was not under fire in World War II, five years later, he was piloting a B-29 bomber during the Korean War.

He said his service in Korea was uneventful, save for one mission "that was pretty scary, and I thought I wasn't going to make it."

"I've really been pretty lucky," he said.

Richard Hamilton turned 100 last September, and his story is familiar to Windham County. He served in the 91st Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force as a radio operator.

On his ninth mission, on July 20, 1944, his B-17 bomber was badly shot up by German fighter planes. With most of the crew killed and the bomber aflame, Hamilton and another crewman bailed out 18,000 feet above Germany.

Hamilton was captured and held in German prison camps for the remainder of the war until he and fellow prisoners were liberated by Russian soldiers on April 24, 1945.

After returning to Marlboro, he went on to open and run the Skyline Restaurant on Hogback Mountain with his wife, Joyce, for 48 years until he retired in 1994.

He uses a walker to get around now, but Hamilton makes an effort to attend as many veterans' events as possible.

The experiences of these men are just a sampling of the many sacrifices that were made by those who served in World War II — experiences that most of today's Americans know only from books and movies.

Remembering, honoring sacrifice

That history was echoed by the featured speaker at the May 29 service, Bartley J. "B.J." Costello III.

A Rutland native and brother of local attorney Tom Costello, he served in the Navy as the executive officer of the USS Genesee, a fuel supply ship, during the Vietnam War. He



Bartley J. Costello III was the keynote speaker at the annual Memorial Day service in Brattleboro on May 29.

went on to have a long legal career in Albany, New York.

His passion project was the preservation of the USS Slater, a destroyer escort now moored on the Hudson River in Albany as a museum. It is the last surviving ship of the 563 destroyer escorts built during World War II to defend naval task forces from submarine attacks.

Costello was part of the team that raised more than \$2 million to obtain the ship as the centerpiece of the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum.

The Slater was launched in 1944 and served on convoy duty in the North Atlantic. When the war in Europe ended, it sailed to the Pacific to support fleet operations as the war with Japan came to a close.

Costello talked about the sacrifices made by the soldiers, sailors, and airmen serving their country, from the War of Independence to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he

remembered what it was like as a Naval officer under fire during the Vietnam War.

"From my experience, our sailors traveled into harm's way without regard for their own safety," Costello said. "Those who died, died for a cause each considered more important than their own life. They didn't volunteer to die; they volunteered to defend values ingrained in their upbringing."

Costello said that we, the living, can honor them through our everyday actions "as we strive to keep faith with them, with the strength, courage and wisdom to contribute to the freedom we so enjoy, so dearly won. So let us leave here today, recommitted to our values and living well for others."

The annual Memorial Day service on the Common was presented by American Legion Post 5, VFW Post 1034, and Marine Corps League Detachment 798.

Brattleboro Selectboard faces rising crime stats

Residents looking for action after a knife-point car theft in Transportation Center; cameras in the offing as police remain understaffed

By Virginia Ray
 The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Drug deals, panhandlers, burglaries, vandalism, and a carjacking at the Transportation Center brought residents to a recent Selectboard meeting, demanding action and answers.

"The people in the community are asking for your help and it doesn't happen," former board member and chair Dick DeGray told the board at its May 16 meeting, two days after the parking garage incident.

The board in recent years has shown "so much inactivity" on the crime issue, DeGray said, adding that he'd come before the board a year ago, and even before that, asking that Transportation Center cameras be put on the agenda.

That latest request, he said, "took six weeks, which was quite appalling to me."

"The damage to downtown makes me very concerned for our community and you should be very concerned," DeGray said. "There's more than the Transportation Center going on."

"We have businesses with plywood over their windows," he said.

He also brought up graffiti and said that no sooner does Department of Public Works staff clean up defaced public property than "the next day, it's back up."

"Our town is the worst looking town that I've traveled to in two years," DeGray said.

Resident Mark Younger noted he'd spoken to Town Manager John Potter about the downtown situation, alleging that he's seen people "almost attacked by addicts begging for money."

"We need more presence," he said. "Why isn't that happening?"

Crime on the rise

Property crimes have risen this year to as many as 55 incidents a month, according to town records. Brattleboro Police say reports of assaults were up by 15% and sexual crimes up by 26% from 2021 to 2022. Burglaries, from cash register drawers to catalytic converters, nearly doubled, from 59 to 108, in the same period, statistics show.

Since the Selectboard meeting, police arrested Kyle J. Rice, 19, of Brattleboro on suspicion of stealing a car by knife-point at the Transportation Center.

Police said they responded to the parking garage at 3:45 p.m. on May 14 when the victim said she had been threatened by a man with a large knife who demanded her car keys.

Rice was arrested May 24 after police executed a search warrant at a residence on Ledgewood Heights Road, according to a news release from the Brattleboro Police Department.

Police also said the silver Hyundai Elantra that Rice is alleged to have stolen has not been located and asks anyone with information on the vehicle's whereabouts to call the police.

Rice was arraigned the next day and, after a not-guilty plea, was released. He must live with and be in the company of his father at all times, remain inside the house 20 hours a day, and have no contact with the crime victim, among other conditions.

The solution?

Potter started the meeting by saying the board has signed a \$75,000 contract for 13 cameras to replace those already in place "to provide complete

coverage of the building" at the Transportation Center.

On June 6, said Potter, he'll bring a proposal to the board to add Department of Public Works staff and hire private security personnel to "supplement police patrols."

"This would give the town a constant presence with eyes and ears at this location," he said, adding staff members "believe this would be a viable and cost-effective approach" and provide "a positive benefit for a place that's been seeing more than its fair share of unacceptable behaviors occurring."

Police Chief Norma Hardy attended the meeting online, saying, "some things need to be clarified and cleared up."

Hardy said accusations that there are too few — if any — officers on foot patrol in town are "not completely true."

"I personally do walk downtown," said the Chief, adding that she has "removed people doing things they shouldn't be doing at the Transportation Center."

Hardy said her department, budgeted for 27 officers but currently with just 17, is working to add to the ranks but that it takes time.

"We do try to have as many patrols as we can," she said. "But I've been short-staffed so much, I am only starting to be able to fill some of our empty ranks."

Currently, said Potter, the town is "ramping up" the police force with the goal of having six to eight potential officers at the Vermont Police Academy this fall.

The process takes months before an officer is trained, graduated, hired, and able to be on the street, so the idea is to use private security, notably at the Transportation Center, to "expand our ability to know when something is happening" so police "can be called in" when needed, said Potter.

"We need to be smart about how we're directing resources," he said, adding that two officers were scheduled to return to the force June 1.

"The idea for the added security is another tool for us to utilize — not instead of police, but in addition to — to be our eyes and ears down at the Transportation Center," Hardy said. "We are still answering calls all over Brattleboro, not just downtown."

Board Clerk Peter Case said he's met with residents, and Hardy, to discuss safety concerns revolving around children and creating "safety zones," focusing on "trying to create a pilot program" at the Transportation Center.

"It becomes a land use issue," Case said, adding that he has an 85-year-old father who parks his vehicle in the garage.

Vice Chair Franz Reichsman noted the process of looking at the town's overall emergency management services "system," saying he "has faith in the process" and board members take the issue "very seriously."

He invited all to participate and added, "I don't think this will be murky at all. I think this will be clear and allow people to express their concerns [...] we want to hear from you."

Reichsman invited all with concerns to meet with him on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St., or on Fridays from 8 to 10 a.m. at The Works, 118 Main St.

"Just show up," he said.

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Bellows Falls Woman's Club sews dresses for girls at risk

BELLOWS FALLS — Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club recently participated in the international Dress a Girl Around the World project to provide dresses for girls in vulnerable situations. Nancy McAuliffe, club president, Valerie Forrest, Louise Luring, and Beverley Palmerine traveled to Proctorsville recently to join other Vermont club members in a sewing session to add to the many dresses that have already been sewn by Vermonters. The dresses are simple cotton pullovers with pockets in bright designs that are meant to inspire confidence and pride in

their wearers. Dress a Girl is a campaign under Hope 4 Women International, a nonprofit organization working to bring dignity to women and girls at risk all over the world. Its mission is to provide every girl with at least one new dress. Dress a Girl partners with ambassadors all over the world who help distribute the dresses. To date, more than 2 million dresses have been delivered to 81 countries. According to its website, Dress a Girl dreams of a world "in which every girl has at least one new dress. We want girls to know that they are worthy of respect, and that they are loved by God."

Each dress carries the Dress a Girl logo on the pocket, which indicates that an organization is looking out for the girls and, it is hoped, will discourage predators. As the girls receive their dresses, their parents are made aware of the traps of human trafficking and how they can protect their children. The Vermont effort was

spearheaded in 2019 by Caren Helm, a member of the Fair Haven Rotary Club, who inspired 99 volunteers — most not Rotarians — who joined her in an effort to sew 100 dresses. As of October 2022, they had made more than 1,500. Further information about the program can be found at dressagirlearoundtheworld.com.

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WWHT celebrates homeownership with local events

BRATTLEBORO—Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) will kick off National Homeownership Month and NeighborWorks Week with three days of special community events in early June, including a Get to Know Homeownership program and the third annual Chalet Invasive Species Clean-up Day.

Invasive Species Clean-Up Day happens on Thursday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The Chalet in West Brattleboro. Join WWHT, Groundworks, residents and neighbors in a hands-on day of invasive species identification and management. Get your hands dirty with some good work, followed by a community barbecue. The day will include learning about the species and how they impact ecosystem resilience as well as garden creation. The Chalet is one of two permanent supportive housing sites in WWHT's portfolio with on-site services provided by Groundworks Collaborative. Contact mmajor@homemattershere.org for volunteer information.

All three events are part of the annual nationwide NeighborWorks Week, when thousands of volunteers, business professionals, and elected and civic leaders join together for a week of service and celebration of homeownership and successful community development across the country. Celebrated nationally since 1983, and held each year during the first full week in June, NeighborWorks Week highlights the collective impact of NeighborWorks America's nearly 250 network nonprofits, including WWHT, that support homeownership, and celebrates the resiliency and strength of communities.

Get to Know Homeownership Day takes place on Tuesday, June 6 at Parks Place Community Resource Center, 44 School St., Bellows Falls. Hopeful homeowners can explore resources, get a free credit pull, get tips on building their credit score, learn about home repair, and connect with the Homeownership team and Mascoma Bank to answer questions. The public is encouraged to drop in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or 4 to 6 p.m. The third annual Chalet

WWHT's 35-year mission is to strengthen the communities of Southeastern Vermont through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable housing and through ongoing support and advocacy for its residents. It provides housing opportunities to more than 1,500 southeastern Vermonters each year.

There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home.
—ROSALYNN CARTER

PUBLIC NOTICES

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**TOWN OF JAMAICA, VT
REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR PAVING**

The Town of Jamaica is requesting sealed bids for a paving project along South Hill Road, Jamaica, Vermont.

Project(s) Description:
The project is located on South Hill Road at the Wardsboro Town Line extending approximately 0.8 miles into Jamaica. The project consists of cold planing beginning and ending project tapers, a full depth milling 2 inches deep with a 1.0 inches shim coat and a 1.0 inches pavement overlay. The quantities estimated for the project include:

1. Bituminous Concrete Pavement, Type IV - 50 Blow - 1,200 tons.
2. Coarse-Milling, Bituminous Pavement - 10,500 square yards.

Bids must be received at the Town Office located at 28 Town Road, Jamaica, VT 05343 by 4:00 PM Monday, June 12, 2023. Sealed bids delivered by person, overnight express, courier, or parcel post must be clearly marked "Jamaica Paving Bids." The sealed bids will be opened during the Select Board Meeting that same day.

For the full bid package contact the Jamaica Town Office at 802-874-4681, or email the Town Clerk at townclerk@jamaicavermont.org.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
DUMMERSTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Dummerston Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Dummerston Town Offices, 1523 Middle Road, Dummerston Center and via Zoom video teleconference, for the purpose of reviewing the following applications:

- A review of application #3722; Helen R. Hawes, for Conditional Use and Site Plan Review for Short Term Rental, under Sections 720 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #589, 183 Bear Hill Rd., Dummerston, VT, a Rural District. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on June 20, 2023, beginning at or about 5:00 pm.
- A review of application #3714; Evan Fitzgerald, for Conditional Use and Site Plan Review for Development in a Flood Hazard Zone, under Sections 715 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #865 owned by the Town of Dummerston, VT Rt. 30 at the covered bridge, Dummerston, VT, a Conservation District. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on June 20, 2023, beginning at or about 5:30 pm.

The hearings and site visit are open to the public. Participation in these proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person, by a representative or by video teleconference, or through written comment.

A copy of the applications is available for public review at the Dummerston Town Office during normal business hours or by email to: zoning@dummerston.org. To receive the Zoom video teleconference link email to: zoning@dummerston.org, or call: 802-275-5739.

Dated: May 31, 2023
Roger Vincent Jasaitis
Dummerston Zoning Administrator

**STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION**

Windham Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-02737
In re ESTATE of: David M. Price

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: David M. Price (Decedent)
late of Westminster, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: May 22, 2023

Jonathan D. Secrest, Executor Secrest & Darrow, PLC
209 Austine Dr, Brattleboro, VT 05301

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Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Probate
Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301

**ACT 250 NOTICE
MINOR APPLICATION 2W0583-4
10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 - 6111**

Application 2W0583-4 from Renaud Gravel, Inc. 283 Fort Bridgman Road, Vernon, VT 05354 was received on December 1, 2017 and deemed complete on May 24, 2023. The project is generally described as the prior construction of a 3200 sq.ft. addition to an existing industrial building; installation of a Quonset hut for storage; a crane affixed to a previously permitted and approved mounting system for solar array (CPG#NM-2147); restoration of a vegetated wetland buffer at the southern edge of the parking area; and used car sales. The project is located at 283 Fort Bridgman Road in Vernon, Vermont. This application can be viewed online by visiting the Act 250 Database: (<https://anweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=2W0583-4>).

No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Tuesday, June 20, 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://nrp.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 May 25, 2023.

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



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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

• In recognition of their commitment to service, 21 members of the Class of 2023, including **Shadda Cliche** of Brattleboro, have been awarded the prestigious Crown & Shield Award, which honors students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service during their four years at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

• **Hope Soucy**, a biomedical engineering major from Landgrove, was bestowed a bachelor's degree at Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute's 154th Commencement on May 13.

• **John Peloso** of Townshend graduated from Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts on May 21.

• The following local students were named to the winter 2023 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University: **Devi Ethier** of Brattleboro, **Rachael Morse** of Brattleboro, **Forrest Brooke-deBock** of Brattleboro, **Kobe Bazin** of Bellows Falls, **Hailey Clark** of Brattleboro, and **Jessica Cronin** of Wilmington.

• **Bradie Harris** of Bellows Falls was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York.

Obituaries

• **Ralph Barber Sr., 67**, of Westminster. Died suddenly on April 25, 2023 at his home. Ralph was born in Procter on Jan. 26, 1956 to Ralph and Elizabeth (Regimbal) Barber. He grew up in Danby and received his education in Wallingford, and later resided in Westminster. Ralph loved spending time with his kids, loved teaching his grandson Mason everything he knew, and loved playing cards with his granddaughter Sophia. He also enjoyed working and fixing anything and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and playing video games. Ralph was hilarious, and loved to joke and make people laugh. Ralph is survived by his four daughters, Jennifer (Barber) Riviezzo of Perkinsville, Tasha Barber of Westminster, Stephanie Barber of St. Albans, and Nicole Barber Zielonko of North Adams, Massachusetts, as well as a son, Mitchell Barber of Brattleboro. Ralph is also survived by three brothers, James and Robert Sherman, both of Brattleboro, and Charles Sherman of Vermont; three sisters, Robin Hale of Rutland, Pamela Johnson of Brattleboro, and Rhonda Fitts of Bellows Falls; as well as 16 grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins. Ralph was predeceased by a son, Ralph Barber Jr., and three nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life and burial will take place at a later date. Donations to the American Lung Association.

• **Linda Anna (Auclair) Blaisdell, 81**, of Rockingham. Died on May 12, 2023 in Springfield, Vermont. Linda was born on Sept. 13, 1941, in Montreal, Quebec, to Alfred and Doris (Tomney) Auclair. In 1966, she immigrated from Canada to the United States. Linda is survived by her children, Loren C. Blaisdell of Alstead, New Hampshire and Catherine (Darin) Murray of Marlborough, New Hampshire, as well as her grandchildren Samuel Murray and Eve Murray. Linda was predeceased by her parents and her husband, Manley C. Blaisdell. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be no services at this time.

• **Linda (Pulli) Castano** died in Brattleboro on April 17, 2023, surrounded by her family, after a short illness. Born in New York City to Ruth (Hellman) and Nils Pulli, she grew up in the



Brookfields of Massachusetts. A graduate of North Brookfield High School, Linda later attended Community College of Vermont in Brattleboro. She was married to Thomas Castano for 49 years. Together, they moved to Vermont in 1981. Her son, Joseph was born on his father's birthday in 1987 and was the joy of Linda's life. Employed at World Learning for 19 years, Linda was a dedicated member of the Human Resource Department, where she aided many people, both students and faculty, and was an expert regarding immigration policies. She made many friends there and loved to work hard at accomplishing the most difficult tasks. Linda loved animals, especially horses. She could make friends with any aggressive dog, aloof cat, or unpredictable horses. She loved gardening, reading, playing cards and family. An expert prankster, Linda had great humor and loved to make others laugh. She is survived by her husband Tom, son Joe, sisters Viola Holmgren and Susan Winkler, brothers William, David, and Joseph Holmgren, plus three stepdaughters, Terri Tsongalis, Ellie Castano, Maria Rice, and an extended family and many friends. She was predeceased by her parents, brother John, sisters Barbara and Mary, and stepson Chris. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In accordance with her wishes, Linda was cremated and there was no funeral or life celebration. Her ashes will be dispersed by family members in the places she loved most. A staunch advocate for women's rights, all donations in Linda's name should be directed to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Support Department, 784 Hercules Drive, Suite 110, Colchester, VT 05446.



