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

Rosie's Girls

program comes

to HatchSpace

to give young

women a



chance to learn woodworking and carpentry — and hammer home the idea that they can dream of a fulfilling career path in the construction trades

Maddy Sprague of Putney, 13, relaxes on the hammock she added to her self-made tree house. Sprague will be attending Rosie's Girls Camp this summer at HatchSpace where she hopes to learn more about power tools and construction.

By Fran Lynggaard Hansen

The Commons

RATTLEBORO—"I want to learn how to use cools better, create new things, and learn new stuff about building," says Maddy Sprague, leaning in with an earnest and confident smile.

The 13-year-old Putney resident explains that she's already done some around-the-house types of repairs using tools with her mother and grandmother (Amy and Sheryl Sprague) and has also built a tree house with the assistance of her grandfather, Mark Sprague.

"The tree house is 6 or 7 feet off the ground and has a roof, a front table, a ladder, and a couple of ropes-course-type ropes that go off it to climb. It was a Covid project that my grandpa helped me create," says Maddy with pride.

This summer, Sprague will be attending Rosie's Girls Camp, a collaboration between Vermont Works for Women (vtworksforwomen.org), a nonprofit whose mission is to

"promote economic justice by advancing gender equity and supporting women."

CAPABLE,

The basic premise of the Rosie's Girls woodworking classes is twofold: First, the program builds confidence in the participants. And in doing so, it plants a seed, encouraging them to consider male-dominated career pathways.

Vermont Works for Women has operated Rosie's camps statewide since 2000 and this year will run programs in Alburgh, Swanton, Rutland, Lyndonville, Essex, and Montpelier. It has licensed the program to other organizations to operate in California, Rhode Island, and Oregon.

The nonprofit partners with other organizations, like HatchSpace, at 22 High St., which describes itself as a "community-supported facility dedicated to preserving the artistry of woodworkers through advancement of traditional and contemporary woodworking skills and methods."

The organization, also a nonprofit, was founded in 2018 and

■ SEE ROSIE'S GIRLS, A2

# **Democrats return** to Montpelier to override five vetoes

Lawmakers defy governor and pass state budget, child care bill among other bills and they did it in one day

By Joyce Marcel

BRATTLEBORO-In what has been described by many as "a lightning round," state legislators returned to Montpelier on June 20 to override five gubernatorial vetos in one day, including the all-important state budget, which

must go into effect on July 1.

The legislators' recall session had been expected to last three or even five days.

"The veto session was very efficient," said Sen. Wendy Harrison, D-Windham. "We were advised to be prepared to be there for three days the first week and possibly another three days the following week."

However, Harrison said, "we were able to get through all of the votes in one day, due to the cooperation between the Senate and the House as well as the Governor.'

The Commons has surveyed some members of the Windham County delegation to get their take on what happened there on June 20 — and what might happen next.

"I've seen headlines that focused on how quickly the Legislature moved in the 'veto session,' and yeah — we took the votes we needed to take and we went home," said Rep. Tristan Roberts, D-Halifax.

"That is what our constituents sent us there to do," he said. "We weren't there to debate the governor or debate each other. We did that over the course of the session and all of us have been considering our votes on these bills since the May adjournment.

Rather, said Roberts, "We were there to vote on this handful of bills, which represented major policy priorities."

The budget passes The House of Representatives

#### No paper next week

BRATTLEBORO—In a departure from previous years, The Commons will

wednesday, July 5.

In January, the board of directors of Vermont Independent Media, the nonprofit that publishes the newspaper, voted to suspend publication the week of Independence Day to give the newspaper's staff an additional week off.
Since 2010, when *The* 

Commons converted from monthly to weekly publication, the newspaper has paused for one week at the end of each year.

Any urgent news will be published next week on the newspaper's website (commonsnews.org), relaunched on June 16 with a new design and structure by Oscar Heller and 10F Design (**10fdesign.io**), a firm in Brattleboro.

The next issue of the print newspaper will publish as usual on Wednesday, submissions of news and advertising on Friday, July 7.

overrode Gov. Phil Scott's budget veto by a vote of 105-42. In the Senate, the override sailed through by a count of 25-5.

"The budget for FY24 adopted by the Legislature totals \$8.45 billion and is actually less than the adjusted FY23 budget of \$8.64 billion," Harrison said. Citing the Conference

■ SEE VETO OVERRIDES, A3

#### **BELLOWS FALLS**

# New restaurant seeks to honor local history

Under new management, Ciao Popolo hopes to continue legacy of its founders and the historic building in the heart of the village

By Robert F. Smith The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—After well over three years, some 150 diners filled the new, covered outdoor deck area and the interior

VERMONT INDEPENDENT MEDIA PO. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Become a member and receive The Commons in the mail. Your membership supports our journalism and lets u this newspaper available for all, in print and online. Join today at http://donate.commonsnews.org. dining rooms of Ciao Popolo, which enjoyed a successful soft reopening on the evening of the Summer Solstice under its new

Darlene Doane, who has owned and operated the Pizza Stone in Chester for 14 years, is managing the restaurant in the former Popolo space.

Popolo was created by Gary Smith and partners Kristen Fehrenbach and John-Michael Maciejewski, in the former Andrews Inn part of the Windham Hotel building on The Square in Bellows Falls. A farmto-table restaurant with Italianinspired cuisine, it opened in 2012 with the backing of some 26 mostly local investors.

The manager of Fort Apache Studios, a recording studio in with indoor eating not allowed at

Boston, Smith worked with an array of alternative music artists, including Tanya Donelly, Juliana Hatfield, Natalie Merchant, the Pixies, and Throwing Muses.

He moved Fort Apache to Bellows Falls when he bought a home in Walpole, New Hampshire in 2001 and, over his years here, he brought a wide assortment of performers to play at Popolo and other local locations.

Doane says she will continue Popolo's long tradition as a popular live music venue.

#### **Plans deferred**

In February 2020, Popolo closed for some renovations, with Smith planning to reopen within a couple of months. But the pandemic hit in mid-March,



From left, Darlene Doane, prep chef Clara Martorano, and Kai Weinstein work in the kitchen during the Sunday brunch service at Ciao Popolo in Bellows Falls.

As the pandemic began to wind down and inside businesses began to return, Smith was determined to reopen Popolo in 2022. He stated last summer that he would be reopening "in a matter of weeks, not months."

Unfortunately, he was also

dealing with some very serious health issues.

Smith, diagnosed with cancer in September that year, was unable to reopen Popolo before he

died on Jan. 16, 2023 at age 64. The Windham Hotel building, which also houses other streetlevel business spaces in addition to the restaurant, has been owned for several years by Tony Elliot, Jay Eschelman, and Eric Leo, and by Alan and Pat Fowler, who operate Village Square Booksellers in the hotel block.

"We were deeply saddened by the loss of our wonderful friend, ■ SEE **RESTAURANT**, A2

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VIM'S MISSION

Recognizing that a vigorous exchange of ideas and information allows democracy to function and is the lifeblood of a community, creates a forum for community

promotes local independent journalism, fosters civic engagement by building media skills

through publication of The Commons and commonsnews.org, and through the Media Mentoring

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Heather Ahrenholz, Barry Aleshnick, Lynn Barrett, Michael Bosworth, Michelle Frehsee, Randolph T. Holhut (ex officio), Phayvanh Luekhamhan, Jeff Potter (ex officio), Stuart Strothman

#### ABOUT THIS NEWSPAPER

The Commons is a nonprofit community newspaper published since 2006 by Vermont Independent Media, Inc., a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)3 of the federal tax code.

The newspaper is free, but it is sup-

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

#### VOICES

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

We especially invite responses to ma-

terial 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 sub-missions of substance. Email: voices@ commonsnews.org.
Editorials represent the collective

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

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

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Your advertising directly supports a better newspaper. The open display advertising rate is \$16.50 per column inch, and The Commons offers discounts. To place your ad, contact lori@commonsnews.org or nancy@commonsnews.org.

