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## Town Meetings return to normal ... almost

*After three years of upended civic life, most towns meet in person*

By **Randolph T. Holhut**  
*The Commons*

**T**own Meeting Day always has a festive air about it at the Putney Central School gymnasium. The eighth-graders set up a table filled with homemade treats for sale as a fundraiser for their class trip. Information tables from the town library, the Conservation Commission, the Putney Foodshelf, and other nonprofits take up the outer edges of one half of the gym, right across from the voting booths. The other half of the gym, divided by a large

curtain, is devoted to Town Meeting, and about three-quarters of the seats were full by the time Moderator Meg Mott called the meeting to order, not long after 10 a.m. It was the first in-person Town Meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, and voters and town officials alike were happy to be holding it in the gym once more. They were so happy to do so, they took six hours to take care of the town's business. About 75% of Vermont towns like Putney went with the traditional in-person Town Meeting on or around the first Tuesday in March. Wardsboro and Windham decided to postpone

their in-person meetings until May. Around 60 communities, including Dummerston and Marlboro, chose this year to vote on articles by Australian ballot out of continued concerns about COVID-19. In Rockingham, Marlboro, and Wilmington, voters considered making Australian ballot voting rather than in-person meetings the norm going forward. On a voice vote that came at the end of a five-hour meeting, Wilmington voted unanimously to keep in-person meetings and Rockingham voters also rejected the proposal, 69-39. Marlboro overwhelmingly voted to adopt

the Australian ballot for all elections (392-28), budget matters (321-98), and public questions (319-101). **Few disagreements at meetings** Marlboro voters decisively rejected a proposal calling for the elimination of grades seven and eight at the Marlboro School (155-272). Dummerston joined nearly 100 other communities in Vermont that have signed on to a Declaration of Inclusion. Voters approved the advisory article in support of diversity and equity, **■ SEE TOWN MEETINGS, A2**

## Brattleboro rejects just-cause eviction

*Voters re-elect McLoughlin; Case and Reichsman to join Selectboard, ousting incumbent Gelter*

By **Randolph T. Holhut**  
*The Commons*

**BRATTLEBORO**—Incumbent Selectboard member Elizabeth McLoughlin held on to her three-year seat, while newcomers Peter “Fish” Case and Franz Reichsman won one-year seats on the board in the March 7 town election. Meanwhile, voters rejected a referendum on “just cause” eviction in a 1,221-656 vote. **■ SEE BRATTLEBORO ELECTION, A7**

All the Selectboard races were close. McLoughlin won her second three-year term over former board member Dick DeGray, 1,005-920. McLoughlin told *The Commons* last month that she sees the greatest challenges for Brattleboro in the next three years as dealing with homelessness and housing; opioid and mental health care/crime, and victimization of the vulnerable; and emergency **■ SEE BRATTLEBORO ELECTION, A7**

## Student survey shows slight improvement

There’s still ‘work to do,’ WSESD consultant says

By **Virginia Ray**  
*The Commons*

**BRATTLEBORO**—Results of the fall school climate survey show some areas of school life have improved slightly since spring 2022. On Feb. 28, Windham Southeast School District (WSESD) school board directors heard an initial presentation and summary of results based on a survey from Panorama

Education, which offers the assessing tool “to improve educational outcomes with a holistic view of student data.” Presenter Dr. Chris Overtree, a psychologist hired by the District in February 2022 to help with the process, said before the meeting that results “are based on the district’s own standard practice of administering climate surveys every year, which, before Panorama, consisted of questions supported, authored, and tracked by the district.” “Had WSESD not already been using this well-validated instrument as part of their standard practices, I would have recommended they commence doing so, and would have done so as part of **■ SEE WSESD SURVEY, A5**



This mural in the entry hall at Bellows Falls Union High School was created this past fall with the help of Afghanistan political refugee and artist Negina Azimi. **ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS**

## For students, a lesson in CREATIVE DEFIANCE

*Negina Azimi, an artist whose work in Afghanistan was destroyed by the Taliban, works with BFUHS ninth graders to create a school mural with a message of freedom and justice*

By **Robert F. Smith**  
*The Commons*

**WESTMINSTER**—Ninth-grade students in the Global Citizenship class at Bellows Falls Union High School took a unique route toward learning about justice on the international stage this school year. They used art.

More specifically, they designed and painted a mural in the school entry hall this past fall with the help of Afghanistan political refugee and artist Negina Azimi. John Ungerleider, director of the Great Falls Community Justice Center, also helped organize the project. Teacher Laura Tabachnick described the month-long mural process as “a very cool experience,” describing **■ SEE MURAL, A8**

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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](mailto:voices@commonsnews.org).

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Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman,  
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# Vigil calls for end of U.S. involvement in Yemen

## Activists call on Congress to invoke War Powers Act

By Randolph T. Holhut  
*The Commons*

BRATTLEBORO—While global attention over the past year has been focused on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing humanitarian crisis it has created, a group of activists took time on March 1 to remind people of another ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by war.

About 20 people took part in a vigil in front of the Post Office to call for an end to U.S. participation in Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen.

The Brattleboro vigil, one of 13 that took place in Burlington and other cities around the nation, was designed to encourage Vermont's two U.S. Senators, Bernie Sanders and Peter Welch, to introduce a new Yemen War Powers Resolution. This would force a floor vote in Congress to end U.S. participation in the conflict.

An attempt to do this was made last year by Sanders and Welch.

Sanders sponsored a resolution in the Senate over the objections of the Biden administration, and Welch co-sponsored a similar measure while he was still a member of the House. Neither measure gained any traction, but both lawmakers are willing to try again.

Speakers at the Brattleboro vigil included Action Corps director Isaac Evans-Frantz, Rev. Scott

Couper of Centre Congregational Church, Vermont Progressive Party vice-chair Marielle Blais, Ellen Schwartz of the Vermont Workers Center, and longtime Putney peace activist Daniel Sicken.

"We might be a relatively small group what you see here," said Evans-Frantz, who ran for U.S. Senate in 2022. "But around the country today in over 10 cities in at least 10 states, people are demonstrating, people are saying, 'The war on Yemen must stop. Enough is enough. Not in our name. Not with our resources.'"

The Saudi-led invasion and blockade of Yemen has gone on for eight years and is in its third U.S. presidential administration. It started during the Obama administration and was meant to oppose and topple the Houthis regime that had seized power.

Organizers of the vigil said that U.S. support has helped the Saudis subject the Yemeni people to more than 25,000 air raids. As a result of the war and blockade on Yemen, famine and malnutrition are a daily presence, with millions of children malnourished and 80% of the country in need of humanitarian aid.

According to the vigil organizers, the war "degenerated into a bloody civil conflict. Despite remarks by the Biden administration to end 'offensive' weapon sales to Saudi Arabia, the U.S. continues to sell weapons to Saudi



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

About 20 local activists held a vigil on March 1 at the Brattleboro Post Office to demand an end to U.S. support of the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

Arabia and provide logistical support to the Saudi air force, which enforces the blockade of Yemen."

"Congress never authorized this war," Evans-Frantz said. "It's been waged now by three administrations: first the Obama administration, then the Trump administration, and now the Biden administration."

Schwartz said the U.S. doesn't call out the Saudis for its activity in Yemen because of "the grasp that Saudi Arabia has on our foreign policy."

Sicken said that another reason for the relative silence of

Congress, the Biden administration, and public opinion regarding Yemen is the U.S. economy's dependence on military spending.

"Even Brattleboro, we have two companies who are making products for the military," he asserted.

"This is the silent war if we don't talk about it," Blais said. "Individuals can make a difference."

Evans-Frantz agreed, saying that global activism has had an effect on the war in Yemen. For more than 10 months, he said, Saudi Arabia has not dropped a

single bomb on Yemen, "but that can change any moment."

According to activists, the most effective way to end the Saudi war and blockade on Yemen is for Congress to vote on a War Powers Resolution. Couper said that Vermonters should support the resolution "in all dimensions you work."

The March 1 protests nationwide were endorsed by a coalition of 19 organizations. For more information, visit [every75seconds.org](http://every75seconds.org).

## Town Meetings

FROM SECTION FRONT

382-34. They also approved all articles on their warrant.

Brookline voters approved their town budgets but there were no volunteers to fill two open seats on the five-member Selectboard that have been vacant since last May. Only 50 of the town's 461 registered voters attended the Monday night meeting.

Stratton rejected a proposal to reduce its school board from five members to three and approved a non-binding resolution calling on the school board, state Rep. Laura Sibilila, I-Dover, and Gov. Phil Scott to support school choice.

The issue is important to Stratton, since its 54 school-age children are tuitioned out to neighboring schools with the town picking up the tab.

Wilmington voters approved eliminating the town lister position in favor of a professionally qualified assessor.

In "big ticket" items on Town Meeting warrants, Wilmington approved \$260,000 of repairs for its municipal offices. Rockingham approved \$103,000 for structural repairs to the historic Rockingham Meeting House, while Dummerston approved \$500,000 for a new fire truck.

On a 69-39 vote, Rockingham voters rejected spending \$6,000 for a part-time contract with the Windham County Sheriff's Department to patrol Bartonville and other rural sections of the town.

Voters in Halifax, Jamaica, and Londonderry considered imposing 1% local option tax on rooms, meals, retail sales, and alcohol.

Halifax decided to take a pass on voting for the 1% tax, as voters wanted more information about before making a decision. Jamaica and Londonderry approved the new local taxes.

Dover voted to give town employees a 4% pay raise and its police officers a 10% raise.

Highway crew members will get a \$2.50-per-hour pay increase.

Vernon voters approved all but one article on their warrant: a \$10,000 expenditure for the equipment replacement fund. Only 134 of the town's 1,900 registered voters participated in the March 6 night meeting, which was held in the elementary school gym to allow for social distancing. It was their first indoor meeting since 2020.

Guilford voters approved all the articles, including one that empowers the Selectboard to appoint a town treasurer, previously an elected position. Voters ultimately agreed on the change, but not before a vigorous debate.

Brattleboro, the only town in Vermont that uses a Representative Town Meeting, will have its annual meeting on Saturday, March 25 in the Brattleboro Union High School gym.

Voters there went to the polls Tuesday, re-electing Elizabeth McLoughlin to the Selectboard and ousting its current clerk, Jessica Callahan Gelter. Peter "Fish" Case and Franz Reichsman will join the board [story, this issue].

### Tradition versus inclusion

The two-year pause in holding in-person meetings spurred many communities to try mailed ballots. That pandemic measure sparked record voter participation — and calls to move permanently from making decisions in-person to on-paper.

"A higher level of voter engagement on budget decisions feels vital to the health of our little democracy," said Marlboro Town Clerk Forrest Holzapfel, whose town voted to retain the remote balloting.

But old-fashioned floor votes still have their supporters. Westminster residents woke on March 4 to a foot of snow, but the local highway department began plowing at 5 a.m. so that a crowd of 70 people could attend Town Meeting at 10 a.m.

Attendance varied on Monday night, with meetings in Rockingham, Vernon, Brookline, and Athens (which tried a Monday night meeting this year), and at the Tuesday

morning meetings.

"We have strong feelings about voting from the floor and the discussion and ability to amend articles that the precious tradition allows," said Dover Town Clerk Andy McLean.

Marlboro, for its part, used its recent informational session to discuss the pros and cons of a switch to Australian balloting.

"I feel the one advantage to Town Meeting is people raise their questions and issues, there can be a revision of the budgets, and you walk away with a completed situation," resident Andy Reichsman said.

But others have countered that most working people can't gather on the traditional first Tuesday in March, limiting decision-making to residents who are retired or can take time off.

"We keep talking about the glory of a 200-year Town Meeting tradition, but 200 years ago women and Black people weren't even allowed to vote," Marlboro resident Carol Ann Johnson said. "I just don't think that 100 people should have the only vote on a \$4 million budget."

Statewide, the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights has released a statement urging more inclusion.

"Unfortunately, for too long, Town Meeting Day has not provided opportunity for equal representation, including for people with disabilities, older Vermonters, those without access to transportation, and people who are unable to obtain child care or time off from work," it said.

The coalition is advocating for more use of ballots and audiovisual technology. Others are suggesting that people who want to engage in the municipal process attend proceedings throughout the year.

"A lot of people show up at Town Meeting and think they're participating in the making of the sausage, but they're not," Johnson said in Marlboro.

"They need to get involved early on. They need to go to the Selectboard and school board meetings," she said. "That's where it happens."

With additional reporting by Kevin O'Connor of VT Digger.org.

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## Voters grill rep about heat legislation, laud sewer funding

Whitingham approves most of its financial articles

By Olga Peters  
*The Commons*

WHITINGHAM—“There’s plenty more food, please take more,” called a Whitingham Ladies Benevolent Society member as Town Meeting attendees chatted with neighbors and ate a meal of homemade lasagna, salad, and pies in the Twin Valley Middle High School cafeteria.

Annual Town Meeting began with a presentation by Rep. Tristan Roberts, D-Halifax. It ended with applause for Selectboard Office Administrator Gib Zaboray, who worked to bring in \$1 million in grant funding to repair the town’s two aging sewer plants.

Voters wanted to discuss S.5, the Affordable Heat Act, with Roberts. The audience members who spoke all raised concerns that, if passed, S.5 would increase their heating costs while decreasing their choices for heating their homes.

S.5 is designed to combat climate change by outlining a path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions created by heating buildings. The act would also create a new clean heat standard aimed at transitioning Vermonters from using fossil fuels like heating oil, kerosene, and propane by making these heating fuels more expensive.

Roberts told the audience that he was still undecided on how he will vote. Yet, he added, as someone with a background in architecture and construction, he had multiple questions about the bill’s implications for rural communities like those he serves.

As communities that have experienced weeklong power outages and being marooned during 2011’s Tropical Storm Irene, said Roberts, “We need backups to the backups because when push comes to shove, Whitingham, Halifax, and Wilmington can be left on an island.”

### Most financial articles pass

Of the 37 articles voted from the floor, attendees approved 35.

Voters approved \$740,771 to cover general fund expenditures and operating expenses for the

upcoming fiscal year. The articles authorizing funding for town services such as the Highway Department, Fire Department, Library, Cemeteries, and Parks Committee also passed. Several smaller amounts requested by community organizations that serve residents, such as the Women’s Freedom Center or Deerfield Valley Rescue, were also approved.

Voters defeated an article establishing a reserve fund called the Cell Town Fund to hold money from the lease buyout for a cell tower in town. Instead, voters decided to direct those funds toward the Town Highway Garage Renovation fund. An article to appropriate \$1,203 for Health Care Rehabilitation Services, Inc., died for lack of a motion.

Voting for municipal officials, the school board, and the school budget took place by Australian ballot.

### ‘An act of desperation’

According to a press release included in the Annual Town Report, Whitingham’s two sewer plants have outlived their life expectancy by two decades. The state temporarily closed the plant located in the Village of Jacksonville in 2018 due to failing equipment.

Before the pandemic, voters approved spending \$3.9 million to repair and upgrade the plants. After the pandemic, however, the single bid submitted to the town totaled \$4.7 million. So, the municipality pared down the project to only replacing the plants’ processing equipment. Unfortunately, this left the buildings and sewer lines “in a decrepit state.”

In what the press release termed “an act of desperation,” Zboray, the Selectboard office administrator, applied for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ Congressional Directed Spending (more popularly known as “earmarks,” or money that members of Congress direct back to their districts).

Sanders secured \$1 million in funding to enable the town to repair the buildings, sewer lines, and purchase backup power generators.

## Supporters continue push to retain BFUHS principal

School board chair says Broadley, who says he won’t renew his contract, ‘hasn’t come talk to us’

By Woody Laidlaw  
*Community News Service,  
for The Commons*

WESTMINSTER—For more than a month, members of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNEU) community have told school officials they don’t want Principal John Broadley to leave.

An online petition to keep Broadley in his current role had more than 1,020 signatures as of March 3.

But the principal—who told the school board last month that he would not renew his role at Bellows Falls Union High School—apparently doesn’t want to talk about it.

At a March 1 meeting, high school board Chair Molly Banik said she had reached out to Broadley in the previous three weeks and invited him to speak with the board, but “he hasn’t come talk to us.”

As he has since sending his letter, Broadley also declined to comment to *The Commons*.

At the school district’s previously scheduled annual meeting that followed, voters overwhelmingly approved a motion strongly urging the board to offer Broadley a contract.

Broadley’s departure is another blow to the district after Bellows Falls Middle School Principal Susan Johnson resigned in January.

The saga has swamped school board meetings in the district since Broadley’s non-renewal letter was read at a Jan. 24 meeting.

At a special meeting Jan. 31, members of the community voiced their surprise and displeasure. Dozens of community members showed support for Broadley at meetings through February—and some have questioned whether he is being forced out.

### A meeting deferred

The March 1 meeting itself added more controversy to the situation as residents believe its messy scheduling was a move by officials to quash protest.

The meeting, initially advertised as an open community event to occur Feb. 27, was postponed due to weather to March 1, the date of the regularly scheduled board meeting.

District board Chair Jack Bryar called Windham Northeast Superintendent Andrew Haas on the morning of Feb. 27 and voiced concern about the weather, after which the meeting was delayed, Bryar said. When reached for comment after the meeting, he was unsure about how much influence his advice had on the delay.

“At the end of the day, the person who moved the meeting was Haas,” Bryar said.

Haas, in turn, told *The Commons* via text message that “our legal [counsel] advised us to warn the meeting and [the district has] since gotten interpretation from the [Secretary] of State’s office that it should be warned as a meeting.”

The change in format frustrated residents hoping for more of a discussion with the board.

“We need to have an actual Q&A,” said parent Samantha Simonds in comments to *The Commons*. “They kept changing the type of meeting.”

Some of the students who had planned to protest at the community event on Monday believe the weather was just an excuse.

“We think it’s because so many of us wanted to protest,” said Junior Alexis Keefe. “There were supposed to be 50 protesters at Monday’s meeting.”

Still, the rescheduled meeting drew between 50 and 60 attendees. Students in front of the high school building waved with colorful signs—bearing slogans

like “Honk for Broadley,” “We Love Broadley,” and more—while a handful of them danced.

Despite the non-renewal letter and Broadley’s apparent disengagement with the board, community members believe there’s more going on than officials have let on.

### Board has yet to discuss

Most people at the March 1 meeting were there in support of the principal, many of whom believe Broadley was forced out.

“I believe John did not resign,” said district resident Fred Robling. “It’s not coming from him.”

Stephanie Mitchell, a former paraeducator at Westminster Central School, went further: “I 100% believe John Broadley did not write that letter willingly.”

Mitchell said she had to leave her job in the district because “she had no other choice.” When she last worked at the district, she had no lunch breaks “starting August through Thanksgiving break,” she said at the meeting.

Student Kali Desmarais, who’d been at the school since 7:30 that morning, felt that “if Mr. Broadley leaves, he’s not only taking teachers with him, he’s taking students.”

Junior Morgan Rumrill shared those sentiments: “He’s one of the only reasons I stayed at the Tech Center. For the school board to make this decision [...] is hurtful. We’re students, we go here every day.”

After the meeting, Rumrill told *The Commons* that she felt “we were not heard the way we should’ve been heard [...] They ignored everything.”

The board has yet to meet and have a full discussion about the community’s wishes for Broadley.

“We have not had a meeting as a board to even talk about

what we’re talking about here,” said Banik.

She said the board needed the presence of Superintendent Andrew Haas, and she cited busy schedules as the main difficulty in facilitating that process.

In an interview the week before the meeting, Haas told *The Commons* that “one of the things we can do better is to communicate.”

A timeline released to the community states that the district intends to conduct interviews for Broadley’s successor beginning in “the second week of March” and a second round of interviews the week after.

School officials indicated to *The Commons* that they’re looking to start interviews the week of March 19. They indicated confidence in their timeline but didn’t want the search to extend past mid-April.

### Voters urge board to offer contract

At the end of the special meeting, Haas told *The Commons* that he was “glad to see community engagement.”

Minutes later, during the board’s previously scheduled annual meeting, Rockingham resident Samantha Simonds presented a motion that sought to ask the board to offer him a contract, and said “the community” would like to see that happen.