• **Marie Ann Covey, 50**, of Brattleboro. Died unexpectedly May 19, 2023 in Cheshire, New Hampshire, the result of injuries she sustained in an accident. Marie was born in Brattleboro on Feb. 23, 1973, the daughter of Clyde and Ramona (Wood) Winter. Raised in Brattleboro, Marie attended public schools and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1991. An accomplished floral designer, she worked for many years for Ed and Cathy Toomey at Linden Gardens in Brattleboro. She was known for her exceptional and beautiful flower arrangements and love of plants. For several years, Marie attended the Brattleboro Church of Christ on Western Avenue. She loved the outdoors, gardening, and time spent at the beach. She also had a deep love and appreciation for nature and animals. Survivors include her parents of Brattleboro; one son, Evan Wood-LaFarr and wife Kellie of Brattleboro; one daughter, Kelsey Wood-LaFarr, also of Brattleboro; two sisters, Jennifer Smith and Linda Wood, both of Brattleboro; and a grandson, Bentley Wood-LaFarr. Additionally, she leaves her former longtime partner, Timothy LaFarr, Sr., and several nieces, nephews and cousins. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: No formal funeral services are scheduled. A memorial gathering will be held at a future date and time which will be announced. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To share a memory or send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Lorraine A. Daniels, 92**, of Brattleboro. Died May 20, 2023 at her home, with her family



at her side, following a brief period of failing health. Lorraine was born in Springfield, Vermont on Oct. 12, 1930, the daughter of Raymond and Gladys (McGowen) Barker. She was raised and educated in Springfield, attending Springfield High School. She had been a resident of Brattleboro since 1963. For nearly 30 years, Lorraine worked as a hostess and waitress at the former Howard Johnson's Restaurant on Putney Road. Lorraine was an active member of three Brattleboro civic organizations (auxiliaries) that included American Legion Post 5, VFW Carl M. Dessaint Post 1034, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Brattleboro Aerie 2445. She enjoyed crossword puzzles and time spent with family and friends, especially at the family's camp on Lake Champlain in St. Albans. Lorraine was first married to Elmer Baker. The marriage ended in divorce. In March 1964, she was married to Philip White. They had many happy years together at their summer camp. In 1978, with her husband, she purchased a motel in Titusville, Florida. Mr. White predeceased her in 1981. In 1985, Lorraine was married to Charles Daniels, who predeceased her in 2007. Charlie and Lorraine loved to dance and could be found at the Legion every Friday night. Survivors include one daughter, Cheryl White-Winter and her wife Chrissana White-Winter; three sons, Rhett and his partner Joni Russ, and Michael and Kevin Baker; seven stepchildren, Nancy Walzer, Lisa Cartagena, Jack Daniels, Susan Daniels, Lori Daniels, and Candance Caggiano. Additionally, she leaves six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by one sister, Arlene Slate. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside committal services were held May 26 in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Mark Edwin Deyo, 67**, of Guilford. Died May 19, 2023 at the Springfield (Vt.) Rehabilitation Center following a period of declining health. Mark was born in Brattleboro on Sept. 6, 1955, the son of Thomas and Janice (Pope) Deyo. He was raised and educated in Brattleboro, graduating from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1973. He worked as a forklift operator for 22 years at Cerkosimo Lumber Company and previously had been employed for several years in his family's business, the former Deyo's Home Laundry. Mark was a former resident of Tarpon Springs, Florida, a time period known as "his 10-year vacation." He enjoyed golfing, hunting, and following the NASCAR circuit. He was an avid Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, and Patriots fan. On Sept. 26, 1985, at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, he was married to Claire Longe. Although the marriage ended in divorce, both Mark and Claire remained close friends. Survivors include one son, Connors Longe-Deyo and his wife Amanda of Brattleboro; a stepson, Rory Longe; a grandson, Michael; his mother of Vernon; and his four siblings, Gary and wife Cathy of South Carolina, Ronald of Florida, Peter and his wife Cheryl of Vernon, and Adelle Fisher and husband Max of Idaho. Additionally, he leaves one uncle, Robert Marshall; an aunt, Carol Walker; several nieces, nephews,

and many cousins; and his beloved cat, Ashes. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: In keeping with his final wishes, there are no formal funeral services scheduled. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Joel David Doerfler, 78**, of Dummerston, formerly of Brooklyn, New York. Died on May 14, 2023, at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, after suddenly falling ill just a few weeks earlier. The cause of death was CJD, a rare and incurable neurological disease. A beloved, lifelong high school teacher, Joel enjoyed a stellar career in New York City's independent schools — institutions he frequently opined should not exist. At Columbia Prep for 13 years, and then for 26 years at Riverdale Country School, Joel served as history department chair and designed and taught a wide range of interdisciplinary courses and curricula, including on world history, film and society, race and ethnicity, the Israel-Palestine conflict, foreign policy, and the groundbreaking *Constructing America*. Joel set a high bar, both in and outside the classroom, and was known for his dynamic teaching, humor (i.e., sarcasm), political activism, and the profound and lasting impact he had on countless students and fellow teachers. Joel read voraciously, diving into new subjects with palpable curiosity and rigor. He underlined books with ruler-like precision and took notes on everything he read. Piled on his desk are books about fascism, "memory wars" in history, and Israel-Palestine, along with a few random novels. After undergoing open-heart surgery in 1996, Joel took up long-distance running and finished five marathons. He loved watching his son play soccer, pizza (with extra cheese), his annual rotisserie baseball draft, listening to music, and going out for dinner. He preferred an aisle seat. Joel spent a happy childhood in the Parkchester section of the Bronx, and idyllic summers in the Three Arrows Cooperative community in Putnam Valley, N.Y. He graduated from the Fieldston School in the Bronx, and received a B.A. from Brandeis University. He then went on to receive two master's degrees in history, from Columbia University and from Brandeis, where he was ABD. (A brilliant, albeit unfinished, 1,000-page dissertation on British film propaganda in World War II sits in a box somewhere.) Joel moved permanently to Vermont after his retirement from Riverdale in 2018. He relished going on long walks in Dummerston and on the West River Trail, and could be found much of the time hunkered down with books and crossword puzzles, and watching movies and bad TV shows with his family and three rambunctious cats. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 38 years, Sarah Ludwig; beloved son, Alex Doerfler-Ludwig; sister, Nina Drooker; nephews Eric and Star Drooker; brother-in-law David Ludwig; and countless friends, former students, and colleagues. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A private gathering in Joel's memory will be held in Brooklyn in late June. Donations to Jewish Voice for Peace, P.O. Box 589, Berkeley, CA 94701.

• **Gordon Merritt Fisher, 85**, of Brattleboro. Died May 22, 2023, in the comfort of his home and surrounded by his family, following an extended period of declining health. A proud Vermonter, Gordon was born in Brattleboro on June 19, 1937, the son of Merritt and Mildred (Severance) Fisher. Raised and educated in Brattleboro, he attended school through the seventh grade, leaving school to go to work full-time to assist the family on their farm on Bonnyvale Road. For several years, he served in the Vermont National Guard, and for more than 18 years, Gordon was employed as a lens worker at the former American Optical Company on Putney Road. He later worked in construction for several Brattleboro area building contractors that included Loney Construction, Allen Clark Construction, and Ted Butterfield Construction of Guilford, which he retired from. He later returned to Butterfield to work part-time. An ardent outdoorsman, Gordon enjoyed hunting, fishing, logging, and cutting firewood, as well as sugaring every spring. He was a beekeeper for close to 50 years and often shared his expertise and knowledge with many other beekeepers in the greater Brattleboro



Helen Eileen Collins Suntag and Joseph H. Einsig

Weddings

• **Helen Eileen Collins Suntag**, a 2011 graduate of Brattleboro Union High School, recently married **Joseph H. Einsig** of Exeter, Pennsylvania. The small ceremony was held on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. The couple honeymooned in Madeira, Portugal. The bride, 29, earned her bachelor's degree at Tufts University in 2015 and her master's in counseling psychology from Northeastern University in 2018. She recently opened her own psychotherapy practice in Philadelphia. The groom, 31, is a 2013 graduate of New York University/Steinhardt with a bachelor's degree in media communication and culture. He is associate director of web strategy at Merck Pharmaceutical in North Wales, Pennsylvania. Helen is the daughter of **Wendy S. Collins** of West Brattleboro and of **David T. Suntag** of Reno, Nevada. She is the twin sister of **Isaac Charles Collins Suntag** of Oakland, California.

area. Gordon was also known for his green thumb and kept a large garden and berry patch every summer. He loved being outside in the fresh air and sunshine. Of his other pastimes and interests, he enjoyed playing cards — 500, pitch, and cribbage. What he valued most was time spent with his family and close friends. Though he considered himself a "home Baptist," he was a man of deep faith. Gordon was also an individual who valued other virtues that included hard work, honesty, integrity and love for family, community and country. On June 28, 1959, at West Brattleboro Baptist Church, he married Evelyn McIndoe, who survives. Besides his faithful and devoted wife of 63 years, he leaves three daughters, Barb Fisher, Karen Bokum and husband Rick, and Kathy Rogers and husband Gary, all of Brattleboro; an adopted son, Kevin Pike of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; one sister, Yvonne Bernier of Brattleboro; grandchildren, Mike, Jared, Heidi, Tabby, and Alyssa; and 10 great-grandchildren. Additionally, he leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by brothers Kenneth and Burton Fisher and sisters Evelyn Sirois, Dorothy Jones, and Marjorie Ryan. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside committal services were held May 28 in the family lot in West Brattleboro Cemetery. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Janet Louise Hamilton, 76**, of Jamaica. Died on May 17, 2023. She was born on July 24, 1946 in Derby, Connecticut to the late Robert Bell and Edith Voightlander. She attended college at Southern Connecticut University in New Haven. She loved being an educator and received her degrees in Math and Early Childhood Education. Janet was a beloved teacher for over 40 years, and also worked for Homestead and Stratton Mountain Ski Resort. Janet thoroughly enjoyed being an active member of her community. She was a member of the Eastern Star, School Club, Library, Bingo and her church Diaconate. Janet loved her family, church and community. Janet is survived by her children, James Hamilton and Darlene Hamilton, and her sibling Dorothy Lichtenberger of Wilton, Connecticut. She is also survived by one granddaughter, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Hamilton. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life service will be held at the First Baptist Church in South Londonderry on Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. Donations to First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., South Londonderry, VT 05155.

• **Ann Malcolm Kempf, 87**, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on May 12, 2023. She was born to Douglas Malcolm and Frances Foote Malcolm on



March 28, 1936, in Concord, New Hampshire. Ann graduated from Brattleboro Union High School in 1954, where she was fortunate to make many lifelong friends and was very active in the Alumni Association for her class. After her graduation, she moved to Massachusetts, where she lived for over 60 years and made many more friends. She spent many years working as a courier and enjoyed the travel opportunities that provided to herself and her longtime partner, Clayton Cigal. She was known for her generous and charitable ways, including her work with the Crop Walk, annual Pumpkin Weekend and the Our Community Food Pantry. Her family will fondly remember her masterful baking skills, in particular, her one-of-a-kind chocolate chip cookies. Ann is survived by her sons Philip (Barbara) Kempf of Brattleboro and Lawrence Kempf of Cavendish; her sisters, Barbara Hunt of Guilford and Ina (Craig) Cassidy of Rutland and their families; her grandsons Christopher and James (Ali) Kempf. She also leaves behind Clayton (Gail) Cigal Jr, Jeffrey (Michelle) Cigal, Scott Cigal, Marie (Michael) Daniels, and Debra Cigal, and their families. In addition to her many friends, she leaves behind her beloved dog Bella. She was predeceased by her parents; the father of her children, Philip Kempf; and her companion Clayton A. Cigal Sr. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: To honor Ann's wishes, there will be a graveside service at the West Guilford Baptist Church at a later date. Donations in her name can be made to Our Community Food Pantry, 220 College Highway, Southwick MA 01077, or to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302.

• **Judith Ann "Judy" Norcia, 80**, of Brattleboro. Died May 20, 2023 at her home following a period of declining health. Judy was born in Brattleboro on Aug. 16, 1942, the daughter of George and Mary (Parmenter) Kent. She attended St. Michael's Parochial School and was a graduate of St. Michael's High School, Class of 1960. For many years, she had been employed as a bank teller at the former Vermont National Bank, working in the bank's Main Street location. She later worked at the former Upper Crust Bakery in Brattleboro. In her later years, Judy dedicated her time to becoming her elderly mother's primary caregiver. Judy loved music and was an avid Elvis Presley fan. Her life centered around her family and friends and she especially enjoyed holidays, special events, and family get-togethers and reunions. She also loved to go shopping. A woman of faith, she was a lifelong communicant of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. She was especially proud of her Irish heritage. Judy was married to Donald Norcia, who predeceased her in 1981. Survivors include her two children, son Michael and his wife Jennifer of Brattleboro, and her daughter Lisa

MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life service will be held at the First Baptist Church in South Londonderry on Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. Donations to First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Milestones are published as community news at no cost to families, thanks to financial support of our members and advertisers. Send them to news@commonsnews.org. Though we ask that content for this column be sent by Friday at 5 p.m., we will do our best to include late obituaries. Please alert the newsroom at 802-246-6397 for post-deadline urgent submissions. We will always do our best to accommodate contributors in their time of grief.

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■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

Cote and partner David Barnet of Spartanburg, South Carolina; a brother, Brian Kent of Chesterfield, New Hampshire; grandchildren Adam Norcia, Luke Cote, Jake Cote, Mike Norcia, Jr., Mariah Pacheco, Nichole Norcia, and Natalie Norcia; and five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held on May 27 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, followed by committal rites and burial in the Norcia family lot in St. Michael's Parish Cemetery. To send condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.



Dawn Crowning-shield Phillips, 51, of Jamaica. Died April 13, 2023 at Massachusetts General Hospital

in Boston following an extended illness. Dawn was born in North Adams, Massachusetts on Jan. 21, 1972, the daughter of Doreen Morocho and Kris and Ruthann Matyas. She was raised and educated in Jamaica, graduating from Leland & Gray High School, Class of 1990. A devoted homemaker, she lived her life with a main focus on her children, siblings, and extended family. Dawn enjoyed music, socializing, and quality time spent with her family and friends. On Sept. 2, 2001 in Jamaica, she married Christopher Phillips, who survives. Dawn leaves her three children: sons, Zachary and William Cayton, and daughter Vanessa Cayton and her fiancé, Corey Biddulph, all of Jamaica; five brothers, Berry of Townshend, Jacob of Windham, Jonathan of Jamaica, Adam of Newfane, and Kris of Brattleboro; two sisters, Melissa Phillips of Townshend and Jenny Richer of Georgia, Vermont; and a stepsister, Nichole Urban of Lyndonville. Additionally, she is survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was predeceased by a daughter, Beatrice, and a brother, Charlie. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Friends are invited to call at Atamaniuk Funeral Home in Brattleboro on Friday, June 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, June 4 at the Townshend Dam recreation area starting at noon. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To send condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

Rev. Paul M. Thompson, 88, formerly of Brattleboro. Died peacefully at Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, Massachusetts on May 11, 2023, after a short illness. He was Rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro for 24 years. In addition to a very busy ministry, he learned to ski which, for a Southerner, was a challenge having only encountered water skiing. He was also active in the Brattleboro Hockey Association with his son Ian. He graduated from Rhodes College in 1958 and from the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts with an M.Div. in 1962. His early ministry took him to Mississippi in the turbulent 1960s of the Civil Rights Movement and he later served in the Diocese of Washington, in Bowie, Maryland, before coming to Brattleboro. He and his wife loved to travel, highlights being trips to Ireland, especially the Isle of Iona, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and an amazing trip to Egypt including a cruise down the Nile. After retirement, he did supply work at various churches on Cape Cod. He loved time with his family, especially his adored grandchildren and found nurture in gardening, reading, cooking and Celtic studies including a love of everything Scottish. He was Chaplain to Clan MacTavish/Thompson, writing articles on Celtic spirituality for their newsletter. He was active in the Highland Light Scottish Society, and was a member of the Barnstable Yacht Club. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sallie ("Bunny") McClenahan Thompson; his daughter Sallie Thompson; son and daughter-in-law Ian and Ali Thompson; and grandchildren Laurel and Finn. He also leaves his brother and sister-in-law Bob and Rebecca McClenahan; niece and nephew Amanda and Ted, all of Cape Cod, and many cousins and family mostly in the south. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: There will be a celebration of his life on Friday, June 2, at 2 p.m., at St. Andrew's by the Sea in Hyannisport. Donations to St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, St. Andrew's by the Sea, or the Cape Cod Healthcare Foundation/Davenport Mugar Cancer Center in Hyannis.

Services

A celebration of life for **Joseph Paul "Joe" Thompson** will be held on June 5, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the B.P.O. Elks Lodge on Putney Road in Brattleboro. Friends are invited to call at the Atamaniuk Funeral Home on Terrace Street on June 4, from

Accused killer incompetent to stand trial

For now, defendant in Morningside murder is deemed delusional and is in the custody of the Department of Mental Health

By **Ethan Weinstein**
ViDigger.org

BRATTLEBORO—A judge has found Zaaina Asra Zakirrah Mahvish-Jammeh, charged with murdering their social worker at the Morningside House shelter last month, temporarily incompetent to stand trial. The state can request a new competency evaluation, according to an order regarding competency signed by Superior Court Judge Katherine Hayes. A status conference is set for Aug. 9. Mahvish-Jammeh is charged

with first-degree murder, accused of killing Leah Rosin-Pritchard, the social worker and shelter coordinator at the Morningside House shelter at 81 Royal Rd. They pleaded not guilty. Mahvish-Jammeh, 39, allegedly bought a hunting hatchet the weekend before using it to kill Rosin-Pritchard. "The Court finds that the defendant currently suffers from a major mental illness," Hayes wrote in her order, dated May 24. "As a result of that major mental illness, defendant is not presently competent to stand trial."

A psychiatric evaluation from April, compiled by forensic psychologist Ariana Nesbit, found that Mahvish-Jammeh experiences mania and psychosis. The defendant's "delusional beliefs prevent them from being able to assist their attorney in a rational defense strategy," Nesbit wrote in her evaluation. Nesbit drew upon two interviews as well as court documents and medical records to reach her determination. Mahvish-Jammeh described facing persecution from former President Donald Trump, the CIA, and Russian President

Vladimir Putin, according to the evaluation. "Mahvish-Jammeh's delusional beliefs involve the legal system and the courtroom personnel; they do not have an adequate understanding of the proceedings against them," Nesbit wrote. In her May 24 order, Hayes, the superior court judge, wrote that Mahvish-Jammeh is still held without bail but would not be subject to that order so long as they are in the custody of the Department of Mental Health. Mahvish-Jammeh can remain hospitalized and in mental health

custody for a maximum of 90 days under the current order. If Mahvish-Jammeh is discharged from the custody of the Department of Mental Health, "then defendant shall be returned to the custody of the Department of Corrections," Hayes wrote. A hearing must be held before Mahvish-Jammeh is discharged, according to the order. "This criminal docket shall not be dismissed and remains active pending an adjudication on the merits," Hayes wrote.

BCTV, town of Brattleboro win national video awards

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro Community TV (BCTV) and the town of Brattleboro each received a 2023 Hometown Media Award from the Foundation of the Alliance for Community Media. The awards program was established to honor and promote community media, community radio, and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels. BCTV was recognized for "Overall Excellence in Public Education or Government (PEG) Access." The award honors all of the programming of the station, not just one show. BCTV won the national award for coverage of community programming in 2022 in the budget category of \$300,000 or less after submitting a 20-minute montage of videos produced by staff and volunteers. This is the fifth time BCTV has won the overall award. Staff will

attend the awards ceremony on June 28 in Brooklyn, New York. "BCTV is thrilled to be recognized again for the breadth and quality of our local shows, especially as 2022 marked a return to in-person coverage after the challenges of COVID," BCTV Executive Director Cor Trowbridge said in a news release. "The Fire Department Training Feature by Seth Thomas is an excellent example of the power of video to shine a light on municipal employees and all they do for our community." Thomas, the town of Brattleboro's communications coordinator, won a Hometown Media Award in the category of Government Profile for his video, "Brattleboro Fire Department's Training Feature." The video documents training exercises held for new Fire Department personnel, including blindfolded rescue scenarios. It aired over the winter on BCTV and is available on the

town's YouTube channel. For the Overall Excellence Award, BCTV's submission included clips from:

- *Vermontitude*: ("Crime on the Rise")
- *Open Studio* (Bollywood Spotlight Series)
- *Harris Hill Ski Jump*
- *Brattleboro Gallery Walk* (November)
- *Brattleboro Literary Festival* (Ben Shattuck)
- *18th (Almost) Annual A Cappella Concert*
- *The Power of Dignity* producer: Reggie Martell
- *Bandwagon Summer Series* (featuring Mames Bebegeush)
- *Vermont Reads (The Most Costly Journey)*
- *Here We Are* (Melany Kahn, Author) producer: Wendy O'Connell
- *Home Funerals Green Burials* ("Mary Lauren Fraser - Coffin Weaver") producer: Andrika Donovan

Investigation

FROM SECTION FRONT

investigation, to do the investigation[, and] the community wanted the board to remain separate and apart from the investigation," Young said, adding that Hoechst was brought in to "preserve the integrity of the investigation." Since her hiring, the board has communicated with Hoechst, who then communicates with Goddard. Both students and members of the public have repeatedly asked the board for information about the investigation, including factual information about how many people have reported sexual abuse and how many educators have been named in those reports. Young said at the May

meeting that the board has now "determined what information it wants" and that Hoechst has communicated that to Goddard. The chair added that she "can't say" where Goddard is in her process and is waiting for that information from the lawyer so she can report to the board. "We have put out the request for some information that we can share," Young said. The investigation was prompted by an August 2021 essay in *The Commons* by Brattleboro High School alum Mindy Haskins Rogers, who broke the story of a history and culture of alleged sexual abuse in the district.