Advertising files can be saved as PDF (press-ready setting), EPS (with fonts converted to outlines), or as TIFF (600 pixels per inch), or printed as black-and white hard copy.
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should not hesitate to ask us to do so. We love helping our clients.

#### DISTRIBUTION

The Commons distributes 8.050 copies per issue to 250 drops in almost every Windham County town, as well as in neighboring towns in Windsor County (Vt.), Cheshire County (N.H.) and Franklin County (Mass.). Please get in touch (circulation@commonsnews.org) if you would like us to consider adding vour business.

Without our volunteers, this newspaper would exist only in our imaginations. Special thanks to: Simi and Mark Berman. Diana Bingham, Jim Maxwell, Rob Bertsche, Barbara Evans; Cameron Cobane, Shannon Ward, and Hooker-Dunham Theater & Gallery; Clay Turnbull and NEC: Brendan Emmett Quigley and Joon Pahk In memoriam: Alan O. Dann, Judy Gorman,

Mia Gannon

#### **■** Rosie's Girls

Mall building at Main and High streets in 2021.

The five-day camp runs there from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be offered for five sessions this summer starting this week, with eight campers per session.

Lars Hasselblad Torres has brought his interest in youth to HatchSpace since he was hired as executive director in 2022 and says he is excited about helping expand Rosie's Girls this summer. He has taught classes in photography, technology, and now woodworking.

"I've been a lifelong educator," he says. "One of my passions is finding areas of exploration for young people with hands-on pieces of equipment.

Torres believes it's "so important that youth find their own voice as creative people," and he notes a history of tension between adults and young people handling buzzing saw blades and other equipment that can be dangerous if handled improperly or carelessly

"Adults can get a little squeamish," says Torres. "I was looking for a program where we could safely allow middle-school-aged girls to experiment with tools in safety. Having seen the results of last summer's Rosie's Girls, I'm very excited for this year's program.

"I mourn the fact that we've lived so many generations with firm gender roles," said Torres, whose daughter participated in the Rosie's Girls Camp last year. He also notes that wood shop and other trade programs have been discontinued in many schools across the state, leaving diminishing opportunity for students to have an introduction to trade skills.

To follow this mission through, Vermont Works for Women also offers trades training for women and girls, as well as another program, Rosie's Girls Weld.

VWW provides the curriculum, project examples, training, and operational support like registration, marketing, and publicity, says Caelan Keenan, youth program manager for Vermont Works for Women, who has been assisting in the facilitation of the Rosie's Girls program at HatchSpace.

working wood shop. Some of the other partners we work with don't have equipment or are space-

challenged," she notes. "For those camps we offer low-tech, hammer-and-nails

moved to the former Midtown provide all the project materials," Keenan says. "It's essentially

#### camp-in-a-box."

Finding a partner At the end of last summer, Torres asked if the Vermont Works for Women would be willing to explore a partnership with HatchSpace to bring Rosie's Girls to southern Vermont.

And thanks to the Vermont Agency of Education, no campers are required to pay the \$300 fee this year.

The AOE is running "The Summer of STEM," a celebration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Both Vermont Works for Women and HatchSpace applied for grants to cover the tuition for the Rosie's Girls sessions.

"The Agency realizes that we are working together. The result is that all 150 participants statewide will attend the program for free," says Keenan, with excitement in her voice.

"Some people had already sent in their tuition, and we were able to refund it," Torres said.

HatchSpace and Vermont Works for Women are into this program with a 50/50 mindset.

They are providing their space, their staffing, their product materials. Both organizations are in it together, each offering their strengths," says Keenan, who notes that an important part of the programming Vermont Works for Women offers is training in gender equity and terms to know, as well as gender norms and how they impact women and girls.

"We are also providing training for adult women through our organization," she says. "Trade careers don't require a college degree, and women are underrepresented."

Girls, especially when they are young, "don't have equal access to these things," says Keenan, who says VWW "hopes to bring its Trailblazers girls program to southern Vermont soon." The free program offers women and nonbinary individuals seven-week pre-apprenticeship training in construction and the renewable energy sector.

#### Role models in abundance

**PROGRAM** 

Brattleboro Union High School Graduation 2023: Mon 3:30p, Tues

**BAMS Move-Up Day 2023**: Mon 6:15p, Tues 8:15a, Wed 12p

**Leland and Gray Graduation 2023**: Mon 9a, Tues 12p, Wed 3:15p

**Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 6/26/23**: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a

**Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 6/26/23**: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p

Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 6/26/23:

Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 6/27/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p

Windham Southeast School

**District Board Mtg. 6/27/23**: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p

Dummerston Selectboard Mtg. 6/28/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p

Putney Selectboard Mtg. 6/28/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p

Sat 8:30p, Sun 6a

Ali Stevenson, of "HatchSpace already has a full, Dummerston, is a professional orchardist in Saxtons River. She will be one of the camp counselors at Rosie's Girls this summer.

"I applied to be a camp counselor because I attended many years of summer camp as a kid. projects like bird houses, and My woodworking skills are at a FROM SECTION FRONT

basic level, so we'll all be learning together," she says with a chuckle.

Originally from Connecticut, Stevenson found Vermont through an internship she had with the Scott Farm in Dummerston.

Most important to Stevenson about working with the middleschool-aged campers is that "evervone feels welcome, that all pronouns [be] fine and expected, and that there be a lot of sensitivity to the cultural norms that surround us. One of the hopes that we all have as adults is that people younger than ourselves have an easier time of it growing up female than the previous generation had it.

'Girls can do what boys can do in trades. We're equally capable. These kids are growing up with the notion that a person isn't locked into their identity, that you can always re-state or restart who you are.

She is also excited that the regular woodworking classes at HatchSpace will continue while Rosie's Girls is in session.

"We aren't shutting down the space during this camp. Members do all sorts of woodworking, and we want them to feel available to our campers. It will be cool that all ages, and all genders will be able to interact while we're experimenting and learning," she says.

#### **Teaching girls** is my absolute passion'

During the second camp session, a special guest woodworker will arrive from Atlanta, where she is known as the "Wooden Maven.

Char Miller-King was invited by Torres of HatchSpace to come and teach a class last summer.

"I jumped at the opportunity to share my love of woodworking," says Miller-King. "I'd never been to Vermont, and everyone was so warm and welcoming, kind, and gracious. I'm delighted to be coming back for the second week of Rosie's Girls. Teaching girls is my absolute passion."

Miller-King's path to woodworking began 20 years ago, when "I learned out of necessity. I couldn't afford the furniture I needed, so I began to find a way to build it myself.

At the time, there was no YouTube, no Google — just magazines and books about doing it yourself.

"A friend cut the wood, I borrowed a drill and a screwdriver, and I made my own platform bed," Miller-King says.

But something else happened. "I got the woodworking bug," she says. "I just loved creating with my hands.

Ten years passed, and many projects came to life. "Some not as great as others, at first," says Miller-King with a laugh.

She began to wonder what it would be like to create with wood every day. She left her corporate job in 2015, and "everything came together."

Eventually, Miller-King "stumbled upon a maker space, like HatchSpace, a place where one can do woodworking with others." Social media helped her create and grow her brand.

There are pros and cons in being a woman in a male field and being a young woman of color in woodworking, says Miller-King.

"My approach is different in that my focus is young people at an early age," she says. "It's important to me to be a role model for kids. I want them to see that there is someone who looks like me and that I went after my dreams."

Miller-King says she needs "the confidence to keep going despite what might be around me, and I want to give that same confidence to the young people with whom I work.

#### Leaving the light on for them

While Miller-King will be mentoring Rosie's Girls, she'll also be working with a film crew sent by Studio 6, a division of Motel 6, who are celebrating the trades and traveling makers in their current media outreach. Tom Bodett — yes, *that* Tom

Bodett, the Dummerston author, voice actor, and radio personality known for his promise that Motel 6 "will leave the light on for you" - is a co-founder of HatchSpace.