But board member David Clark wanted to change the language to instead refer to “present members of the community,” rather than the entire district community.

He also wanted to soften the language because the board can’t be compelled to spend money that it has not budgeted for—and that a contract for Broadley is not in the budget.

The sides negotiated the language to say the motion reflected “the sense of the community” to offer a contract.

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# A town returns to **TOWN MEETING**

Photos by  
Randolph T. Holhut



Putney Town Moderator Meg Mott got her first opportunity to run an in-person annual Town Meeting since 2020.



There was a slow, but steady flow of voters to the booth at Putney Central School.

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Town of Townshend  
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### HIRING Vocational Counselor

The Brattleboro office of HireAbility (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation) [www.hireabilityvt.com](http://www.hireabilityvt.com) has an opening for a skilled Vocational Counselor to join our highly innovative team of professionals with the mission of helping Vermonters with disabilities to gain and maintain employment and to access career training and education opportunities. Job duties include assessment, guidance and counseling, case management, documentation and collaboration with many community providers. The position is posted on the State of VT Department of Human Resources website.

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Putney poll worker Patty Babbitt does her part to remind residents of their civic duty.



The Putney Selectboard listens to state Rep. Mike Mrowicki, D-Putney, give a report at the annual Town Meeting on March 7.

BCTV producer Cor Trowbridge monitors the feed from the Putney Annual Town Meeting on March 7.





# WSESD survey

FROM SECTION FRONT

my climate assessment,” Overtree told *The Commons*.

“As it stands,” he added, “the district is in an excellent position to work with me in partnership to make data-based decisions about strategies to improve climate. We have not had to add additional burden to the district, short of making time for me to visit with school personnel, students, and conduct secondary analysis of the data.”

Overtree said much of the work to date has “revolved around working with school personnel to establish and enhance best practices using yearly climate data to inform local, school-based initiatives.”

The psychologist said he is working with the district to “solidify the continuity and sustainability” of those practices “in an environment that is seeing labor shortages and significant turnover.”

Leveraging the data-gathering process to strengthen school climate by enhancing “we-want-to-know-how-you-feel-about-your-school” messaging is also key, Overtree said.

## The results

The written summary is divided into responses from 470 students in grades 3-5 and 975 in grades 6-12. It includes questions regarding school climate and a sense of belonging, as well as a section of custom-crafted questions.

In it, Overtree wrote, “school climate problems usually reflect those in our society and our communities [...] except in extreme circumstances, school climate problems are not caused by our schools or children.”

At the meeting, he clarified somewhat that the results here are similar to those he’s seeing “across the country” and that issues are dependent on the “types of supports students are receiving post-pandemic.”

He also noted that nationally, scores are “always lower for the higher grades.”

“We are looking to create long-term, sustainable trends and to catch negative trends before they become larger trends,” he said, adding that incremental improvement is also a trend, so much so that he is “considering recommending doing Panorama once a year since the changes are moving slowly.”

Overtree, who teaches at the Umass Amherst School of Education and has been a specialist in school climate assessment since 2002, said “amazing work is happening in your district,” later adding “you are already doing good work to try to turn data into action. You’re doing well compared to a lot of districts I’ve worked with in other states.”

Results show “overall favorable percentage responses are lower than we would like for several questions. We have work to do with respect to student engagement and sense of belonging.”

Overall responses in the higher grades are deemed “much lower than we would like for most questions. We have work to do in the upper grades with respect to student engagement and sense of belonging.”

It was also noted that the district is “not seeing large differences in responses when disaggregating by race/ethnicity; the largest variance here regards the sense of belonging.”

Finally, results show that student-to-student interactions — those related to respect and impact on learning, for instance — “seem to be having a greater negative impact than interactions with adults.”

## Looking ahead

During the meeting Superintendent Mark Speno noted plans to continue to work with Overtree this spring, although no vote has been taken to extend his one-year contract.

Another survey presentation is planned for the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union board in June to share new, spring data and goals for the beginning of the September 2023 school year.

In the current assessment, actions being taken now at the K-8 level include:

- Individual schools working on school-wide strategies to handle how they teach about behavior expectations, deal with issues of social equity and justice, and more;

- Multi-age collaboration and school-wide initiatives such as buddies and morning meetings;

- Implementing collective authorship for behavioral expectations across settings such as lunch and recess;

- Student leadership teams working to design activities related to restorative practices, expectations, and more;

- Sending representatives to the grades 6-8 Landmark College student leadership conference;

- School-wide programming for activities such as dances, outdoor enrichment, etc.

Ongoing initiatives being implemented at the high school level include:

- The Student Advisory Council, which will lead a professional development offering about student engagement and communication;

- ACE time devoted to student-led school improvement projects;

- Strategies in the works to help students communicate effectively about their needs as “people and learners”;

- A two-credit course supporting students who need addiction help;

- Working to ensure students have access to at least one trusted adult they are comfortable asking for help;

- Increasing the number of building staff members trained in trauma-informed practices.

Overtree called the WSESD “a district of schools in motion,” adding that is when school climate improvement happens.

## Response and request for a written report

Following the presentation, Board Clerk Tim Maciel, calling the survey “so important,” said it was unfortunate that board members had received the report just a day before the presentation and were discussing it midway through a packed agenda.

# Survey questions and responses

## Grades 3-5

		% favorable	% change
SCHOOL CLIMATE	1. How positive or negative is the energy of the school?	68%	↓2%
	2. How fair or unfair are the rules for the students at this school?	70%	↑3%
	3. At your school, how much does the behavior of other students hurt or help your learning?	38%	↓4%
	4. How often do your teachers seem excited to be teaching your classes?	76%	↑4%
SENSE OF BELONGING	1. How well do people at your school understand you as a person?	68%	no change
	2. How much support do the adults at your school give you?	76%	↓1%
	3. How much respect do students at your school show you?	54%	↑6%
	4. Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?	68%	↑6%
CUSTOM-TAILORED QUESTIONS	1. If you walked into class upset, how concerned would your teacher be?	96%	no change
	2. When your teacher asks, “How are you?,” how often do you feel that your teacher really wants to know your answer?	79%	↑1%
	3. I am respected by the adults in my school.	83%	no change
	4. There is at least one trusted adult in the school I can talk to.	91%	↓2
	5. Kids in my school are kind to each other.	45%	↑3
	6. I feel safe at school.	70%	↓2
	7. My Principal cares about me and everyone in our school.	93%	↑2
	8. I feel safe on the school bus.	64%	↓6

## Grades 6-12

		% favorable	% change
SCHOOL CLIMATE	1. How positive or negative is the energy of the school?	47%	↑6
	2. How pleasant or unpleasant is the physical space at your school?	45%	↑3
	3. How fair or unfair are the rules for the students at this school?	50%	↑6
	4. At your school, how much does the behavior of other students hurt or help your learning?	26%	↑2
	5. How often do your teachers seem excited to be teaching your classes?	56%	↑2
SENSE OF BELONGING	1. How well do people at your school understand you as a person?	44%	↑3
	2. How connected do you feel to the adults at your school?	36%	↑3
	3. How much respect do students in your school show you?	41%	↑4
	4. How much do you matter to others at this school?	36%	↓1
	5. Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?	43%	↑3
CUSTOM-TAILORED QUESTIONS	1. When your teacher asks, “How are you?,” how often do you feel that your teacher really wants to know your answer?	52%	↑4
	2. If you walked into class upset, how concerned would your teacher be?	89%	↑2
	3. I am respected by the adults in my school.	68%	↑6
	4. There is at least one trusted adult in the school I can talk to.	89%	↑4
	5. Kids in my school are kind to each other.	26%	↑2
	6. I feel safe at school.	54%	↓5
	7. The principals care about me and everyone in our school.	56%	↑10
	8. I feel safe on the school bus.	71%	↑3

CHART BY JEFF POTTER, THE COMMONS

He asked for a written report, and others, including representative Lana Dever, agreed.

“Not only is this important information that the community should be able to weigh in on, but we spent a fair amount of money for it,” she said.

To date, the district has paid Overtree \$34,575: \$18,260 in the 2021-22 fiscal year, and \$16,325 to date in 2022-23.

“We’re asking for a report that we’ve already paid for, more or less,” added board Clerk Anne Beekman when asked if a vote were needed to ask for a written report.

Overtree said he would be happy to comply but that the board might want to define the parameters of his report, including determining its goals,

whether they would want recommendations from him, and whether they would want him to highlight differences among schools — information not present in the summary.

Chair Kelly Young suggested that Overtree send board members an email with points to consider they want to have in his written report so they can discuss them at the next meeting.

Former board Chair David Schoales said several board members have been meeting with Overtree all year and encourages “putting together another non-quorum group” to go over what might be in the written report.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

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**STATE OF VERMONT**  
**SUPERIOR COURT** **PROBATE DIVISION**  
 Windham Unit **Docket No.: 23-PR-00641**  
 In re ESTATE of: James Ferris

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: James Ferris (Decedent)  
 late of Brattleboro, 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: March 3, 2023 147 Western Avenue  
 Molly Ladner, Attorney Brattleboro, VT 05301

Name of Publication: The Commons 802-257-7244  
 Publication Date: March 8, 2023 mladner@pdsclaw.com

Name of Probate Court: Vermont County Superior Court, Windham Unit  
 Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor, Brattleboro, VT 05301

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
**DUMMERSTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Dummerston Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 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 #3707: O'Donnell Family Co. / The Bunker Farm, for Site Plan Review pursuant to Accessory On Farm Business, under Sections 665 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw and Act 143, at parcel #141.4, 857 Bunker Rd., Dummerston, VT, a Rural District. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on March 21, 2023, beginning at or about 5:00 pm.
- A review of application #3708: Landmark Trust USA / The Scott Farm, for Site Plan Review pursuant to Accessory On Farm Business, under Sections 665 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw and Act 143, at parcel #702, 707 Kipling Rd., Dummerston, VT, a Productive Lands District. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on March 21, 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](mailto:zoning@dummerston.org). To receive the Zoom video teleconference link email to: [zoning@dummerston.org](mailto:zoning@dummerston.org), or call: 802-275-5739.

Dated: March 8, 2023  
 Roger Vincent Jasaitis  
 Dummerston Zoning Administrator

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## MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

## College news

• **Kim Amidon** of Vernon, **Nicholas Douglass** of Saxtons River, **Venus Fu** of Brattleboro, and **Abigail Sargent** of Dummerston were all named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.

• The following local students at Northern Vermont University honored for academic excellence in the fall 2022 semester: **Gregory Fitzgerald** of Brattleboro, and **Tysea Kurjiaka** and **Eva Paré** of Londonderry were named to the President's List, while **Samantha Martin** and **Fiona Perez Razzaque** of Brattleboro and **Lauren Shott** of Stratton were named to the Dean's List.

• **Emeline Stewart** of Wilmington was named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Fairfield (Conn.) University.

• **Hana Kusumi** of South Londonderry, a senior majoring in government and philosophy, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

• **Eli Leclaire** of Brattleboro, **Travis Meggiolaro** of Dummerston, and **Niko Huber** of South Londonderry were all named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology.

• **Carly Gallivan** of West Dover and **Katie Jarvis-Stores** of Putney, both members of the Class of 2026, were named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston.

• **Elise Vinton** of Guilford earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University's Leavitt School of Health.

• **Luke Williams** of Guilford has made the Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston for the fall 2022 semester.

• **Amy Moore** of Brattleboro, **Andrew Clark** of East Dummerston, **Joshua Martyn** of Vernon, **Hyim Savel** of Westminster West, and **Elijah Boucher** of Newfane were all named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Vermont Technical College.

• The following local students were named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts: **Lydia Hazzard-Leal** and **Liam R.S. Kennedy** of Brattleboro, **Julianne L. Liebow** of Townshend, and **Max H. Spicer** of Williamsville received first honors, while **Abbe K. Cravinho** of Bellows Falls, **Freddie G. Learey** of Brattleboro, **Tori D. MacKay** of South Newfane, **Billie E. McCarthy** of Brattleboro, and **Lucy M. Szpila** of Brattleboro received second honors.

• **Charlotte Croft** of West Dover and **Addison Kujovsky** of South Londonderry were named the fall 2022 Dean's List at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

• **Elijah Cooper** of Brattleboro was named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

## Obituaries



• **Thelma Latchis Terry**, 92, formerly of Brattleboro, died on Feb. 25, 2023 in Park

City, Utah. Terry was born on July 11, 1930, in Brattleboro to Spero D. and Koula Katsimanis Latchis. Terry's father and his three brothers — Peter, Emmanuel, and John — built the historic Latchis Memorial Theater and Hotel in downtown Brattleboro in 1938 in dedication to their father, Demetrius P. Latchis, who immigrated to Brattleboro from Greece in 1901. Terry was raised in a close-knit Greek-American family and spent her childhood in Brattleboro, where she attended Brattleboro High School and was a member of the Ski Patrol at Hogback Ski Area. She is survived by her three younger brothers who include: James of Brattleboro, George of Burbank, California, and Kenneth Latchis, M.D. of Bethesda, Maryland. Terry attended Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where she graduated in 1952 with a B.A. in languages. In September 1952, Terry married James L. Carvelas, M.D. of Youngstown, Ohio (deceased) and, in 1960, they moved to Rye, NY where they lived for 34

years before moving to Park City in 1994. Terry devoted much of her young adult life to raising her five children and serving various church and community organizations. Terry and Jim were founding members of their church, The Greek Orthodox Church of our Saviour in Rye, New York, which opened in 1961. Terry was a devout and valued member of the church's Ladies Philoptochos Society. She was very artistic and creative and loved knitting sweaters, shawls and hats and was also a prolific painter of oils and watercolors specializing in landscapes. Additionally, she was a high gourmet chef of Greek heritage dishes and pastries. Terry and her aunt and business partner, Sophia Lyras, formed Enchanted Cottage Creations, Inc., which from 1985 to 1998 sold various arts & crafts created by them and others. Terry had many long and enduring friendships over her lifespan and will be remembered for her intellect, sense of humor, and love of her family. She was an exemplary loving person and gentle darling and will be dearly missed by all for her kind nature, generosity, beauty, and humor. Terry is survived by her five children, Lou, Paul, Philip, Don and Ann Fullerton as well as her son-in-law, John Fullerton, daughter-in-law, Julia Carvelas (Phil's wife), and Terry's two grandchildren, Daniel and Ethan Carvelas. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside committal services will be held in the springtime in the

Carvelas family lot in Morningside Cemetery in Brattleboro, where she will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband, James and other relatives. To share a memory or send condolences to Terry's family, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



• **Mary Ellen Coulombe**, 93, of Brattleboro, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Feb. 23, 2023 at Pine Heights

nursing home. Mary was born in Keene, New Hampshire on Sept. 21, 1929, the daughter of Steven and Louise (Eagle) Packard. She grew up in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, attending public schools and graduated from Hinsdale High School with the class of 1947. Mary was a devoted homemaker whose life centered around her family. She enjoyed her home, tending to her flower gardens, and loved decorating for each approaching holiday, especially Christmas. Of her other hobbies and interests, she collected nutcrackers and dolls and liked to sew. Mary was known for her spirit of generosity and was a dedicated supporter of many charities. One of her favorites was Father Flannagan's Boys Town. She was a member of the American Legion Brattleboro Post 5 Auxiliary and a life member of the VFW Carl M. Dessaint Post 1034 Auxiliary. She was also a lifelong methodist. Her husband, Thomas Coulombe, died in 1988. Survivors include her seven children: sons James of Brattleboro, Wayne of Greenfield, Massachusetts, George of Halifax, and Thomas of Westminster; and daughters Mary Fisher Coulombe of Brattleboro, Rose Marie Smith of Putney, and Joann Coulombe of Newport, New Hampshire. Additionally, she leaves 21 grandchildren, numerous great and great-great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a daughter, Lorraine Coulombe Wrobel and brothers Stephen, Philip, and Stanley Packard. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A service in celebration of her life will be held at a future date and time to be announced. Mary will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband in Christ Church Cemetery. Donations may be made to a charity of one's choice. To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Stephen L. James**, 80, of Bellows Falls, died peacefully, surrounded by his family and friends, on Feb. 24, 2023. He was born on Sept. 28, 1942 at his grandmother's farmhouse in Walpole, New Hampshire, the son of Leon (Jarmacz) James and Frances Kilburn. He attended school in Walpole, graduating from Walpole High School in 1961. On June 5, 1965, he married Carol Barry of Bellows Falls, where they subsequently made a home. During his younger years, Steve worked at the A&P, then went to work for Mac McAuliffe. Steve and Carol bought the business from Mac in the 1960s, renaming it James Plumbing & Heating. They owned

and operated this family business for 43 years before selling it to their son, Tony James. In addition to the plumbing and heating business, Steve and Carol owned and operated Speedy Steve's Laundromat in North Walpole for over 35 years. Steve was also an active member of the Bellows Falls Fire Department from the early 1970s until 1982 when he suffered a heart attack during the Cray block fire in downtown Bellows Falls. Steve is known for his heroism when on Dec. 29, 1981, he rescued a woman during the Star Hotel fire in Bellows Falls. When Steve wasn't working, he enjoyed taking his children and grandchildren, their friends, and many nieces and nephews fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, and mushroom and apple picking. Steve proudly fed his family and neighbors with his bountiful annual garden. He enjoyed planting a variety of vegetables and beautiful flowers. He taught many kids to ski when he helped out in the local school ski program. Even though Steve always seemed busy, he took time to support and help his kids and those throughout the community. Steve also took great pride in his home on Atkinson Street. His home was open to everyone. Steve loved cooking for his family and his neighbors. He was especially known for his famous weekend pancakes. It was rare to walk into Steve's house and not find a kettle of fresh popped popcorn and a variety of snacks which he would offer to his customers and their children whenever they came to the house to pay their plumbing bill, ask questions, or just pay a visit. He is survived by his sister, Madeline (Jack) Rice, of Saxtons River; his partner Judy Budzik of Saxtons River; his three children, Stefan James of Rockingham, Tony James & wife Dianna James of Bellows Falls, and his daughter Julia James-Torres & fiancé Gerry Guertin of Springfield, Vermont; his grandchildren Zachary James, Kyle Spaulding, Charlene Kendall, Johanna Rodriguez, Edward Rodriguez, Dorion Bolden, Brooke James, Antonio Torres, and Stefan James; great-grandchildren Nehemiah James, Dominic James, Mia Spaulding, Sincere James, and Isla Spaulding Torres; and many nieces and nephews. Steve was predeceased by his parents and by his wife, Carol, in 2015. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral Mass was held March 4 at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls, followed by burial at St. Charles Cemetery.

• **James Patrick "Jim" Lawlor**, 67, of Newcastle, Maine, formerly of Westminster, died peacefully on Jan. 28, 2023 by the sea in Rockport, Maine. Jim was born in Bellows Falls, the youngest son of Joseph and Catherine Lawlor. He was raised in Westminster, and educated in Bellows Falls. He attended the University of Vermont, Johnson State College, and other academic institutions. Jim spent summers at the family cottage on Echo Lake in Plymouth, where he enjoyed swimming, fishing, boating, and quality time with family. He was an avid baseball player and track & field athlete. He was a big New England sports lover, and lifelong Red Sox fan. He was very proud of his Irish heritage. He was adventurous, charismatic, and kindhearted. He loved to travel, spending time all over New England and Canada, as well as California, Hawaii, the Caribbean, and Europe. He loved music and was a talented chef. He cared deeply about his communities, and the natural environment. Jim lived all over Vermont, where he loved organic gardening, and raising animals. He would often barter or trade labor and food with others, in exchange for use of their land, or whatever else he could. He made many friends this way. He spent many years living in the Champlain Islands of Vermont, where he was known for gardening and supplying fresh produce to local stores and restaurants. He was an early participant in helping to establish Black River Produce in Ludlow. Jim also worked with his family at their liquor store and deli, Lawlor & Sons, in Ludlow. While living in the Chittenden County area, Jim worked at the UVM Laboratory on several biomedical research projects. He also worked at the Brandon Training School, and as a phlebotomist. His love of water and the ocean brought him to Maine, where he spent many years living in Boothbay Harbor and Newcastle. He worked at several businesses there including the Southport General Store, The Rising Tide Food Co-op, and Lincoln County Publishing. He is survived by one son, Ethan Brodowski of Burlington; a brother, Joseph of Thailand, and a sister, Mary Lafayette of East Dummerston. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his older brother Robert. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service will take place at a later date in the family plot in St. Charles Cemetery in Westminster. To send condolences, as well as

donations to help support Jim's family, visit his memorial webpage at [gofund.me/30384eaf](http://gofund.me/30384eaf).