- NAACP third annual Freedom Fund Dinner
- Guilford Church Christmas Eve Service producer: Austin Rice
- Greenwood School Presents: ("Gettysburg - Learn the Address") producer: Michael Hanish
- Brattleboro Area Middle School Move Up Day
- Windham Southeast School District Board Meeting (Dec. 30, 2022)
- Montpelier Happy Hour ("Abolishing Slavery in Vermont") producer: Olga Peters
- Windham County State Senate Candidates Forum
- Guilford Selectboard Meeting (Sept. 26, 2022)

'Brattleboro Goes Fourth' prepares for town's 50th Independence Day festivities

BRATTLEBORO — "By the People: Brattleboro Goes Fourth" is seeking donors and parade participants as it prepares to celebrate the town's 50th Independence Day event on Tuesday, July 4. The all-volunteer citizens committee will begin the day at 10 a.m. with a parade from Flat Street to Main Street and the Common. The shorter route comes after requests from older marchers and challenges finding enough volunteers and public safety patrols to monitor a longer distance. The local Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, which has kicked off fundraising by contributing enough money to

cover all parade costs, will lead the lineup with its giant American flag. This is the town's only parade now since the Strolling of the Heifers has ended. Perennial participants including bands from the local American Legion and Brattleboro Union High School are set to join veterans, civic and youth groups and personality Alfred Hughes Jr., who will cap the event by debuting his annual top-secret ensemble. After the parade, the town Recreation & Parks Department will offer a series of public concerts, sporting events and family activities at Living Memorial Park — just off Western Avenue and Interstate 91 Exit 2 — throughout

the afternoon and evening until the start of fireworks (by Northstar, a Vermont-owned company) at 9:30 p.m. All July 4 programs are free thanks to citizen, civic, and corporate donations. People can mail contributions to "Brattleboro Goes Fourth," P.O. Box 1112, Brattleboro, VT 05302. Those seeking a free application to join the march can email brattleborogoesfourth@gmail.com before June 21. Those seeking general information can email or log on to the Brattleboro Goes Fourth Facebook page (brattleborogoesfourth@gmail.com).

Free foot care available in Putney

PUTNEY — Foot care clinics at Putney Community Cares are free through fall 2023. To take advantage of this opportunity, would-be attendees need to register for an appointment by contacting registered nurse Beverly Sinclair, who provides these clinics. The foot care clinics typically occur on the last Thursday of each month, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., though the schedule may change depending on the nurse's availability. Upcoming dates are June 22, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, and Oct. 26. Sinclair can care for feet of people with diabetes, but for those with issues beyond the scope of this clinic, such as ingrown toenails, infections, and foot ulcers, the R.N. can provide a free assessment and refer you to a podiatrist for care.

Each foot care session consists of knee-to-toe assessments of skin, circulation, and feet, an anti-bacterial foot soak, toenails trimmed and filed smooth, calluses reduced, an exfoliating foot scrub and therapeutic foot massage, and appropriate foot care techniques to meet your individual needs. Pre-registration is required. Contact Beverly Sinclair at bev@sinclair-chiro.com or 802-449-7385. This funding has been made possible through congressional funding secured by the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers (VASCAMP). Because Putney Community Cares is a VASCAMP member, it is able to take advantage of this funding for free foot care clinics.

2 to 4 p.m. Mr. Thompson, 63, of Black Mountain Road, died April 29, 2023, following an eight-month battle with pancreatic cancer. To view his full obituary, visit atamaniuk.com.

Graveside committal services for **Edward L. DeCell** will be conducted in the family lot in Maple Grove Cemetery in Weston on Saturday, June 10, at 11:30 a.m. A celebration of life will follow the service to be held at the Rod & Gun Club in Weston. Please bring a dish to share. Mr. DeCell, 91, died Jan. 19, 2023. To view his full obituary, visit atamaniuk.com.

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ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

The Miss Bellows Falls Diner, closed for more than two years, awaits a second life as a local nonprofit plans a thorough restoration of the historic eatery.

Diner

FROM SECTION FRONT

The project came under the auspices of Rockingham for Progress, established in 2016 during a controversial short-lived proposal by Keith Clark, then the sheriff of Windham County, to establish a detention center in the former Chemco building at 203 Papermill Rd.

The group, dormant since the detention facility's demise, "formed to promote progressive economic development, an appreciation of the historic value and natural beauty of our town, and the general enlivening of citizen participation in our local democratic processes," according to a letter posted on its website (rockinghamforprogress.org).

Hunter, a board member, referred to Dunbar, now Rockingham for Progress's vice president, as the catalyst who got this project moving.

"I was a catalyst," he agreed, "but Charlie Hunter was the engine that got it done."

Bonnie North, the organization's president, and Susan MacNeil helped with grant writing and much more. Rockingham For Progress began the process of getting funding for buying and completely restoring the diner.

Hunter said that using the nonprofit organization is key to restoring the diner, as it makes the project eligible for grants it would not otherwise qualify for. He noted that the cost of a full restoration will probably exceed \$500,000, "more money to renovate than the diner could make."

"When a nonprofit purchases the property," Hunter said, "it really unlocks grant money. The nonprofit oversees the renovation and restoration, then leases the diner out to an operator. It gives the diner and the operator a fresh start without debt."

Rockingham for Progress will apply for more funding and oversee the full, professional restoration of the diner. Once that is

done, getting the structure leased to an operator, staffed and open, back on the tax rolls, and resuming its historic place as a community meeting center will happen quickly, they believe.

"We want to get the Miss Bellows Falls Diner all set for its next 80 years," Hunter said.

Grant funding

The nonprofit initially applied for and received a \$100,000 grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The grant is enough to purchase the diner and get the project moving ahead.

"More money needs to be raised," MacNeil said. "Some seed money has been raised, enough so that we have a foothold to make the project real. Other grants will be sought going ahead."

MacNeil said that the group received a \$100,000 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant from the Preservation Trust, which applies directly to restoring the original diner space, is especially poignant.

General stores were becoming endangered because of the pressures and expenses involved with owning old Vermont buildings. Bruhn, the Preservation Trust's founder and longtime executive director, pioneered a model of preserving Vermont's general stores and other iconic community gathering places and keeping them viable and sustainable.

The model calls for the nonprofits to seek tenants — who own and operate the businesses — to lease the spaces, lowering overhead for civic-minded entrepreneurs.

MacNeil said Bruhn, who died unexpectedly in 2019, was intimately involved in some of Bellows Falls' earliest historic preservation projects over the last few decades — in particular, the Exner Block.

"The Exner Block was the first

Amidons

cross-country tour with Peter and Elka Schumann's Bread & Puppet Theater in collaboration with Larry Gordon's Word of Mouth Chorus, performing a puppet show that was set to the Josquin Mass, *Ave Maris Stella*.

"We were doing a show in Ann Arbor when Tony Barrand and John Roberts were in town performing," Peter said. "Our shows were at the same time. Tony visited Mary Alice and me after our show."

The Amidons said they were looking to move but were unsure where. Barrand nominated Brattleboro, "because there is so much great music there."

By 1978, the year the Amidons married, "We put everything in our car and came to Brattleboro," Mary Alice said.

"Days after Mary Alice and I first moved to Brattleboro," Peter said, "we went to a shape note sing at Tony Barrand's house in Marlboro, where we met many of the people who became our first group of friends."

The group held Sacred Harp sings at each other's houses "and did as much chatting as singing, as our young children ran in and out and played around our feet," Peter said.

"When Tony stopped organizing and leading sings in 1980, I picked them up," said Peter, who continued to do so until 2010.

Their focus and their passion

To support themselves in their new hometown, at first the Amidons took what jobs they could. Mary Alice worked at the Brattleboro Food Co-op for four years, and Peter worked in a print shop.

But studying and creating traditional music and dance — and sharing it with others — continued to be their focus and their passion.

As time passed, the Amidons became music teachers in local elementary schools, where they were able to share the traditional songs, games, stories, and dances they had learned. They started a weekly all-school community sing.

Before too long, they were giving summer library programs and teacher workshops, and they were leading residencies in traditional dance, music, and storytelling.

Music to heal

The Amidons reached out to the community through music after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Susan Dedell, who was music director at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro, joined Peter to lead singing at a public gathering at Centre Congregational Church on the

evening of Sept. 11.

"After that, I was asked to gather a choir for a Sept. 11th commemoration the following Sunday at the Brattleboro Common," Peter recalled. "A chorus of 300 singers sang *This Is My Song*, based on *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius, for the hundreds more attending the commemoration."

The Amidons were also part of the initial group that became the Hollowell Singers, trained volunteers affiliated with Brattleboro Area Hospice, who, as stated on their website, "practice the therapeutic art of singing for the dying."

First explaining that Fred Breunig has given him permission to tell this story, Peter recounted the genesis of Hollowell.

"In 2003, when Fred's wife Dinah was dying of cancer, the Rev. Lise Sparrow asked me to gather some singers," Peter said. "I called a group of people who knew each other from Morris dancing, Sacred Harp singing, and the Guilford Community Church choir to gather to sing for Dinah."

Forty people showed up and sang with Dinah Breunig for 40 minutes.

"The second time we gathered, Dinah was very close to dying, almost in a coma," Peter said. "But as we sang, her lips were moving."

From that experience, Kathy Leo, who had been Dinah's hospice volunteer, formed the Hollowell Singers. She asked Peter Amidon and Mary Cay Brass to serve as music directors of the group. They still are today.

In 2011, Peter gathered a group of about 50 singers to lead Brattleboro's Fourth of July parade.

"I chose songs that would work for a parade," he said. "We sang the South African song *Siyahamba*, Faya Rose Touré's gospel song *I'm Gonna Lift My Sister Up*, and a couple of other songs."

Four decades of music

For more than 40 years, the Amidons have immersed themselves in the musical tradition that they love and that they love to share with children and adults.

As one can learn on their website (amidonmusic.com), they did three tours in the late 1970s with Larry Gordon's Word of Mouth Chorus, "singing Sacred Harp and Balkan Village songs, and vocal music from the Renaissance."

Folk music legend Pete Seeger "hired the Amidons to create and run a new participatory group singing stage at his

Clearwater Festival from 1991 to 1993."

By the 1990s, the Amidons were spending summers at Pinewoods Camp, run by the Country Dance and Song Society, and at Jay Ungar's Ashokan Northern Week, where they have been regular leaders of choral singing.

"This year, though, we're attending Pinewoods as campers, with our grandchildren," Peter said.

The Amidons are proud parents of two sons, both musicians: Sam, who lives in England, and Stefan, who lives in Brattleboro. The boys first performed with their parents at the ages of 7 and 4, respectively, at a teachers' conference.

"When Stefan was 12 and Sam was 15, we took the boys out of school for the year and toured the United States, England, and Ireland as a family band, giving concerts in four-part harmony, and leading contradances," Peter said. "We've been in every state except Louisiana and North Dakota."

"The boys learned you can live by touring," Mary Alice said, "and that's what they do now."

A spiritual home

When their second son, Stefan, was born in 1984, Peter and Mary Alice decided they needed a church to attend.

"We 'church-hopped,' trying out some of the churches," Peter said. "When we went to Guilford Community Church, where Shirley Crockett was pastor, we both felt swept up by the spirit in the church; we were both in tears by the end of the service."

He described Crockett as "deeply spiritual."

"She spoke from the heart in plain, accessible language," he

FROM SECTION FRONT

said. "The congregation, diverse and multi-generational, was very welcoming to us."

Crockett retired from the Guilford Community Church in 1997, as did her husband, Larry Crockett, assistant minister and choir director. Tony Barrand, Andy Davis, and Peter Amidon took over as choir directors.

"All three of us often did our own arrangements of songs for the choir," Peter said. "Most of Mary Alice's and my choral arrangements that are now sung here, there, and everywhere, were first written for the Guilford Community Church '9 O'clock Choir.'"

According to their website, "the Amidons have sold over a thousand copies of each of their two book collections of their choral pieces, *Fifty-Five Anthems for the Small Church Choir* and *Twenty-Five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs*. Their online choral sheet music download library/store includes over 100 of their choral arrangements."

"We have sales every day," Peter said.

Although Peter and Mary Alice have retired from school assembly programs, residencies, and workshops, they are still actively involved in choral singing, arranging, and publishing, as well as with both the Guilford Church choir and the Hollowell Singers.

Mary Alice Amidon and Peter Amidon, Mary Cay Brass, and Andy Davis, known as the New England Dancing Masters, the group they formed in 1991, are the recipients of the 2023 Country Dance and Song Society's Lifetime Achievement Award "for the past four decades they have spread the joy of traditional music and dance across North America."

COURTESY PHOTO
Mary Alice and Peter Amidon, as they appeared in concert in 1980.

time here that we took a building in disrepair and turned it into something useful for the community for decades to come," MacNeil said.

"Bringing the diner back to its former glory is a way of honoring Paul Bruhn and a wonderful legacy to him and how much he did for this community," she said.

"And it keeps the historic nature of the village intact."

Restoring the diner

In the early 1940s, when the diner was brought to town, it replaced a smaller diner that sat on the same spot. In 1983, after 40 years of operation, it became the second diner named to the National Register by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

From that milestone, the diner operated more or less continuously until 2020, when the Covid pandemic put a hold on indoor dining, and it closed.

During its 80 year history, the diner saw limited changes, but also only limited maintenance — a combination that has both good and bad consequences for the restoration project.

The good side is that the barrel-roofed diner is virtually unchanged inside and out from how it looked 80 years ago when built by the Worcester Lunch Car Company in Massachusetts. It retains the original porcelain enamel exterior façade, complete with the Miss Bellows Falls name painted on the side, along with promotion of "Booth Service" — an upgrade over the diner it replaced, which had only counter service.

It seems likely that the diner was originally built for another town, as part of a painted sign

saying "Frank and Johnnie's" can still be seen on the diner's back exterior. It never became Frank and Johnnie's, but was brought to Bellows Falls instead. The new name "Miss Bellows Falls" was simply painted on the opposite side and the diner was turned so that side faced the street.

Inside are the original oak ceiling, oak trim, and oak booths, seating four customers per booth. The original Formica counter and table tops are still there. Nearly all of the original counter stools are also still in operation. Together, the booths and counter can seat 32.

But 80 years has taken a toll. The original diner was several feet narrower, so the original basement and foundation are only under part of the diner now. Most of the additions to its sides and rear aren't set on proper foundations but rather on the ground.

Putting the diner on the old diner's foundation also meant that the building's front wall was moved several feet closer to the street. A narrow sidewalk is all that separates the front of the building from Bellows Falls' busy Rockingham Street and winter snowplows. Eighty winters have taken a toll, and the front wall is showing a bulge.

Dunbar said that a project manager for the diner restoration

will come on board in July.

The first order of business, he said, will be "to peel off everything not original and start from there."

"There are some parts of the structure that don't have a foundation," Dunbar said. "Right now, we're trying to figure out what's possible, what's affordable, and what's the best way to do it."

Importance to the community

Everyone who discussed this project emphasized the thought that the diner holds an importance to the Bellows Falls community greater than its 32 seats would indicate.

"Lots of families going back four generations have memories there," said Dunbar. "It's so authentic."

He said he felt that there was a "good energy" in Bellows Falls, with lots of little projects — and a few not-so-little ones — "starting to snowball." Getting the diner restored and operating is a priority, Dunbar said.

Hunter said that the project would be working with architects "to make sure this is as economically sustainable as possible. The goal of this project is to have a functioning diner at the center of this community, just as it historically has been."

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A POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE

Charles Norris-Brown exhibit celebrates an artist's wide-ranging life and work

"If my life has had a purpose... a common ground was to link the lives of everyday people with the challenges of environmental sustainability. The people taught me humility... It is a wisdom that reminds us to listen with our heart to the words of the world; know that art can be both a path into beauty as much as one into inquiry; know that science can lead to truth."

—CHARLES NORRIS-BROWN

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—An artist, writer, and anthropologist, Charles Norris-Brown died unexpectedly last October. Highly regarded on the Bellows Falls arts scene, he is remembered well in an exhibit at Bellows Falls' Canal Street Art Gallery (CSAG) through June 10. "Charles W. Norris-Brown: Distant Thunder

Studio" presents original work from the late artist's unfinished graphic novel *Thunder Basin* within a recreation of his studio at CSAG.

Viewing finished illustrations, studies, storyboards, and writings, visitors, according to CSAG's website, are welcome to explore Norris-Brown's notebooks, plein-air studies, sketchbooks, brushes, and palettes.

The exhibit will offer art supplies and a space to create for those "inspired [to] write, draw, and paint with watercolor or ink, [and] to make their own artwork and writing about *Thunder Basin*."

In the book, "a girl loses her beloved cell phone in the forest. Trickster Coyote picks it up and runs away with it, leading her to explore the forest, and ultimately, herself. This quest unfolds in the Thunder Basin along the west flank of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont."

Asking questions

Norris-Brown was born in 1946 in Warren, Pennsylvania. With a doctorate in social anthropology and sociology from Lund University in Sweden, Norris-Brown did post-doctoral work as a University of Massachusetts at Amherst research associate in India, Borneo, Appalachia, and Canada where his focus was "on people of the forests and on their place in the health of the ecosystem."

Having moved in 2016 to Bellows Falls from Burlington, Norris-Brown's academic path saw him as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Vermont and, previously, at the University of Pittsburgh. Developing as an artist since his youth, Norris-Brown merged those talents with a quest for an ever-deeper understanding of human form, function, and vulnerability as his art eclipsed his academic life.



COURTESY PHOTO

Charles Norris-Brown

■ SEE NORRIS-BROWN SHOW, B6



Performing at the inaugural Field Day in Guilford will be **Top Love** (top), **Lady Lamb** (above left), **Sunflower Bean** (above right), and **Inner Wave** (left).

Field Day, this weekend in Guilford, will showcase a thriving, young indie rock scene from Northampton to Brattleboro to Burlington

Taking pride

Multiple events in June celebrate the area's LGBTQ+ people and their connection to Bellows Falls, past and present

BELLOWS FALLS—Throughout June, Bellows Falls will once more become a destination for the LGBTQ+ community in New England and beyond for a number of events commemorating Pride Month in June. Susan MacNeil, a member of the committee organizing the celebration, says that the local events are designed to echo the days of the historic Andrews Inn, which was in business from 1973 to 1984. "Located in the downtown Windham Hotel building, the gay community sought out the town as a place of safety and security," MacNeil says.

Community members have documented the era and the importance of the establishment to the LGBTQ+ community as part of the Andrews Inn Oral History Project (weareoutintheopen.org/aiohp).