A woodworker his entire life, Bodett was building houses in Alaska when his radio and writing career began to blossom. He put his love of working with wood aside to pursue this strange and unplanned opportunity in the broadcast and publishing world.

"As I became more successful, the work became more and more stressful, and my already robust drinking habits crossed the line into addiction," Bodett says. "I became an alcoholic, and things started to come undone.'

He says that only after he stopped drinking 31 years ago did he realize that "the best of times in my life had been when



Chef Jacob Thibault with Darlene Doane stand in front of a painting by Doane's daughter Willow Atwater. The painting, done long before Doane knew she'd be running Ciao Popolo in Bellows Falls, highlights a black and white floor that matches exactly the art deco-style floors inside the restaurant.

#### Restaurant FROM SECTION FRONT

Gary Smith, a talented and dedicated man who conceived and operated Popolo for the past decade. We all miss him deeply," said Elliot.

Doane said she knew that Elliot had been looking for a manager to help Smith reopen. When Smith died, Doane said, she told the owners of her interest in renting the space and reopening it.

She comes from a background of cooking. Raised in Massachusetts, her father cooked on fishing boats, and she grew up "learning how to cook for large groups of people," she said.
"I always wanted to be in

that space where Popolo was," Deane said. "I loved the food, the building, the people.

Ciao Popolo has inside seating for approximately 65 people, including the bar, and the redone deck has added another 58 seats, complete with another full bar, usable for three-season dining. Doane was able to rent the space fully furnished. "With Darlene's energy and

skill meeting the needs and demand for reopening our restaurant in Bellows Falls, we are off to a great start," Elliot said. "She brings skilled staff and her own experience to the table. The Windham is delighted to have her here.'

#### A 90-year history

The Windham Hotel building dominates the Square in Bellows Falls, and has a long and rich history. The fourstory railroad hotel — the fifth hotel on that site since 1812 — was built in 1933, replacing one that burned down the year before.

The hotel part closed in 1965, and a coffee shop on the street level closed in the early

From 1973 to 1984, the hotel was the home of Andrews Inn, a historic gay bar that provided lodging and food and a place to dance and drink for both LGBTQ and straight people in the region and from nearby cities.

Doane said that, despite the difficult circumstances preceding the reopening, operating the new restaurant is "a dream come true."

"I love the Andrews Inn story," she said. "This place has some incredible history."

She is honoring that history by keeping the Popolo name in her logo in Pride colors as a reminder of the building's importance in the gay rights movement of the 1980s.

"I really think I was led to be here," Doane said. "And I know I'm going to mess up some things!'

She said that she is "being thrown in the fire here."

"But that's how I do things," said Doane, who also held a brunch on June 25. She will take a break on July 4, but starting July 7 plans to be open from 3 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, and to offer a brunch on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. with a short list of traditional foods.

'I'm going to have as much local food-to-table offerings as I can," Doane said. "Right now there are a lot of moving parts to this, and we will adjust accordingly as we see how things work out.

Her core staff includes Chef Jacob Thibault, with Clara Martorano, the prep chef, and Kai Weinstein, who also works in the kitchen. "I've got some waitstaff," she said, "but we could use more."

She has also connected with the River Valley Technical Center's Culinary Program in Springfield and plans to help mentor culinary students at Ciao Popolo, where they will be learning under actual working

restaurant conditions. Doane plans on continuing the restaurant's long tradition of live music, on the deck in warmer weather and inside during the cold months. She also plans a masquerade ball and psychic fair, along with

other special events. New inside decorations include large paintings by her daughter, Willow Atwater.

T'm calm," Doane said. "I've never felt so right in doing something. I just have to be confident and patient with

To make reservations or contact Doane, email CiaoPopolovt@ gmail.com.

I was working with my hands." Woodworking, he says, "doesn't pay as well, but I love what I do every single day I get

to do it." Bodett is very proud of his sobriety and feels strongly that this kind of work is restorative.

"The first step of any person's recovery from any trauma is the restoration of their lives," he says. "Coming in and doing some woodworking are easy wins as a person begins to evolve away from alcoholism and abuse, or simply boredom and loneliness. Making a beautiful wood project might be the first time you've felt good about yourself in years. If there is nothing else that we can agree on, addiction is a huge problem in America. I don't claim woodworking is the cure, but it can be a part of the treatment."

Bodett believes that the power of making things and the confidence and joy that comes from being fully immersed in the process, is also common to painters, potters, and metalworkers, as well as all sorts of tradespeople and other skilled laborers.

"Making things with your hands is one of the most human things we do. This, and community, is how we reset," he says.

HatchSpace was just beginning to find its groove when COVID-19 shut it down. Bodett notes that it had outgrown its original space at 33 Frost St. and took the pandemic as an opportunity to purchase the former Midtown Mall building.

All the floors in the building now offer space to other artisans and organizations serving them,

such as the Vermont Center for

Photography. When the new space opened, many people became new members. "Covid created a hunger for community in people," Bodett says. "We were all alone for so

long." He adds that "the relationships and the cross-mentoring across gender, economics, age barriers is wonderful to see."

"It's much easier to speak with someone when you're busy creating together," says Bodett with a wide smile. "Face to face can be difficult for some. Side by side not so much."

A big part of the mission at HatchSpace is to fill the gap with young people — making the partnership with VWW and Rosie's Girls a perfect fit.

"If all kids do is go through school and learn how to plug into the data economy, what if they go out in the world and don't like that work?" Bodett asks.

"We want to expose young people to the art of working with their hands and let them experiment with what they can learn to do," he says. "Who knows? It might save their lives someday. like it did mine."

All sessions of Rosie's Girls are now full, but those wishing to attend should still apply. If enough campers are interested in the program, another session might be added. Though this year's tuition for campers has been paid, Rosie's Girls accepts donations to its scholarship fund for young students at vtworksforwomen.org/donate on hatchspace.org/support.

#### 

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



HIGHLIGHTS **June 12-18** CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079 PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

Here We Are - Ezlerh Oreste, Performer, Videographer: Mon 8p, Tues 12:25p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 1:15p, Sat 8p, Sun 6p The World Fusion Show - Ep #154 - Christopher Adler: Mon 11:30a & 5:30p, Thurs 12:30p, Fri 10a, Sat 5p &

6:30p, Sun 9:30a & 5:30p Windham World Affairs Council - Surfing as Economic Development: Mon 10a, Wed 9p, Thurs 4:35p, Fri 6:35a, Sat 8:35p

Traditional Memorial Day 2023: Mon 12:15p, Tues 5:30a, Thurs 9:15p, Fri 3p, Sat 9a, Sun 12:30p **Brattleboro Gallery Walk - June 2, 2023**: Mon 7:15a, Tues 3:15p, Wed 12:15p, Fri 9:30p, Sat 12:15p, Sun

Veterans Events - Dummerston

**Juno Orchestra - Organum Light:** Tues 11:50p & 9:45p, Wed 6:15a & 6:45p, Thurs 12:15p, Sun 5:15p

Juno Orchestra - Suite for String Orchestra: Mon 7a & 6:45p, Tues 6:45p, Wed 4:10p, Thurs 6:45p, Sun

**BDCC Presents - Fearless Futures 6/6/23**: Mon 7:55a & 11:25a, Tues 12:20p, Wed 4:05p, Thurs 5:55p, Fri 6:30a & 12:20p, Sat 8:30p

Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p

Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:30a & 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 & 2p, Thurs 8p District Board Mtg. 6/16/23: Mon 10:25a, Tues 1:25p **Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 6/20/23:** Mon 7p, Tues 2p, Thurs 11:15a, Sat 11a, Sun 6p

**River Valleys Unified School** 

West River Education District Board Mtg. 6/12/23: Mon 11a, Tues 6:30a, Wed 1:30p, Thurs 12:12p, Sat

Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 6/5/23: Mon 2p, Tues 7p, Wed 10:30a, Thurs 2p, Sat 5:15p, Sun Town Matters - Weekly Episode: Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p

View full schedule and watch online at brattleboroTV.org

# **The David Pakman Show**: Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p

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

Note: Schedule subject to change.