• **Carolyn Jean "Carol" Moore**, 75, of Vernon, died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 10, 2023 at her home. Carol was

born in Montgomery Center, Vermont on June 29, 1947, the daughter of Ernest George and Louise Mary (Larrievie) Potvin. At a very young age Carol moved with her family to the family farm between Montgomery Center and Montgomery Village until she entered the eighth grade when she moved back to Montgomery Center to live with her grandparents for a year before moving to her family's new farm south of Montgomery Village. In the 1960s, the family relocated to West Brattleboro where Carol attended St. Michael's High School, graduating in 1967, and then attended Vermont Beauty Academy in Rutland, where she graduated in 1969. Moving back to Brattleboro, Carol married Maurice Oliver Rondeau in 1971 and moved to Connecticut where the couple's only child was born. Moving back to Vermont, the family built their house in Vernon in 1976 where Maurice passed away in 1993. After being a widow for four years, Carol married Stephen Allen Moore on October 25, 1997 in Vernon and together they have lived in the house built in 1976. Carol owned and ran Hair Affair in Brattleboro from 1976 to 1993, after which she freelanced until her retirement. She loved children and spent several years working at Oak and Acorn Child Development Center in Vernon as well as many years as an ELF volunteer and then a Four Winds volunteer at Vernon Elementary School. She loved her vegetable garden and spent countless hours freezing, canning, pickling, and making jams and jellies. She enjoyed selling her goods at a number of craft fairs all over the county where she had many repeat customers. With a fine collection of vintage sewing machines that she had used for years, she also made many hand-crafted items. Carol took art classes and filled the home with her paintings and, in her later years, belonged to the Vernon Senior Center enjoying the many trips that they organize. Carol and Steve spent several years playing music at nursing homes and senior living facilities throughout the area. They also traveled to a different state every year vacationing and researching Steve's family history. Carol had a quiet strength and perseverance. She had patience, grace, kindness, was forgiving and always put others first. She loved her family and her many good friends. Survivors include her daughter, Michelle Marie Rondeau and grandchild Corbin "Alice" Rondeau of Vernon, her stepson, Jason Moore of Costa Rica, her siblings Marie Potvin of Danville, Norman Potvin of Keene, New Hampshire, David (Carol) Potvin of Vernon, Mary Potvin of Guilford, as well as a niece and many cousins. She was predeceased by her parents, her first husband, and her brothers Frank and Charlie. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial service will be held at the Advent Christian Church in Vernon on Saturday, March 25, at 1 p.m. Donations may be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network ([pancan.org](http://pancan.org)). To send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

• **Philip Michael Moriarty**, 77, of Townshend, died at home on Feb. 23, 2023, with his partner of 50 years and love of his life Kathleen Greve at his side. Philip endured the symptoms and treatment of Hodgkin's Lymphoma for three years, never succumbing to false hope but determined to enjoy every day with the family he loved dearly. Born Sept. 15, 1945 in Youngstown, Ohio to Caroline Jones and George Moriarty, Philip was raised in Michigan City, Indiana, where he and his two brothers played in Lake Michigan and worked at "the widget factory." He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College and M.Ed. from East Tennessee State University. A resident of Townshend since 1969, Philip had the pleasure of serving his community as Justice of the Peace and was a member of the Leland & Gray and Townshend Elementary School Boards as well as Town Constable. All werr roles in which he balanced his deep compassion with his inability to suffer fools gladly. In the best tradition of his adopted home, Vermont, Philip wore many hats. He was at times an Army reservist, carpenter, cabinet maker, and treehouse dweller, to name a few. His home with Kathy is filled with homemade furniture, and the bar that he and Jon Bellstrom built at Peter Haven's in Brattleboro still

stands. He took tremendous pride in the work he did with Homestead Nonprofit Housing, which built over two-dozen affordable homes in Southern Vermont. While he strove for quality in all his endeavors, Phil's best work was as an educator — first at Townshend Elementary, and then for 30 years at Wilmington/Twin Valley High School, where he delighted in wearing hideous neckwear. "Mister Mort's" creative, sometimes unorthodox lesson plans drew upon sources from Michelangelo and Benjamin Franklin, to *Casablanca* and Homer Simpson. His students became wiser, more critical thinkers, and they had a hell of a lot of fun. And he had even more than they did. Phil was a man of compassion, good humor, quick wit, and a little bit of a curmudgeon. To know him was to experience all these traits, and to know him well was to see him strutting around to Aretha Franklin and laughing at John Belushi until he couldn't breathe. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Greve, and his two sons, Tristan and Christopher Moriarty; his daughter-in-law Tedi Asher, his beloved grandson, Isaac Moriarty; his brothers Marshall and Jim Moriarty and their loving families. He was a wonderful brother, husband, father and grandfather, a new role he relished. We are all richer for having known him and poorer in his absence. He will be dearly missed. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Donations to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), or Grace Cottage Hospital.



• **Norman "Norm" Roth**, 90, of Long Island, New York died Feb. 23 2023 in Pine Heights nursing home in

Brattleboro of congestive heart failure after a serious heart attack in September 2022. He was the son of the late Arthur and Celia Roth, loving husband of the late Sandra Roth, and is survived by his children Richard Roth, Boneh (a.k.a. Steven) Roth, and Michele Torch. He is also survived by nine grandchildren — Jeannie McGartland, Samantha Roth, Lily McGartland, Yona Epstein Roth, Noam Epstein Roth, Matan Epstein Roth, Alec Torch, Brian Torch, and Cory Torch. Norm worked as a teacher at Riker's Island for 25 years before becoming the principal of the school there for five more years. He also worked as a recreation supervisor at Queens (N.Y.) Children's Hospital until his retirement in 1987. An excellent baseball player in his youth, he was scheduled to have a tryout with the New York Yankees at the age of 20, but broke his ankle sliding into second base two weeks before the tryout and never regained his full speed. He loved playing the horses, going with friends to Roosevelt Raceway and Yonkers Raceway once a week for many years, but he loved nothing more than spending time with his wife taking in theater matinees and going out to eat afterward. He will be greatly missed by his sister Alice Weiner and his family. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Graveside services were held Feb. 26 at Beth Moses Cemetery in Babylon, N.Y. To share a memory or send condolences, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).



• **Juanita Young**, 64, of Brattleboro, died Feb. 23, 2023 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New

Hampshire. Juanita was born in Brattleboro on April 26, 1958 to the late Robert Donald Young Sr and Charlotte (Mason) Young. Juanita was a lifelong resident of Brattleboro and attended the Frances Hicks School and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School. Juanita enjoyed cooking, Bingo, and shopping (especially at yard sales). Above all else, she enjoyed spending time with her friends and family. Juanita is survived and will be missed by her brother Alan P. Young and his wife Barbara of Marlboro, her brother-in-law Robert Powling of Marlboro, her sister-in-law Mary Ellen Young of Bennington, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Juanita was predeceased by her sister Theresa Powling and her brother Robert D. Young Jr. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, April 26 at Pine Grove Cemetery in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Ker Phaneuf Funeral Home of Brattleboro has been entrusted with arrangements. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence, or for more information, visit [phaneuf.net](http://phaneuf.net).

**G**rief changes shape, but it never ends.

—KEANU REEVES

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](mailto: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.



**WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**

**PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION**

916 West River Rd,  
Brattleboro, VT  
802-254-2232  
View pets at: [wchs4pets.org](http://wchs4pets.org)



Hi, my name is **Apollo**! I am a sweet boy looking for a new place to call home after my owner could no longer care for me. I have lived in a home with other dogs and kids previously and may be able to again with a proper introduction. Cats are way too exciting for me and I shouldn't live with any. I am strong with a lot of energy to burn and would like to go on lots of adventures with my new family. I also like to ride in the car, snuggle my humans and I know a couple of basic commands. Please make my dreams come true and come meet me today!



Hi, my name is **Albert**! I am an older guy who is looking for his retirement home. I am sweet and should be able to live with other animals. I do have some medical needs which the staff can tell you more about when you come meet with me. Please stop by and make my dreams come true.



Hi, my name is **Tara**! I was surrendered my owner could no longer care for me. I am about 70 pounds. I am a sweet girl who takes a little time to warm up. I have lived with kids previously and may be able to live with respectful kids again. I am dog selective and should do a meet and greet here first if you have any. I haven't had any experience with cats and I think I would do best in a home without any.



Hi, my name is **Bandit**! I am a vocal boy when I get very excited. I would not be suitable in an apartment setting. Giving my breed I would require a lot of exercise and would make a wonderful hiking buddy. I am very friendly and affectionate and loves to be around people. I may be able to live with another dog with a slow intro. Cats would be way too exciting for me. If you are interested please stop by and meet with me.

*This space is graciously sponsored by:*

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## Brattleboro election

FROM SECTION FRONT

medical services. “We have myriad problems right here in Brattleboro which defy easy solutions,” she said. “My decades of experience in environmental and town planning give me an understanding of what may be possible to achieve at the town level.”

In a post to the Brattleboro, Vermont Facebook group, DeGray congratulated McLoughlin.

“I would like to congratulate Liz on her victory tonight and wish her the very best,” he wrote. “Thanks, Dick, appreciate it!” McLoughlin responded. “I’m warming up from 12 hours in the cold. So I particularly like the warm words.”

In the race for the two one-year seats, Reichman was top vote-getter with 1,063, with Case finishing with 1,055 votes. Incumbent Jessica Callahan Gelter got 828 votes, Spoon Agave received 390 votes, and Samuel Stevens got 307 votes.

“The results of an election are not simply a judgment on candidates, but a commentary on the moment in which the electorate finds itself,” Gelter posted in a statement on her candidate Facebook page.

“This has been a difficult year for our beloved town, a time of uncertainty and anxiety,” she continued. “The voters of Brattleboro stated tonight that a clear change in leadership was needed to help them feel more sure-footed. I understand and accept the results.”

She congratulated Reichman and Case and said “they will serve our town with dedication and decency. I wish them, and our town, the very best.”

Saying he had “no intention of changing anything,” Case said in an interview with *The Commons* last month that his approach to everything “is with common sense and reason.”

“It’s a great community with wonderful, caring people — you can’t really ask for better — but it also has a darker side, as we’ve seen recently with a rash of break-ins and ongoing drug problems,” Case said. “There are many ways to deal with these issues and none of them are simple — nor will getting everyone to understand those issues.”

Thanking his supporters in a Facebook post, Reichman wrote, “So what happened is, I won. I’m a little shellshocked at this point, and it was a long day standing in front of the polls since early this morning, so I’m going bed.”

“I’ll have more to say tomorrow after a good night’s sleep,” he promised.

Reichman, who has years of experience as a town meeting

representative, said he believes that the issues that Brattleboro, and thus the Selectboard, face are many, but not “insurmountable.”

“We have surmounted many such issues in the past, and we are in the process of surmounting others right now,” he told *The Commons* last month. “We have in place the systems and the people we need to do a lot of surmounting.”

### Just cause eviction proposal fails

Currently, Vermont law permits landlords to terminate tenancy without a specific reason at the end of a lease or in a month-to-month lease, leaving renters with little protection against eviction — what’s known as a “no cause” eviction.

Just cause eviction policies, like the one proposed in Brattleboro under Article 2, offer expanded protection to tenants by limiting the circumstances under which a landlord is legally allowed to evict a tenant.

Under the proposal, residential tenants would have been protected from eviction without just cause, such as the tenant’s breach of a written rental agreement, violation of state statutes on tenant obligations or failure to accept reasonable renewal terms. The proposal would also cap rent increases at 12% annually and prevent evictions simply due to increased rent, among other things.

Just cause eviction protections have been adopted in five states — California, New Jersey, Oregon, New Hampshire and Washington — as well as in several cities including Albany, New York; Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, D.C.

The measure drew intense opposition from owners of rental properties in town.

“The Brattleboro article would [have made] it impossible for a landlord to ask a tenant to leave the property when the lease expires, which is crazy,” Sally Fegley, of Windham County Property Management told *The Commons* in February.

Most landlords are looking for good tenants who will stay, Fegley said.

“So once you find a suitable tenant, you’re not going to say to that tenant at the end of the lease: please leave,” she said. “You’re going to be so glad if that tenant stays with you. The only tenants you’re going to ask to leave are the tenants who were making trouble.”

With additional reporting by Commons reporter Ginny Ray and Auditi Guha of VT Digger.org



Competing campaign signs sum up the debate of “just cause” eviction in Brattleboro.



Liz McLoughlin won her second three-year term to the Brattleboro Selectboard, defeating former Selectboard member Dick DeGray.



Franz Reichman waves to motorists on Linden Street on March 7. Reichman won a one-year seat on the Brattleboro Selectboard.

## Extra 3SquaresVT payments end in March

WATERBURY—The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ends extra 3SquaresVT benefits in March 2023.

According to a news release from the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF), the extra 3SquaresVT payment, officially called “emergency maximum allotment,” has been a temporary increase from the federal government to help those affected by the pandemic and did not permanently change a household’s monthly benefit.

This extra help began in March 2020 due to the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act and have reached over 40,000 Vermont households including over 68,000 individuals. To date, Vermont has issued over \$175 million in emergency payments. This additional federal funding has supplemented food budgets

during the pandemic.

3SquaresVT households have received information by mail on the forthcoming changes. Starting in April, recipients will still receive their regular 3SquaresVT benefit on the 1st of each month. There will be no second payment later in the month.

3SquaresVT households are encouraged to contact Economic Services Division’s (ESD) Benefits Service Center at 800-479-6151 to report changes that may increase their monthly benefit, such as decrease in income or increase in out-of-pocket medical or child care expenses.

Recipients do not need to take action. Those who already receive the maximum benefit do not need to report new changes until completing the interim Report or Recertification. Without the extra allotment, the benefit amount is

based on income and reportable expenses.

Those receiving benefits must make sure ESD has up-to-date information. A Change Report Form can be found at [bit.ly/702-3squares](http://bit.ly/702-3squares) and can be uploaded at [bit.ly/702-doc](http://bit.ly/702-doc). For assistance filling out these forms, call (toll-free) 855-855-6181 or email [3SVT@vtfoodbank.org](mailto:3SVT@vtfoodbank.org).

Recipients may visit local ESD District Offices in person, listed at [dcf.vermont.gov/esd/contact/districts](http://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/contact/districts). Those over 60 may call The Helpline for assistance at 800-642-5119.

For more help with food, contact these resources:

- Stretch your 3SquaresVT benefit by getting an additional \$20 in Crop Cash for fruits and vegetables at a local farmers market. Find a market near you at [bit.ly/702-crop](http://bit.ly/702-crop).

- Pregnant women and parents of kids under the age of 5 who receive 3SquaresVT qualify for WIC. Learn more at [healthvermont.gov/family/wic](http://healthvermont.gov/family/wic), call 800-464-4343, or text VTWIC at 855-11.

- People over 60 can get a box of food monthly through the Vermont Foodbank. Call 800-214-4648 or email [csfp@vtfoodbank.org](mailto:csfp@vtfoodbank.org) to learn more. Also, pick-up meals or home delivery — Meals on Wheels — are available. Call the helpline at 800-642-5119 for more information.

- For meals for children 18 and under, call 211 or visit the USDA Meal Finder.

- Visit [vermontfoodhelp.com](http://vermontfoodhelp.com) to learn more about 3SquaresVT, or visit [bit.ly/702-meals](http://bit.ly/702-meals).

## Creative aging workshops offered in Saxtons River

SAXTONS RIVER—Drawing Out the Wisdom of the Past is among the goals of a series of free workshops being offered in Saxtons River for seniors through a collaboration between Main Street Arts, 24 Main, and the Saxtons River Historical Society.

A kickoff luncheon to introduce the program and to sign up participants will be held Friday, March 10, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the dining room at 24 Main (the former Christ’s Church).

Workshops will take place on Fridays, March 17, 24, and 31

and April 7, 14, and 21 at Main Street Arts from 10 a.m. to noon.

The seniors will be encouraged to turn their memories into collage, watercolor painting, poetry and story, and the resulting work will be presented at a month-long interactive exhibit in the MSA gallery, with an opening Friday, Apr. 28. The public will be invited to respond with their own insights into how to bring the wisdom of the past into today.

The program is funded by a Creative Aging grant from the Vermont Arts Council and is

open to 15 participants ages 55 and older.

Project leader will be creative aging expert Susan Rosano, a mosaic and mural artist from Guilford. She is a Master Teaching Artist and a Registered Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator. She is on the teaching roster for the VAC’s Creative Aging program.

“One of our goals is to increase awareness of creative and positive aging among both our participants and the public who see and hear the products of their work,”

MSA board Chair Susan Still said in a news release. “We also want to create a space for creativity and encourage socializing among the seniors, who are often isolated.”

Creativity will be nurtured through accessible techniques and the use of story prompts and collage. Fellowship will be encouraged through free refreshments and social time at each meeting.

Further information and registration for the initial lunch and workshops can be found at

### SUGAR ON SNOW SUPPER



**SATURDAY, MARCH 11 • 2 SEATINGS - 5 & 6:15 PM**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
880 Western Ave, Brattleboro  
Reservations: 802-257-7557

Adults \$15.00, Children (6-12) \$6.00, (3-5) \$3.00, under age 3 are free.

**MENU: HAM AND BEANS, POTATO SALAD, COLESLAW, HOME-MADE ROLLS AND DONUTS, MAPLE SUGAR ON SNOW.**

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**A**ging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been.

—DAVID BOWIE



AROUND THE TOWNS

Winter tree identification walk

WEST TOWNSHEND — A winter tree identification walk is planned for Saturday, March 11. Michael Longo, Sally Newton, and others offer an opportunity to share knowledge and become familiar with the local tree species even when they have no leaves.

Meet at 2 p.m. at the West Townshend Country Store on Route 30 and carpool or caravan to the location. They are tentatively planning to walk near the old air strip on Ball Mountain in Jamaica. Depending on weather, between now and then, snow shoes or micro spikes might be a good idea. For more information, call Newton at 802-884-7141.

Focus on bees at Brattleboro Garden Club meeting

BRATTLEBORO — On Monday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at Brooks Memorial Library, the Brattleboro Garden Club will host a free presentation given by Aliza Fassler, a graduate researcher at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, on native bees.

Attendees can learn where bees go in winter, how to distinguish a bee from a wasp or a native bee from a honeybee, and which native bee species might be in local yards.

The diversity of approximately 4,000 bee species in New England — critical for pollinating plants in forests, gardens, and fields — will be discussed, as well as how humans can help maintain their survival.

For more information, contact Jill at [jill@globalcow.com](mailto:jill@globalcow.com).

Julia Duke is March artist at Crowell Gallery

NEWFANE — For the month of March, the Crowell Art Gallery

features “Pieced Together,” quilts by fabric artist Julia Duke.

Duke, a longtime resident of Brattleboro and more recently Brookline, brings nature indoors through her pallet of moss greens and sunlit golds. Although sewing has always been part of her life, her quilting creativity was ignited 10 years ago through pattern and color drawn from Vermont’s rich woodland and verdant countryside.

An artist reception will be held Saturday, March 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. The gallery is located in the Moore Free Library, 23 West Street, and is open during the library’s regular hours of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1 to 5 p.m., Thursdays 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Guilford Chamber Singers seeks singers for June concert

GUILFORD — Guilford Chamber Singers, sponsored by Friends of Music at Guilford, is seeking voices for our June concert, A Cappella a la Carte. They are a well-regarded ensemble led by Tom Baehr, veteran director of 13 concerts since 2014.