The Andrews Inn had 56 rooms to rent, a bar, jukebox disco, and coffee shop. It was owned by the Moisis family, whose son, John, had the initial vision of making the inn a place to serve the gay community. That decision would save the family business.

Patrons from larger urban areas, such as New York City, Boston, and Montreal, would travel by train to the only LGBTQ+-friendly destination in the state for a weekend of dancing and house parties.

In 1979, the village was described in *Blueboy*, a magazine for gay men, as a "cultural cross between Mayberry and Fire Island" in a feature promoting Bellows Falls as a sanctuary of sorts for LGBTQ+ people in a community created around the inn.

On June 21 at 5 p.m., a historic marker documenting the importance of the Andrews Inn to the LGBTQ+ community will be moved from "its current

obscure location to a more prominent public space for the whole community to share," the event website says. The marker will be officially recognized this fall.

This year's activities will include something for everyone throughout June, MacNeil says.

- Opening reception for the Andrews Inn photo exhibit, "The Cultural Cross Between Mayberry and Fire Island," at the Exner Block Gallery, Canal Street, Bellows Falls, on Thursday, June 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. The show runs from Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11, from noon to 5 p.m.

- Classic Film Wednesdays feature LGBTQ+ themed films at the historic Bellows Falls Opera House.

- Merchants will participate with special window displays, giveaways, and extended evening hours on Wednesdays.

- Visitors can enjoy artisanal Pride Pizza in rainbow colors and Rainbow Cold Brew at Rockingham Roasters from 5 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday and gather at Wunderbar for dinner, drinks, and discussion.

- The Field Center will hold a Queer T-Dance on Saturday, June 17.

- Pat Dadonna, a lesbian folk singer-songwriter and finger-style guitarist who builds on the influences of Janis Ian, Tracy Chapman, Joan Baez, and Cat Stevens, will celebrate the release of her album *Roads*. The performance takes place at Stage 33, 33 Bridge St. at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 18.

- Wade the Great will DJ at "Love Will Keep Us Together," a free community dance on Friday, June 30 at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St.

- Commemorative postcards and buttons will be available at Windham Antiques.

Of special note is the Pride ■ SEE BELLOWS FALLS PRIDE, B6

NEW FESTIVAL celebrates brilliant music

By Victoria Chertok
The Commons

GUILFORD—Southern Vermont's thriving music scene is getting a lot of attention these days.

Brattleboro has attracted a lot of media attention as a top small town in the United States, most recently as the winner of the 2023 Strongest Town Contest.

Strong Town, the nonprofit that runs the annual competition, cited Brattleboro as having "a strong

community for the arts and culture" — a reputation that continues to build as the town attracts national, regional, and local bands that perform here regularly.

"Brattleboro very much feels at the epicenter of this flourishing and explosive rise in the music scene. Of course, Brattleboro has long been a really healthy incubator for eclectic and innovative music and musicians," says Erin Scaggs, programming and outreach director at the Stone Church.

"Right now it feels as though we've reached a sort of critical mass in terms

of momentum," she continued. "These bands are out there, pounding the pavement and touring hard, creating brilliant music."

Scaggs said that organizers thought a festival "would be the perfect way to showcase and celebrate all of that work and talent."

That festival is Field Day, which she called "a uniquely Vermont made music festival," co-presented by The Stone Church and Urgent Message Music. It will feature 14 bands on three stages this

■ SEE FIELD DAY, B6

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY	THURSDAY CONT.	FRIDAY CONT.	SATURDAY CONT.	SUNDAY CONT.	
1	<p>BRATTLEBORO Southeastern VT/Southwestern NH Regional Solar Car Sprint: Competition/race for middle school students who have been building model solar cars for the past few weeks in their science/tech classes. Hosted by Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, there will be six middle schools from the region participating for a total of 42 cars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 9 a.m. - approx. 1 p.m. on the tennis courts. ► Free. ► Living Memorial Park, Guilford St. Ext. Information: Questions: Belle Coles, 802-257-5785, Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, BEEC.org. <hr/> <p>Pets</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Windham County Humane Society Raffle: One lucky winner will take home a check for 50% of the Rescue Raffle Pot and the other 50% will go directly toward helping homeless pets in our community. Our hopes are that the pot will reach \$20,000 or more, but we need your help to get there. Please forward this email and share on social media to help spread the word and get friends, family, and rescue-loving strangers in on the fun. Bookmark our website event page to watch the Raffle Pot total grow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► When you purchase tickets online, you will receive an email within 3 business days containing your lucky ticket numbers and serving as proof of purchase (not actual tickets). Participants must be 18 or older and available to pick up prize in person at WCHS in Brattleboro. ► Through Monday, June 19. ► Windham County Humane Society, 916 West River Rd. Information: windhamcountyhumane.org/events/raffle. <hr/> <p>Visual arts and shows</p> <p>PUTNEY Putney Public Library Exhibits Mist, Oil Paintings and Encaustics: Salvatore's paintings reflect her love of the natural world around her, especially her deep love of VT. On her walks she focuses on light and patterns in the earth. She's fascinated by mist and fog - how they obscure one's vision only to later reveal another aspect of the view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Monday-Friday: 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. ► Through Saturday, August 26. ► Free. ► Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-387-4407; putneylibrary.org/events. 	<p>Jazz. Her six-piece band is led by ace guitarist Rez Abbasi whose accolades include the Guggenheim Fellowship and frequent appearances on the Top Ten Guitarists of Downbeat's International Critics Poll.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 6 p.m. ► \$20 in advance, \$25 at gate, free for children under age 12. Show is included in the Bandwagon Series Pass. ► Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Rd. Information: 802-387-5517; putneyinn.com. <p>BRATTLEBORO Youth Rock Festival BRATTROCK Plays Outdoors during Gallery Walk: Dynamic line-up of four youth bands, with music appropriate for all ages. The bands are: Color Killer, Ezra Holloway, Stringhead, and Third Floor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 6 p.m. Each performance runs about 30 minutes - sponsored by Guilford Sound & Chroma Technology. Suitable for all ages. BRATTROCK raises funds for Youth Services with a mission of providing places for youth to gather and a venue for musically-minded youth from VT and the surrounding region to connect, learn, perform, inspire, be inspired. ► Free. ► Harmony Parking Lot. <hr/> <p>Visual arts and shows</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Gallery Walk: Gallery in the Woods presents William Hays work: View William Hays' meticulous and richly colorful works - linocut and woodblock prints - during all of June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 5-8 p.m. during Gallery Walk (6/2) and throughout June. ► Through Friday, June 30. ► Free. ► Gallery in the Woods, 145 Main St. Information: 802-257-4777; galleryinthewoods.com. 	<p>► Guilford Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd. off Weatherhead Hollow Rd. Information: Tickets: fielddayvt.com or fielddayvt.com.</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Women's Chorus Spring Concert "Sweet are the Days" (In-Person/Zoom): Directed by founder/musical director Becky Graber, concert features eclectic program of soulful songs: compositions by singer/songwriter Velma Frye and Susan Kisslinger, plus a beautiful rendition of John Lennon/Paul McCartney's "In My Life." Karen Hesse and Graber created "Granny and Bean," a tale of an adventurous day by the sea. Chorus sings opening of "Let Time Be Your Friend," composed by Diane White-Clayton as part of the Black Lives Matter Commissioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 4 p.m. Outdoors. The Chorus is thrilled to be joined this spring by pianist Cathy Martin, who plays with the Vermont Jazz Center sextet and is a regular accompanist for local theater and other choral groups in the area. Bring your own chairs and blankets. In the event of rain, Sunday's concert will be held at the Brattleboro Music Center and also be livestreamed. ► Through Sunday, June 4. ► In-person and live stream tickets sold on sliding scale: \$15-\$25 per person. ► Retreat Farm, 45 Farmhouse Sq. Information: Tickets: Purchased at event or online at brattleborowomenschorus.org. <hr/> <p>Well-being</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Zen Center (In-Person or wherever you are): One way to engage with the ecological crisis: This group chants briefly and then sits in silence for a half hour. All are welcome to join this peaceful action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 1-1:35 p.m. on Saturdays. ► Free. ► Wells Fountain, south side Windham County District Courthouse, Jct. Putney Rd. & Main St. (Rte 30). 	<p>of the plants are explained. Questions/comments welcome throughout the presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 1 p.m. Handouts with a list of edible perennial plant species, resources for further study, recommended plant nurseries are distributed at conclusion of program. ► Free. ► Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: Questions: programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, 802) 463-4270. 	
4	<p>BRATTLEBORO Thorn in My Side - Hooker Dunham Theater's Original Game Show: Each month, three contestants compete in bizarre challenges that fit that month's theme. All of these award-winning episodes are filmed for BCTV. Recently named Brattleboro Community Television's 2022 'Series of the Year,' Thorn in My Side is written by Ben Stockman, James Gelter, Jesse Tidd, and Shannon Ward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 8 p.m. Third Thursday of every month. This show is aimed for adult audiences and was recently named Brattleboro Community Television's 2022 "Series of the Year." ► By donation. All proceeds from this episode will be donated to Groundworks Collaborative in honor of Leah Rosin-Pritchard. ► Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. See past episodes: www.brattleborotv.org/thorn-my-side 802-281-3232; hookerdunham.org. <p>BRATTLEBORO Teen Writing Games: Are you someone who is interested in writing and/or games? We'll be making black-out poetry, rolling story-cubes, playing exquisite corpse, and other fun, writing-related games. Pizza and snacks provided. "Teens Only" events are open to people in grades 7-12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 7-9 p.m. Teen Room on 2nd fl. Hosted by the Teen Library Board. ► Free. ► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: Questions: 1cummia@wsesvt.org. 	<p>Visual arts and shows</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Gallery Walk: Gallery in the Woods presents William Hays work: View William Hays' meticulous and richly colorful works - linocut and woodblock prints - during all of June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 5-8 p.m. during Gallery Walk (6/2) and throughout June. ► Through Friday, June 30. ► Free. ► Gallery in the Woods, 145 Main St. Information: 802-257-4777; galleryinthewoods.com. 	<p>BRATTLEBORO Chamber Series: ESPRESSIVO! Morpheus for Viola and Piano by Rebecca Clarke. Piano Quartet op. 15 in c minor by Faure. Piano Quartet op. 26 in A Major by Brahms. Jaime Laredo, violin. Milena Pajaro von de Stadt, viola. Sharon Robinson, cello. Anna Polonsky, piano.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 7 p.m. For decades, violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson, together with their piano trio partner the late Joseph Kalichstein, were considered "chamber music royalty" (Washington Post) - a term that applies equally to their ESPRESSIVO! partners - stellar violist Milena Pajaro-von de Stadt (formerly of the Dover Quartet) and award-winning pianist Anna Polonsky, one of chamber music's most sought-after partners. ► \$30 general admission. ► Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Information: 802-257-4523; bmcvt.org. <p>PUTNEY Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present John Gorka plus Lizzy Mandell and Barry Stockwell (In-Person/Virtual): John Gorka is a contemporary folk singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Lizzy Mandell and Barry Stockwell are a folk duo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 7 p.m. Next Stage provides a cash bar. ► \$25 in advance, \$28 at door, \$10 virtual. ► Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Tickets/info: 802-387-0102, nextstagearts.org. 	<p>Music</p> <p>BRATTLEBORO Chamber Series: ESPRESSIVO! Morpheus for Viola and Piano by Rebecca Clarke. Piano Quartet op. 15 in c minor by Faure. Piano Quartet op. 26 in A Major by Brahms. Jaime Laredo, violin. Milena Pajaro von de Stadt, viola. Sharon Robinson, cello. Anna Polonsky, piano.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 7 p.m. For decades, violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson, together with their piano trio partner the late Joseph Kalichstein, were considered "chamber music royalty" (Washington Post) - a term that applies equally to their ESPRESSIVO! partners - stellar violist Milena Pajaro-von de Stadt (formerly of the Dover Quartet) and award-winning pianist Anna Polonsky, one of chamber music's most sought-after partners. ► \$30 general admission. ► Brattleboro Music Center, 72 Blanche Moysse Way. Information: 802-257-4523; bmcvt.org. <p>PUTNEY Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present John Gorka plus Lizzy Mandell and Barry Stockwell (In-Person/Virtual): John Gorka is a contemporary folk singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Lizzy Mandell and Barry Stockwell are a folk duo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► 7 p.m. Next Stage provides a cash bar. ► \$25 in advance, \$28 at door, \$10 virtual. ► Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Tickets/info: 802-387-0102, nextstagearts.org. 	
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Brattleboro
Recreation & Parks

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Registration begins March 27th!

Register online at rebrand.ly/bratt-rec/summercamp

Register in person at the Gibson Aiken Center
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Monday - Friday: 9am - Noon • 1pm - 4:30pm
802-254-5808

Music

BRATTLEBORO Lunchtime Pipe Organ Series: Gigi Mitchell-Velasco:

Organist, flutist, choral conductor with critically acclaimed career as an international concert and opera singer, Gigi Mitchell-Velasco brings a unique wealth of talent, knowledge, experience to her multiple overlapping careers in music. Toccata in Seven - Johann Sebastian Bach; Adagio, Organ Symphony No. 3, Op. 28 - Louis Vierne, Suite No. 1 for Organ - Florence Price; Fantasy, Fughetta, Air.

- 12 noon - 1 p.m.
- Free.
- Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Information: RSVP: tinyurl.com/jyc4accjw.

Community building

VERNON Vernon Community Market:

This new Market features J&B's Curbside Cafe, handmade crafts, farm produce, baked goods, flowers, and more.

- 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. outdoors. Open every other Wednesday through Oct. 4.
- Vernon Community Market, Vernon Recreation Area, 607 Pond Rd. Information: 802-254-9251, VernonVTCommunityMarket@gmail.com.

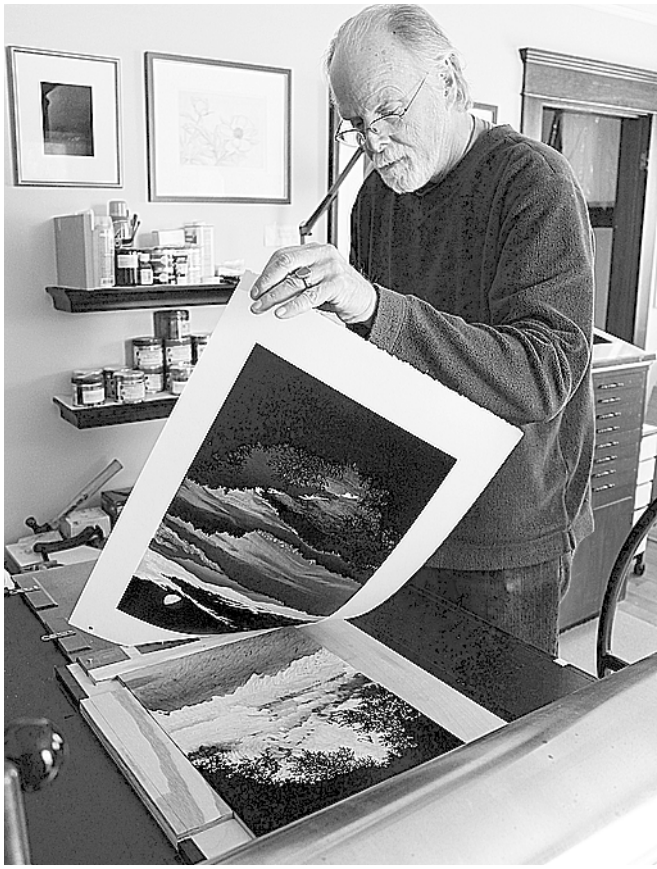
To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

•

Visit commonsnews.org

for more listings with more details



COURTESY PHOTO

William Hays pulls a woodcut print in his Turners Falls, Massachusetts studio. He will be attending the opening reception for his prints at Gallery In The Woods in Brattleboro during Gallery Walk on June 2.

William Hays is featured artist at Gallery in the Woods

BRATTLEBORO—Gallery in the Woods, 145 Main St., will host an ongoing exhibit of linocut and woodblock prints by William H. Hays. His work will be featured during the month of June, with an opening reception on Friday, June 2, from 5 to 8 p.m., during Gallery Walk.

Hays has been an artist since 1971 when he began working in watercolors and in oils, notes a news release. He was a painter throughout his life until his late wife bought him a gift of the simple materials for linocut printmaking. He taught himself this technically challenging technique for reduction printing.

By 2012, Hays had shifted his focus to linocut and woodcut printmaking.

According to the artist's website, he says he often works "more from memory or an impression than from a particular place. The compositions are the framework on which I hang a sequence of layered colors in rhythmic patterns to create a mood and a harmonious image."

Hays lived on Main Street for 25 years, where he had a gallery adjacent to his studio for exhibiting his work. He now resides in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. His limited hand-inked original prints are in many private, permanent collections and galleries throughout the United States and internationally.

More information can be found at galleryinthewoods.com.

A community tied together

NECCA workshop will bring rope artists to town — not for a performance but as an opportunity for coaches and pros to develop and commune over a shared passion

By Alyssa Grosso
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—The New England Center for Circus Arts is holding a ropes workshop that builds not only strength but relationships within the circus arts school's community.

As described on its website (necenterforcircusarts.org), the workshop, Rope Meeting, is a "creative space for rope artists from all over the world to meet, share, connect, learn, and reflect."

NECCA will "provide the space and the community and you bring your excitement and skills you want to practice and the fun builds from there in an open training format."

New England Center for Circus Arts Co-founder Elsie Smith has been facilitating this workshop since it started in 2019 and has been practicing and teaching circus arts for 30 years.

"My twin sister [Serenity Smith Forchion] and I moved to Brattleboro to join our family here after we'd been on tour with the circus for many years, and we started the New England Center for Circus Arts," Smith said. "In that program, we started a professional training program."

Smith said that Erika Radcliffe and Molly Graves, graduates of the professional training program,

ended up in Barcelona, where they were introduced to a rope meeting there.

"They were so excited about the idea of 70 to 100 people getting together in a room with this one shared passion within the circus arts — and the social, as well as physical, part of it — that they brought the idea back to me," Smith said.

Learning the ropes

The Rope Meeting will run over four days, June 8–11.

NECCA Coach Cody Hayman is the lead support person for the workshop, along with three other instructors who will be assisting throughout the day.

Seventy people will participate this year, and they will come from all over the U.S., Canada and farther afield as well.

"The feeling of 70 people in a room together sharing something they're passionate about, especially after the pandemic, is really wonderful," Smith said.

"You can't do the sport and the athleticism without being present," Smith said. "And practicing and trying and getting a bunch of people together who can support and encourage, teach, inspire, and make you laugh while you're working really hard is, I think, a really special thing in this time."

Smith said that her staff loves "the opportunity to take your coach hat off," entering a space

that dispenses with hierarchies and where "you're not in charge of all of the things, [and] you can participate in, join in, and really be with equals and with peers."

The workshop requires a minimum skill level: "For self-assessed intermediate, advanced, and professional-level circus artists with a regular rope practice."

"To support a creatively safe environment, there will be no auditing or public viewing," the website says.

"The people who are joining us are people who are going to have had some instruction in some physical capacity and people who can trust themselves to stay safe in the air and if you meet those basics, you can get a lot out of it," Smith said.

Other circus arts genres are in the offing based on the success of the Rope Meeting. Smith said that NECCA will be launching a similar fabric arts meeting in July.

"We hope to continue to expand those in other areas as well," she said.

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YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R	FRI. / MON.-THU. 4 & 7 SAT. & SUN. 2:10 & 7

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BMC Chamber Series presents ESPRESSIVO!