**Brattleboro Community Television – 257-0888** 

#### **■** Veto overrides

from both chambers who negotiate the differences in the two versions of the bill to get one final version that can be approved and sent to the governor for his signature — Harrison said the budget, as overridden, addresses many of Vermont's ongoing challenges while the state continues to emerge from the COVID-19

pandemic.
"The budget meets pension, transportation, and clean water obligations, fills all statutorily required reserves, and makes essential investments in housing, workforce, economic development, human services, and the environment," she said.

The crux of the differences between the budget as ultimately approved by the Legislature and the budget as proposed by the Scott administration was, "Do we make one-time, short-term investments in child care, housing, and climate, as the Governor proposed, or long-term investments as the Legislature proposed?" said Rep. Mike Mrowicki, D-Putney.

The Legislature chose to make long-term investments, and our budget prevailed," he said, noting that without this strategy, Vermont might stagnate.

We want to help create a state that keeps young families here and attracts young people from other places," Mrowicki said. "To that end, we feel these investments in housing, work force, and child care, along with investing in a clean, green economy, will provide economic incentives to drive the economy of the future."

And, in the energy economy, "to disconnect us from the uncertain economic winds of the fossil fuel cabals — especially when we see how erratic leaders like [Russian President Vladimir] Putin affect the world economy, right down to Vermont," he said. "It will be interesting to see how things work out next year."

The budget has money for new housing, among other initiatives. New money equals new opportunities.

'It reflects a commitment to address large problems with appropriate funding that will create future benefits," said Rep. Mollie Burke, D-Brattleboro.

Vermonters are worried about increased costs, about the scourge of drug addition and homelessness that seems to be sweeping the state, and about the possibilities of an uncertain future.

Many are in crisis, including those who are unhoused," Roberts said. "The governor's veto messages have a certain take on the future. The Democratic majority in the House spoke back, and our voice carried on some bills, and not on others.

Roberts said that this voice "said that Vermont needs to make some shared policy priorities like affordable child care a little more reliable and robust for the long term, so that Vermonters will have the confidence to raise families here."

"Our voice said that Vermont should pay for universal school meals so that all kids know they can get lunch without having to ask the state for assistance, while also learning," he said.

The universal school meal bill, promoted in part by Sen. Nader Hashim, D-Windham, was vetoed by the governor; his veto was almost immediately overridden.

Lawmakers didn't even wait for the override session for that one.

#### **Homelessness**

The session did not look simple going in. A coalition of a dozen Democratic and Progressive leaders, including Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun, D-Westminster, were upset with the ending of the hotel-motel voucher system for homeless people. They formed a bloc and threatened to vote against overriding the budget veto, using that as leverage to get additional money for the approximately 1,200 homeless people statewide who have been housed through the voucher system.

Brattleboro has had about 220 homeless people staying in motels.

The bloc had enough votes to stall a veto override, but between the time the Legislative session ended and the veto-override session began, a compromise emerged.

"Prior to the session, a team, including Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Brattleboro, and Senate President Pro Tem Philip Baruth, D-Chittenden, worked with the governor to craft an affordable, practical, and humane solution to the forced exodus of people from the hotel shelters," Harrison said. "This solution was incorporated into a house bill (H.171) as the 'companion bill' to the budget."

The bill preserves eligibility for households currently in the motel program until they find alternative living situations. It does not apply to those who had been

evicted on June 1. Scott approves of the new bill

because it is not an extension of

the voucher program but a way

Committee — the lawmakers to smooth "a pathway for tran-concern." sitions," said his press secretary Jason Maulucci.

#### Child care

The Democratic caucus held together on priority bills. The most important one, concerning child care, was a \$120 million effort to increase the subsidies the state pays to child care providers on the parents' behalf.

The governor vetoed it because it was funded with a 0.44% payroll tax split between employers and employees.

One of the leaders of the effort to pump more money into childcare was Aly Richards, CEO of the nonprofit group Let's Grow

We are on the doorstep of being able to stabilize our child care sector while also investing in the future of our state, thanks to the efforts of lawmakers and child care. We're equally capable champions in every corner of Vermont," Richards said after the June 6 veto.

"On behalf of the tens of thousands of parents, grandparents, early childhood educators, and employers who are counting on this landmark bill to make Vermont more affordable, grow our economy and support our kids, we look forward to working with lawmakers to override this veto."

That was something lawmakers did easily, claiming that even employers supported the bill because without it they could not find enough employees to fill jobs; if parents cannot find affordable childcare, they tend to stay home.

The bill's supporters also noted that even contractors were saying that the lack of child care severely impacted their workforce and had become a barrier to building more homes — something Vermont badly needs.
"This bill will have a long-last-

ing effect on the Vermont economy," said Burke. "Contrary to the governor's point about affordability, I believe that these bills represent investments in the future of Vermont that will pay off in the years to come.'

Burke referred to a 2015 study done on Quebec's low-fee child care system.

"It found that while its intent was to benefit young children and help parents reconcile parental and professional duties, it increased women's participation in the labor force," she said.

The change, she said, "also unexpectedly increased provincial [gross domestic product] by 1.7% and increased revenues to the province. For every dollar spent on subsidizing child care, the return was \$1.20."

It also "removed families from dependence on social services, Burke said, calling the results in Canada "an example of the economic and social benefits of transformative investments like the child care bill."

Harrison was proud that the House and Senate overrode the governor's veto so easily.

"The governor indicated that he vetoed the bill because of the payroll tax of 0.44%, a new tax," Harrison said. "For the program to be effective, it was necessary to find a new revenue source. The new tax is paid three-quarters by the employer and one-quarter by the employee.

"An employee making \$40,000 per year will pay \$44 per year, and their employer will pay \$132, she continued. "An employer urging us to pass the bill said he'd calculated that his business would recover the additional monthly payroll cost in three days. And that's when a higher payroll tax rate was being considered.'

The bill increases subsidies to both child care providers and to families, so parents will be able to access better care provided by caregivers who are paid a reasonable wage.

Lawmakers also overrode a veto on a bill that adjusts fees at the Office of Professional Regulation; a charter change allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in Brattleboro; and another charter change allowing non-citizens to vote in Burlington.

They gave final approval to an expansion of the bottle bill, unfinished business from their session in May, which may be vetoed by the governor in the future.

Two vetoes were left unchallenged. One was a bill preventing deceptive police interrogation tactics for juveniles. Another doubled lawmakers' pay over the next few years. An elections reform bill has also been shelved until next year.

#### What comes next

In the meantime, Roberts said he was home and eager to talk to the people in his district Halifax, Whitingham, and Wilmington "about how things are going and what their concerns are for the

He said he would be "talking with colleagues over the offsession and looking for ways to collaborate on issues of shared

FROM SECTION FRONT

Burke, who first ran for the House in 2008 because of her

concern over climate change, has been a strong force in the transportation caucus ever since. For her, things do not change quickly

"It has taken almost since 2008 for any meaningful legislation to address this issue," Burke said.

"The passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2020 created a mandate to reduce carbon emissions, and the resulting Climate Action Plan laid out a path to do so," she said. "The

issue has risen in importance as Vermonters access lower transthe predictions for climate become more dire.'

She challenged Vermont "to step up in ever-greater ways to address this issue, and hopefully inspire other states and municipalities.'

"Our economy, our health, and our way of life depend on bold action," she said. "I look forward to the 2024 legislative session to continue work on this issue."

In the meantime, Burke said she was "looking forward to continuing the strong investments we made over the past several years in our transportation system, and particularly in our efforts to cut carbon emissions while helping

portation options.'