This concert’s repertoire consists of songs about avians and apians, that is, birds and bees. They include “Skylark,” “Blackbird,” a song about a nightingale and, of course, bees, and other insects. Rehearsals are on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m., starting March 13 in West Brattleboro. For more information, contact Tom at [tombaehr@myfairpoint.net](mailto:tombaehr@myfairpoint.net) or 802-387-2796.

Natural History Museum wraps up reading series

MARLBORO — Join the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum on March 25 at 4 p.m. for a discussion of Robin

Wall Kimmerer’s book *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

Led by Mary Wright, the group will discuss this 2013 nonfiction book by Potawatomi professor Robin Wall Kimmerer. *Braiding Sweetgrass* focuses on Indigenous knowledge as an alternative or complementary approach to Western mainstream scientific methodologies.

For those who want to read the book first, the Pettee Memorial Library in Wilmington, Whitingham Free Library, and Dover Free Library are all carrying copies. Contact the museum for more information at [vermontmuseum.org](http://vermontmuseum.org) or follow the event page at [facebook.com/vermontmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/vermontmuseum).

This event is free to the public but donations to the museum’s educational programming are always appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

This is the last of the three-part Winter Reading Series. Due to the positive response the winter series received, the museum is working on a list for three spring books.

SEVCA seeks donations for Good Buy Stores

WESTMINSTER — Spring cleaning and de-cluttering efforts often reveal unused furniture, unwanted clothes, lamps, fans, coffee makers, and other housewares ready for a new home.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action’s (SEVCA) Good Buy Stores are in need of good quality donations to replenish our thrift store merchandise. They can help rehome unwanted items and offer a tax receipt in exchange. Donations directly help community members using the Voucher Program which offers furniture, housewares, and clothing to people in need.

They accept clean clothing and boxes of gently used housewares, books and other items at their two locations in Springfield and Bellows Falls from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day — two boxes or bags per person. They can also pick up furniture and housewares from your home or business weekly. Call the Springfield location at 802-885-7074 to schedule a pick up.



From left, ninth-graders Olivia Hallock, Aly Streeter, Jasmine Perry-Ives, Tatiana Charon, and Myleigh Illingworth stand in front of a newly created mural at Bellows Falls Union High School that celebrates freedom, justice, and creativity.

Mural

Azimi as “an incredible person who experienced some powerful events and was sharing them [with the class].”

Azimi was the first woman muralist member of the ArtLords, an activist group of artists established in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2014. It’s part of an international grassroots movement of artists “motivated by the desire to pave the way for social transformation and behavioral change through employing the soft power of art and culture as a non-intrusive approach,” according to the ArtLords website ([artlords.co](http://artlords.co)).

Born in Kabul, Azimi has a degree in law. She was also a fine arts student for two years and spent four years doing murals in Kabul with the ArtLords.

The Taliban reclaimed control of Afghanistan in August 2021. The oppressive, authoritarian regime promptly whitewashed the murals the ArtLords had painted in the city, destroying them.

Azimi said she “left Afghanistan within a week” after the Taliban’s resurgence. She first spent eight months in exile in Albania, then was able to come to the United States: first to

Virginia and then, a month later, to Vermont.

One of the 130 Afghan refugees who have settled in the Brattleboro area, Azimi says she feels she has found her home here, where “I have freedom to do my artwork.”

Shortly after they arrived here, she and other refugee artists, using photographs, started reproducing all the murals destroyed in Kabul. Azimi said they have finished “many projects in the last eight months.”

She said she is planning another mural project at Dummerston School.

Representing freedom and justice

As is true with many of the ArtLords’ projects, freedom and justice are the basic themes of the BFUHS mural, which is not a reproduction of the lost art in Afghanistan. The mural incorporates and integrates ideas from students by design.

Ninth-grader Tatiana Charon explained that Azimi started the discussion with her class by “diving deep into justice,” especially as she experienced it — or failed to experience it — in Afghanistan.

Azimi’s revelations about life in her home country made an impression.

In Afghanistan, “women can’t go to school, and they can’t go outside without a man with them,” Charon said. “And when they do, they have to be completely covered from head to foot.”

Classmate Jasmine Perry-Ives said that Azimi, using dialogue circles with all the students participating, “asked us to come up with our own thoughts about justice and how to incorporate that into the mural. Everyone in the class contributed ideas. We came up with this all together.”

Other students involved in the project include Olivia Hallock, Aly Streeter, Myleigh Illingworth, Addison Bacon, Exavier Lockerby, Joaquin Martinez, Veronica Moore, Beatrix Robb,

FROM SECTION FRONT

Gillian Robb, Dean Ryea, Conner Stevens, Addison Terry, Jamie Thibault, and Jake Tostrup.

Artistic defiance

Azimi said that “the kids really enjoyed working on this, as did I.”

With 16 students in the class, a lot of ideas came up in their discussions with the artist.

“There were many different thoughts and opinions,” Azimi said. “The project included parts of everyone’s ideas.”

Azimi said that she came up with the mural design using everyone’s ideas, then drew it on the wall in pencil. All of the students participated in actually painting the final product.

The students explained that the background includes the letters of the Persian alphabet. There are also several colored-in words in the Dari language with the English meaning next to them.

The English translations include “freedom,” “mercy,” “truth,” “women,” “peace,” “equality,” and “life.”

In the foreground, a young woman reaches up with a paintbrush, putting the finishing touch on a hummingbird taking flight. The students explained that the girl is a “symbol of women making art to reach out for freedom in a peaceful environment.”

Azimi offers an artist’s statement about the project,

“For girls and women in Afghanistan today, who are not allowed to go to school, illiteracy deprives them of the capacity to make meaning and define justice for themselves,” she wrote.

“The artwork is intended to stimulate all our thinking about the many facets and meanings of justice at BFUHS, in Bellows Falls, in Vermont, the United States and in the world.”

Despite the Taliban’s destruction of the Kabul murals, Azimi said she still has “thoughts that art cannot truly be banned.”

As a reflection of that defiance, she said that she is “continuing my artwork here, with the same message — the rights of women.”

*Afghan women are no longer silent. They are a force for progress. From now on, if we have sons, we will teach them to stand up for girls, and if we have daughters, we will make sure they know their value and remember the struggles of the women before them. Our struggle continues but our hope will not fade.*  
—ZARGHUNA KARGAR

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**FOCUS FEATURES**  
In a scene from the trailer of *Champions*, Marcus, played by Woody Harrelson, coaches an obviously injured Marlon, played by Casey Metcalfe, a former Brattleboro and Putney resident and an alum of New England Youth Theatre.

# 'It's SOCIETY that needs enlightenment'

*Autistic actor Casey Metcalfe, formerly of Putney and Brattleboro, is part of the ensemble cast of 'Champions,' a Bobby Farrelly film starring Woody Harrelson*

By Annie Landenberger  
*The Commons*

**B**RATTLEBORO—Casey Metcalfe — formerly of Putney and Brattleboro, currently of Burlington — poses with flair in front of a promotional poster. With his snazzy hat just askilter over a telling smile, it's clear that a dream has come true.

Metcalfe, now 27, landed a role in *Champions*, a Focus Films feature-length movie to be released Friday, March 10, with a special Brattleboro showing Sunday, March 12. (See sidebar.)

Building off the 2018 Spanish film of the same name — *Campeones* — *Champions* tells the story of Marcus (Woody Harrelson), a minor league basketball coach who hits a rough patch and ends up with a community service stint, reluctantly chosen as the lesser of two troubling sentences.

His assignment: to coach the Friends, a team of 10 disabled 20-somethings at a local rec center run by Julio (Cheech Marin, of Cheech & Chong fame). The nine disabled young men and one young woman have a range of conditions from Down Syndrome

to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Among the latter is Metcalfe, playing the role of a quirky guy named Marlon.

**A young actor proves his chops**

Casey Metcalfe first got into acting at age nine while living in Los Angeles with his family, including his filmmaker father, Tim Metcalfe (*Kalifornia*, *The Haunting in Connecticut*, *Killer: A Journal of a Murder*).

Moving to Putney nearly 20 years ago, the young Metcalfe's mother (and self-titled "chief

organizer") Prudence Baird, recalls, she and her husband, Tim Metcalfe, were "environmental refugees": "Our Hollywood Hills home was partially destroyed in what was called a "hundred-year flood event" that now comes every five years in L.A."

Once rerooted in Vermont, Casey Metcalfe enrolled at Putney Central School and soon found his way to New England Youth Theatre (NEYT) in Brattleboro, where he studied and performed from 2007 to 2015.

He first participated in the Theatre Adventure program for

■ SEE 'CHAMPIONS', B4

## Actor will host special screening of 'Champions'

**B**RATTLEBORO—Audiences in the region can meet Casey Metcalfe in person when he emcees a special screening of *Champions* on Sunday, March 12 at 4 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St.

Cost of the special screening fundraiser will be \$25 for a raffle and a movie ticket, \$20 for a raffle ticket only, or \$7 for the screening only.

Raffle prizes are a basketball signed by Metcalfe and the film's other cast members, as well as movie posters signed by Metcalfe. Funds raised will go to Theatre Adventure, New England Youth Theatre, and Special Olympics.

Tickets will be available at the Latchis Box Office on the day of the event. The local theatrical release of *Champions* begins Friday, March 10. The theater will show the film daily at 4 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Latchis Executive Director Jon Potter, 802-254-1109, ext. 3.



## Four new exhibits open at BMAC

**B**RATTLEBORO—Four new exhibits open at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) on Saturday, March 11, with an opening reception at 11 a.m. "The highlighted artists probe some of the most fundamental aspects of human experience," say organizers, "including how we connect and relate to one another and to ourselves." Mental health, immigration, ritual, and memory take center stage.

These new exhibitions join "Keith Haring: Subway Drawings," which remains on view through April 16.

The opening reception, will feature many of the exhibiting artists. These exhibits will remain on view through June 11. Various

related events will be held in conjunction with these exhibitions, including artist talks, workshops, and a storytelling roundtable. For more information and tickets, visit [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

Daniel Callahan, a multimedia artist, award-winning filmmaker, and designer based in Boston, engages in a practice of ritual face painting that he calls "MassQing." The exhibition "En-MassQ" includes works from two series in which Callahan, intrigued by ancient traditions of body decoration, painted his own face and the faces of others and detailed the performances with photographs, writing, and audio and visual vignettes.

On Friday, April 21, at 7 p.m., Callahan will give an Artist Talk at the museum and online, and on Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m., he will lead a hands-on workshop on his practice of MassQing.

In "Letters Mingle Souls," Mitsuko Brooks, an artist and archivist of mixed Japanese and European descent, explores the impacts of mental illness and suicide.

Collaborating with suicide-loss survivors, Brooks creates works of mail art that incorporate imaginary letters addressed by survivors to their deceased loved ones.

"In the works on view, Brooks offers a space for mourning but also a space for hope and for community, support, and connection," states the news release.

On Friday, April 28, at 7 p.m., Brooks and Brattleboro Area Hospice staff will present "Stories That Heal," an evening of stories shared by people who have lost loved ones to suicide.

Brooks will lead a workshop on Saturday, April 29, at 2 p.m. in creating mail art addressed to a loved one who has passed away.

The child of Peruvian immigrants, multimedia artist Juan Hinojosa creates collaged figures that represent travelers seeking comfort and acceptance. "Paradise City" reflects upon the challenges of moving to a new place and creating a new home.

According to a news release, Hinojosa collects and cobbles together found materials

■ SEE EXHIBITS, B4

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# arts & community CALENDAR

**THURSDAY**

**9**

**Well-being**

**BRATTLEBORO Andrew Boyd: "I WANT A BETTER CATASTROPHE: Navigating the Climate Crisis with Grief, Hope, and Gallows Humor"**: Boyd's book offers answers and laughter for people coping with climate angst or who just want to understand what all the fuss is about. "The most realistic yet least depressing end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it guide out there," says Forward Reviews. Books will be available for signing.

- 6 p.m. Book is also available at Everyone's Books (in Brattleboro).
- Free.
- One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118Elliot@gmail.com.

**Community meals**

**NEWFANE Community Lunch**: Appetizer: Fruit cup. Followed by corned beef and cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread. Dessert: Shamrock Shake and cookies. Prepared and served by hard working volunteers from the church and community.

- 12 noon.
- Suggested donation for meal is \$3.50.
- Newfane Congregational Church, 11 Church St. Information: Questions: Call Winnie Dolan at 802-365-7870.

**Visual arts and shows**

**PUTNEY Putney Public Library Exhibit - "Affinities" - Assemblages** by Bonnie Mennell: Bonnie Mennell: "Objects find me. Their beauty, form, textures and colors draw me to them. I collect them, asking permission and giving thanks. I bring them to my home and studio. I live with them. They engage me both in the moment and over time."

- 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. Bonnie, a Putney resident, also teaches as part of the New England Council Collective, which offers workshops in the deep listening approach to group dialogue.
- Through Saturday, May 20.
- Free.
- Putney Public Library, 55 Main St. Information: 802-387-4407; putneylibrary.org/events.

To submit your event: [calendar@commonsnews.org](mailto:calendar@commonsnews.org)

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

Visit [commonsnews.org](http://commonsnews.org) for more listings with more details

**THURSDAY CONT.**

**Ideas and education**

**BELLOWS FALLS Presentation on Furbearers and Furbearer Management in Vermont.**: Presentation by Chris Bernier, wildlife biologist with VT Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, on furbearers/furbearer management in VT. Furbearers in VT include gray and red fox, short/long-tailed weasel, bobcat, coyote, beaver, fisher, river otter, American marten, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk. Learn about VT's roles/responsibilities regarding furbearer populations, their varied habitats, welfare, restoration projects/successes followed by Q & A.

- 7 p.m. Program co-sponsored by Rockingham Free Public Library and Westminster Conservation Commission.
- Free.
- Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org.

**BELLOWS FALLS Discover your Family Roots with Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard (consecutive Thursdays)**: "If you own a laptop, bring it along. With the many free databases available at the library, it's hard to tell what you might find. Beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome."

- 10:30 a.m.-12 noon on Thursdays.
- Free and open to the public.
- Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270, programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, rockinghamlibrary.org.

**FRIDAY**

**10**

**Performing arts**

**BRATTLEBORO Elm City Comedy Presents!**: Featuring six comedians from around New England. Hosted by Marisa Imon - a comedy musician whose music you may have heard on Netflix's "Lucifer," this show features a line-up including local up-and-comers Tim Stone and Mike Bergeron, Burlington comic and '22 finalist of Vermont's Funniest Comedian competition, Mike Thomas, Toni Nagy, Leanne Horvath - comics who frequent the NYC comedy scene and are co-owners of the local arts company Sidestream Studio.

- 7:30 - 9 p.m. (doors open 7 p.m.).
- \$13 in advance, \$15 at door.
- Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: Tickets: elmcitycomedy.ticketleap.com/brattleboro.

**Music**

**PUTNEY Walter Parks and Rob Curto: "Swampalachian Trail" / Jason Scaggis opens**: Parks, guitarist sideman to Woodstock legend Richie Havens, joins accordionist Curto presenting their acoustic and roots style - blend of reels, hollers, spirituals, blues. Their project reimagines the historic soundtrack to the building of America reminding us all regardless of political and cultural diversity, that

**FRIDAY CONT.**

whereas we may be bonded by an often painful history, we are nonetheless moved and united in the present day by the love of great music.

- 7:30 p.m.
- \$18 in advance, \$22 at door.
- Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Tickets: tinyurl.com/2d3perxm.

**BRATTLEBORO Cherish the Ladies**: Formed 37 years ago to celebrate the rise of extraordinary women in what been the male-dominated field of Irish music, Cherish the Ladies have performed thousands of concerts to audiences worldwide. They've played at The White House and the Olympics and released 17 critically acclaimed albums. Their show is a blend of the old and the new, Irish songs, lively jigs and reels and heart-wrenching slow airs.

- 7:30 p.m.
- \$30-\$35.
- Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St. More info or to reserve seats with wheelchair access: Jan Potter, jan@latchisarts.org or 802-254-1109 ext. 3. Tickets: latchis.com.

**Well-being**

**SAXTONS RIVER Creative Aging (Workshop for Seniors)**: Drawing out wisdom of the past is one goal of a series offered for seniors by Susan Rosano through a collaboration between Main Street Arts, 24 Main, Saxtons River Historical Society. Seniors are encouraged to turn memories into watercolor painting, collage, poetry, story. Work will be presented at a month-long interactive exhibit in the MSA gallery (opening 4/28). Public will be invited to respond with their insights into how to bring wisdom of the past into today.

- 3/10: 12 noon-1:30 p.m. Kickoff luncheon to introduce the program/sign up participants in the dining room at 24 Main (former Christ's Church). Program funded by a Creative Aging grant from the VT Arts Council through its Creative Aging program and is open to 15 participants ages 55 plus. Workshop dates: March 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 14, 21 at Main Street Arts from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Main Street Arts, 37 Main St. Information: 802-869-2960; mainstreetarts.org.

**BELLOWS FALLS Medicaid & Health Resource Drop-in Hours**: All are welcome to stop in to find out whether they will be affected by the upcoming Medicaid cut-backs, what their rights are in this process, and how to be sure that they aren't cut off for bureaucratic reasons. People who are not on Medicaid and have questions about health care access are also welcome, as there will be other health care resources available. Hosted by Vermont Workers' Center.

- 2-4 p.m. in the Meeting Room. (Also offered 3/31 - same place, same time).
- Free.
- Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: More information: windham@workerscenter.org.

**BELLOWS FALLS Tai Chi Fridays at Rockingham Library**: Qi Gong means "healthy breath cultivation" in Chinese. It's an ancient Taoist exercise system of moderate strenuousness that emphasizes relaxation, balance, body awareness, health, and breathing. Both beginner and experienced players are welcome. Instructor John Bohannon will focus on parts of the version of tai chi developed by Cheng Man-ch'ing as well as other Qi Gong exercises.

**FRIDAY CONT.**

- 11 a.m.-12 noon, on consecutive Fridays. No special equipment or clothing required.
- Free.
- Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: If interested, reach out to John at johnbo@sover.net, 802-869-2961.

**SATURDAY**

**11**

**Music**

**BRATTLEBORO The Big Takeover and Lush Honey**: Fronted by charismatic Jamaican-born singer/songwriter Nee Nee Rushie, the 7-piece NY band The Big Takeover plays original music rooted in/reverent toward genres and rhythms of Jamaican pop: reggae, rocksteady, ska. They are devotees of Desmond Dekker and the way the old school did it. At the same time, they cross lines/blend traditions like global pop fusionists. Lush Honey - a funk/neo-soul/jam quartet - opens up the night.

- 8 p.m.
- \$18 in advance, \$20 at door.
- The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: 802-579-9960; stonechurchvt.com.

**Recreation**

**BRATTLEBORO Keep Brattleboro in Stitches! Do you sew? Knit? Crochet? Embroider? Want to learn?**: Share your expertise/enthusiasm. Stitch together friendships while working on projects old and new in our fiber arts makerspace. All ages and experience levels welcome.

- 12 noon-2 p.m. every Saturday. Sewing machines and some supplies will be available. Plus many books for inspiration!
- Free.
- Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brooksbibliothary.org.

**Farmers' markets**

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

- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through 3/25 in the gymnasium.
- 12 noon-2 p.m. every Saturday. Sewing machines and some supplies will be available.
- Through Saturday, March 25.
- Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market, 60 Austin Dr. Information: farmersmarket@postalsolutions.org, 802-275-2835.

**The written word**

**WILMINGTON Book Talk with Samantha Bovat and Jeremy P. Doran, authors of "The Little Kids"**: The authors share tales from the book/offer insight into the process of writing a book unbeknownst to the other 8 siblings. As the youngest in a family of 10, Samantha and Jeremy reflect on how everyday events affected them and describe roles their parents and siblings played in shaping who they are today. Whether an only child or from a large family,

**SATURDAY CONT.**

you will enjoy insight into the lives of #9 and #10.

- 5:30 p.m.
- Free.
- Bartleby's Books, 17 W. Main St. Information: 802-464-5425; myvermontbookstore.com.