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center (BMC) Chamber Series features the new quartet *Espressivo!* Friday, June 2, at 7 p.m., at the BMC.

This group of four artists — violinist Jaime Laredo, cellist Sharon Robinson, violist Milena Pájaro-von de Stadt, and pianist Anna Polonsky — known for their expressive playing, thought *Espressivo!* seemed the perfect name for their collaboration of piano and strings.

For decades, Laredo and Robinson, with their piano trio partner, the late Joseph Kalichstein, were considered "chamber music royalty" (*The*

Washington Post), a term that applies equally to their *Espressivo!* Partners: Pájaro-von de Stadt, is formerly of the Dover Quartet, and Polonsky, who, according to the ensemble's website, is "widely in demand as a soloist and chamber musician."

For this concert, *Espressivo!* has chosen "Morpheus" for viola and piano by Rebecca Clarke, Piano Quartet in C minor, Op. 15 by Fauré, and Piano Quartet in A major by Brahms.

Tickets are \$30 general admission. For more information, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523, info@bmcvt.org or bmcvt.org.

Vital Partnerships, BMAC present Pride Prom during Gallery Walk on June 2

BRATTLEBORO—In collaboration with Vital Partnerships and Out in the Open, Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) is hosting a free dance party at the museum during Gallery Walk, on Friday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The party will feature a DJ, photo booth, balloons, refreshments, and a make-your-own-boutonniere station with Pride ribbons.

The event, open to all ages, will offer a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and others to celebrate Pride month and prom season. The event is free, and no registration is required. Optional donations to Out in the Open will be welcomed at the door.

Out in the Open is a nonprofit that connects rural LGBTQ+

people to build community, visibility, knowledge, and power. The organization is a multiracial social justice movement based in Wabanaki Territory in Windham County, Vermont, and Waldo County, Maine.

Out in the Open says it "envisions resilient communities that work toward the transformation of economic, social, and political relationships. The organization strives to make rural places more welcoming to people of all genders, identities, and orientations, to celebrate and support people who are making radical change, to build solidarity through collaboration, to be anti-racist, and to embrace joy and empowerment."

For more information, call 802-257-0124 or visit brattleboromuseum.org.

Next Stage presents John Gorka, plus folk duo Lizzy Mandell and Barry Stockwell

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present contemporary folk singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist John Gorka, plus folk duo Lizzy Mandell and Barry Stockwell, at Next Stage on Sunday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at 15 Kimball Hill Rd.

Gorka "is perhaps the quintessential iconic singer/songwriter of the 1980's folk scene," organizers say. Hailing from New Jersey, "he honed his craft and persona as a shy, wry, and insightful singer-songwriter in the Greenwich Village Past Folk and Boston music scenes."

Gorka got his start at Godfrey Daniels, a neighborhood

coffeehouse in eastern Pennsylvania. After releasing his first album with Minnesota-based Red House Records in 1987, he recorded five albums with Will Ackerman's High Street Records, a subsidiary of Windham Hill Records, between 1989 and 1996.

Since then, he has released five more solo albums on Red House, plus one with label-mates Lucy Kaplansky and Eliza Gilkyson under the name Red Horse. He continues to tour, playing festivals, theaters, and clubs all over North America and Europe.

"Twisting, turning, and tying words and phrases, Gorka works every nuance of language to capture a wide array of topics and

experiences woven into memorable melodies," states a news release. His songs have been recorded and/or performed by the likes of Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, Mary Black, and Maura O'Connell.

The artist's website lists his performances as including *Austin City Limits*, *Mountain Stage*, and *etown*, as well as CNN. His song "Where No Monuments Stand" is featured in the documentary *Every War Has Two Losers*, about activist and Oregon Poet Laureate William Stafford.

Vermont-based singer-songwriter Mandell's debut album *Made for Flying* won *Barre-Montpelier Times Argus/Rutland*

Herald Tammie Awards for best singer-songwriter and best album in 2012. After releasing a collaborative album *Free Now*, she is currently working on her second solo album, and performing select concerts with The Stockwell Brothers guitarist and vocalist Barry Stockwell.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door, and \$10 for access to an online live stream of the concert. For information, call 802-387-0102. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

'The Docks of New York,' with live musical accompaniment, comes to Epsilon Spires

BRATTLEBORO—One of the last films of the silent era, Josef von Sternberg's *The Docks of New York* (1929, 75 minutes) will be shown at Epsilon Spires on Friday, June 2, at 8:30 p.m. The screening will feature live accompaniment from pianist Donald Sosin and soprano Joanna Seaton, who are the musicians commissioned by Criterion Collection to create the soundtrack for the 2010 reissue of the film.

"Miles of docks wait day and night for strange cargo — and stranger men," the film begins. Organizers say it is "an elegant and haunting love story about battered souls at the bottom of the barrel." A ship's stoker (George Bancroft) on shore leave rescues a sex worker (Betty

Compton) who has jumped into the water. Can these two weary souls find their own slice of happiness in dark, foreboding places?

"From the opening scene of men stoking coal furnaces in suffocating heat, *The Docks of New York* evocatively portrays the lives of the working class of that era," Jamie Mohr, executive director of Epsilon Spires, said in a news release. "The fatalism of the film speaks to the backbreaking work and lives of endless strife that people in the position of the characters in the film would have endured."

The Docks of New York features striking expressionist-style sets of a seedy waterfront dive and raucous flophouse which are expertly lit and filmed by cinematographer

Harold Rosson, who went on to serve as cinematographer for *The Wizard of Oz*.

"What Rosson was able to achieve with the film stock of that era is a kind of alchemy, which could convey subtle elements like fog and shadow on the screen in a way that is unparalleled," Mohr said.

Live musical accompaniment will be provided by Donald Sosin and Joanna Seaton, who have been performing original musical accompaniment for classic silent films for more than 20 years. They have created scores for more than 60 silent film DVDs for major labels with keyboards, vocals, and percussion to film festivals and venues such as the New York Film Festival, MoMA, and the

National Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Seaton, who has a theater arts degree from Cornell University, has appeared in more than eighty theater productions and been called a "silvery soprano" by *The New York Times*. Sosin, who studied composition at Columbia, has played on Broadway for many years and had his music appear in films and TV on channels such as PBS and Turner Classic Movies.

To make their events financially accessible, tickets are priced on a sliding scale, from \$5 to \$20, and are available at epsilonspires.org. Two dollars from every ticket goes directly toward the historic preservation of the venue. Refreshments will be provided.

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A Multi-Media Exhibition

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Friday June 2 (4-8pm)

POETRY BRUNCH
June 11 (11am-1pm)

ARTISTS ROUND TABLE
June 15 (5:30pm-7pm)

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May 29-June 4
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Here We Are - Eowyn Jakub, NECCA Student Performer: Mon 8p, Tues 6:15a, Wed 9p, Fri 5:30p, Sat 5p, Sun 2:30p	Townshend Selectboard Special Mtg. 5/31/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 5:30a, Sun 11:30a
The World Fusion Show - Ep #153 - The World Fusion Show Sampler #3: Tues 8p, Wed 5:30a, Thurs 1:30p, Sat 12:30p & 6:30p	Putney Selectboard Mtg. 5/31/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 2:30p
Climate Emergency Book Series - Chuck Collins 5/11/23: Tues 10a, Wed 12:30p, Fri 4p	Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 5/31/23: Sat 6p, Sun 8:30a
Brattleboro Literary Festival - Poems Around Town: Poetry Reading 4/28/23: Mon 2:45p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 12:30p, Sat 10a, Sun 7:30p	Windham Central Supervisory Union Board and Exec. Commission Mtg. 5/31/23: Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a
At BMAC - Conversation: Cathy Cone and Sarah Freeman: Mon 6p, Wed 9a, Thurs 6p, Sun 4p	Windham Town Meeting 2023 - 5/20/23: Mon 4p, Tues 10a, Wed 6p, Thurs 1:45p, Fri 6:30a
Around Town with Maria - Swords to Plowshares: Mon 1p, Tues 3:15p, Thurs 4:15p, Fri 2:15p, Sat 8p, Sun 1:15a	Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 5/22/23: Mon 9p, Wed 8p, Thurs 1p
Landmark College Presents - Cary Supalo, Ph. D. Becoming a Blind Chemist: Tues 8:30p, Wed 3:30p, Sat 9a, Sun 6:30p	Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 5/22/23: Mon 9a, Tues 12p, Thurs 9a
Around Town with Maria - Earth Day Celebration 4/22/23: Wed 6p, Sat 6:10a	Landmark College Commencement - Spring 2023: Tues 2:30p, Thurs 8p, Fri 8:30a, Sat 3p, Sun 6p
Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p	Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 5/15/23: Mon 7a, Tues 4:30p, Wed 8:45p
Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p	Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 5/15/23: Thurs 11:15a, Sat 5:15p
WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p	River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 5/15/23: Mon 3p
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a	Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 5/16/23: Wed 6a, Thurs 3:45p, Fri 1:45p, Sat 11a, Sun 8p
Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a	Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 5/16/23: Tues 9p, Wed 10:15a, Fri 11:45a
Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p	Dummerston Town Meeting - Informational Mtg. 5/17/23: Mon 8p, Tues 8a, Wed 12p
Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a	Town Matters - Weekly Episode: Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p
St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p	The David Pakman Show: Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

Note: Schedule subject to change.

View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org

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Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

Brattleboro Women's Chorus presents pair of spring concerts

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Women's Chorus presents their 27th annual spring concerts, "Sweet are the Days," on Saturday, June 3, and Sunday, June 4, at 4 p.m., outside at Retreat Farm. Sunday's concert will also be livestreamed via Zoom.

Conducted by founder and musical director Becky Graber, the spring concert features an eclectic program of soulful songs. Selections include compositions by Floridian singer-songwriter Velma Frye and former Brattleboro resident Susan Kisslinger; the haunting Estonian piece, "Mis on inime?" ("What Is Human?"); and a beautiful rendition of John Lennon and Paul McCartney's well-known song, "In My Life."

Local writer Karen Hesse and Graber collaborated to create "Granny and Bean," a tale of an adventurous day by the sea. And the chorus will sing the opening of "Let Time Be Your Friend," a piece composed by Diane White-Clayton as part of the Black Lives Matter Commissioning Project. The Chorus will sing the full piece with soloist Samirah Evans in their spring 2024 concert.

The chorus will be joined this spring by pianist Cathy Martin, who plays with the Vermont Jazz Center sextet and is a regular accompanist for local theater and other choral groups in the area.

Attendees are invited to bring chairs and blankets. In the event of rain, Sunday's concert will be held at the Brattleboro Music Center. The livestream option is also available. Both in-person and livestream tickets are sold on a sliding scale of \$15-\$25 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the event or online at brattleborowomenschorus.org.

Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series hosts Kiran Ahluwalia

PUTNEY—The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Canadian singer-songwriter Kiran Ahluwalia at The Putney Inn, 57 Putney Landing Rd., on Friday, June 2, at 6 p.m.

"Cosmopolitan and distinctively Indian," organizers say, "with roots in Sufi, Qawalli, and Punjabi Folk, Ahluwalia crafts her own contemporary originals while organically mixing with West African Blues and American Jazz."

Ahluwalia is a two-time Juno (Canadian Grammy) winner. Her six-piece band, led by guitarist Rez Abbasi, "creates a unique sound that is ethereal, raw, urgent, and elegant at the same time," organizers say.

Her music has garnered praise from critics worldwide, and she has collaborated with leading musicians from the Celtic and Fado worlds, as well as Malian group Tinariwen.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows.

Refreshments are sold on-site, including Barr Hill cocktails. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic and a blanket or folding chair to enjoy the concerts.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. The show is also included in the Bandwagon Series Pass. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102.

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"Cory Road," a watercolor painting by Karen Becker.

All Souls Church hosts retrospective of Karen Becker's artwork

WEST BRATTLEBORO—"Bearing Witness," an art exhibit by Karen Becker, is currently on view at the All Souls Church in the West Village Meeting House, 29 South St. The public is invited to an artist's reception on Saturday, June 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The exhibit is a retrospective of Becker's watercolors, gouache, pastels, and prints, created over the past 40 years and inspired by her love of nature. The animals and trees represented are all bearing witness to the devastation that is unfolding, due to industrialization and war.

Also on display are drawings of animals and birds, which combine monochromes and charcoal, a series of self-portraits, and fantasies, including the Sphere Series. Many of these paintings and drawings have been in her private collection.

Also bearing witness to her family history, Becker has dedicated this show to her parents, George and Marianne Becker, for their lifelong courage,

generosity, kindness, and devotion to the arts in southern Vermont.

Becker received a Bachelor of Fine Art in Graphic Design from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and has exhibited her artwork in New York City, Boston, Maine, and Vermont. As part of the Vermont Arts Council's Artists-in-Education Program for 25 years, she led more than 150 mural painting workshops for children and adults.

The exhibit is on view Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 9 a.m. and noon, or by appointment (call 802-257-4710) or contact kb4art@earthlink.net through June 30. Selected paintings are also on view on the All Souls' website, ascvt.org/karenbecker.

This exhibit runs concurrently with a show of Becker's work at Next Stage Arts, "Bearing Witness, Part 2," on view now through Aug. 13, at the NXT Gallery located at 15 Kimball Hill, Putney.

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Spot News Story, Package:
"Brattleboro breaks ties with Rescue"
- 2nd Place – Jeff Potter**
Editorial/Commentary Page, "Roe v. Wade"
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2023 SPRING APPEAL

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A painting by Karma Kitaj.

Crowell Gallery presents works of Karma Kitaj, Sharon Myers

NEWFANE—This June, the Crowell Gallery at Moore Free Library will be exhibiting the work of two artists, each unique in their expression but similar in their love of color.

Karma Kitaj works with pigment using encaustic, acrylic, oil, cold wax, and mixed media, such as burnt shellac, horsehair, and india ink. She delights in unusual color compositions, and in this exhibit, the primary colors of red, blue, and yellow dominate her canvas.

Sharon Myers is a returning artist. This year she combines the magic of color and the impact of

light between fabrics deepen and change the effect of each.

“Common in both artists work is how the use of color creates emotions and perceptions in the eyes of the viewer,” organizers say. “Visitors will feel activated and energized by the combined works of these two collaborating artists.”

A reception will be held on Saturday, June 3, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The library and gallery hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m., Thursdays, 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



“Great Grandfather Jonas Zaldokas Funeral” by Liza King.

COURTESY PHOTO

Multimedia exhibit opens at 118 Elliot

BRATTLEBORO — “Creative Relations,” a multimedia group exhibit in which 10 artists explore how family history, significant relationships, and social/cultural contexts influence the making of art, will open Friday, June 2, at 118 Elliot.

In the show, some artists’ work explores how creativity helps heal the legacy of personal and cultural trauma. Other artists’ work arises from discovering their voice in relation to the past.

Each artist interprets and shares the theme, often including text, through their own lens, inviting viewers into the creative process to create a deeper experience for all.

The exhibition includes work by Toto Feldman, Liza King, Shanta Lee, John Loggia, Phyllis Odessey, Tina Olsen, Jack Pombrant, Lissa Weinmann, Kathryn Wocell, and Hope Zanes.

Participating artists will attend the Friday, June 2 Gallery Walk opening from 5 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The show will run through the month. Gallery Hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 7 p.m., or by appointment by contacting 118Elliot@gmail.com.

Several artists in the exhibit will create unique installations to amplify how their work is related to personal history. For example, 85-year-old Hope Zanes relates her large gum bichromate

photographs to her long-time neighbor and world renowned photographer, Lotte Jacobi, who encouraged her in this process.

Two public events in June will continue to explore the “Creative Relations” theme:

– On Thursday, June 15, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 118 Elliot, select exhibition artists will share personal perspectives on how relationships influence their work in a roundtable discussion led by an experienced moderator. The public is invited to join this discussion on what fuels creativity and how it relates to specific events in life.

• On Sunday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 118 Elliot, writers including Liza King, Arlene Distler, Tina Olsen, Laurie

Panther, and Steve Minkin will explore this theme through spoken word at a “Creative Relations Poetry Brunch.”

In addition to the featured “Creative Relations” show, the gallery will continue to display the interactive “Brattleboro Words Trail: Murals, Maps, and Sound” exhibit by Cynthia Parker Houghton.

Coming in August: “Signs & Sounds,” a graphic musical scores exhibit, opens with Hallie Lederer’s live public painting of a score to be played by a community improvisational orchestra on Saturday, Aug. 26, to close 118 Elliot’s month-long improvisational “Nu Mu Festival.”

BRATTROCK Festival at Gallery Walk on June 2

BRATTLEBORO—The youth rock festival, Brattrock, takes place Friday, June 2, at Brattleboro Gallery Walk, starting at 6 p.m. In the Harmony Lot, a dynamic line-up of four youth bands will play music appropriate for all ages.

The approximately 30-minute performances, presented by sponsors Guilford Sound and Chroma Technology, will showcase bands Color Killer, Ezra Holloway, Stringhead, and Third Floor.

Color Killer is a pop punk band that was formed in 2017 in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and quickly gained popularity when a practice video of their song, “Down With Winter,” received more than 1 million views on Facebook in less than two weeks. The band consists of Lincoln Zinzola (lead guitar/

vocals), Nate Dalbec (bass/vocals), Matt Hiltz (drums), and Dylan Huther (rhythm/guitar).

In 2018, Color Killer became the youngest band to perform on the Vans Warped Tour (Lincoln was just eight years old). They have traveled to California to headline a festival at the legendary Gilman Street, opening for the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, The Queers, Big D and the Kids Table, and many other bands.

Local artist Ezra Holloway from Saxtons River has been performing live since 2016. Holloway formed The Man-Made Tragedies in 2018 for which he was the lead singer, bass player, rhythm guitarist, and principal songwriter. Described as a magnetic, energetic and “an over the top” front

man, Holloway always keeps the crowds jumping. Joining him on stage is guitarist Kiegan Eastman from Weathersfield (guitar), Donny Sweeney (bass) from Hancock, New Hampshire, and Lucas Majer (drums) of Brattleboro.

The music of Stringhead is inspired by psychoanalysis, animals, people and Azathoth (chaos deity from the Cthulhu myths of H. P. Lovecraft), according to their press materials.

Hailing from Plymouth, Massachusetts, Stringhead is composed of musicians Jack Fox (guitars and vocals), Elias Provost (drums), Atticus Peters (bass), and Willa Panches (guitar).

A modern post punk inspired band from New Hampshire, Third Floor is composed of Alden

Ormont (guitar and vocals), Maggie Delbove (bass), and Nielsen Kasser (drums). Third Floor’s music is mainly influenced by bands such as Radiohead and Joy Division, while also taking influence from other genres, such as jazz and experimental music, according to band spokesman Alden Ormont.

Brattrock raises funds for Youth Services with a mission of providing places for youth to gather and a venue for musically minded youth from Vermont and the surrounding region to connect, learn, perform, inspire, and be inspired. For more information, email info@brattrock.com or visit brattrock.com.

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Signage from Andrews Inn in Bellows Falls.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bellows Falls Pride

FROM SECTION FRONT

Whistlestop Tour on Sunday, June 11, which is also national Making Life Beautiful Day.

“From St. Albans to Brattleboro, LGBTQ+ organizations, individuals, and allies will appear at each of the 10 Amtrak Vermonter train stations to show support and love for the LGBTQ+ community, under siege across the country, by taking a moment to make Vermont communities more beautiful,” MacNeil says. “To stay in Bellows Falls for the afternoon, purchase Amtrak Vermonter tickets in advance.”

The train stops in Bellows Falls at 12:30 p.m. and in Brattleboro

at 1:02 p.m.