These include several incentive programs to help get people into electric and fuel-efficient vehicles as well as e-bikes.

We have invested heavily in public transit, with goals for fleet electrification," Burke said. "And we are looking at the intersection of housing, land use, and transportation systems design to create ivable, walkable communities.'

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has provided funding to support the expansion of EV charging networks in the state, Burke said.

"The bipartisan infrastructure law that was adopted in

November 2021 also created the Carbon Reduction Program

(CRP)," she said.
"That," she described, "provides funds for states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.'

Cambridge Systematics, a professional organization that helps agencies to develop innovative solutions to transportation issues, "is assisting VTrans in implementing a Carbon Reduction Strategy to help us meet our ambitious emissions reduction goals and also support the requirements of the federal legislation."

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#### 3Squares Employment Program Outreach Specialist Make a difference!

We are looking for two limited-service outreach partners. EAP has been tasked with recruiting 3Squares beneficiaries in specific towns across the State that could enroll in our employment program, ICAN.

These positions would do outreach and canvasing of these specific towns to inform and orient beneficiaries to this important workforce development program. This work will help our neighbors connect with the services they need to become successful and obtain work. 30-houra-week contracted position will operate for about 4 months. Background in nonprofit work a plus, reliable transportation a must, and a desire to support Vermonters to lift themselves out of poverty is essential. Competitive salary and flexible hours.

If you thrive in working cooperatively with people at all levels with respect, then we want to talk with you. Please submit cover letter and resume to Marc Adams at marca@investeap.org by June 30th, 2023.

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#### STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windham Unit

Docket No.: 23-PR-03490

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** To the Creditors of: Mary Tropeano (Decedent) late of Londonderry, 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: June 26, 2023 Molly Ladner, Attorney

Brattleboro, VT 05301 802-257-7244 Name of Publication: The Commons mladner@pdsclaw.com Publication Date: June 28, 2023 Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit, Probate Division.

Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road, 2nd Floor, Brattleboro, VT 05301

#### STATE OF VERMONT

late of Westminster, Vermont (Decedent's town of residence)

SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 23-PR-03492

PROBATE DIVISION

147 Western Ave.

Windham Unit In re ESTATE of: Patricia MacDonald

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** To the Creditors of: Patricia MacDonald (Decedent)

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: June 26, 2023 Molly Ladner, Attorney

147 Western Ave. Brattleboro, VT 05301 802-257-7244

Name of Publication: The Commons Publication Date: June 28, 2023

mladner@pdsclaw.com

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

#### TOWN OF PUTNEY **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Putney Zoning Regulations, Section 110.4, notice is hereby given that the Putney Development Review Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 18 for the purpose of considering three applications.

Application #23-06-12 Conditional Use & Site Plan Review: Change of Use from a single-family dwelling to four apartments with office space. Susan Nepveu (Applicant/Owner). Property location is 101 Main Street, Tax Map 30-50-41. Application will be reviewed under Section 220 Conditional Use Review, Section 240 Site Plan Review; Section 320.5 Village District; Section 502 Home Occupation; Section 509 Landscaping, Screening and Site Lighting; Section 510 Off-Street Parking Space Requirements; and Section 830 Adverse Effect.

Application #23-06-13 Conditional Use Review: New Construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit in a garage with addition to single family residential dwelling. JMDM Shared Living Trust (Applicant/Owner). Property location is 16 Spring Hill Road, Tax Map 07-02-16. Application will be reviewed under Section 220 Conditional Use Review; Section 320.4 Village Residential District; Section 509 Landscaping, Screening and Site Lighting; Section 510 Off-Street Parking Space Requirements; and Section 830 Adverse Effect. Site visit scheduled at 6:00 p.m.

Application #23-06-14 Conditional Use Review: New Accessory Dwelling Unit (tiny house) on parcel with an existing single family residential dwelling. Nancy Alexander (Applicant/Owner). Property location is 727 River Road South, Tax Map 08-03-19. Application will be reviewed under Section 220 Conditional Use Review; Section 320.3 Rural Residential District; Section 509 Landscaping, Screening and Site Lighting; Section 510 Off-Street Parking Space Requirements; and Section 830 Adverse Effect. Site visit scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

A copy of the applications and additional information can be obtained at the Putney Town Office upon request or on the town website. The meeting is open to the public in a hybrid Zoom platform or in person at town hall, 127 Main Street. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464 (a)(1)(C) and 4471 (a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Dated at Putney, Vermont, this 26th day of June, 2023.

Karen M. Astley Zoning Administrator

Town of Brattleboro **Recreation and Park Department Living Memorial Park New Aquatics** Facility & Pool The Town of Brattleboro Recreation and Parks Department is seeking sealed bids from qualified firms for Architectural / Engineering for a new Aguatics Facility and Pool located at

the Living Memorial Park, 24 Memorial Park Drive Brattleboro, VT. Please Send your proposals to the Town Manager's Office, 230 Main Street, Suite 208, by 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Please mark

Interested respondents should request a complete packet by contacting The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Office: recreation@brattleboro.org or at 802-254-5808.

your package Pool Project.

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

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

Project Description (Amended Project Scope of Work – as of 6/22/2023):

The project is located on South Hill Road at the Wardsboro Town Line extending approximately 0.8 miles into Jamaica. The project consists of shim coat layer and a 2" pavement overlay topcoat layer along the entire roadway project limits. Work includes preparing the existing asphalt roadbed layer and repairing as needed (e.g.

rutting and potholes) to address the shim coat paving overlay layer. The quantities estimated for the project include:

1. Bituminous Concrete Pavement, Type IV - 50 Blow - 1,850 tons. 2. Coarse-Milling, Bituminous Pavement – 10,500 square yards.

Bids must be received at the Town Office located at 28 Town Road, Jamaica, VT 05343 by 4:00 PM Monday, July 10, 2023. Sealed bids delivered by person, overnight express, courier, or parcel post must be clearly marked "Jamaica Paving Bids". The sealed bids will be opened during the Select Board Meeting that same day.

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

July 18, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Dummerston Town Offices, 1523 Middle Road, Dummerston Center and via Zoom video teleconference, for the

• A review of application #3721; Landmark Trust USA, for Conditional Use and Site Plan Review for Short Term Rental, under Sections 720 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #702, 759 Kipling Rd., Dummerston, VT, a Productive Lands District.

The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on July 18, 2023, beginning at or about 5:00 pm.

Site Plan Review for Conditional Use, under Sections 121, 715 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #702, 707 Kipling Rd., Dummerston, VT, a Productive Lands District.

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.

Dated: June 28, 2023 Roger Vincent Jasaitis **Dummerston Zoning Administrator** 

about 5:30 pm.

# **DUMMERSTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Dummerston Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, purpose of reviewing the following applications:

• A review of application #3724; The Stone Trust Inc., for Conditional Use and The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on July 18, 2023, beginning at or

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

#### **MILESTONES**

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

#### College news

• The following local students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at the University of New England in Portland, Maine: Jonathan Terry of Bellows Falls; Xiamara Achilles-**Bodnar, Nicholas Campbell,** Hannah Geno, Lexi Miner, Mollie Patenaude, Riley Patenaude, and Rachael Rooney of Brattleboro; Olivia Lauricella of Saxtons River; and Shelby Stoodley of Westminster.

 Leah Madore of Williamsville and Kylie Reed of Iacksonville were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Russell Sage College in Troy, New York.

 The following local students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island: Kim Amidon of Vernon, Venus Fu of Brattleboro, **Corina Mitchell** of Westminster West, and Abigail **Sargent** of Dummerston.

Wyatt Rosinski of Brattleboro was named to the President's List for the spring 2023 semester at Norwich University.