**Community building**

**GUILFORD Guilford Free University - Community Skill Share Event**: Guilford Treasures: Erin Tkaczyk and Richard Austin talk about treasure hunting hobbies and show and tell relics they've recovered. Proprioception Exercises to Improve Your Balance: Julie Holland. Sourdough Baking: Sarah Haydock. Itty Bitty Matchbox Books: Amber Paris. Backstrap Loom Weaving: Carol Schnabel. Home Burial: Verandah Porche. Seed Starting for the Home Gardener: Neighborhood Roots Collective. Children's Storytime: Clay Sculptures w/Nature Collecting - Walk.

- 12:30-1 p.m. Welcome and Intros. 1-2 p.m.: Guilford Treasures. Sourdough Baking. 2-3 p.m.: Backstrap Loom Weaving. Home Burial. Seed Starting for the Home Gardener. Children's Storytime. 2:30-4 p.m.: Clay sculptures w/ Nature Collecting.
- Free.
- Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Full schedule: tinyurl.com/57w9nsvd.

**VERNON Coffee with Coffey (In-Person/Zoom)**: "Coffee with Coffey" is an way for Sara to share updates and hear from her Guilford and Vernon constituents.

- In Person: 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, Zoom: 3-4 p.m. on Sunday.
- Free.
- Vernon Free Library, 567 Governor Hunt Rd. Information: Zoom: tinyurl.com/35nw7y92.

**WEST TOWNSHEND Winter Tree Identification Walk**: Join Michael Longo, Sally Newton and other folks for a walk in the woods. Share your knowledge, and/or become familiar with local tree species. Learn how to tell them apart when they have no leaves. We are tentatively planning to walk near the old air strip on Ball Mountain in Jamaica.

- 2 p.m. "We meet at the West Townshend Country Store and carpool or caravan to the location. Depending on weather, snow shoes or micro spikes might be a good idea."
- West Townshend Country Store and Cafe, Rte. 30. Information: Questions: Sally: 802-884-7141, sally.newton123@gmail.com.

**Dance**

**WINCHESTER Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club: Dance to Live Music by "NH Visitors"**: Everyone is welcome. Non-alcoholic beverages available plus 50/50 Raffle.

- 7-10:30 p.m.
- \$10 members, \$12 non-members.
- Elmm Community Center, 21 Durkee St. Information: More information: Tom: 978-249-6917, 978-790-9322; Barbara: 802-722-9205, 802-376-0317.

**BRATTLEBORO "Connecting through Disconnection"**: SideStream Studio has produced a dance performance with local choreographers and dancers focusing on the theme of connection and disconnection. "Connecting through Disconnection" will be followed by refreshments and a lively conversation about the power of art society.

- 7-9 p.m.
- \$15.
- Sidestream Studio, 74 Cotton Mill Hill, Suite 346. Information: Tickets: sidestreamstudio.com.

**Community meals**

**BRATTLEBORO Sugar on Snow Supper**: The First Congregational Church is holding its 70th annual Sugar on Snow supper with the traditional menu of ham, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, deviled eggs, home-made rolls, and maple syrup on snow with home-made doughnuts (and, of course, sour pickles). There will be an auction at each seating for locally-produced maple syrup. Come and be part of this Vermont tradition!

- Two seatings: 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.
- \$15 adults; \$6 ages 6-12; \$3 ages 3-5; free for under age 3.
- First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, 880 Western Ave. Information: Reservations (either eat-in or take-out), call 802-257-7557.

**Visual arts and shows**

**BRATTLEBORO Latchis Gallery hosts work by Patti Newton: "Dreamland Circus Tarot"**: Festive installation features large color images from "The Dreamland Circus Tarot" - a 100-card artisan deck and book. The artwork is a combination of vintage photographs from the 1800s/early 1900s, and Patti's own photos taken at a nearby contemporary amusement park originally known as 'Gallup's Cove' circa 1840 located in Agawam, MA.

**SATURDAY CONT.**

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. are the Saturday hours Newton will personally be on site. She looks forward to meeting you. The Gallery will be fully lit so the exhibit can be viewed from the outside window 24/7 through 3/31. To purchase a deck or book or for more information visit [www.silvermoonvt.com](http://www.silvermoonvt.com).
- Through Friday, March 31.
- Latchis 4 Gallery, 50 Main St.

**BRATTLEBORO Reception with John R. Killackey and his video FLUX plus Retrospectives by Nye Farabas, Charles Ramburg**: Topics include Fluxus and Art as Performance and Language.

- 1-3 p.m.
- Free.
- CX Silver Gallery, 814 Western Ave. Information: [cxsilvergallery.com](http://cxsilvergallery.com).

**Ideas and education**

**WESTMINSTER WEST Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association - Tracks and Trees: Workshop on Wildlife Tracking and Tree Identification**: Participants will learn to think like the animals they are tracking and connect with the forested landscape. Lynn Levine will give tips on identifying trees in the winter. For decades, Lynn has been an environmental educator, a tracker, consulting forester. She's written six books about the forest and taken thousands of people into the woods. All participants will be provided with their own copy of her book, "Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-Size Pocket Guide."

- 1-3:30 p.m. Limited to 12 people. Meet outside Congregational Church of Westminster West. Dress warmly for the outdoors and bring snowshoes. Snowshoes available to borrow at Westminster West Public Library.
- Free.
- Congregational Church of Westminster West, 44 Church St. Information: 802-387-2334; westminsterwest.org.

**SUNDAY**

**12**

**Government**

**PUTNEY Osher Lecture Series: Can We Trust the People When It Comes to Reproductive Rights?**: Presented by Meg Mott, "Constitution Wrangler." This series considers the judicial history of reproductive rights, the best arguments on both sides, and the work we need to do to govern ourselves in a pluralist society.

- 2-4 p.m. Final presentation: 3/19. Note: "We can no longer take any payments at the door/onsite. All attendees/members must pre-register prior to the start of the program."
- \$8 per lecture.
- Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: Register: [learn.uvm.edu/ottj/brattleboro](http://learn.uvm.edu/ottj/brattleboro).

**Well-being**

**W. BRATTLEBORO "Strength in Vulnerability" (In Person/Zoom)**: Led by Rev. Telos Whitfield: "There is strength in our vulnerability, in being able to find our true voices, share our individual experiences, look to history and today for many examples when vulnerability can be a source of strength."

- 10 a.m.
- All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Zoom: Go to [www.ascvt.org](http://www.ascvt.org) on Sunday shortly before 10 a.m. 802-254-9377; ascvt.org.

**Dance**

**BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango in Brattleboro**: Dancers of all levels are welcome. Stop by to check it out or to join in. No partner needed.

- 3-4 p.m. Class, 4-7 p.m. Milonga. Every 2nd Sunday.
- Class \$10, Milonga \$15, Both \$20.
- One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/1222170897820578/.

**MONDAY**

**13**

**Recreation**

**BELLOWS FALLS Chess Club at Rockingham Library**: Led by Mike Sola every Monday. Drop-ins and all levels are welcome.

- 3-5 p.m.
- Free and open to the public.

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

# Summer Camp Fun!



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Laura Lawson Tucker & Darlene Jenson

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**Brattleboro Recreation & Parks**

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**RIVER GALLERY SCHOOL OF ART**

[rivergalleryschool.org](http://rivergalleryschool.org) Register online or call 802-257-1577

## Brattleboro Women's Chorus welcomes new singers

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Women's Chorus welcomes new members to sing with them for the spring semester.

The Chorus welcomes anyone female or non-binary, and whose vocal range comfortably includes the A in the middle of the treble staff. All abilities are welcome and no auditions are required.

Their first two rehearsals, March 16 or 17 and 23 or 24, are open to new singers to attend and see if it is a good fit for them (provided they email the chorus organizers in advance). Advance registration is required for all singers.

In-person rehearsals are held Thursday mornings at the Brattleboro Music Center from 10 a.m. to noon or Thursday evenings at All Souls Church from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Virtual sessions are held on Friday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon via Zoom and are recorded.

Singers' masks with a filter or N95/KN95 masks are required for in-person rehearsals this spring, and proof of vaccination is required for the morning rehearsal, in keeping with the Brattleboro Music Center's policy.

BWC hopes to conclude its season with concerts at the Retreat Farm in early June, but you do not have to plan to participate in the concerts to sing with the chorus.

Musical Director Becky Graber chooses an eclectic mix of music from around the world she describes as "spirited, uplifting, and easy to learn." The chorus learns through the oral tradition, "so most of the music is taught by ear, though this semester we will refer to written music at times," says Graber. Word sheets, part recordings, and Zoom videos are available to practice with between rehearsals.

The cost for the spring session is a sliding scale of \$85 to \$160 per adult with discounts for students and family pairs. Financial aid is available. Links to online registration and more can be found at [brattleborowomenschorus.org](http://brattleborowomenschorus.org) ([brattleborowomenschorus.org/events/concerts](http://brattleborowomenschorus.org/events/concerts)).



► Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org.

**Government**

**BRATTLEBORO "Our Slow-Motion Judicial Coup" (In-Person/Zoom):** Tim Kipp spells out the historically steady incursion of reactionary social, corporate, political forces that have pushed America's judiciary to the ultra-conservative right. The 50-year assault on legal abortion that culminated last year in the Supreme Court is but one objective in a far-reaching revanchist strategy to recast America. Understanding the wide sweep of that strategy and its diverse factions is critical to fathoming the direction of contemporary America.

► 6-8 p.m. Kipp has been a political activist for over 50 years and history/political science teacher for 39 years.

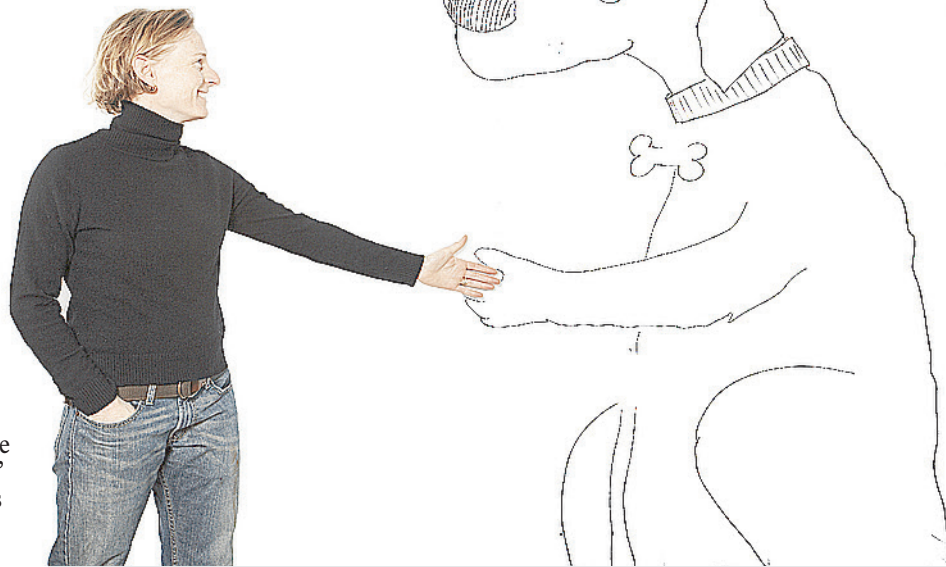
► Free.  
► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: Zoom: tinyurl.com/4db9e5b.

**Ideas and education**

**BRATTLEBORO Aliza Fassler discusses Native Bees:** Aliza Fassler, graduate researcher University Massachusetts-Amherst, discusses: where bees go in winter; how to distinguish a bee from a wasp or native bee from a honey bee; which native bee species might be in your yard. In North America, there are approx. 4,000 species of wild bees critical for pollinating plants in our forests, gardens, fields. Learn about the diversity of bee species in New England and how to help them in your yards and gardens.

► 7 p.m. Hosted by the Brattleboro Garden Club.  
► Free.  
► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: More information: Jill Stahl Tyler -jill@globaltow.com.

# Cartoonist will speak at Landmark College



COURTESY PHOTO

PUTNEY—The Landmark College Academic Speaker Series welcomes syndicated cartoonist Hilary Price to campus on Tuesday, March 14, at 5 p.m., in the Brooks M. O'Brien Auditorium, located in the Lewis Academic Building.

Price's talk, entitled "How I Became a Cartoonist: A Study in Messing Up," will include insights about how she gets ideas for her award-winning comic strip "Rhymes with Orange," makes comics, and lives a creative life.

"Rhymes with Orange" debuted in 1995, making Price the youngest woman to have a syndicated comic strip. The strip is now a collaboration with Canadian cartoonist Rina Piccolo. It appears in newspapers internationally, and has appeared in *Parade Magazine*, *People*, and in The Library of Congress.

In 2015, Price was given an Inkpot Award

for career achievement in comic arts from the San Diego Comic-Con International. She has told stories for The Moth Radio Hour and on NPR, and teaches single panel cartooning at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction.

This event is free and open to the public.

For additional information or questions about venue accessibility, contact Lynne Shea at [lshea@landmark.edu](mailto:lshea@landmark.edu). Driving directions, a campus map, and more information about the Landmark College Academic Speaker Series is available at [landmark.edu](http://landmark.edu).

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<b>COCAINE BEAR</b> R	
DAILY	4 PM
NIGHTLY	7 PM
<b>CREED III</b> PG-13	
DAILY	4:15 PM
NIGHTLY	6:50 PM

**TUESDAY**

14

**Well-being**

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

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

**Dance**

**BRATTLEBORO Argentine Tango in Brattleboro - Class and Practica:** Dancers of all levels are welcome. Stop by to check it out or to join in. No partner needed. Guest instructors - many from Argentina!

► 7-8 p.m.: Class, 8-10 p.m.: Milonga. Every 2nd Sunday. \$95 masks required.  
► Class \$12, Practica \$5, both \$15 (first class is free of charge).  
► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/122170897820578/.

**Community meals**

**GUILFORD Guilford Cares Food Pantry** rat Broad Brook Community

**Center (Grange):** "We're very well stocked with staples, meat, fresh produce, eggs, bread and butter. There are no restrictions on who may come to the Pantry - all are welcome. With the high cost of food and fuel please come to the Pantry so you and your family may stay healthy and well nourished. We are all neighbors helping neighbors."

► 3-4 p.m. on Thursdays. To make a monetary donation, please write a check payable to Guilford Cares with Food Pantry on the memo line. Mail to: Guilford Cares, Inc., PO Box 2517, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

► Free.  
► Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: For more info or to volunteer at the Pantry contact Pat Haine at 802-257-0626 or guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

**Ideas and education**

**PUTNEY Landmark College Academic Speaker Series: "Rhymes with Orange" Cartoonist Hilary Price:** Price's talk, "How I Became a Cartoonist: A Study in Messing Up" will include insights about how she gets ideas for her award-winning comic strip "Rhymes with Orange," makes comics and lives a creative life. "Rhymes with Orange" debuted in 1995 and is now done collaboratively w/ Canadian cartoonist Rina Piccolo - appearing in newspapers internationally as well as *Parade Magazine*, *People*, The Library of Congress.

► 5 p.m.  
► Free and open to the public.  
► Landmark College, East Academic Bldg., O'Brien Auditorium, 1 River Rd. So. Information: Questions: lshea@landmark.edu, landmark.edu.

**WEDNESDAY**

15

**The written word**

**BELLOWS FALLS Creative Writers Group:** Led by author/teacher Frances LeMoine-Barsky: "Poetry, flash/short fiction as well as narrative fiction are emphasized, but not to the exclusion of other genres. Even memoirs can be included in the mix. Weekly prompts, feedback and suggestions are provided in an encouraging and positive environment. Make sure to bring your laptop or notebook."

► 1-2:30 p.m. on consecutive Wednesdays. LeMoine-Barsky's work has appeared in the *Owen Wister Review*, *Visions*, *East-West Journal*, *Poetry Soup*, *Red Booth Review*, *Seeker Magazine*. Her work has been translated into several languages. Asterius Press published her poetry collection "The Moon Makes No Difference to Me."  
► Free and open to the public.  
► Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. Information: 802-463-4270; rockinghamlibrary.org.

**Well-being**  
**Taking Steps Brattleboro: Advance Care Planning Weekly Information Sessions (via Zoom):** Advance Care Planning ensures that your loved ones and health professionals know what you want in a medical

emergency if you are unable to speak for yourself. It's a process of creating a written health care plan that tells others what you would want if you couldn't tell them yourself. Includes discussing choices about end-of-life care with your medical provider, family, others, choosing/educating your Health Care Agent, making informed decisions to complete an Advance Directive.

► 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays. Find out if adding a COVID-19 or Dementia provision would be beneficial to include or add to a previously completed Advance Directive. This is a program of Brattleboro Area Hospice.  
► Free.  
► Zoom. Information: Ruth Nangeroni, Advance Care Planning Program Coord.: 802-257-0775 x101, ruth.nangeroni@brattleborohospice.org.

**Film and video**

**BRATTLEBORO Louis Sullivan: "The Struggle for American Architecture" Hosted by Jim Williams (In-Person/Virtual):** Often called the "father of the skyscraper," the "prophet of modern architecture" who also coined the iconic phrase, "form follows function," Louis Sullivan created some of America's most beautiful buildings and inspired his protegee, Frank Lloyd Wright, to create a truly American style of architecture. Sullivan's film was produced in 2010.

► 6:30 p.m.-8:10 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.). This showing is part of monthly Architecture + Design film series simultaneously screened in Brattleboro and Burlington by 118 Elliot and the American Institute for Architects VT.  
► One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: 118Elliot@gmail.com, Zoom: adfilmsseries.org.

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# Literary Cocktail Hour features Helene Stapinski and Bonnie Siegler

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Literary Festival invites everyone to join them on Friday, March 10, at 5 p.m., when their Literary Cocktail Hour presents Helene Stapinski and Bonnie Siegler to discuss their book *The American Way: A True Story of Nazi Escape, Superman, and Marilyn Monroe*. Register to join this online conversation at [bit.ly/LitCocktail28](http://bit.ly/LitCocktail28).

In this real-life adventure, the publisher of DC Comics comes to the rescue of a family trying to flee Nazi Berlin, their lives linking up with a cast of 20th-century icons, all eagerly pursuing the American dream.

Family lore had it that Siegler's grandfather crossed paths with Marilyn Monroe in Midtown Manhattan late one night in 1954, her white dress flying up around her as she filmed a scene for *The Seven Year Itch*. Jules Schulback had his home movie camera with him, capturing what is perhaps the only surviving footage of that legendary night.

Siegler says she wasn't sure she quite believed her grandfather's story until, cleaning out his apartment, she found the film reel. The discovery would prompt her to investigate all of her grandfather's seemingly tall tales—and lead her in pursuit of a remarkable piece of forgotten history bridging old Hollywood, the birth of the comic book, and the Holocaust.

*The American Way* is a story of two men, both striving to make their way in New York, their lives intersecting with an array of well-known personalities, from Billy Wilder and Joe DiMaggio to Superman creators Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel.

One often-quoted review calls it a "kaleidoscopic tale of hope and reinvention, of daring escapes and fake identities, of big dreams and the magic of movies,

and what it means to be a real-life Superman."

Stapinski is the bestselling author of three memoirs: *Five-Finger Discount*, *Murder in Matera*, and *Baby Plays Around*. She writes regularly for *The New York Times*; her work has also appeared in *The Washington Post*, *New York, Travel & Leisure*, and dozens of other publications. She teaches at New York University and lives in Brooklyn.

Siegler is the founder and creative director of award-winning, multi-disciplinary graphic design studio Eight and a Half. The author of *Dear Client*, a guide for people who work with creatives, and *Signs of Resistance*, a history of protest in America, she taught design in the graduate schools of Yale University and the School of Visual Arts for many years. She lives in Connecticut.

# Estey Organ Museum presents 'Tin Pan Alley Senior Sing-Along'

BRATTLEBORO—The Estey Organ Museum will provide a creative singing and musical history experience, as well as bring the many health benefits of singing for seniors in Windham County starting this May for seven weeks of musical classes.

No singing experience is required, and the program is free for adults aged 60 and older.