Other members of the committee organizing the Pride Month events include Elijah Zimmer, Selectboard member; Gail Golec, host of *The Secret Life of Death* podcast; Michael Bruno, owner, Windham Antiques; Betsy Thurston, director, Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance; and Aaron Almanza, National LGBT Help Center.

For more information, visit bellowsfallspride.com or email bellowsfallspride@gmail.com. As events are added, they will be posted on the website and social media.

Norris-Brown show

FROM SECTION FRONT

“In my life, I have always asked questions,” he wrote on his website. “I acted on my own conscience as much as I could. Now it is my wish that my work contribute to the pressing need not only to share facts but to reach into people’s hearts to understand Nature and both what threatens it as well as its wonder. Children are a very important part of this. They are the future, and they are willing to listen.”

“My work has had one foot in deep theory (systems and evolution) and another in the field,” he wrote. “It has taken different directions, but it has always been inspired by an awe of the beauty of the world.”

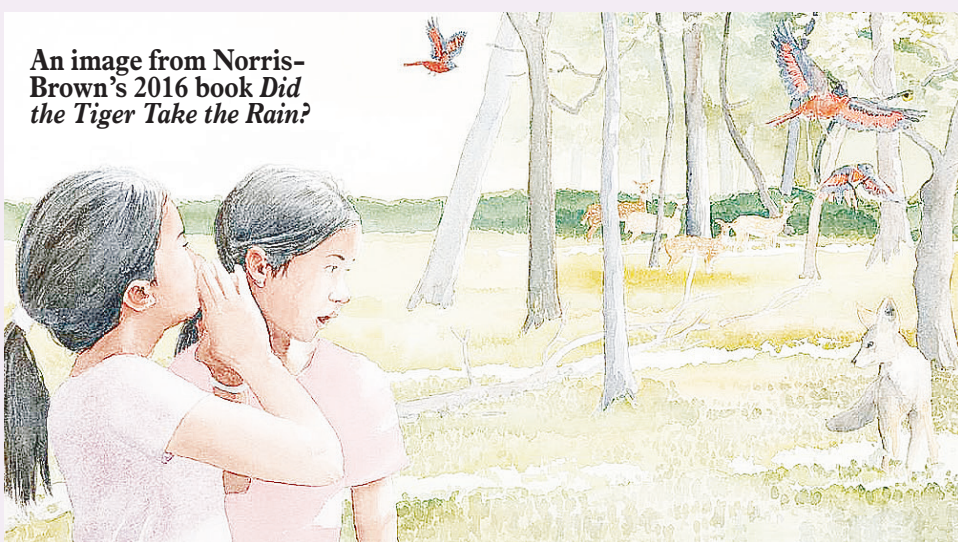
Norris-Brown wrote that he used media that were “as close to Nature as I can get: charcoal, pencil, and ink. For me, watercolor shares the freshness of bubbling brooks, a forest breeze, the color of a sunset, and the curve of a child’s finger.”

He entered the world of children’s books as a writer-illustrator with *Did Tiger Take the Rain?* (Green Writers Press, 2016) summarized as such: “In a Tharu village in the Nepal terai, it has been uncommonly hot and dry. One day, a tiger comes. People run away in fear. The villagers think it is a bad omen and that the tiger has taken the rain.”

For material on the story aimed at raising awareness around deforestation, Norris-Brown traversed Nepal in search of myths and stories related to tigers.

Norris-Brown’s illustrations are, in turn, poignant, evocative, ethereal with gentle brushstrokes and shadowy images contrasting piercing, knowing eyes on full-front faces.

An image from Norris-Brown’s 2016 book *Did the Tiger Take the Rain?*



“It is such a joy to be able to draw or paint what I see,” he wrote, “to engage the beauty of the world and let it flow through my mind and my hands onto paper. I want to remain open to the impressions, merge them with a life full of experience and thought, and create a statement.”

Memories of an artist

Fellow Bellows Falls artist Clare Adams remembered Norris-Brown.

“Charles was great,” she said. “I ran into him everywhere — he was very involved in the arts scene here with Robert McBride and [Rockingham Arts and Museum Project], and [with Main Street Arts, where he was on the board and taught figure drawing.”

He was keen, Adams added, on working to create Bellows Falls as a place for artists to come, have community, and support one another.

“He cared a lot about people,”

she said. “He has left a void that will be hard to fill.”

About Norris-Brown’s work, Adams said that he looked at things on a deeper level — especially given his work in anthropology.

“He had a grasp on what was going on,” she said.

Fellow artist Melissa Rubin recalled that when she was new to the area several years ago, Norris-Brown was one of the first artists she met.

“I was drawn to his thoughtful, quiet manner reflected in his work which is exquisitely beautiful,” she said, adding that Norris-Brown “created community among humans and nature.”

A supportive community

Michael Noyes, director of Canal Street Art Gallery, recalled that “Charles often chose people and animals as subjects. These subjects communicate the artist’s desire to reach people through an understanding of

nature — both what threatens it, as well as its wonder.”

He said that Norris-Brown’s “anthropological research on people of the forests, and their place in the health of the ecosystems there, brought [him] to focus on creating figurative artwork depicting people embracing nature.”

Canal Street Art Gallery represents Adams and Rubin among its roster of almost 30 artists.

Adams said the gallery “has a feeling of community and cooperation — it’s not competitive. Michael has developed an atmosphere where artists can get to know each other and be supportive. It’s where artists are encouraged to try different work, to take risks.”

Canal Street Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit canalstreetartgallery.com, call Noyes at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

Field Day

FROM SECTION FRONT

Saturday, June 3.

The organizers hope that it will become a celebration of the thriving young indie rock scene that they’re helping cultivate from Northampton to Brattleboro to Burlington.

Peter Hamelin of Urgent Message Music and Signature Sounds Presents said that he got together with Robin Johnson, owner of The Stone Church, and Scaggs to talk about how they could attract a younger crowd to the beauty of live music and encourage them to learn an instrument.

The idea of a large-scale music festival made sense to Johnson.

“Last year, we hosted a show with The Devil Makes Three at the Guilford Fairgrounds, and the response was so overwhelmingly positive that we immediately started brainstorming about other ways to use the Fairgrounds.”

Planning a Field Day

Hamelin and Johnson became co-producers of Field Day, whose name “captures some of the feelings that we want the festival to embody,” said Scaggs. “There’s a little bit of nostalgia and this real sense of Vermont.”

“It’s a respite from the day-to-day grind — like, ‘Come on out to the fairgrounds, set up a lawn chair, bring your kids if you’d like, and it’s going to be relaxing.’ And there’s going to be some sick music and some really awesome craft beer and games,” she added.

“The lineup features some of our favorite up-and-coming regional bands along with a few touring headliners. Brattleboro’s own Thus Love, who have been playing at Stone Church since their formation in 2018 will be headlining the regional artists and closing the second stage,” Johnson said.

Bands performing on June 3 include:

- Inner Wave of Los Angeles, California
- Lady Lamb of Portland,

Maine

- Sunflower Bean of New York City
- GIFT of New York City
- Tilden of New York City
- Native Sun of New York City
- Thus Love of Brattleboro
- Topsy and Prune of Northampton, Massachusetts
- Carinae of Northampton, Massachusetts
- Robber Robber, of Burlington, Vermont
- Dari Bay and Greg Freeman of Burlington, Vermont
- Lily Seabird of Burlington, Vermont

Community collaboration

“Another piece of this festival is really the embodiment of mutually supportive collaborations and partnerships,” Scaggs said.

One example, she noted, is Hamelin, whose “talents and knowledge he brings to the table perfectly complement our skills and backgrounds.”

“Many of the bands on this lineup know each other and collaborate on various projects,” Scaggs continued. “We have a few contingents based out of western Massachusetts, New York, and northern Vermont. Many of them know each other and are very close friends, so there’s definitely a sense of the festival feeling like a chance to all come together at the same time, and really dig in and have the best time.”

“This is a great collaboration between Urgent Message Music and The Stone Church and their amazing crew,” said Hamelin. “We decided to shine a light on bands from Vermont and western Massachusetts that we work with and love.”

They also invited Inner Wave from Los Angeles, “a psych rock band who is really fun and multicultural,” he said, and “Lady Lamb, no stranger to the region, just sold out Gateway City Arts,” a venue in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Also making the journey

is Brooklyn band Sunflower Bean, “an extremely entertaining band of great songwriters; they’ve played every festival from Coachella to Bonnaroo,” Hamelin said.

The festival organizers hope to see 13-year-olds with their parents and say there will be something for every age. Craft vendors will join food trucks and craft brew offerings. Vegan Pizza Land is coming; the Easthampton, Massachusetts-based business operates from an Airstream trailer and uses local products.

“We’ll have great barbecue and ice cream,” Hamelin promised.

Field Day will “also offer field games, like disc golf, three legged races, corn hole, slip ‘n’ slides, and Frisbee,” he added.

“If all goes well, we have dreams for more day long events focusing on different genres, but also tapping the rich artistic resources we are blessed with in Vermont and western Massachusetts,” Johnson said.

“Beyond Field Day we have some amazing summer shows planned geared towards young audiences and fresh original music, a number of them in partnership with Urgent Message Music,” the co-producer added.

Featured act: Thus Love

The featured act is Brattleboro band Thus Love, which has been called “post punk” but whose members say they are “definitely a rock ‘n’ roll band.” Founded in 2018, Thus Love is composed of three transgender multi-instrumentalists who call their music “super energetic, very dreary, and very emotional at times.”

The band members are Echo Mars (she/they) on guitar and vocals, Lu Racine (he/him) on drums, and Nathaniel van Osdol (they/them) on bass.

Racine, who will not be playing at Field Day, due to a recent shoulder injury, will be serving as stage manager for the event. Gabe Camarano (he/him) will be filling in on drums for Field Day.

“The band lived together in a one-bedroom apartment above downtown Brattleboro during the entire recording process of their debut album, *Memorial*,” Racine told *The Commons*. He said that Mars “cordon[ed] off a room to build a studio from scratch.”

Other bands

• **Inner Wave:** Los Angeles indie quintet Inner Wave plays an experimental mix of psych-pop and synthwave, which earned the group a major streaming presence and diehard regional following, thanks in part to songs “American Spirits” and “Eclipse.”

“The group’s quirky but catchy songs and combined Filipino, Colombian, and Mexican heritage have helped make them underground stars in the area’s Latinx indie rock community alongside

acts like Chicano Batman and Cucco,” said Jose Cruz, who plays keys.

Inner Wave’s 2017 album, *Underwater Pipe Dreams*, earned critical acclaim and increased the group’s national presence. *Apoptosis* was released in 2021.

Band members include Pablo Sotelo (vocals/guitar), Jean Pierre Narvaez (backing vocals and bass), Elijah Trujillo (backing vocals, guitar, and keys), Jose Cruz (Keys) and Luis Portillo (Drums).

Field Day is the band’s first foray performing in Vermont.

“We’re looking forward to meeting new fans and friends and also introducing our music to festivalgoers who may have not heard us yet,” Cruz said.

• **Sunflower Bean:** The three members of Sunflower Bean, a rock band from New York City, have been playing together since they were teenagers.

“Our Field Day set list will span our whole career and include new unreleased jams,” said Nick Kivlen, who plays guitar and does backing vocals.

He will be joined on stage by Julia Cumming, on bass and lead vocals, and Olive Faber, on drums.

“Our sound has always drawn from a wide range of influences so you might be surprised by our genre blending,” Kivlen said.

“One of our favorite shows was when we opened for Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) during his 2020 presidential campaign rallies, he added. “We’re looking forward to seeing the beautiful summer Vermont has to offer, as well as catching the other bands in the lineup.”

Sunflower Bean’s third album, *Headful of Sugar*, was just released and is about “outsiders disillusioned with the modern world; they search for freedom and meaning in a culture that runs on the 24-hour news cycle, soulless laptop jobs, and dozens of brands of hard seltzer,” Kivlen said.

“We wanted to write about the lived experience of late capitalism — how it feels every day, the mundanity of not knowing where every construct is supposed to ultimately lead you,” he added.

The message of the album, he said, is in its title.

“This is about fast pleasures, the sugar of life, the joy that comes with letting go of everything you thought mattered,” Kivlen said.

Field Day takes place rain or shine on Saturday, June 3 at the Guilford Fairgrounds, 163 Fairground Rd. in Guilford, from noon to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$34.99 in advance and \$40 at the gate, plus a \$10 fee for parking. The event is suitable for all ages, and those 10 and younger will be admitted free. No dogs allowed. For more information, visit bit.ly/717-fieldday.

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VIEWPOINT

What if it suddenly happened to you?

Vermonters need to understand that everyone who is homeless has been on a unique journey of survival, with lives infinitely harder than those who are housed can possibly imagine

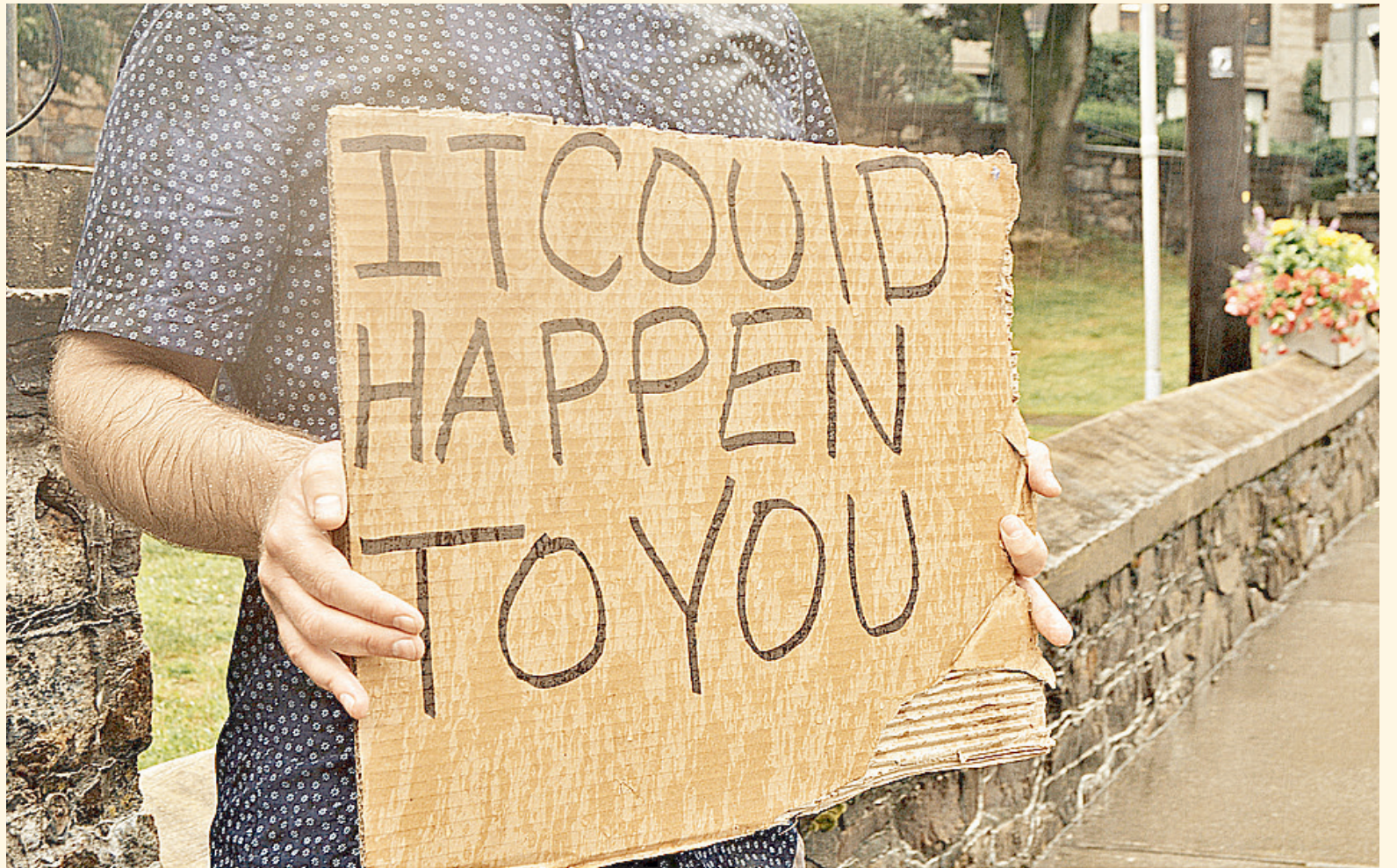
Brattleboro

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT and imagine yourself on the streets of the largest and most expensive city in America. Ask yourself: *Could I survive a week on the street? Where would I sleep? Where would I eat?*

I am a homeless resident of Brattleboro, living at Groundworks on South Main Street. I am uniquely qualified to talk about homelessness nationwide, having been homeless in four states since 2018: Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and — of course — Vermont.

I was living in a homeless shelter in New Jersey (and paying rent) while working full time, but when I lost that job, I became homeless from March through October of last year in New York City.

I survived on the street in New York City for more than six months before returning to Brattleboro. I would like to share with you what a



SHANTA LEE COMMONS FILE PHOTO

Amid flaring tempers about homelessness and panhandling, a participant holds a sign at a 2019 rally in downtown Brattleboro.

THOMAS BRENNAN is a Brattleboro resident and a guest of the Groundworks shelter on South Main Street. This piece was developed in a workshop for unhoused writers organized by GemmaRose Nethercott and Vermont Independent Media's Media Mentoring Project.

day being homeless in New York City looked like for me.

BEFORE I ENDED UP in a shelter on 114th Street in the basement of a Presbyterian church near Columbia University, I slept on the sidewalk outside Saint Francis of Assisi, a Roman Catholic church near Penn Station in Midtown Manhattan.

There are more than 8 million

people in New York City. Sleeping on the sidewalk in late March was not easy. I would wake up on the frigid concrete and feel immense gratitude for being alive another day.

At exactly 7 o'clock, the Franciscan friars of Saint Francis of Assisi would serve breakfast on the street, which in cold weather included hot instant oatmeal and a hot cup of coffee.

Following my morning breakfast, I would briskly walk along 31st Street and up 5th Avenue to attend Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Once there, I'd light candles for my deceased parents. My father died from liver failure when I was 12. My mother, originally from Brooklyn, died in a house fire when I was 21, here in Vermont.

Lighting candles for my parents brought me solace. Sometimes, an

Italian man — who recognized me and knew I was homeless — would slip me some cash after Mass, and often he would give me a little breakfast sandwich to eat. He would hug me and say my name in Italian: "Tomasso." The cash he gave me was enough to buy maybe another cup of coffee somewhere along the way in my morning routine.

AFTER SITTING IN Saint Patrick's Cathedral in contemplative prayer, I'd walk down to Washington Square Park at the foot of 5th Avenue and, weather pending, I might spend the latter part of my morning chatting with students from New York University on park benches about the literature they were reading — or, on the rare occasion, playing chess in the

southwest corner of the park. I would pass through Washington Square in the heart of Manhattan's Greenwich Village several times during the day.

But what about lunch? Free meals are served at The Bowery Mission, not far from Old Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Mott Street, where I would also go and attend daily Mass and pray.

My spiritual life was nourishment enough until I could eat another meal at 1 o'clock, after which they served another meal for dinner at 5 o'clock.

If I happened to walk down Broadway instead, I could find a free meal outside Trinity Church, where Alexander Hamilton is buried, opposite Wall Street, or if I had lingered in Midtown, free lunches were

■ SEE HOMELESS, C2

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Governor, Legislature at odds over budget priorities

Most local lawmakers eye an override of Scott's budget veto

FOR ALMOST FIVE MONTHS, state legislators worked diligently on a budget. In one afternoon, Gov. Phil Scott vetoed it. Scott's veto, which came down on May 27, was based on affordability.