• Hanna Hopkins, a sophomore kinesiology and exercise science major from Jamaica, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

Harrison Gleim, a mechanical engineering major from Bellows Falls, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

Ansley Henderson of Brookline was named to the spring 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

#### **Obituaries**

 Betty Ruth (Beiser) Butchko, 82, of Wilmington. Died at her home of 46 years on June 12, 2023, following a long and brave fight against pancreatic cancer. A loving daughter, sister, mother, aunt, and friend, she was born on Sept. 28, 1940, in New York City. She was the daughter of Blanche Knobler and David Beiser and the older sister of Mark Saul Beiser — all of whom predeceased her. Raised in Washington Heights until the age of 13 and later moving to Scarsdale, Betty attended the University of Miami on a scholarship and then returned to New York to attend Columbia Teachers College. She taught elementary school in Manhattan and, after meeting her soon-tobe husband, Dennis, at the White House in Wilmington in the summer of 1976, at Deerfield Valley Elementary School. After the birth of her child, she changed careers, becoming a respected speech and language pathologist for the local school district. She retired in her late 60s after a long and fulfilling career, though she continued to volunteer at the Dover School, as well as at the Wilmington Food Bank and at Memorial Hall. Betty was an avid skier for much of her life, a devoted alto with the Brattleboro Community Chorus, and enjoyed bridge and yoga in her later years. Through these activities, as well as via her work and her marriage, she developed a large

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OPEN Monday, July 3rd **CLOSED** Tuesday, July 4th

#### Transcribing, Editing and Proofreading **Services**

Accurate, Confidential, Fast Turn-Around, Fair Pricing Elizabeth: elizabethjulia88@aol.com; and caring group of friends who provided her with much laughter and support through her many health challenges. In addition to this chosen family, she is survived by her daughter, Amy Butchko, of Brooklyn, NY, as well as by her sister and brother-in-law, and many well loved cousins, nieces, and a nephew. She will be deeply missed. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: To send the family personal condolences, visit sheafuneralhomes.com.

· Peggy Lorraine McAllister, 82, of Brattleboro. Died unexpectedly at her home on June 2, 2023. Peggy was born in Miami, Oklahoma on Nov 13, 1940, the daughter of the late George and Ruth (Conklin) Williams of California. She was raised and educated in San Bernardino, California. In 1959, Peggy moved to Vermont where she started her 50-year career as a Dispatcher for the Windham County Sheriff's Department, Brattleboro Police, and the Vermont State Police's Brattleboro barracks. A Home Baptist in faith, Peggy was blessed with the spirit of generosity to everyone around her. Her greatest joys were her family, camping, flower gardening, cooking and shopping for the holidays. On March 3, 1960, Peggy married the love of her life, Morton H. McAllister, who predeceased her on March 9, 2015. Peggy leaves behind three sons, Daniel McAllister of Townshend, Donald McAllister of Guilford, and Rex McAllister of Brattleboro; three daughters, Elizabeth Perkins of Brattleboro, Tammy Gosselin of Rhode Island, and Kimberly Winter of Brattleboro; two brothers, Rex Williams of Arizona and Kenneth Williams of California; 13 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren (with one on the way), several step-grandchildren and step-greatgrandchildren, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by three brothers, Samuel (Gene), Butch and Bobby. Memorial in-FORMATION: Per Peggy's request, there will be no formal funeral services. A celebration of her life will be planned at a later date. Donations to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302.

 Cody Ryan Rawson, 33, of Keene, New Hampshire. Died unexpectedly on June 16, 2023. He was born March 29, 1990 in Brattleboro, the son of Jeffrey and Terry (Shover) Rawson. Cody attended Brattleboro Union High School and graduated early in 2008. While in high school, he worked at Brattleboro Tire. Cody then graduated in 2010 from Lincoln Technical School in East Windsor, Connecticut with a degree in mechanics. Cody's love of auto mechanics comes from his fond memories of his uncle Bob Paquette, who also had a passion for mechanics. Cody's places of employment included Bolster's Moving of Brattleboro, Lodge Tire of Greenfield, Massachusetts, Greene's Automotive of Wilmington, Hickey Alignment and Repair of Brattleboro (where he also was a part-owner), Lost Mile Automotive of Brattleboro, and Brattleboro Tire. Cody loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing. He enjoyed the fish pond at his home in Keene and enjoyed all the fish and frogs with his wife Heather and son Gunner. He loved clearing brush around his home and all the woods for hunting. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Cody enjoyed taking Gunner on hiking trips to Surry Lake. Recently, he enjoyed giving little Gunner rides on his ATV and teaching Gunner to do owl calls for turkey. Cody and Heather had many enjoyable moments watching Gunner grow and be so curious.

One of his most memorable hunting trips was one he took with his dad to Kansas where they brought home a beautiful buck. Growing up, Cody loved sports and played football and baseball. He played in the Brattleboro Little League for the Giants and was proud of a no-hitter he threw. He leaves behind his beloved wife Heather (Bachinski) Rawson, whom he married on Sept. 30, 2017; his oneyear-old son Gunner Rawson; his mother Terry (Shover) Rawson and his sister Cassandra Rawson both of Ladson, South Carolina and his brother Zachary Rawson of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; grandfathers Alexander Shover (Papa) and Hugh Rawson; and his two dogs Royal and Sage. He was predeceased by a daughter, Remi Rose; his father Jeffrey Rawson; grandmothers Sandra Shover and Eleanor (Stevens) Rawson; and aunt Kathleen Rawson. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A funeral service was held June 24 at Vernon Advent Christian Church, followed by burial in North Cemetery in Vernon. Donations to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org). Lois



Elizabeth (Perrin) Sippel, 90, of Athens. Died on May 24, 2023. following a brief illness. Born March 3, 1933, in Orange, New

Jersey, she married the boy next

door, Richard "Dick" Sippel, on Jan. 12, 1952. They built their nome on the land between their parents, residing in West Orange until 1990, when they retired and built their home in Athens. Lois worked full-time, beginning as a dental assistant before graduating from West Orange High School and finishing her career as the Director of Medical Records for West Essex General Hospital in Livingston, New Jersey. Mid-career, she graduated from Northeastern Bible College in Essex Fells, New Jersey with an associate's degree in biblical studies. She served as a Lister for the town of Athens and volunteered in many community and church activities and at Camp Good News in Charlestown, New Hampshire. Her sewing skills were used to make clothing for Appalachian children, her knitting supported the Senior Center in Bellows Falls, and she was often found helping Dick clear trails for the Pinnacle Association or the Nature Museum in Grafton, sugaring maples, collecting firewood and honey from their bees, or baking bread in their homemade brick oven. Lois was predeceased by her parents James and Lois (Crane) Perrin, and by her husband, Dick, in 2019. She is survived by her daughter, Dale Williamson and husband Erik Williamson, along with her brother, James Perrin and his wife Patricia, and cousins, nieces, and a nephew. Memorial information: A graveside memorial service will take place on Saturday, July 8, at 1 p.m., at Athens Cemetery on Valley Cemetery Road. Donations to Thompson House in Brattleboro, to support the loving care given every day to their family of residents. To share a memory or offer



Philip Spencer, 74, of Englewood, Florida, formerly of Wilmington. Died June 17, 2023 from com-

CPDT-KA,

KPA-CTP,

Fear Free

Certified

IAABC-CDBC

plications of Primary Progressive Aphasia. Frank graduated from Wakefield (Mass.) High School in 1967, Harvard College in 1971,

and received his master's degree from the University of Vermont in 1986. Frank was a teacher, coach, and principal in the Wilmington Twin Valley school systems for 40 years. He earned the UVM Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1986 and was recognized as Vermont's Outstanding Secondary Principal by the Vermont Principals Association and National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1999. He was inducted into the VPA Hall of Fame in 2011. Frank was Town Moderator and a Justice of the Peace in Wilmington for many years. He was also a member of the Deerfield Valley Rotary Club. He attended the Harvard-Yale football game every year, visited all of the Major League Baseball parks, and especially enjoyed playing softball and golf, woodworking, traveling, and good wine. Frank is survived by his wife of 40 years, Patricia Spencer of Englewood; his sisters Kathi Martin and Priscilla Power of Wakefield; his aunt Christina DeMaso and cousin Holly Ogden, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank P. and Barbara Jean Spencer of Wakefield. Memorial INFORMATION: A memorial service is being planned for later this sum-