According to a news release, a Creative Aging Grant from the Vermont Arts Council, supporting community-building in and through the arts for older adults in Vermont, was awarded to the Estey Organ Museum to support older adults singing and performing Tin Pan Alley songs through a collaboration of the museum and Susan Rosano, a Vermont Master

Teaching Artist.

Rosano has trained with Lifetime Arts of Vermont to design creative aging programs that include skill-based instructional lessons and intentional social engagement opportunities. She will be working in cooperation with Dr. Dennis Waring, ethnomusicologist, musician, master teaching artist, and president of the Estey Organ Museum's Board of Trustees.

In this series, singers will be accompanied by The Green Mountain Strummers ukulele group and an organist playing one of the organs in the Estey Organ Museum collection.

In addition to singing together, participants can discover the historical value of the songs and

enjoy weekly socializing with refreshments at the museum.

The first six sessions will be about learning, singing, and sharing. The seventh session will be a culminating concert. All sessions will be at the Estey Organ Museum, starting Wednesday, May 17, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and socializing from 2:30 to 3 p.m.

The class meets each following Wednesday at the same time for the remaining five weeks. The concert at the Estey Organ Museum is set for Saturday, June 24, at 1 p.m.

To sign up for the program, contact Rosano at 802-254-6201 or [srosano754@gmail.com](mailto:srosano754@gmail.com).

# Sarasa concert is 'All About My Mother'

BRATTLEBORO—The Sarasa Ensemble returns to the Brattleboro Music Center Saturday, March 18.

The 7 p.m. performance, part of the BMC Season Guest Concert Series, is "All About My Mother." Taking its title from Pedro Almodóvar's 1999 film, his program offers a musical reflection on the many facets of motherhood and the impact of her presence during life's various celebrations, rituals, and trials.

The program will include

Matthew Locke's "Fantasy" from Suite No. 5 in G minor from "Consort of Four Parts"; Dvořák's "Songs My Mother Taught Me" from *Gypsy Songs*; Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel's String Quartet in E flat major, Op. 277; Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* (arranged for soprano and string quartet by Ivo Bauer); and Gershwin's Lullaby for string quartet.

Performers will include Ute Grerer, soprano; Zenas Hsu and Amy Galluzzo, violins;

Jason Fisher, viola; and Jennifer Morsches, cello.

The Sarasa Ensemble is a collective group of international instrumentalists and vocalists who perform classical music of outstanding quality spanning the 17th to the 21st centuries on both period and modern instruments and bring this music to diverse communities. Through the ensemble's outreach program in adolescent detention facilities, it is dedicated to bridging cultural, aesthetic, and economic

barriers and providing incarcerated teenagers with opportunities for growth, self-expression, and enrichment through music.

Advance tickets are \$20 general admission, and \$25 at the door. For tickets or more information, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523, email [info@bmcvt.org](mailto:info@bmcvt.org) or visit the BMC website at [bmcvt.org](http://bmcvt.org). Please note BMC concert attendance requires masking for all attendees.

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# Electronic music pioneer Suzanne Ciani plays quadraphonic concert

BRATTLEBORO—Suzanne Ciani, one of the first innovators in the composition of electronic music, will appear in Brattleboro on Thursday, March 9, to play a live quadraphonic concert at Epsilon Spires.

This will be Ciani's first performance in New England in five years, and her only scheduled appearance in the eastern half of the United States until a 10-day residency this fall at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Jamie Mohr, executive director of Epsilon Spires, says in a news release this will be an "unforgettable, potentially once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." She continues, "her style of quadraphonic performance will create an extraordinary sonic experience in the sanctuary of the historic cathedral."

Ciani studied classical piano before encountering some of the earliest electronic synthesizers while earning her master's degree in composition at University of California, Berkeley. She began making new work with the Buchla 200, a modular synthesizer created by the eccentric

visionary Don Buchla.

In an era when electronic music in itself was exotic, a woman operating the bulky and complex instruments of the time was practically unheard of. When Ciani met with record executives to try to score a recording contract, she was repeatedly rejected for not performing with vocals and a backing band.

Ciani's work, described in the news release as "playful, rhythmic, minimalist compositions," eventually found a home in advertising and movie soundtracks, where in 1981 she became the first woman to score a Hollywood film solo.

She created Coca-Cola's iconic pop-and-pour sound effect and designed the sounds for the pinball game Xenon before returning to her roots as a piano player, recording several new age albums that have earned her five Grammy nominations.

In 2016, at Buchla's urging, Ciani purchased a new version of the synthesizer and has been recording and performing amid a resurgence of interest in early synth technology and her

contributions to the emerging form in the 1970s.

Buchla synthesizers distinguished themselves from competitors by never incorporating a traditional keyboard, and by distributing its sounds through a quadraphonic system instead of the conventional mono or stereo systems.

Ciani's performance at Epsilon Spires will be in this quadraphonic mode, which she describes in a 2019 interview in *Women in Sound* as being "about generating illusory spaces in the moment and giving life to the electronic sound."

Opening for Ciani will be Jesse Beaman, an experimental musician and composer from Austin, Texas, whose work explores classical piano, ambient electronics and percussion. Tickets for the event are \$25 and can be purchased at [epsilonspires.org](http://epsilonspires.org).

## Library exhibits assemblages by Mennell

PUTNEY—*Affinities*, a series of assemblages by Bonnie Mennell, is on exhibit until Saturday, May 20, at the Putney Public Library, 55 Main St.

Mennell's exhibition includes disparate elements: found objects, recombinations of natural forms enhanced with color and texture, and handmade paper embedded with corn husks and mica, seaweed, shells, and paper birch bark.

"Objects find me," Mennell said in a news release. "Their beauty, form, textures, and colors draw me to them. I collect them, asking permission and giving thanks. I bring them to my home and studio. I live with them. They engage me both in the moment and over time."

Mennell's professional life was spent in teacher education and teacher professional development coaching — both as a member of the MAT faculty at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, and in her private consulting work both in the U.S. and abroad. She retired from SIT in 2008.

She continues teaching as part of the New England Council Collective, which offers workshops in the deep listening approach to group dialogue. She lives in Putney on the land that she cherishes.

Putney Public Library is open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit [putneylibrary.org](http://putneylibrary.org).



Casey Metcalfe, left, reunited with cast members from *Champions* at the film's premiere in New York City in February.

## 'Champions'

FROM SECTION FRONT

developmentally disabled players, then moved into mainstream NEYT roles such as King Alonzo in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Philly Cullen in J. M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World*. After moving on to Brattleboro Union High School (BUHS), he performed a bit there, too.

As his interest in the craft grew, Metcalfe found a well-suited coach with Joey Travolta, brother of actor John Travolta, whose Actors for Autism group could dial into Metcalfe's talents.

Having appeared as himself in *Kids with Cameras*, a 2009 documentary about the challenges seven kids on the autism spectrum face on the road to self-discovery, Metcalfe's appetite for film acting had seemingly been whetted.

But years later, after his 2015 graduation from BUHS, his move on to higher education, and his settling into life and work in Burlington, an old family friend in Los Angeles reconnected with the family. Linda Kessell had been following the young actor's work at NEYT on Facebook and with her husband, Brad Kessell, an executive producer of *Champions*, she suggested that he invite Metcalfe to audition.

He was one of hundreds of young people who auditioned in Canada and the U.S. Since all the family basketballs had been given to the thrift shop, Metcalfe recruited a bright orange chicken from his flock for his 2021 audition. He's quick to quip that no animals were harmed in the process.

It was not the actor's basketball (or chicken-ball) chops that won him the part. In fact, he explains, his character is a hypochondriac. And between him and the coach, they regularly find an excuse for him to stay off the court in any given game.

### An openness for improv

*Champions* is directed by Bobby Farrelly, who, with his brother, Peter, are filmmakers known for their advocacy of disabled actors.

As Baird explains, "the Farrellys have a close family friend with a disability who convinced them to include disabled actors in all their films and shows."

Metcalfe heard he'd been cast in early October 2021 and two months or so of filming began later that month, primarily in and around Winnipeg.

Baird recalls that "upon meeting the Friends actors in person, director Bobby Farrelly and writer Mark Rizzo adjusted the script to include many of the cast members' individual strengths,

pet sayings, and habits."

Metcalfe's penchant for reading Wikipedia pages "translated into a line in the script," she said.

The Farrellys made a point of incorporating the special skills and talents of each member of the Friends team, too.

With Metcalfe, it was his love of languages. Having studied Mandarin at Putney Central School in all three years of middle school there, he also acquired French and a bit of Spanish.

And all that figures into the script — even in his exchanges with Cheech Marin, of whom Metcalfe grew quite fond. That openness for input resonated with Metcalfe and his fellow Friends.

Another of Casey Metcalfe's loves is improv comedy. Having first studied it with Jane Baker at NEYT, he was smitten — and he was in good company among the Friends.

Harrelson's co-star, Kaitlin Olson, of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* fame, played the coach's romantic interest who turns out to be sister to one of the Friends, and she noted the improvisational spirit in the whole cast. According to Focus Films production notes, Olson said that she most appreciated the Friends' innate ability to improvise within a scene.

Of the experience, Metcalfe proclaims it was "the best experience ever."

"We all became lifelong friends," he said. Together they bonded, they shared, they learned curling in Winnipeg, they met the challenges of missed meals and 5 a.m. wake-up calls.

"There were times they'd wake us and we'd be grumpy, wouldn't know where we were going," said Metcalfe, but he acknowledged that the benefits outweighed the challenges.

"I'm a huggy person," said the warm and upbeat Metcalfe. When he first met Harrelson, he slid right by the star's extended hand and gave him a big hug. And it was returned.

At the New York premiere of the film at AMC's Lincoln Square 13 theater on Feb. 27, Metcalfe was happy to reunite with the cast; hugs abounded then, too. It was "joyful," Metcalfe added.

The whirlwind of activity around the premiere included an interview with Savannah Guthrie of NBC News (a segment on *Today* is set to air March 10), hobnobbing with Harrelson and his Friends costars at Lincoln Center Plaza, and a private screening of the film.

### 'We are not broken'

Metcalfe believes that same joy reads on the screen as a message becomes clear.

"We are not broken," he says, "It's society that needs enlightenment." With people with disabilities comprising one of the largest marginalized groups in the U.S., it's clearly frustrating to Metcalfe, Baird, and, no doubt, many other advocates that disability garners so little attention or understanding from the media or from the public at large.

The experience on the *Champions* set was, Baird recalled, one of the most "sensitive and accommodating" she'd ever witnessed.

The Friends were clustered into pods, each with its own leader — a dedicated staff member who worked with their groups on learning lines, maintaining communications, and troubleshooting.

Chief go-to staffer was A.B. Farrelly, director Bobby Farrelly's son, who calls his work on *Champions* "a fantastic experience."

Quoted in production notes, he says: "a lot of disabled actors have been told their whole life [sic] what they can't do, and to watch them every day be movie stars with Woody and Kaitlin was pretty cool."

"It reminded me that you should never tell people what they can or can't do," he said.

"Casey is so funny," Farrelly said. "He always wanted to know how to make things better and how to do it better."

Metcalfe — witty and vastly knowledgeable — engages as an avid Anglophile and BBC fan who, his father notes, knows life data of myriad British actors and can do a spot-on Maggie Smith impression.

"I love clothing, art, acting — a lot of things," he said.

In the meantime, normal life for Metcalfe has resumed in Burlington, where he lives with some support. A member of the cashiers' union, Metcalfe works at Burlington's City Market while pursuing improv with the Vermont Comedy Club.

Grateful for the assistance he's received in navigating the ins and outs of his day job as a cashier, Metcalfe notes that he, like many with an ASD diagnosis, has issues with communications.

"I don't always know what people's intentions are," he said.

That said, one steadfast rule Metcalfe has learned through improvisation is to say, "Yes, and..." For an improvisation to take wing, "You can never say 'no,'" he explained.

As antithetical as that can be to the autistic mindset, which generally prefers predictability and routine, that "yes, and" guideline has become Metcalfe's key to success.

"I couldn't be prouder," his father said. "He's worked hard, and he doesn't give up."

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## Exhibits

FROM SECTION FRONT

from the streets of his home in New York City. The figures on view speak to the power of material resourcefulness and chance encounters to create personal meaning.

On Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m., Hinojosa will give a tour of the exhibition and then will lead an evening of storytelling on the theme of newcomers and immigration.

In "Portals and Portraits," Vermont-based photographer and painter Cathy Cone explores human relationships. Cone modifies tintypes from the late-nineteenth century to create ghostly portraits that speak to the power and limitations of memory. Cone obscures the subjects' faces, she says, "playing with the innate human desire to intimately connect with a portrait's subject and inviting us to consider the process of knowing and understanding ourselves and each other."



VIEWPOINT

# Please — remember Fukushima

*Japan is reopening shuttered nukes even as radioactive waste from the Fukushima Daiichi plant remains a huge problem. That's only one reason the world must work to decommission and isolate the reactors and the poisons that have already been created.*



Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant facility, photographed March 13, 2011 in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan with deadly force two days earlier.

**O**N MARCH 11, 12 years will have passed since the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi reactor complex — a meltdown that happened as the result of a massive tsunami.

The natural disaster should not have been surprising due to Japan's location within what geologists call the "Ring of Fire," a powerful designation of the area around the Pacific Ocean where seismic activity is endemic — which makes the Pacific shoreline of Japan a very poor spot to build numerous nuclear reactors.

And yet, after closing all reactors in response to Fukushima, the Japanese government has reopened some shuttered nukes and plans to open still more — in spite of all the seismic risks, in spite of the huge radiation exposure from the initial Fukushima meltdown, and in spite of the terrible nuclear toll from the U.S. bombing at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

If Japan wants to stop using gas and oil from Russia, the

**NANCY BRAUS**, an independent bookseller, is a longtime activist.

country could use renewable power sources, which are getting more affordable, more reliable, and more vital to the health of the flora and fauna on Earth every day. In fact, Japan has a huge, untouched capacity for offshore wind.

IN THE INITIAL meltdown caused by lack of coolant and electricity during the tsunami in 2011, reactor cores — the part of the nuke that houses the power production — released large plumes of radioactivity into the air. The area was evacuated, and some citizens have never returned home.

The only way to prevent a release of toxic elements from the destroyed reactor cores is a constant coolant bath of water. Once dumped onto the cores, that water becomes highly radioactive and then must be isolated from the world. This has

resulted in the huge water problem that exists today.

Radioactive water is the main waste issue right now — as in, there is so much of it in (by one account) more than 1,000 tanks covering every square inch of the reactor site and rapidly nearing capacity.

The water is partially filtered by an Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), designed to remove the most toxic elements, including strontium, cesium, and plutonium.

These most-toxic products of nuclear reaction are accumulating on the Fukushima Daiichi site in the form of a truly horrific sludge — a problem for which nobody is suggesting a permanent solution.

In addition, the ALPS system was not designed to remove heavy water, known as tritium, and it also leaves small amounts of radionuclides in the water.

Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen with two extra neutrons. Its dangers are very

much in dispute. The nuclear industry and the Japanese government want to project a completely safe image of this radioactive element that is almost never found in nature. However, there are scientists who have linked high exposure to tritium to cancer risks.

TEPCO, the company that owns the reactors, and the Japanese government are trying to convince the world that tritium-laced water is just fine, that millions and millions of gallons of tritiated water being dumped into the Pacific Ocean would be no problem.

THE VICTIMS of the United States open-air nuclear testing — the islands in the Pacific such as the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958 — are not pleased about the tritium-laced water that will be contaminating their fishing grounds if this huge, multi-year release is allowed to happen.

The radioactive load from

the testing is still so great that some of these islands have never been reinhabited. Korea and China have expressed concern. Japanese fishers from the area around Fukushima have pleaded with the government to store this stuff and not dump it into the Pacific, but Japan seems determined to dispose of this contaminated water. Its government exclusively uses the word "treated," not "radioactive," for the water.

AT A TIME when the United States is again throwing huge sums of money at the nuclear industry — to the tune of \$6 billion to rehabilitate old reactors, many of which are the same model as those that failed so badly in Japan — we need to remember the timeline for decommissioning Fukushima.

Stopping the nuclear chain reaction in the damaged reactor cores will still take 30 to 40 years — no less time now than was predicted the year after the

meltdowns. This sounds an awful lot like "we don't know what the hell we can do to stop this."

The nuclear industry has positioned itself as an answer to climate change. And it is true that it is not coal. Those who prefer corporate control of our energy system will continue to promote nukes, instead of the small-scale wind, solar, and other alternatives that we can install and use to generate our home power.

When we are in a time of political instability, when threats to reactors are very real — as we have witnessed in Ukraine — it is time to decommission and isolate the reactors and the poisons that have already been created.

If there is a system collapse, who will maintain the nuclear reactors around the world?

Please, anyone who believes that nuclear is the answer to climate destruction — think of Fukushima.

RESPONSE

# People have the right to exist in the public sphere

What Case is saying here is that he ran, at least in part, on a platform dedicated to banishing people experiencing homelessness from downtown Brattleboro

**W**HEN I SAW the headline to Selectboard candidate Peter "Fish" Case's letter, I felt a spark of hope: "People are hurting right now," the header read, "and it's possible to stop it."

Could he be referring to the fact that now, in the dead of winter, the homeless shelters are full and our neighbors are left shivering on the streets and sleeping in tents?

Or perhaps he's addressing the fact that we have lost so many of our beloved friends and family members to the opioid crisis, lacking proper addiction support?

Were we finally about to see a candidate running on a platform of protecting and caring for the most vulnerable members of our community? People are suffering. It's true.

**GENNAROSE NETHERCOTT** is an author and poet whose latest work, *Thistlefoot*, was published in 2022. This piece is in response to "Peter 'Fish' Case: 'People are hurting now, and it is possible to stop it'" [*Letters*, Feb. 22].

However, when I read the letter, my heart sank. What I found instead was an insidious, cleverly veiled series of major red flags.

"I have spoken with a dozen retailers who have all been told by their customers that they don't feel safe coming downtown," wrote Case. "I've spoken with hundreds of citizens who are tired of being aggressed when they get out of their cars. All this tells me is that it's time to take a look at our stance on loitering again and make some changes."

If you aren't familiar with the rhetoric, you might miss it. The scenario he describes sounds

— well, scary. And who is this mysterious aggressor Case alludes to but doesn't name?

I've seen this language before — and without fail, talk like this is always referring to panhandlers. Make no mistake: What Case is saying here is that he's running, at least in part, on a platform dedicated to banishing people experiencing homelessness from downtown Brattleboro.

God forbid we, a supposedly progressive community, be forced to witness poverty.

God forbid a person be permitted to ask their community for help — often by standing out in the snow, the rain, and

the cold for hours on end, sign in hand.

People are being aggressed when they get out of their cars? Listen. I'm a 5'2", 130-pound woman. I have lived and worked in Brattleboro my entire life. I have never once felt threatened or unsafe downtown.

But yes, sometimes folks will ask me for money. If I have time, I'll stop to chat. Some are kind. Some are not. Some visibly struggle with mental illness and addiction. Some don't.

The same is true for any of us.

What these people all have in common, though, is that they are residents of this town as solidly as I am, with just as much a right to exist in the public sphere.

BEYOND THE ETHICS of it all, however, is a legal issue:

■ SEE PANHANDLING, C3



A panhandler gets a donation from a passer-by on the Whetstone Pathway in Brattleboro in this 2018 file photo.



Pleasant and comfortable! Situated on the one way lane on the circle end of the pleasant Country Hill neighborhood in West Brattleboro, this comfortable six room, 1568 square foot, well cared for home was built in 2004 and offers three bedrooms and two and a half baths. On the first floor you will find a cheerful eat in kitchen with a tile floor and handy access to the 16' x 16' deck, a large living room with hard wood floors that opens to the light filled dining room and a half bath. Upstairs the primary bedroom has its own three quarter shower ensuite bath. Two bedrooms and a full bathroom are down the hall. The spacious 22' x 19' finished basement has a laundry area. There is a two car garage and a paved driveway. Mature trees and a stone wall ramble along the back border.