"Vermonters have made it clear that living in our state is not affordable, and the data backs that up as we are ranked as having one of the highest tax burdens in the nation," Scott said in a press release.

Scott, a Republican, accused the Legislature — where Democrats have a supermajority — of spendthrift spending.

"Across this budget and other bills, the Legislature's tax, fee, and spending decisions this session may add an average of nearly \$1,200 to a household's burden each year — on top of higher property tax bills and inflation, which have already consumed the increase in most people's paychecks," Scott said.

The bills the governor especially disliked seem to be the ones most dear to Democratic senators and representatives: "child care, universal school meals, the clean heat standard, and more."

"Here's the bottom line," Scott said. "I cannot support a budget that relies on new and



JOYCE MARCEL covers the state Legislature and the issues the lawmakers face at home in Windham County for The Commons.

regressive taxes and fees, combined with the overall increase in base spending that is far beyond our ability to sustain, especially because there is a way to achieve our shared policy goals without them. The risk to Vermonters is too great."

To override Scott's veto, the House and Senate need a two-thirds vote in each chamber. Although the Legislature has adjourned for the year, leaders have tentatively scheduled a return in late June to override governor's expected budget veto.

The Legislature has already overridden Scott's veto of the Affordable Heat Act and turned it into law.

Senate President Pro Tem Phil Baruth immediately issued a blistering response to Scott's veto.

"At this point, Phil Scott has issued far more vetoes than any governor in Vermont history, an increasingly unsettling aspect of his tenure," Baruth said in a news release.

"And this veto of [the budget] has to be the most flawed and harmful of any in recent memory," he continued.

"With one-time money subtracted, the Legislature's budget and the Governor's differ by about 3% — with nearly all of that difference flowing to mental health, adult-days, and other critical service providers."

MUCH OF THE drama about the budget revolves around the motel voucher system, which is set to begin expiring on June 1.

The formerly federally funded General Assistance (GA) housing program, also called the "motel voucher program," has been excessively costly, but it has housed homeless Vermonters in hotels and motels since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding runs out for the program on June 1. By the beginning of July, approximately 3,000 Vermonters — including families with children, elderly people, and those with critical illnesses — will be returned to the streets.

Scott's veto "freezes expanded emergency funding to municipalities and agencies being asked to provide the actual transition plans for those exiting the General Assistance housing

program," Baruth said.

Throwing a bone to the situation, Scott's government has extended part of the voucher system for another 28 days. And it issued a request for proposals for outside contractors to provide emergency shelter staffing and services, with the goal of providing up to 1,000 shelter beds statewide.

But Baruth all but accused the governor of cruelty towards the most vulnerable Vermonters.

"The Governor knows that June is the crucial month," Baruth said, "He knows very well that the Legislature cannot act until late June [when lawmakers will return for the special session]; with this veto, he has made continuing uncertainty about GA funding and solutions a certainty."

Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski immediately called on Scott to declare a state of emergency to address the end of the voucher program.

"Homelessness is not an isolated problem affecting a few individuals; it is an issue that impacts all our communities," Krowinski said.

She wants government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses and Vermonters "from all walks of life" to "effectively address the

■ SEE LEGISLATURE, C2



Lifestyle choices! This distinctive contemporary is situated on a country road with stately maple trees on the front lawn, an antique barn and four acres of tree lined meadows bordered on two sides by conserved land of the Retreat Farm. Designed and built by the owner as a single family residence it is currently arranged as a duplex, a home for her with rental income. Designed to be easily returned to its original 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom one family home it offers lifestyle choices for now and later. There is a separately deeded and surveyed two acre unimproved lot for future needs! The antique barn is ready for restoration. The Brattleboro Country Club golf course is across the road and shopping, schools and vibrant downtown Brattleboro are minutes away. Pictures show owner's residence on left side of house. On right side on the first level is a large open kitchen and dining area with glass doors to back deck, a living room and a 3/4 bath, upstairs are two bedrooms and a full bath. Laundry area and office in finished basement.

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Legislature

FROM SECTION FRONT

immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness,” much as Vermonters worked together unusually effectively in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

“Moreover, this declaration will empower us to implement targeted and comprehensive measures to address the root causes of homelessness,” Krowinski said. “Through a coordinated and multifaceted approach, we can break the cycle of homelessness and provide a pathway to stability for those in need.”

WINDHAM COUNTY’S legislators responded with vigor to the governor’s budget veto.

“I’m tired of playing politics with people’s lives,” Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, told *The Commons*. “We can’t tinker with people’s lives anymore — we need to step up and govern.”

Good government serves all of us, Kornheiser said.

“In times such as these, of growing uncertainty and economic disparity, it is our job to ensure equity and stability, now and for our future,” she said.

“It is our job to fund infrastructure and services that support Vermont’s families, businesses, and communities.”

In Windham County, “people are struggling to make it work,” she said.

“Parents can’t find or afford child care,” Kornheiser continued. “Workers can’t find suitable housing. People can’t get a dentist appointment. Families are losing loved ones to overdose. Car repairs and heating bills are too expensive.”

Vermont cannot afford to put “slapdash patches” on problems any longer, she said.

“Vermonters pride themselves on duct tape and baling twine, but at some point, we need to build up our capacity,” Kornheiser said.

“This session we passed a record \$8.4 billion balanced budget for FY24 that will make immediate and lasting improvements to quality of life in Vermont,” she asserted. “With a focus on long-term solutions and stability, we’ve made transformative investments in critical infrastructure and services that too many Vermonters have gone without.”

SEN. WENDY HARRISON, D-Windham, said that “the

governor’s veto was predicatable, but that doesn’t make it less harmful.”

She told *The Commons* she would support an override of Scott’s veto.

“The governor’s excessive focus on taxes as the only measure of affordability is not only a mistake for the harm it will cause to individual Vermonters, it is also a mistake for the harm it will cause to Vermont’s economy,” said Harrison, calling “quality of life” far more important than taxes.

“The budget as adopted by the Legislature will strengthen the economy,” she said.

Both she and Kornheiser mentioned child care funding provisions in the vetoed budget.

“Vermont employers, large and small, urged the Legislature to financially support child care and housing,” Harrison said.

“Manufacturers, hospitals, schools, construction companies, the hospitality industry, and others are losing opportunities because they cannot recruit and retain employees. The root causes they identify are housing and child care.”

“The child care bill proposed in the Legislature’s budget will make Vermont significantly more affordable to parents of young children and to child care workers,” she said. “More housing will allow Vermont families more options, helping stabilize prices and rents, and making it more affordable for people to move here from out-of-state. More workers will make Vermont business more successful.”

REP. LESLIE GOLDMAN, D-Bellows Falls, also said she will vote to override the veto.

“The speaker stated in her press release that the Legislature ‘engaged in a comprehensive process, taking testimony from Vermonters, and carefully weighing the diverse range of budgetary needs,’” Goldman told *The Commons*. “As a member of the Health Care Committee, I and my 10 committee members worked very hard through this process to support health care needs in all 14 counties. We supported our underfunded health care workforce, including our doctors, nurses, other staff and hospitals.”

The budget, she said, “included needs in both the mental and physical health care

Homeless

FROM SECTION FRONT

also served at a Presbyterian church on 55th Street off 5th Avenue (but only on Mondays and Wednesdays).

Knowing where to get a free meal and at what times allowed me to structure my day accordingly. I did a lot of walking up and down Manhattan Island just to get a free meal.

But let’s say you didn’t know where to go to get a free meal in New York City. What would you do? Would you panhandle?

On the rare occasion, I did. I would sit in Times Square or outside Saint Patrick’s Cathedral with a cup for change and pray the Rosary. Once someone dropped a \$5 bill in my cup and said to me, “Please pray for Florian.”

And so, I did.

THIS BRINGS ME back to Brattleboro.

Why is there so much stigma surrounding the topic of homelessness here? Just as New York City has a twin housing crisis and a homelessness crisis, so too does Brattleboro.

Homelessness can happen to anyone, at any time, for a variety of reasons.

Have you ever lived paycheck to paycheck? Been hospitalized with a sudden illness? Lost a job or lacked a support network with family and friends? These are

the very situations that can lead to someone becoming homeless.

Ask yourselves this: “Do I talk about homelessness at the dinner table in my home? Do I talk about homelessness in the workplace or at school?” Imagine yourself homeless in Brattleboro, and ask yourself: How would you survive?

Imagine yourself homeless anywhere across America. Now imagine the plight of those who are homeless in our own backyard.

How could you choose to help?

THE PROBLEMS facing New York City are the same problems facing Brattleboro. We must expand our consciousness and see homelessness as a truly national epidemic. If I ever lost my bed at Groundworks here in town, where would I go? What would I do as a homeless person?

Believe it or not, as terrifying as it sounds to some, I would return to the streets of New York City. There are more resources to help the homeless in the Five Boroughs than there are here, in Brattleboro.

I know how to survive there. Could you?

Challenge yourself. Imagine you are homeless on the streets for a week and see how you would survive.

care, housing, climate action, health care and, as the governor likes to say, ‘protecting Vermont’s vulnerable,’” Mrowicki said. “His budget uses one-time money as a one-time investment.”

He pointed out another chilling aspect to the veto override. “I will also note that after checking with Clerk of the House Betsy Ann Wrask, if we don’t override and don’t reach an agreement before July 1, government shuts down,” Mrowicki said.

“There is no provision for rolling back to the previous budget,” he warned. “And basically, all the leverage goes to the governor if he knows we can’t override a veto. I can’t even imagine what that budget would look like but unless we override — that may be what we have to swallow.”

NOT EVERY LEGISLATOR is feeling the same way. Rep. Laura Sibilgia, I-Dover, takes a measured response. For one thing, she is questioning the numbers. “I think it’s important to understand that the governor proposed a total budget that was close to a 10% increase over last year; the Legislature, 13%,” Sibilgia told *The Commons*. “These increases account for a

large amount of one-time federal funds and revenue that was higher than expected.”

The budgets have to be backed up with financial documents, data, and fiscal notes, she said.

“The governor’s veto statement that the legislative proposals may cost \$1,200 per household?” Sibilgia said. “The press should ask to see the math on that. Roughly \$700 of that \$1,200 per household is attributable to an unscientific guess about the effect of a proposal that may never go into effect.”

“When my family decides what to have for dinner, watch on TV, or where to go for a hike or if we are going on vacation, we have to prioritize and compromise,” Sibilgia said. “In government and in life, we have to prioritize and compromise.”

The governor’s budget is a simple proposal to run the government for the coming year, Sibilgia said. The Legislature’s budget is “made up of the priorities of all of the people’s representatives working with the Governor’s administration and other representatives for municipalities, businesses and special interests.”

For example, the governor said he opposes an increase in Department of Motor Vehicle fees.

“I do not,” Sibilgia said. “When the fees do not keep pace with the cost of providing services, we see a decrease in service,” she said. “The governor is opposed to the payroll tax to fund child care, and so am I. It seems the governor may be opposed to universal meals for our kids. I was opposed to that program when it was available for some students and paid for by all taxpayers. Now it is available for all students which will reduce the overall state burden by drawing down available federal school lunch dollars.”

REP. MICHELLE BOS-LUN, D-Westminster, told *The Commons* she refuses to override the governor’s veto because she is joining with Progressives and

some Democrats in demanding that more money be put in the budget to provide shelter for those being evicted when the voucher system ends.

The Legislature voted in session not to do so.

“The governor said the motel program was only meant to be short term and there must be a better way,” Bos-Lun said.

“I agree that the pandemic-era iteration of the general assistance motel program needs to be ended, and that better options are needed. But an appropriately supportive transition time and plans for stable places for people to move to are essential,” she added.

“Moving Vermonters from motels into the tents or onto the streets is not a better way to meet their needs and connect them with services,” Bos-Lun said.

Unless substantial changes are made, she cannot support the budget, she said.

“I can’t support a budget that doesn’t work for everyone,” she said. “And I believe all Democrats, and in fact all those serving in office, want that. Moving people into tents doesn’t work for families and people with disabilities, and it doesn’t work for me. I can’t approve a budget with that being the plan.”

This is a policy problem, not a budget problem, Bos-Lun said.

“There are a couple of relatively simple changes that could be made in a new, more inclusive budget that won’t push 90% of vulnerable Vermonters into tents and onto sidewalks,” Bos-Lun said.

“Members of the House coalition concerned about this issue have been meeting with our Legislative Clerk, Joint Fiscal, and Legislative Council,” she said.

“We’ll show up with the plan ready to go on the 20th,” Bos-Lun said. “I am optimistic we can address this and solve this in a timely way if we work together on a slightly changed budget.”

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Unsung heroes use music to honor Peter and Mary Alice Amidon will be honored with award from Compassionate Brattleboro

from Compassionate Brattleboro. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 13, at 5:30 p.m., at Centre Congregational Church on Main Street.

whole Cambridge/Boston traditional music scene: Irish tune sessions, group singing sessions, Morris dancing, folk music get-togethers on weekends,” he said. “The night I met Mary Alice, she chose I had

Property to be released by Sheriff's Dept.

BRATTLEBORO — The Windham County Sheriff's Department is currently seeking the rightful owners of several items currently stored at their office. The items currently available range from evidence that has been released to property being held for safekeeping.

If you believe your property is being held, you may contact Deputy Micah Fisher. A description of the property, as well as proof of ownership, will be required. All items left unclaimed after 90 days will be considered abandoned property. Contact Deputy Fisher at mfisher@windhamcountytvt.gov.

Raffle to benefit Winston Prouty Center

BRATTLEBORO — The Winston Prouty Center is now selling tickets for their annual Par for the Cause Prize-A-Day Raffle. Three winners are drawn every weekday from June 1 to June 23. There are more than 60 prizes to win, including gift certificates to local eateries and shops, yoga classes, movie tickets, haircuts, car services, memberships, admission passes, and much more.

Tickets are \$5 for one, \$20 for five, \$50 for 20, and \$100 for 50.

Entries stay in the drawing all month long. Tickets can be purchased at winstonprouty.org and will be available at the June 2 Gallery Walk, at the Brattleboro Food Co-op on Saturday, June 3, and the Putney Farmers' Market on Sunday, June 4. Proceeds support the Center's mission to provide inclusive education and family support to promote the success of children and families.

Learn about edible perennial gardening at RFPL

BELLOWS FALLS — On Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m., landscaper and naturalist John Root will be at the Rockingham Free Public Library to discuss how to establish and maintain a variety of trees, shrubs, vines, canes, and herbaceous perennials that can be grown in New England for bountiful harvests of fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

Participants learn how to establish and care for these plants using organic methods of cultivation. Nutritional and medicinal benefits of the plants are explained as well. Questions and comments are welcome throughout the presentation, and handouts with a list of edible perennial plant species, resources for further study, and recommended plant nurseries are distributed at the conclusion

AROUND THE TOWNS

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St.

Cemetery community workday in West Halifax

WEST HALIFAX — On Saturday, June 3 (rain date: June 4), the Halifax Cemetery Commission, in collaboration with the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association (VOCA), will conduct a community workday in the West Halifax Cemetery.

Volunteers are needed to clean up the grounds and reset broken or fallen headstones. Participants can join in at 9 a.m. for a half-day of rewarding work. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Those interested should meet 8:30 to 9 a.m. at the Halifax Community

Hall, 20 Brook Rd., West Halifax. Volunteers are recommended to bring garden gloves, sun and tick protection, and clippers. For more information, contact Gary Rand at Grand221@gmail.com or 860-558-3565.

Main Street Arts presents gardens as living art

SAXTONS RIVER — Join Main Street Arts on the weekend of June 10 and 11 for a garden tour to experience three gardens and art in the Saxtons River/Rockingham area.

Offered during the weekend will be a plein air painting workshop by Kristen Murphy, a talk by landscape designer Samantha Anderson, sculpture by Deborah Bump, live music by Gordon Korstange, and a labyrinth talk and walk by Rana C. Williams.

Artist Mark Ragonese will demonstrate how to make a

garden arch from saplings at MSA, where visitors can also peruse a flea market of used garden tools, books, and accessories. Information about the tour, refreshments, and restrooms are available at Main Street Arts, 35 Main St.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 on the days of the tour. The Garden Tour ticket price includes one raffle ticket for gift certificates generously donated by Gardeners Supply, Walker Farm, Allen Brothers, Harlow Farm, and Morning Star Perennials. Additional tickets will increase your odds and are available online and at MSA on the tour days.

For more information about the garden tour, visit mainstreetarts.org.

West River Radio Club hosts annual Field Day

Ham radio offers opportunities to support your community,

communicate long distances without internet or cell networks, volunteer for emergency preparedness, and develop lifelong friendships, say organizers of the West River Radio Club's annual Field Day.

Visitors can get on the air and learn all the above on Saturday, June 24. Testing opportunities for those who are ready to obtain or upgrade their FCC license will be offered at 12:30 p.m.

This gathering will be held from 10 a.m. through the evening at the home of Rob and Karen Mather, 75 VT Route 10, North Springfield, Vermont. Persons wishing to take any exam need to RSVP and bring the following: two pieces of identification, one with a photo; pencils, a calculator (not on your cell phone), any prior radio license, and \$15 (cash or check).

For more information and/or to RSVP, contact Mary Peterson at 802-258-3921.

Community can keep prom, graduation season safe for all

TOWNSHEND—As families gather to celebrate during prom and graduation season, it is important for adults to stay vigilant with alcohol use and make sure alcohol is not easily accessible to young people. This is why West River Valley Thrives (Thrives), a local substance use prevention coalition, invites community members to participate in two national programs during this time of year.

"By sharing the responsibility of creating safe celebrations as a community and educating ourselves and our children about the dangers of underage drinking, we can keep our kids safe," the organization said in a news release.

You may have noticed the signs popping up around the West River Valley. That is because Thrives has launched its annual lawn sign campaign to promote prevention of teen alcohol use during prom and graduation season.

"By participating in this campaign, we are joining other families in a highly visible, community-wide reminder to show support for teens as they make healthy choices while celebrating an important rite of passage," said Newfane parent Gibbs Rehlen. "We chose to put a sign in our yard because we care about Vermont youth, their lives, and the health of our overall community."

New stickers are also visible at local retailers where alcoholic beverages are purchased. The stickers remind community members not to buy alcohol for anyone under the age of 21. "Sticker Shock" is a national program in which youth and caring adults

raise public awareness about the cost of providing alcohol to minors by placing stickers on beer, wine coolers, and any other alcohol products that appeal to underage drinkers.

According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 70% of Windham County high schoolers think it's easy to get alcohol from other people or their homes.

West River Valley Thrives works with local youth groups to implement Sticker Shock twice a year, during end-of-year holidays and end-of-school celebrations. On May 18, Thrives teamed up with Scout BSA Troop 428 to complete a Sticker Shock project as part of their community service requirements. The stores included in this round were River Bend Farm Market in Townshend, Harmonyville Country Store, The Newfane Store, Wardsboro Country Store, West River Provisions in Jamaica, and West Wardsboro Store.

Elon, a participating scout stated, "I wanted to do [this program] because it's a good thing to do. It can keep kids safe and make it harder to access alcohol."

Scout Leader Jennifer Matheson sees this as more than a community service project. "It gives [the Scouts] ownership over this important issue, to stand up and say it's not okay to provide alcohol to kids."