> Steinberg, 76, of Putney. Died unexpectedly on April 8, 2023. A beloved ceramic artist and teacher, psychotherapist

mer in Wilmington.

and guide, husband, papa, and grandpa, Alan was born Oct. 17, 1946 in the Bronx, New York, to George and Rose Steinberg. He graduated from Queens College in 1968 and embarked on the first of many teaching roles as a kindergarten teacher in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York. He had dabbled with clay as a camp counselor, and again when he was a senior in college, looking for a course to fill out his schedule. "After that," he said, "it was all over — I was kidnapped by clay." He moved to the Berkshires with his first wife, Sharon Yusba, where they had a son, Casey. Alan taught in the public schools there for several years before deciding to give up his safe, tenured teaching job to be a full-time clay artist. In 1981, he and Sharon divorced and he moved to Putney with Casey. Along a path of many craft shows and jury panels, he met Linda Sturgeon, a fiber artist; they were married in 1985. He began to meet with a group of potters interested in starting a collective studio which became the 40th year. Alan proposed that the studio sponsor what has become an annual event, the Empty Bowls Dinner, where buying a ticket gets you a handmade bowl which you fill with your choice of soup, take the bowl home afterward, and participate in raising funds to support people facing hunger and homelessness. After several years of producing pieces for galleries and craft fairs, he took a sabbatical year during which he read, hiked, practiced yoga, studied at the Omega Institute, was part of the Men's Wisdom Council at Rowe (Mass.) Conference Center, and took part in Sparrow Hart's Mythic Warrior Training. Alan went back to the studio in the fall of 2001 full of ideas for new sculptural clay works that spoke of messages from the Earth, and with a commitment to teaching as a means of giving back to the community for the blessings in his life. He taught classes in wheel throwing and hand-building as well as workshops that focused on the spiritual side of making art, integrating poetry, ritual, mythology, meditation, and ecology with the work of the hands. An auto accident in 2002 drove home the powerful connection between

Massachusetts. He began seeing clients while still teaching classes and workshops and making sculptural clay pieces. He is survived by his wife Linda Sturgeon, his son Casey Steinberg, his daughter-inlaw Brittany Nickerson, grandchildren Ida and Emmet, his sister Denise Steinberg Foster, and many friends and loved ones. Memorial INFORMATION: There will be a memorial service for Alan on July 30, at 2 p.m., at Next Stage in Putney. The family invites you to think of Alan's spirit when you: play with clay, roll around in the grass with a child, lose your keys, enjoy maple syrup you made yourself, read a book that makes you think outside your box, eat rice for breakfast, call an old friend, go for a walk in Pisgah, lose a glove, plant your garden, fall asleep under a purring cat, fuss with your hearing aids, stack wood, come up with a good (or bad) pun, submit a piece of writing for publication, bake a batch of cookies, hear the first peepers of the season, collect random objects for their unique texture once pressed into clay, find a new hole in your old down vest, teach something new, show up for your child or grandchild, eat from a handmade plate, use the wrong tool for the job, pick up trash by the side of the road, remember to say "I love you" at the end of a phone call, lose another glove, pull on your beard, eat dinner out on your back deck as the mist sets in and the fireflies celebrate, swallow your pride, inspire someone while being humble at the same time, stoke the fire, drive from Exit 4 to Exit 2 (again), spend hours in a basement lost in your creativity, leave a first spouse and find a life partner, get frustrated with a phone, snowblow your driveway, go to therapy, play your clarinet, visit your urologist, start a co-op, hold a mug with a perfect handle, change your career (or add one), make time for a friend, remember your anniversary, cry more easily

the Synthesis Center in Amherst,



Unwin, 90, of Brattleboro. Died June 16, 2023 at Pine Heights nursing home in Brattleboro,

Claire

than you used to, and to show up.

where she had been a resident since December 2022. Claire was born in Brattleboro on June 27, 1932, to Hazel (Parkhurst) and Frances Bennett. In her early years she lived in Hinsdale, New Hampshire with her family. The family moved to Brattleboro around 1940. Claire attended elementary school, claiming to have walked up hill both to and from school. She graduated from Brattleboro High School in 1951. She was proud to say she was in the last class to graduate from the high school when it was located on Main Street. On Nov. 7, 1953, she married Stanley Unwin. Once married, Stanley and Claire moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where Stanley was stationed in the Navy. While Stanley was out at sea, Claire gave birth to their first child, Michael, born on Nov. 10, 1955. 1957 was a busy year for Claire and Stanley as they bought land on West River Road in June and welcomed their daughter Michelle on Dec. 5. They built their house and remained there for the next 62 years. Claire enjoyed the open space and the hum of the river. Melinda was born on Oct. 18, 1962. Claire was employed for many years at Lewis R. Brown in Brattleboro. She also worked at Mary Meyer and Charlestown Mill. In 1969 they established the West River Auto Body shop in Dummerston, which they ran for 10 years. Claire's strong faith pulled her to find ways to spread the word. In the late 1970s, she started selling Christian books through Successful Living home parties. She did this for several years. Doing this helped her realize the need and want in the community for Christian merchandise. With support from her family, she opened Whispering Hope Christian Bookstore in the 1980s, first on Elliot Street and then on Putney Road. She enjoyed the fellowship and friends that she made while owning the store. Claire loved to dance and enjoyed dressing up and dancing with Stanley at his military parties. She enjoyed music, especially Country & Western. She had a passion and talent for sewing and took pride in making clothes for her family. In her later years she spent many hours doing genealogy

Hinsdale; grandchildren Chad and Megan Pacheco, Jared Pacheco and his significant other Violet Batcha, Darren and Kayla Pacheco, Todd and Mariah Pacheco, Kendall Lucy, and Kathleen Lucy. She was proud to be "Gigi" to Brayden, Madison, Shawn, Kennedy, Brantley, and Nicholas (with baby Julian on the way). She also leaves her sister Gail (Boyle) Patch, and several cousins and nieces. She was predeceased by her parents; her stepfather Charles Boyle, who loved her dearly; her husband Stanley, and her daughter Michelle. Memorial informa-TION: Funeral services were held Iune 23 at First United Methodist Church in Brattleboro. Burial next to Stanley in the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph took place what would have been her 91st birthday on June 27. Donations to Bradley House, 65 Harris Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301. To share a memory or offer condolences to Claire's family, visit atamaniuk.