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Fossil fuel investments are a poor choice for healthy returns and the planet

RE: "Being green versus making green" [News, Feb. 22]: I'm writing in response to Joyce Marcel's interview with State Treasurer Mike Pieciak on divestment of fossil fuels from our state's pension funds. As a retired school teacher with a pension in the Vermont State Teachers Retirement System, I

have a personal financial interest in this. As a citizen of Vermont who is very concerned about the effects of climate change on our future, I want us to do whatever is necessary to reduce and begin to reverse global warming. There is no conflict between my two positions. The fossil fuel divestment bill (S.42 and H.197) currently before our state Legislature, unlike prior versions, is written to address any concern that divestment might hurt the value of the pension funds.

The bill does not call for divestment at any cost. Instead, it would require the Vermont Pension Investment Commission (VPIC) to create a plan for divestment "in accordance with sound investment criteria and consistent with fiduciary obligations." This means that Vermont's divestment would have to be accomplished in a way that does not negatively impact either the pension holders or the taxpayers. From the experiences of numerous other funds that have divested without losing value, it

is obvious that this is possible. Recent reports show that divestment would not be detrimental, and in some cases would actually result in significantly more income. For example, an analysis of Colorado's pension fund over the 10-year period ending Nov. 22, 2022 shows that it would have earned an additional \$2.7 billion if it had been divested from fossil fuels. Several factors make continued investment in fossil fuels a poor choice financially. More than 1,500 funds worldwide have now committed to

divesting more than \$40 trillion from the fossil fuel industry. That sell-off is continuing to expand, and it will have an increasingly negative effect on the value of fossil fuel holdings. In addition, the falling costs of cleaner alternatives, as well as environmental concerns, are leading customers away from fossil fuels. More policies and regulations are also increasing costs for the fossil fuel industry. It's clear that past performance for an industry that is being systematically phased out is no longer a good indicator of future performance! The environmental benefits of divestment are also clear. The fossil fuel industry is capital intensive and needs a continual supply of money to allow companies to explore, develop, and expand further fossil fuel reserves. Finding new oil and gas to put "in the pipeline" will only tempt us to use it, when what we need to do is to radically cut our use of fossil fuels. The industry is now acknowledging to their shareholders the risk posed by divestment. In Shell's 2018 annual report, the company identified a continuing divestment movement as having "a material adverse effect on the price of our securities and our ability to access equity capital markets."

with him on that! And this divestment bill is one easy step for us to take that will help us do just that. Please support it. Steve Crofter Bellows Falls

Yemen can't wait any longer

It pains me to write, again, that the United States still fuels the Saudi/United Arab Emirates war machine, enabling its attacks on Yemen. Come March, we'll mark eight full years. Eight years of unconstitutional U.S. military involvement in Yemeni starvation and destruction, while legislators, activists, more than 100 organizations in this country and 300 others worldwide demand an end to this illegal war. Yemen is not even an enemy of the U.S. Yet we've helped the Saudis subject the country and its people to more than 25,000 air raids. Three-fourths of Yemen's people need humanitarian aid. How many more years should we starve these poor souls? The Yemen War Powers Resolution (WPR) continues to be the best vehicle to stop U.S. complicity in "Saudi Arabia's brutal offensive," states the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Our own Sen. Bernie Sanders has been in the forefront of this push through the years. He was about to take the next steps toward a war powers resolution vote in the Senate in December. The Biden administration shut him down. Though not finalized, activity around two previous versions of the WPR "produced tangible results in the lives of millions of Yemenis," the Friends Committee reports. Military activity and attacks were reduced. Dynamics as the latest bipartisan WPR effort progresses have had similar effects, including negotiations and truces.

■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

RESPONSE

With friends like these...

To hear the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust described in disparaging terms says a great deal about the accusers and sheds light on their actions to prevent a housing/conservation plan from moving forward in Putney

FOR 30 YEARS, I've been a member of the Putney Friends, or Quaker, congregation. Thus, my curiosity was piqued, reading in The Commons about a local group named Friends of Putney, in regard to the proposal to build much-needed housing in Putney on Alice Holway Drive.

MICHAEL MROWICKI represents the Windham-4 district (Putney, Dummerston, and Westminster) in the state Legislature and is a longtime Putney resident. This piece is in response to "Court denies appeal to stop housing project in Putney" [News, Feb. 22].

I wondered: Are they as dedicated to social justice work as Quakers/Friends? Were they walking in the same light as John Woolman when he started his abolition work in the mid-18th century — or continuing that work today on many social justice fronts, including a recent public statement urging reparations? Upon further review, it seems not so much, as some of the group's members could be seen in this last election campaign going door to door for the Republican candidate for the Vermont House, supported by Vermonters for Good Government, a group formed and operated by members of Vermont Right to Life Committee and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington. Other issues the VFGG candidate was against include climate action and vaccinations,

all while calling for "more balance" in Vermont politics.) I looked a bit further. A Friends of Putney information sheet also accuses the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) of being a "Giant Corporate Monopoly." Really? That's pretty extreme, as WWHT owns only 12% of the rental housing in Putney — hardly what I'd call a monopoly. This is like describing Putney Foodshelf as a corporate monopoly because it's the only group in town feeding hungry Vermonters. Or it is like saying Putney Mountain Association is a corporate monopoly because it's conserved hundreds of acres, making our town a conservation leader in Vermont.

creating more housing. No surprise, then, that these two concerns are baked into the WWHT plan for Alice Holway Drive in Putney. Right from the start, WWHT met with the Putney Farmers' Market and Community Garden people, to assure them they wanted to share the space in collaboration: conserving their spaces and creating housing during a housing shortage that's reached crisis level.

deep dive into its history? In short, this group's kind of dog-whistle politics is no different from other not-in-my-backyard ("NIMBY") folks across the nation. Seemingly feel-good euphemisms — ones that start with, "Of course, I support housing, but..." — are simply a thin mask for other-ing. As important, there is another perspective to all this. Last summer, when the WWHT plan was presented, a jointly written commentary from two candidates for the state Senate from Windham County — Nader Hashim and Wichie Artu — was published in The Commons. They both described what it was like for them trying to find housing locally, as people of color. The article starts, "Two candidates for state Senate believe housing is a vital investment for people and the community," and it concludes with a quote from Artu: "The not-in-my-backyard attitude is an unnecessary way to segregate and impoverish those who do not assimilate to others standards of wealth, religion, music, foods, etc."

Vermont is a beautiful place to live. Its real beauty though, is in its people and our communities, in how it has welcomed generations of us who came here to make this region home. Why stop now? The WWHT project offers us

FOR THE RECORD, WWHT is one of the conservation and housing groups funded by the statewide Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. The VHCB is dedicated to balancing the complementary needs of preserving open space while

To hear WWHT described in disparaging terms says a great deal about the accusers, and their words shed light on their actions to prevent this housing/conservation plan from moving forward. It also leads to the question: Does Friends of Putney, as a nonprofit charitable corporation itself, meet the standards they're asking of others, and would local media dare to do a

VIEWPOINT

Freestanding birth centers: Why not in Vermont?

Giving birth is a vulnerable, intimate, profound moment. People deserve to birth their babies in the places where they feel safest and most supported.

I HAVE BEEN a certified nurse midwife for seven years, and I have lived in Vermont for that entire time. As a midwife I have taken care of hundreds of families. I have caught babies in small community hospitals as well as large tertiary care centers.

JESSE RIDGWAY, MSN, CNM, a certified nurse midwife, is a member of the Vermont Birth Center Coalition, an organization formed to advocate for the establishment of freestanding birth centers in Vermont.

to travel to New Hampshire or Massachusetts.

nearby hospitals and generate revenue for community hospitals through referrals for lab work, ultrasounds, and specialty consultations. If the pregnancy becomes high risk, the patient transfers to hospital-based care.

But when it came time to have my own three babies, I chose to give birth outside of a hospital. I knew, from my professional experience, that hospitals — while important and safe places to give birth for many — are not universally necessary. Giving birth outside of a hospital does not always mean giving birth at home. Many people choose a third option: a freestanding birth center. Freestanding birth centers are homelike facilities that are typically staffed by midwives. They are different from the birth centers inside hospitals. They take care of medically

uncomplicated, or "low risk," people.

We do Vermonters a disservice by forcing those who can afford it to travel out of state to give birth and by providing no options for those who cannot afford the money or time to travel to have their babies. It is a fundamental reproductive right that all people should be able to choose where and how they give birth, regardless of their life circumstances.

IT IS TRUE THAT the birth rate in the U.S. is falling, including in Vermont. People are choosing to have fewer children or no children at all. Our health care system is under strain from rising costs, an ongoing pandemic, and stagnant health insurance reimbursement rates.

And Vermont is one of only eight states in the country that doesn't have a single freestanding birth center in the entire state.

There is robust evidence from years of research that freestanding birth centers are safe, cost effective, and increase patient satisfaction. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine all endorse this model of care as a safe and evidence-based option for low-risk mothers.

Some individuals worry that adding freestanding birth centers to Vermont's landscape may take away important revenue for small community hospitals. I would actually argue the opposite. In addition to serving a local need, freestanding birth centers will draw patients from a wide area, bringing in more patients who are actively seeking this type of care to the catchment areas of small community hospitals.

We are not giving families all possible options. Any Vermonter who wishes to use a freestanding birth center has

Freestanding birth centers work collaboratively with

Regardless of cost analyses or financial arguments, it should not be the responsibility of birthing people and their families to save a struggling health care system.

Giving birth is a vulnerable, intimate, profound moment. People deserve to birth their babies in the places where they feel safest and most supported. And it is our job as health care providers, legislators, and community leaders to provide Vermonters with all of their options, so that they may choose where and how to grow their own families.

A bill (legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.80) to support the licensing of freestanding birth centers (H.80) is currently being addressed at the Vermont Legislature. I hope you will join me in asking your legislators to support it.

Be Sure To Check Our Full Program Schedule @ brattleboroTV.org. LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS. March 6-12. CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079. PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS! Here We Are with guest Norma Hardy, Chief of Police, Brattleboro: Mon 8p, Tues 6:10a, Wed 12:5p, Fri 6p, Sat 9p, Sun 6:15a. Harris Hill Ski Jump 2023 - Saturday: Mon 9a, Wed 3:30p, Sat 6:30p. Harris Hill Ski Jump 2023 - Sunday: Mon 12p, Thurs 3:30p, Sun 6:30p. The World Fusion Show - Ep 147 - Issa Ndour: Mon 11:30a, Tues 8p, Wed 6:25p, Thurs 6:30a, Fri 1:25p, Sat 12:30p, Sun 9p. Media Mentoring Project - A Photo is Worth a Thousand Words: Wed 9p, Thurs 9a, Fri 12p. Thorn in My Side - THE GREAT OUTDOORS! - June 23rd, 2022: Tues 8:30p, Wed 12p, Thurs 10:30a. Rock River Players Present - The Importance of Being Earnest: Fri 2:30p, Sat 9:30a, Sun 1:30p. At BMAC - Conversation: Alison Moritsugu, Erin Shigaki, and Sarah Freeman: Mon 6:55a, Wed 9a, Thurs 1:30p, Fri 5p, Sun 7a. Windham Solid Waste Management District Presents: Where is Away for Recyclables: Mon 4:15p, Tues 5:45p, Wed 6:05p, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 6:45p, Sat 3:45p. Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 6:30p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p. WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p. St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a. Calvary Chapel of the West River Valley - Weekly Service: Tue 9a, Sat 5:30p, Sun 10a. Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p. Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a. St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 4:30p, Thurs 8p. Meet the Candidates - Brattleboro Selectboard Candidate Forum 2/16/23: Mon 8:30p, Tues 6a. Guilford Town Meeting - Pre-Town Meeting 2/23/23: Monday 10a. Meet the Candidates - Putney Selectboard Candidate Forum 3/4/23: Monday 12p, Tues 1p. Dummerston Town Meeting - Pre-Town Meeting 3/1/23: Mon 6p. Meet the Candidates - WSESD Board Candidate Forum 2/27/23: Mon 6:30a, Tues 3:30p. Vernon Town Meeting 2023 - 3/6/23: Tues 6p, Thurs 12p. Newfane Town Meeting 2023 - 3/7/23: Wed 5a. Jamaica Town Meeting 2023 - 3/7/23: Wed 9a, Sat 6a. Townshend Town Meeting 2023 - 3/7/23: Tues 9a (LIVE), Wed 1p. Dummerston Town Meeting 2023 - 3/7/23: Wed 6p, Sun 8a. Guilford Town Meeting 2023 - 3/7/23: Thurs 7a. Putney Town Meeting 2023 - 3/7/23: Tues 10a (LIVE), Thurs 7p. Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 3/6/23: Fri 2p & 8:30p, Sat 11:30a. River Valleys Unified School District Bd Mtg. 3/6/23: Thurs 3:30p, Fri 8a, Sat 8p, Sun 1p. Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tue 5p, Wed 12p, Thu 10:30a & 6p, Sat 7p, Sun 11a. The David Pakman Show: Mon 8a, Tue 7:45a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p.

Love thy neighbor thy immigrant neighbor thy black neighbor thy atheist neighbor thy religious neighbor thy depressed neighbor thy asian neighbor thy lgbtqia neighbor thy disabled neighbor thy indigenous neighbor thy conservative neighbor thy elderly neighbor thy homeless neighbor thy latino neighbor thy addicted neighbor thy progressive neighbor thy incarcerated neighbor thy \_\_\_\_\_ neighbor. groundworks COLLABORATIVE. groundworksvt.org. adapted from ©TheHappyGivers.com



Yes, the Saudi bombings have passed for 10 months; this is thanks, in part, to U.S. antiwar mobilizing. But there is currently no way to hold the Saudis accountable when they begin again.

There is no way to hold this administration accountable, either. On the campaign trail and on his first day in office, President Biden vowed to stop U.S. support. He has not done so. He and Congress have an opportunity to change that, right now.

With heartfelt gratitude to Bernie Sanders for his conscientious, persistent leadership and to Sen. Peter Welch for his actions, they need to keep pushing! Vermont is key: Bernie has been the face of this effort in Congress.

On March 1, Vermont rallied again as part of this year's national protest for Yemen, backed by more than 70 organizations. Demands included: that Congress pass a War Powers Resolution now, stop weapons sales to Saudi Arabia/UAE, and that the blockade be lifted to fully open airports and seaports. Here in our brave little state, we encourage Sens. Sanders and Welch to bring the WPR fully to the floor for a vote — to gather in the legislators who were first on board years ago; to win over more. Out here, activists continue to inform those legislators.

We strongly urge the Biden administration to work with Bernie on ending U.S. complicity in Yemen.

And we appeal to legislators across the country to champion this work. Many of Biden's now-senior officials have worked to end this war and America's abetment. It's time for Congress to once and for all end U.S. collusion.

A hashtag and a protest chant declare "Yemen can't wait." Yemen truly can't wait any longer.

MaryDiane Baker  
Brattleboro

The writer volunteers as Action Corps Vermont organizer for Vermont.

**In a global climate crisis, we must let go of Harris Hill Ski Jump**

RE: "Harris Hill ski jump returns, rising above a tree-tapping thaw" [News, Feb. 22]:

The Harris Hill Ski Jump Competition needs to become a fond memory of the past — a memory of Vermont when we had enough snow in the winter to cover the jump and the target zone. When people had to bundle up to be spectators, oohing and ahing at the amazing feat of those bold athletes flying through the air at 60 mph and managing to land safely.

In this time of a global climate crisis, making snow for a dying sport should be weighed against restoring our water cycle for basic needs like food and drinking water.

Carbon pollution is killing people. For example, the World Health Organization recently reported that in 2022 more than 15,000 people died from climate-caused heat waves. That doesn't count people who died in hurricanes, fires, and floods. We need to balance human health against the privilege of competitors from places like Norway and Alaska clocking air miles to come to Vermont for ski jumping.

All of us can feel awe-struck by the steep slope of the

Olympic ski jump structure. In the past, I climbed to the top and looked down that scary, steep slope. The breathtaking angle replicates how steep the decrease of carbon dioxide emissions curve looks for humanity to reach net zero by 2050 — that is, if we start today.

As a society, we need to make big changes very quickly in order to re-establish a livable environment for all life on the planet, including humans. One relatively easy place to start is by deciding that events like our beloved Harris Hill Ski Jump Competition are now things of the past. It was a good 101-year run.

We have to let it go.

Laurel Green  
Bellows Falls

**Rescue debacle: What happened, and what can we learn?**

A lot has happened with EMS in Brattleboro over the past year, too much to put into a brief letter. I've heard a number of different versions, but as yet I have not heard anyone say things have gone well.

When things don't go well, it makes sense to examine the events and see what might have been done differently, but that has not really happened either.

Some say such an examination cannot happen for bureaucratic and/or legal reasons, but I don't accept that point of view. I think we must examine what happened and use the resulting knowledge to help things go better in the future.

A famous line from Cool Hand Luke — "what we've got here is failure to communicate" — summarizes a crucial interval in last winter's events, from early February to late March, during which there was apparently no communication between the Town of Brattleboro and Rescue Inc.

On Feb. 9, 2022 there was meeting between then-Town Manager Yoshi Manale and Rescue Chief of Operations Drew Hazelton, at which the two could not agree on a path forward. The town wanted financial information from Rescue. Hazelton declined to provide it and says he had no authority to do so. Manale countered by offering zero dollars for a contract in place of the budgeted \$289,000, and an impasse was reached.

There things remained until March 25, 2022. No contact between Manale and Hazelton. No contact between the Selectboard and Rescue's Board of Directors.

Then Rescue's letter arrived. Rescue says it was an invitation

to restart the negotiations. On the town side, it was viewed as a provocation, some seeing the letter as so insulting it precluded any positive response. Its arrival left little time for the town to come up with a substitute EMS provider. A search was quickly conducted, with Golden Cross Ambulance getting the contract.

So here's the question: What was going on from Feb. 9 to March 25? Clearly, the budgeted plan for Rescue to continue providing ambulance services was at risk. Clearly, there was no alternative plan in place.

So how is it that no one decided we needed to communicate, and no one picked up the phone and started communicating?

This was the period of time when the situation we're in now could have been avoided. Yes, perhaps we might have ended up in the same place, but more likely we'd be involved in an orderly process for deciding the future of EMS in Brattleboro, with potentially better options on the table than we're now looking at.

And, equally important: Why is it so hard to talk about this?

**Panhandling**

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, "the First Amendment covers 'charitable appeals for funds.' Because of this, panhandling, solicitation, or begging are protected speech under the First Amendment." Courts up to and including the Supreme Court have ruled decisively.

So regardless of your feelings around panhandling, to place restrictions on it is a direct violation of the First Amendment. And to do so under the guise of a "loitering" measure is nothing short of seeking a loophole to our

most vital right as citizens: freedom of speech.

I'LL ADMIT — I have felt uncomfortable seeing panhandlers in town. It's a discomfort I'm not proud of—rooted in guilt, in shame, and in the searing squeamishness of knowing I'm in a more privileged situation and am not helping as much as I could be.

When we confront these feelings, we have to ask ourselves: Are we feeling "unsafe" — as if we are genuinely in harm's way? Or are we feeling "uncomfortable"

FROM SECTION FRONT

— having to bear witness to suffering?

The greatest irony in Case's letter is found in the following statement: "Those changes may not be popular," he writes, in regards to tightening "loitering" laws, "but they will return commerce to downtown Brattleboro and make it safe and inviting for all."

Fish, why do I get the feeling that your definition of "all" excludes the most vulnerable members of our community?

I would like to see them as a focus of discussion at the same time as we move forward in the other important aspects of town affairs.

We can do it. It shouldn't be that hard.

Franz Reichsman  
Brattleboro

Why, a year later, is so much still unclear? Why are we functioning without a mutual aid agreement with the ambulance service that served us for 56 years?

It's almost like neither the town nor Rescue cares if an ambulance has to come from 25 miles away when there's one available right down the street.