Thrives staff offers thanks to all who participated in these programs, including local retailers, "for being models for responsible beverage sales and use by encouraging all consumers of legal age to commit to keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors."

WSWMD receives grant for compost facility

BRATTLEBORO—Michelle Cherrier, chair of the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD), recently announced that the district was awarded a grant of \$276,942 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Organics Infrastructure grant program.

It will be used to support expansion of WSWMD's food and organics composting facility.

"This grant will enable us to construct a larger capacity composting facility to recycle the increasing tons of food scraps that residents, institutions, and businesses are diverting from landfill disposal," she said in a news release.

This grant is in addition to a grant of \$150,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and an appropriation of \$225,000 from the district for a project estimated to cost over \$700,000.

Due largely to Vermont's mandate in Act 148 that food scraps and yard debris should not be disposed of in landfills or incinerators, the total quantity of food scraps being collected in the district, and throughout Vermont, has steadily increased since the ban took effect in 2015.

Starting with large food scrap generators such as supermarkets,

over the next five years the ban was applied to smaller quantity generators, including residents as of 2020.

WSWMD Executive Director Bob Spencer explained that the district has applied for a permit for increased capacity and the state regulations for a larger facility require that stormwater runoff, particularly leachate from the active composting phase, be managed so as to not have a negative impact on surface or groundwater.

To accomplish this, a building will be constructed to prevent rain and snow from contact with the compost during the first three weeks of the process. The new building will have aeration trenches to provide air to the composting process and minimize the need for turning of the piles. The aeration system will also accelerate the composting process, thereby increasing capacity of the facility.

"We have been working closely with DEC solid waste staff to obtain a permit for a larger composting facility," Spencer said.

Cherrier said that the project will be financed without incurring long-term debt and therefore will not result in higher tax assessments to its 18-member towns.

BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

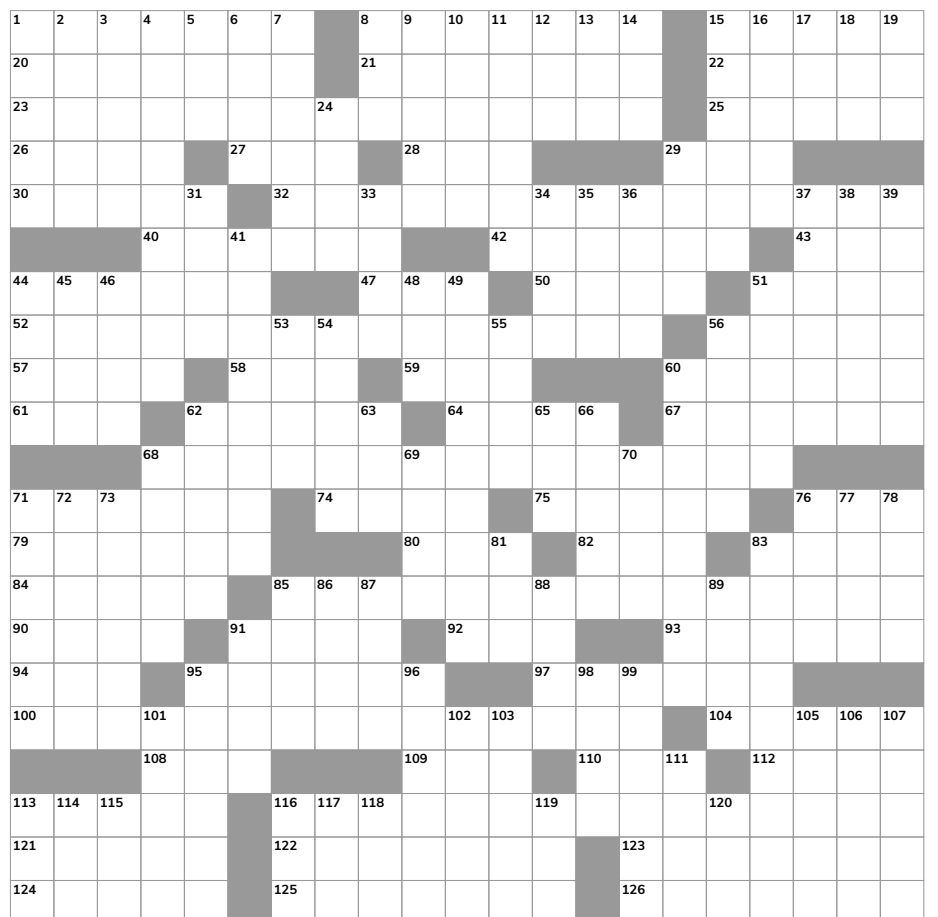
"Can You Repeat That?"

Across

- He said "I do"
- Palestine's spot
- Was awful
- 100 percent calm
- Like some easily replaceable attachments
- Blender setting
- Dastardly country place?
- Bad sleeper's woe
- Latin series finale?
- Formal greeting
- Delta rival: Abbr.
- Notable span
- "__ Off" (1996 Queen Latifah movie)
- Jerf on a meet and greet?
- Pizza topping
- Park place?
- "The Raven" monogram
- Win back, as losses
- Cheer word
- Brussels-based defense grp.
- Constructed
- Big hole for shorthair cats?
- Islam's holy book: Var.
- Second baseman Altuve
- Like Biden: Abbr.
- "November Rain" band, for short
- "Nobody else?"
- Insect in a pantry
- __ pork (Chinese dish)
- Greek earth goddess
- Partner of "or"
- Iranian tongue that's forward-thinking?
- Philippines capital
- Spicy cuisine
- Bacon slice
- Doctors' org.
- Letter-shaped surveyor's tool
- Supermarket chain inits.
- Spot for buds
- MBTA stops
- Swings around: Var.
- Horse's affable sound?
- Istanbul native
- Org. known for drilling on campus
- Almost bronze
- Daddy's sis
- Crete peak
- Parish leader
- Merit something (as a raise)
- See-through string instrument?
- Pace to play
- Edges of Lowell?
- Elbow's site
- Pair
- Cleaning help
- Military toy
- A Marx brother hunting Moby Dick?
- Appliance maker
- Goes along with
- Kitchen rack
- Tennis racket brand
- Jordan border lake
- Etsy proprietors

Down

- Honey factories
- Make one
- Impact sound
- Confrontational
- Tiny battery
- David McCallum CBS series
- Fitness guru Austin
- Home of the NCAA Spartans
- To recap
- Philippine port city
- Postscript: Var.
- ISP with a period in its logo
- Comedy show with a musical guest, briefly
- Wand org.
- Thinly spread
- Shakur who beefed with Biggie
- Mantel piece
- First last name preceder
- New Zealand parrot
- Tolkien beasts
- Waffle brand
- Concluding word?
- Greek goddess
- Wild and crazy
- Financial nest eggs
- Rivals of the Phils
- Family life, figuratively
- Lady of the maison
- Kickoff
- Delivery option?
- Indian prince
- Deep black
- Skin problem
- Director Lee
- "Don't go anywhere"
- "Is it necessary?"
- Untouchable name
- Cry in a snowball fight
- Scottish hillside
- Quaker Oats cereal with a propeller-wearing mascot
- "Star Trek: Picard" actress
- Gentlemen
- "Bleah!"
- Face cards?
- Following
- Charitable fun run
- Reagan secretary of state
- Russian inland lake
- Like magic

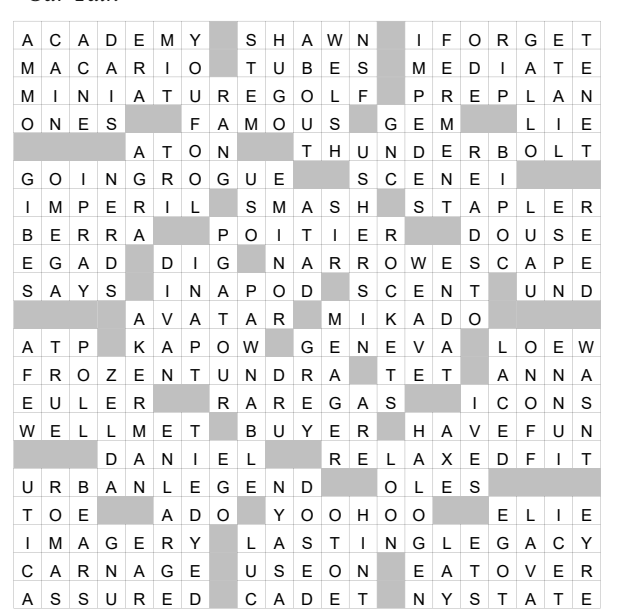


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- Sierra __
- Farmer's yield
- Gush onstage
- French department
- One with a woodwind
- Nasty funks
- Grimm figure
- Like a man's man?
- "Editorially speaking," in a text
- Mo. Kwanzaa ends
- Partook of
- Perfect serve
- Color TV pioneer
- Secretive govt. branch
- AI created by Arthur C. Clarke
- Refer (to)
- Kind of network
- Working away
- Crèche figures
- Arthur __ Stadium
- Grp. concerned with cases
- Outlook folder
- Little bite
- James of jazz
- Big symbol
- Future member of 81-Down
- Matin's opposite
- Drake's music
- Medieval weapon
- Collected, as 102-Down
- Kroger rival
- Orders at the bar

Last issue's solution

"Car Talk"



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Playoff season begins for local teams this week

The regular season concluded last week for high school baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, and Ultimate disc in Vermont. The opening rounds of the playoffs for these sports began this week, while the track & field teams will have their state championships this weekend.



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT, deputy editor of this newspaper, has written this column since 2010 and has covered sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send him sports information at news@commonsnews.org.

Baseball

• Brattleboro has been having trouble scoring runs all season, and their last few games of the regular season illustrated this with shutout losses to Otter Valley (2-0 on May 20), Monadnock (9-0 on May 23), and Burr & Burton (2-0 on May 25).

At the same time, BUHS coach Chris Groeger said after the May 25 game against the Bulldogs at Tenney Field that his young team is “making progress and getting better.”

When the two teams met in Manchester 10 days earlier, Brattleboro lost, 17-2. The May 25 game was far more competitive. Starting pitcher Jackson Emery held the Bulldogs scoreless through five innings, but ran into trouble in the sixth. Seb Dostal led off with a double to deep center field and Trevor Greene followed with a two-run homer down the right field line.

Those were the only blemishes on a strong effort by Emery, who struck out seven and walked six while allowing just three hits over his six innings. Emery also got a lot of help from his defense, which did not make an error.

Winning pitcher Ozzie Weber held BUHS to one hit, an infield single by John Satterfield in the fourth inning, over six innings with walks and 13 strikeouts. Dostal struck out the side in order in the seventh to get the save.

The biggest problem all year for Brattleboro has been generating offense. “It’s a whole new level for these guys,” Groeger said. “They’ve been seeing a lot of good pitchers and it takes time to build confidence.”

Groeger had hope that his team would turn in a good effort at Rutland on May 27, but once again, they were just short with a 5-4 loss. Brattleboro finished the regular season with a 6-8 record and the No. 10 seed in the Division I playoffs. They head north on May 31 to face No. 7 Rice in a first-round playoff.

• Bellows Falls finished the regular season at 8-8 with a 3-2 win over Hartford on May 23 and a 10-0 loss to Mount Anthony on May 26.

BF has played a tougher schedule than most of its peers in Division III, with games against Division I teams such as Brattleboro, Rutland, Burr & Burton, and Mount Anthony, as well as Division II powers Hartford and Fair Haven.

Coach Bob Lockerby’s reasoning is that the only way a team gets better is to play against good teams. It’s a strategy that usually pays off in a higher playoff seeding, since the index point system rewards teams with tougher schedules. That’s how the Terriers earned the No. 6 seed in Division III, and a May 30 home game at Hadley Field to host the No. 11 Springfield Cosmos in a

first-round game.

• Leland & Gray picked up the No. 3 seed in Division IV with a 10-6 record. They finished the regular season with a 5-4 win over Springfield on May 23, an 14-11 loss to Woodstock on May 25, and a win over Poultney by forfeit on May 27. They got a bye in the first round and will play the winner of the May 30 Arlington-Williamstown game on June 2 in a quarterfinal game in Townshend.

• Twin Valley finished its season without a win. The 0-9 Wildcats are fielding a varsity team for the first time in five years, and coach Greg Nido had his work cut out for him. He has only two seniors on this year’s team, and the underclassmen who took their lumps this season will get a taste of the playoffs when they face No. 4 Stratton Mountain School in a May 30 first-round game.

Softball

• Brattleboro ended its season with a 1-15 record with losses to Monadnock (13-1 on May 23) and Rutland (9-5 on May 27). First-year coach Erin Cooke is hopeful that the softball program can start building back toward its traditional status of being a perennial contender in Division I.

• Bellows Falls earned the No. 4 seed in Division III with a 9-6 record. BF finished the regular season with wins over Leland & Gray (8-7 on May 23), Woodstock (17-11 on May 26), and a loss to West Rutland (8-2 on May 27). The Terriers host No. 13 Williamstown in a first-round game on May 30.

• After the BF loss, Leland & Gray finished with wins over White River Valley (15-13 on May 24) and Poultney (10-9 on May 26) before finishing the regular season with an 8-7 road loss to Poultney on May 27.

The Poultney games were important for seeding because Poultney, Leland & Gray, and Blue Mountain were bunched up near the top of the Division IV standings heading into the final week of the season. With an 11-5 record, the Rebels fell to the fifth spot while Blue Mountain and Poultney clinched the third and fourth seeds, respectively.

This means Leland & Gray will travel to Poultney to face the Blue Devils for the third time in a week. They will meet in a quarterfinal game on June 2.

• Twin Valley ended the season without a victory. A pair of losses to Long Trail (21-6 on May 22 and 24-4 on May 24) and a 36-2 loss to Green Mountain on May 27 left the Wildcats with a 0-13 record.



Brattleboro shortstop John Satterfield throws to first to put out a Burr & Burton baserunner in the second inning of their May 25 game at Tenney Field.



Brattleboro’s Sam Bogart (3) walks back to the dugout after taking a called third strike in the first inning of their baseball game against Burr & Burton on May 25 at Tenney Field. Bogart was the first of 15 strikeouts by Burr & Burton’s pitchers in a 2-0 Brattleboro loss.

Track & Field

• The Essex Invitational on May 27 serves as both a final tuneup for the state championship meets as well as the qualifying meet for the New England championships. Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, Green Mountain, and Leland & Gray were all represented in Essex.

In the girls’ events, Brattleboro’s Ava Whitney was fifth in the 800 in 2 minutes, 23.96 seconds, and was seventh in the 1,500 in 5:03.7, while teammate Katherine Normandeau was 37th in the 1,500 in 5:50.1. Meredith Lewis tied for fourth in the pole vault, clearing 7 feet, 6 inches, while teammate Addison Devault tied for ninth place. Genevieve Redmond was 18th in the triple jump (31-2.5).

Laura Kamel led Bellows Falls with a third place finish in

the discus with a throw of 118 feet, 8 inches, and finished 12th in javelin (83-11). The quartet of Hadley Gleim, Tela Harty, Ava LaRoss, and Nola Sciacca finished seventh in the girls 4x100 relay in 53:30. Harty also finished 14th in the javelin (79-7) and 19th in the 300 hurdles (54.00), while Sciacca was seventh in the javelin (91-9) and 18th in the shot put (28-4.5) and Eryn Ross was 16th in the javelin (78-10).

In the boys’ events Green Mountain’s Eben Mosher was second in the boys’ 110 hurdles (15.60) and 300 hurdles (40.38).

The Brattleboro foursome of David Berkson-Harvey, Jack Cady, Dylan Holmes, and Sean von Ranson was second in the 4x100 relay in 44.68, while the BF team of Colby Dearborn, Justin Draper, Brandon Keller, and Gavin Joy were 11th in 46.98. In the 4x400,

Brattleboro’s relay team of Trevor Gray, Waylund Walsh, von Ranson, and Cady finished seventh in 3:34.66.

Other Brattleboro boys placing in the top 20 were Jacob Girard in the discus (19th, 97-9) and javelin (19th, 127 feet, 7 inches), Holmes in the 200 meters (13th, 23.70), von Ranson in the 200 (18th, 23.88), and Trevor Gray in the 300 hurdles (19th, 45.20).

Cady was fifth for BF in the 400 in 51.93, while Joy was 18th in 54.16. Joy also was 19th in the shot put with (36-10.25), while Dearborn was 18th in the 300 hurdles in 45.15, and Keller tied for ninth in the high jump (5-6). Ben Perry finished seventh in the javelin (124-7).

Leland & Gray’s John Parker-Jennings tied for ninth in the high jump (5-6) and 14th in the long jump (18 feet, 11.75), while Jacob Flood was 20th in

the 300 hurdles in 45.37.

Lacrosse

• After snapping a four-game losing streak with an 8-6 win over Randolph on May 20, the Brattleboro boys ended the regular season with losses to Mount Anthony (17-2 on May 23) and Hartford (7-4 on May 26) to finish the regular season with a 4-12 record.

Brattleboro was seeded 10th in the Division II playoffs and will face seventh-seeded Burlington in a first-round game on May 31.

• The Brattleboro girls finished the regular season with a 2-13 record with losses to Middlebury (14-3 on May 22) and Burr & Burton (15-1 on May 24). They will be sitting out the playoffs.

Tennis

• The Brattleboro boys finished the regular season at 7-5 with wins over Mount St. Joseph (7-0 on May 20), and Hartford (6-1 on May 22). They earned the No. 8 seed in Division I and got a home match in the first round against ninth-seeded Champlain Valley on May 30 on the BUHS courts. CVU won, 6-1.

• With a pair of wins over Mount St. Joseph on May 20 and a pair of losses on May 23 to Mount Anthony, the Brattleboro girls ended the regular season at 4-9. They earned the No. 10 seed in Division I and ended up losing to seventh-seeded North Country, 7-0, in a first-round match on May 30.

• The Bellows Falls girls finished the regular season at 2-11 and were seeded 10th in the Division II playoffs. The Terriers lost to seventh-seeded Rice, 7-0, in a first round match on May 30.

Ultimate disc

• Leland & Gray earned the No. 4 seed in the state tournament with an 8-2 record, while Brattleboro was seeded No. 13 at 2-6.

Brattleboro wrapped up the regular season with a 14-12 loss to Long Trail School and a 15-5 win over Sharon Academy on May 26, while Leland & Gray finished up with a 12-10 win over Sharon Academy on May 22.

The 8-2 Rebels will host 2-6 Brattleboro in the opening round of the state tournament later this week.

Senior bowling roundup

• Week 4 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on May 25 saw No Splits (19-1) have another 5-0 week to hang on to first place. Turkeys (14-6) had a 1-4 week, but remains in second, followed by Stayin’ Alive (13.5-6.5), Slo Movers and The Bowlers (both 13-7), Five Pins (11-9), Skippers (7.5-12.5), High Rollers (5-15), and Wrecking Crew (2-18).

Pamela Greenblott had the women’s high handicap game (257) and series (668), while Stan Kolpa had the men’s high handicap game (260) and series (683). No Splits had the high team handicap game (890) and series (2,515).

John Walker led the men’s scratch scoring with a 597 series that featured games of 229 and 197. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 587 series with games of 219 and 190, Milt Sherman had a 565 series with games of 194 and 192, Gary Montgomery had a 542 series with a 207 game, and Jerry Dunham had a 501 series. Kolpa had a 195 game, while Marty Adams rolled a 192.

Greenblott had the women’s high scratch series (488) and game (197); she also had a 173 game. Debbie Kolpa had a 180 game and Nancy Dalzell rolled a 175.

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