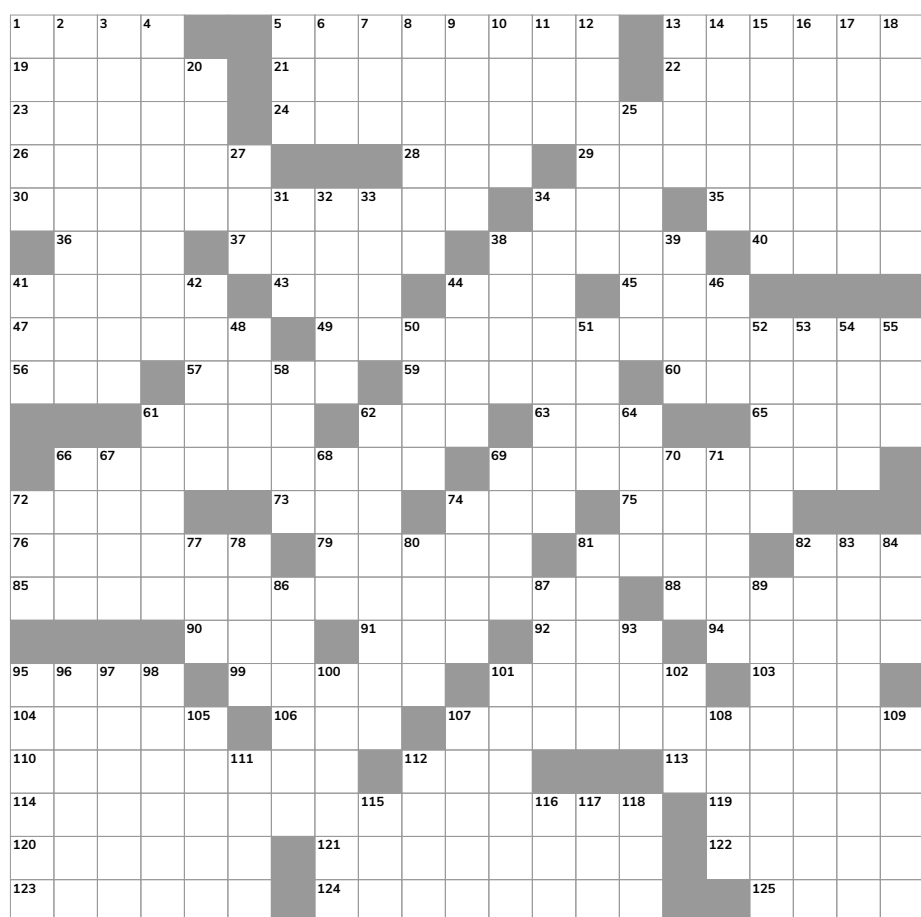
Is it more important to stay angry than to help our people and our community?

The AP Triton report will provide the town a framework for moving ahead. But we still have to ask: What happened? What have we learned? How will we do better in the future? I think Brattleboro deserves answers to these questions, and

**BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY**  
**THE COMMONS CROSSWORD**  
*"Candy Corn"*

**Across**

1. Part maker
5. One using a sight
13. Mozart's home
19. Trippy paintings
21. Pescatarian Tex-Mex selection
22. Poetic codas
23. "Miss Julie" composer Ned
24. Marx Brothers movie about peanut butter cups?
26. Russians and Indians
28. Took a nibble
29. Nowhere special
30. Person bowling with chocolate truffles?
34. Musical dir.
35. Polk's predecessor
36. Drinks might be on it
37. Less diplomatic
38. Have in hand?
40. Digital thermostat
41. Belong
43. Crater maker, perhaps
44. King Charles \_\_\_
45. Bartender-turned-rep
47. Still
49. "We're thinking of you during this difficult Halloween"?
56. Enter into matrimony
57. Jewish youth org.
59. Marry without planning
60. Develops
61. High-hatter
62. Polished off, as a Halloween haul
63. Media attention
65. Director Park \_\_\_-wook
66. Wafer-loving alt-country singer?
69. Baby's first candy bar?
72. Bento box paste
73. Israeli gun
74. Giant's grunt
75. Frilly
76. The Beltway's space
79. One of two for 82 Down
81. Dry, to Daniela
82. Yeast amt.
85. Musical with chocolate?
88. "The Day the Earth Stood Still" alien
90. Sanders, e.g.: Abbr.
91. Incomprehensibly long span
92. Qantas hub letters
94. "No más" boxer
95. Get ready
99. Luxurious material
101. Sommelier's list
103. Tramp stamp, e.g.
104. \_\_\_ Sea Foods
106. Foolish Brit
107. With 114-Across, becoming angry on Halloween?
110. Stews (over)
112. Returns department?
113. Got beaten by
114. See 107-Across
119. Drone noise
120. Makes, as potatoes
121. Serving past midnight
122. Large musical group
123. Nearly
124. Shell food
125. Heartbreaks



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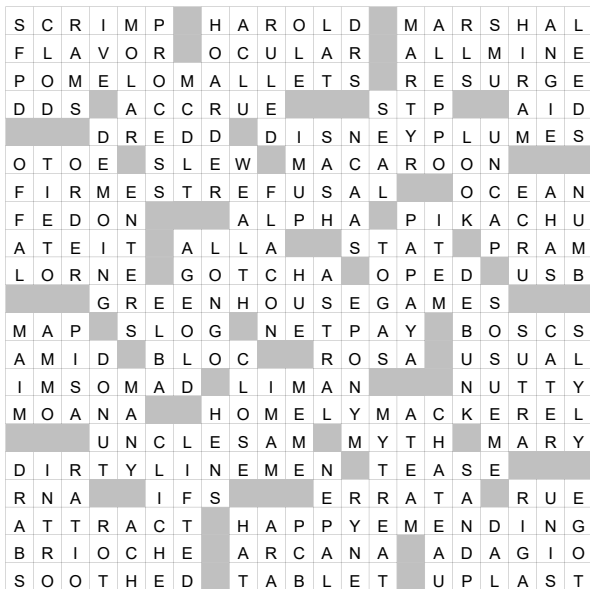
4. Loaf home
5. Juilliard deg.
6. Provide help to
7. Bloemfontein's nat.
8. \_\_\_ Pass, Pakistan
9. Landing connector
10. Packers coach LaFleur
11. Festival participant
12. Baldness feature
13. Extremely
14. All thumbs
15. Author Waugh
16. "I reject the offer"
17. Family females
18. Speak boldly
20. Raphael's grp.
25. Set up a sting
27. Hindu honorific
31. Halloween mo.
32. "Death of a Salesman" matriarch
33. Apollo's mom
34. Frand from the roof
38. "Bye, babe"
39. Past time
41. Not a lot of
42. "Pop" boy band
44. Dot on a globe
46. Real heel
48. Vowel-heavy Melville work
50. French thinker?
51. Mao's successor
52. Having bad taste?
53. It's linked to Amazon
54. Tush
55. ID used in tax reporting
58. Howard or NCAT, e.g.
61. Disdain
62. "Seems to me"
64. Ribollita green
66. "The Velvet Underground & \_\_\_"
67. Jacob's twin
68. Ukrainian sea
69. Divas put them on
70. Mace space
71. Reprimand
72. Hosp. workers

74. Goat-horned man
77. Post office employees?: Abbr.
78. Juice drinks
80. "I know the way!"
81. Sachet feature
82. "Jackie Brown" director
83. American elm for Massachusetts
84. Any of this puzzle's theme, e.g.
86. Donkey's cousin
87. "Me. Just me"
89. Where to see wheels
93. Ring of blooms
95. Hematologist's study
96. Of a monarch
97. Swellhead's belief
98. Revolutionary Villa

100. Luxury watch brand
101. Beverlywood's neighborhood
102. Ego Nwodim's program
105. They're low in a ratio
107. Permit
108. Gala outfit
109. Puts into piles
111. Piquancy
112. Fashionista de la Fressange
115. Rumble's was on 9/19/22
116. Chunk of bennies
117. "I give \_\_\_ year"
118. Crosses (out)

**Last issue's solution**

"Let Me In"



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# Colonels fall to Rice in boys' hoop semifinal

## Coach Coplan: 'It came down to momentum'

By Christian Avard  
Special to The Commons

BURLINGTON—The sixth-seeded Brattleboro Colonels fought valiantly to the end in the Division I boys' basketball semifinals, but second-seed Rice played on another level from start to finish, eliminating the Colonels and their title hopes on March 6 at the University of Vermont's Patrick Gymnasium, 76-49.

Rice is the defending Division I state champions and they played like it from the opening tipoff. The Green Knights got off to an 11-0 lead in the first minutes of play. Cam Frost and Tristan Evans got into early foul trouble and Rice shot 50 percent from the field to take a 19-8 first quarter lead.

Brattleboro had a better second quarter thanks to senior Paul McGillion. McGillion scored 11 points (17 total) and got contributions from Frost and Tate Chamberlain with five points apiece. The Colonels out-rebounded Rice as well (13-12) in the first half, but containing Rice's top players was a monumental task.

Drew Bessette hit four three-pointers (he was the game's high scorer with 25 points) while Owen Eaton hit two (he finished with 10 points) and the Green Knights led 42-29 at halftime.

Tristan Evans scored on a break-away layup to bring the score to within 10 points, but Rice was always one step ahead. The Green Knights shot 7-for-15 in the fourth quarter (47 percent) and never looked back. Evans fouled out and Rice had the game well in hand with minutes to play.

Chamberlain finished the game with 15 points. Frost scored seven. Jordy Allembert and John

Haskins scored four points apiece and Evans had two. The Colonels end the season with a 14-10 record.

"It came down to momentum," said Brattleboro coach Jason Coplan after the loss. "(Rice) made some late runs that took the wind out of our sails toward the end, but I'm proud of my kids. They showed that they belonged (in the semis) and they could play."

Rice advances to its 35th Division I championship game, tying Burlington for most finals appearances all-time. It's Rice's fourth straight final and their 13th in the last 17 years. Rice is now 35-23 all-time in semifinals, while Brattleboro is 4-12.

However, the loss to Rice doesn't diminish what the Colonels did to advance to the semifinals. In one of the most improbable playoff wins in their recent history, the Colonels — on the road against third-seeded St. Johnsbury on March 2 — upset the Hilltoppers, 50-48, in a hard-fought quarterfinal game that wasn't decided until the last minute of regulation.

After Brattleboro regained possession on a missed shot by St. Johnsbury, Frost burned up 30 seconds of clock by dribbling out the ball. Waiting patiently, he made a pass into the middle. The ball went back into Frost's hands and he scored with a layup.

Brattleboro committed a foul with 11 seconds left. The Hilltoppers' Henry Geng made the second of his two free throws chances to cut the Colonels' lead to 49-38. Evans was fouled not long after that. He went to the line, hit his second free throw, and the Colonels were back up by two.

Geng took a last-second shot with 0.8 left on the clock. The



CHRISTIAN AVARD/SPECIAL TO THE COMMONS  
Brattleboro guard Cam Frost looks for an open teammate in their Division I quarterfinal game against St. Johnsbury on March 2. Frost would score the winning basket in the final minute of the Colonels' 50-48 victory.

ball hit the front of the rim as the buzzer sounded. The Colonels escaped with a huge win over a team most observers thought would be hard to beat at home.

"We knew we were a pretty evenly matched team (with St. Johnsbury), we just had to come out stronger (than last time)," McGillion said, referring to their

36-27 loss to the Hilltoppers on Jan. 7.

McGillion led the Colonels with 15 points. Chamberlain scored 11 points, while Frost added 10, Haskins chipped in seven, and Allembert and Evans scored four and three points, respectively.

# Blue Mountain eliminates Rebels in D-IV girls' semifinal

By Christian Avard  
Special to The Commons

BARRE—Getting to the Barre Municipal Auditorium ("The Aud") is an accomplishment for any basketball team. It's also a much tougher task to win at this historic venue as well. The third-seeded Leland & Gray Rebels girls' basketball team got a case of the Aud jitters on March 1, and the result was a tough semifinal loss to the second-seeded Blue Mountain Bucks, 65-43.

According to Leland & Gray Head Coach Terry Merrow, it was the first time since 2017 when the Rebels played at The Aud, back when Leland & Gray was still in Division III. They lost that year in the semifinals to the eventual champions Thetford Academy.

"We're a young team," Merrow said. "This group really didn't know what the Barre Auditorium experience was about. They got to experience it, but it's a bigger stage."

Leland & Gray's offense got off to a good start, matching the Bucks basket by basket. Blue Mountain led 17-11 after the first quarter, but the score was much closer than it looked. At one point, Leland & Gray missed four straight shots, pulled down four straight offensive rebounds, and the ball would still not go in.

"We probably missed about eight or 10 baskets," said Merrow. "If we hit five of them, we'd be down by three (at halftime)."

The Rebels also got into early foul trouble. Abigail

Emerson, Mary Sanderson, Maggie Parker, and Abby Towle had two fouls each.

Blue Mountain's Jordan Alley scored 14 points (19 total) and the Bucks led at halftime, 34-21. Merrow went to a Box-and-1 defensive strategy to contain Alley. It worked but the Bucks went to their other star player, Kyra Nelson. Nelson eight points (15 points total) and they led Leland & Gray, 53-33, going into the fourth quarter.

The Rebels would get into more foul trouble (10 more fouls in the second half). They were also inconsistent at the free throw line: 7-for-15 (or 47 percent). Blue Mountain went into cruise control and they outscored the Rebels in the final eight minutes, 12-10.

Parker was the top scorer for Leland & Gray with 14 points. Samantha Morse scored 11 and Towle and Emerson had seven points apiece. The Rebels finished the season with a 17-7 record and will graduate only two seniors, Towle and Hannah Greenwood.

Blue Mountain advanced to the girls' Division IV championship on March 4 at the Aud, where they lost to undefeated top-seed West Rutland, 50-44. It was West Rutland's second straight state title.

"We didn't get the results we were hoping for, I also told them I didn't need a trophy to tell them who is the best team in the state," Merrow said. "This group of girls came together all season long. We did things people thought we wouldn't be able to do."

## COLUMN | Sports Roundup

# Brattleboro bowlers win their first-ever state title

Time to hang a new banner in the BUHS gym.

The Brattleboro Colonels varsity bowling team won its first-ever Division I state championship on March 5 in Colchester. Even sweeter, they beat Essex, the Chittenden County school that has broken Colonels fans hearts in so many different sports.

The starting lineup for the top-seeded Colonels consisted of Jacob Girard, Dorien Phillips, Kelton Mager, Tucker Sargent, and Thomas Bell, with Charlie Forthofer as a spare.

The first opponent was Fair Haven in a best-of-seven series. Brattleboro won the first three games, but Fair Haven rallied to win the next two before the Colonels won the deciding sixth game to advance into the semifinals.

In the semifinal against Burlington, Brattleboro rallied from a 2-1 deficit to win the next three games and advance into the final match against Essex.

It was a nailbiter all the way. Brattleboro won the first game, 212-191. Essex took the second game, 211-152. The third game ended in a 164-164 tie after 10 frames, and the two teams had to do a roll-off.

Sargent and Bell came through in the extra two frames to put the Colonels back into the lead. Essex won the fourth game, 169-168, to even the match, but Brattleboro responded with a 170-154 win in game five and a 153-134 win in the sixth game to clinch the title.

Bowling has been a varsity sport at BUHS since the 2014-15 season, and the program has slowly and steadily improved under coach Will Bassett. Now, they have a state championship



**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](mailto:news@commonsnews.org).

as proof that the sport has come a long way in a short amount of time.

## BF boys reach D-III semis

• In his Division III boys' basketball playoff preview, Adam Aucoin of the *Rutland Herald* called the No. 12 Windsor Yellow Jackets "the lower seed nobody wants to play" because they "are scrappy as they come and always hang around in games you may not think they have any business being in"

He also called the fifth-seeded Bellows Falls Terriers a "dark horse" pick to make it to the Final Four at the Barre Auditorium on the strength of BF winning eight of their last nine regular season games. Bellows Falls and Windsor faced off in the opening round of the Division III playoffs at Holland Gymnasium on March 1 and the Yellow Jackets made BF sweat a little before the Terriers prevailed in a 55-41 win.

Windsor opened the game with a 7-0 run before the BF offense got it together and blitzed the Jacks with a 15-0 run to put the Terriers in front to stay. Colby Dearborn started the run with a pair of three-pointers and finished it



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO  
The 2022-23 Brattleboro Colonels varsity bowling team won its first-ever state title on March 5 in Colchester.

with a jump shot. He finished the game with 21 points, including four three-pointers.

Cole Moore scored five of eight points off the bench in the second quarter as BF led 26-17 at the half. The BF defense did the rest as they held Windsor best player, guard Maison Fortin, to just 12 points. Travis McAllister and Bradley Bowers added nine and eight points, respectively. Jamison Nystrom was BF's second leading scorer with 12 points as the Terriers advanced to the quarterfinals and a trip to the Canadian border on March 6 to face the fourth-seeded Richford Falcons.

Despite the long bus trip, Bellows Falls came away with a 54-51 win. The Terriers will now take on top-seeded and undefeated Winsoski in the Division III semifinal at the Aud on March 9.

• Twin Jersey had an early exit from the Division IV playoffs. The No. 13 Wildcats lost

to fourth-seeded Mid-Vermont Christian, 55-25, in a first-round game on March 1. The Wildcats ended their season with a 4-18 record.

## Nordic skiing

• How confident about winning the Division I state championship were the Burlington girls? Confident enough that they printed up championship shirts ahead of the final day of competition on Feb. 28 at Rikert Nordic Center in Ripton.

Burlington clinched their third state title in a row with a score of 58, well ahead of runner-up Mount Anthony (125), third-place Champlain Valley (168), and fourth-place Mount Mansfield (215). Brattleboro finished sixth with 288 points.

Gillian Fairfax won the 5K girls' classic race in 17 minutes, 6.7 seconds to key a 1-2-3 finish in that event by Burlington. The Seahawks also handily won the girls' relay race.

Ava Whitney led the Brattleboro girls with a 10th place finish in 19:15.1, followed by Katherine Normandeau (15th, 19:52.1), Maeve Bald (27th, 21:14), Anna Cummings (38th, 22:40.7), Priya Kitzmiller (45th, 24:17.3), and Addison DeVault (51st, 26:08.3). In the relay race, the Colonel quartet of Whitney, Bald, Cummings, and Normandeau turned in a fifth place finish.

In the boys' event, Mount Anthony cruised to a first-place finish for the Patriots' first state Division I title in four years. Luke Rizio, who won the Division I boys' individual title last season skiing for Twin Valley, repeated as state champ as he scorched the 5K course in 14:04.8. The Patriots finished 1-2-3 in the individual race and also won the relay.

The Brattleboro boys finished fifth. The Colonel top five were Gabriele Jeppesen-Bellecci (26th, 17:05.9),

Nico Conathan-Leach (28th, 17:10.9), Willow Sharma (33rd, 17:46.5), Desmond Longsmith (39th, 18:24.4), and Oliver Herrick (40th, 18:28.3). Eben Wagner finished in 50th place with a time of 19:28.2. The relay team of Jeppesen-Bellecci, Sharma, Longsmith, and Conathan-Leach finished fifth.

## Senior bowling roundup

• Week 7 of the winter/spring season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on March 2 saw The Markers (26-9) maintain their hold on first place. Slo Movers (24-11) had a 4-1 week to remain in second place, followed by Split Happens and Fab Four (both 18-17), The A-1's (7-18), Trash-O-Matic (15-19), The Strikers (12-23), and 10 Pins (9-26).

Nancy Dalzell had the women's high handicap game (226), while Roberta Parson has the high handicap series (629). Doug Switzer had the men's high handicap game (249) and Norm Corliss had the high handicap series (684). Slo Movers had the high team handicap game (909) and series (2,529).

In scratch scoring, Warren Corriveau Sr. led the men with a 577 series that featured games of 216 and 194, while Gray Montgomery had a 529 series with a 206 game, Duane Schillemat had a 525 series with a 198 game, and John Walker had a 514 series with a 197 game. Marty Adams had a 509 series and Skip Shine rolled a 195 game.

Carol Gloski had the women's high scratch series (492) and game (190). Dalzell had a 174 game.