 Harland J. VanNess, 87, formerly of Williamsville. Died peacefully on June 1, 2023 at Vernon Green Nursing Home, where he had lived since August 2019. Harland was born January 26, 1936 in West Townshend, and was the son of Walter and Almira (Joy) VanNess. Harland was a hard worker. He started working on a large chicken farm at the age of 13. He went on to perform a variety of jobs including doing mechanic work, vending machine maintenance and repairs for Trico Vendors, being a delivery driver for Merrill Gas, and a janitor at Wardsboro Elementary School. He could also be found mowing lawns and cemeteries in the summer months. Harland enjoyed hunting, fishing, and boating, he was an avid water skier and, from late spring to late summer, he and his family could be found on the water, Harriman Reservoir and Lake Seymour were two of his favorite places to go. Harland loved his family. He was always asking about each and every one he held dear, how they were and what they were doing; he would start at the oldest and go down through the family. Harland cared about his nurses and nursing aides and took the time to find out about them, where they lived, their hobbies, he even knew what days they had off. Harland is survived by, and will be lovingly remembered by his son Donald of Athens and his daughter Deborah of Brattleboro, his sisters Beverly Coughlin of West Townshend and Shirley Twitchell of South Londonderry. Harland leaves behind 6 grandchildren and 10 great- grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Harland was predeceased by his parents Walter and Almira, his wife Marilyn (Bryant), and his brother, Philip. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A graveside service will take place on August 5, at 11 a.m., in Williamsville Cemetery, with a celebration of life (potluck/memories to share) taking place from noon to 3 p.m. at the NewBrook Fire Department in Newfane. To send condolences, visit csnh.com. · Richard A. "Lamb"

Weston, 76, of Bellows Falls. Died at his home, surrounded by his family, on June 14, 2023. Richard was born on Jan. 7, 1947, in Bellows Falls, the son of Ruel and Betty (Bean) Weston. Lamb (a nickname given to him in school) spent his early years in Gageville where he attended the Gageville School. He was a 1965 graduate of Bellows Falls High School. Lamb had a career in the Army and, after being honorably discharged, he worked for Smith Medical in Keene, New Hampshire. On August 25, 1979, in North Walpole, New Hampshire, he married Patricia (Ramsey) who survives. He is also survived by his three sons and their wives: Paul and Rebecca, Jason and Ginarose, and Derek and Leslie; and a brother, David. He adored being a grandfather to his four grandchildren: Joey, Tommy, Bryce, and Abygail, who he loved immensely. He was predeceased by his father, mother and stepfather, (Frank Kay). Lamb enjoyed playing cribbage in his retirement years, but above all, he loved vacationing in Prince Edward Island and Wells, Maine with friends and family and most of all, with his wife. Lamb was a life member of the BPOE #1619 and Polish-American Club #1; he was also a member of American Legion Post 37, all of Bellows Falls. Memorial information: A graveside service with full military honors took place in Walpole Cemetery on June 22. Donations to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (phassociation.org).

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

will always do our best to accommodate contributors in their time of grief.

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daughter Melinda and her hus-

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# Scott requests USDA disaster declaration for May freeze that caused heavy crop damage

Some farmers report up to 95% crop losses; damage in Vermont could surpass \$10 million

By Sarah Mearhoff

VtDigger.org

MONTPELIER—Citing "extensive and pervasive" damage to crops, Gov. Phil Scott is requesting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture issue a disaster declaration because temperatures plunged into the low 20s across Vermont for hours in mid-May, freezing vulnerable young buds on thousands of fruits.

In a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on June 19, Scott described the "debilitating damage" to crops of apples, grapes, blueberries, peaches and other stone fruit across the state. He asked that a federal disaster be declared in all of Vermont's 14 counties, which would open up financial assistance and low-interest USDA loans to eligible farmers.

Some Vermont farmers have reported up to 95% crop losses from the freeze, and numerous horticultural experts and farmers have said it's the worst damage they've ever seen. State leaders estimate total losses could surpass \$10 million.

The financial devastation is particularly acute for the many

#### Summer lecture series at St. Michael's looks at 'Stained Glass: **A Foretaste** of Heaven'

BRATTLEBORO—St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, 47 Walnut St., has a collection of stained glass windows created for the church in 1889 by the Art Stained Glass Institute of F. Nicolas and Sons in Roermond,

"While eye has not seen nor ear heard the glories that await in heaven, St. Michael's gives a vivid preview," the church said in a news release. "The images of Saints are delicately rendered with amazing patterns and fanciful architectural details incorporated into the iconography. The spiritual beauty of the saints pictured is captured in the light of their holy lives and their heroic examples of love and faith."

A program on the saints pictured in the stained-glass windows will be presented in the church by a number of visiting priests, artisans, and teachers, starting on Wednesday, June 28, and following every Wednesday until Sept. 27, which will be a talk given on the church's patron saint window, Saint Michael the Archangel.

The programs begin at 5 p.m. with Evening Prayer followed by the presentation. The first program will be given by Father Greg Markey, Chaplain at Thomas Aquinas College in Northfield, Massachusetts, and will focus on the window featuring Saint Joseph.

"Each program will explain the life and glory of the saint illustrated by the light and color of the stained glass," according to organizers of the series. "The example and life of the saint will serve as a teaching tool to bring us closer to Jesus and His Way.

The other facilitators, and the saints they will be discussing, will be as follows:

• Jennifer Healy, Ph.D. in Visual and Language Arts — St.

• Father Carlos Viego, Chaplain at Thomas Aquinas College — Mary, Holy Mother of God

• Father Kevin Chalifoux, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Wilmington, — Saint Catherine of Alexandria

• Father Michael Pierz, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, Massachusetts -Saint John the Baptist

· Deacon Christopher Dougherty — Saint Brigid

• Father Henry Furman, Pastor at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro — Saint Michael

Other lecturers will include Peter Orlowski, High School Teacher at Saint Michael School; Father Noiseux and Father DiMascola, retired priests; Father Greg Caldwell, Parochial Vicar at Saint Michael Parish; and Father Hugh Cleary, Pastor at Saint John the Baptist in Bennington.

For more information, contact the church at 802-257-5101 or stmichael@vermontcatholic.org.

farmers who do not have crop Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, insurance. And those who do are often underinsured for losses of this magnitude.

Scott's letter is Vermont's second nudge to the federal govern-

ment asking for help. Anson Tebbetts, the state's secretary of agriculture food and markets, penned a letter to Vilsack earlier in June, and collected signatures from his fellow agriculture secretaries in Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

"Collectively, we sit at a critical crossroad with our growers. Right now, growers are assessing their ability to stay in this industry," the secretaries wrote.

Without aid, we will see devastating blows to local economies because of downsizing and closing businesses.



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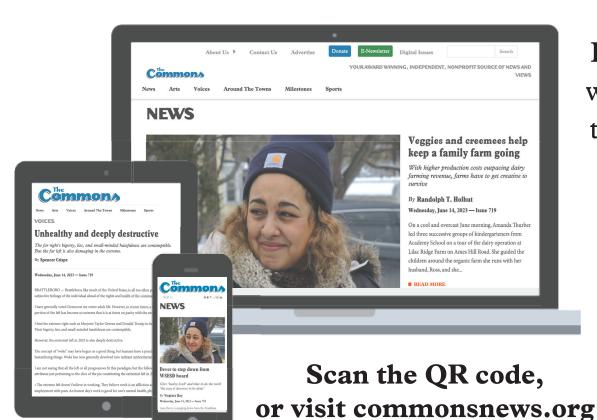
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Untitled collage by James Renner ca. 2016

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**BRATTLEBORO** 

# Selectboard warned municipal EMS 'no cash cow'

#### Start-up costs for range from \$1.3 million to \$1.9 million for staff, vehicles, and consultants

By Virginia Ray

BRATTLEBORO—If the town were to take on running emergency services (EMS) entirely in-house, those who are exploring options say start-up costs could range from \$1.3 to \$1.9 million.

"There isn't anyone in the town of Brattleboro who sees this as a cash cow," said Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland at the Selectboard's June 20 meeting. "EMS services are expensive. There will be some revenue, but it's not a cash cow."

A town-run EMS system is one option on the table after Selectboard members directed town staff to conduct parallel explorations into both in-house and contracted fire and EMS services.

The current plan is to adopt a new approach by September and implement the new system July 1, 2024.

The EMS Transition Project is in process because, in April 2022, the Selectboard suddenly and without public discussion dropped an almost-60-year contract with the private nonprofit Rescue Inc., which most recently charged the town \$285,600 annually.

At the time, then-Town Manager Yoshi Manale told the board that town-run EMS services would be less expensive than Rescue's fee and that the town could see up to \$700,000 in revenue.

For the time being, the town has contracted with Golden Cross Ambulance of Claremont, New Hampshire. Golden Cross supplies ambulances and some staff members who respond to calls along with town fire department employees.

Golden Cross has invoiced those who use the ambulance service \$923,759.40 between July 2022 and May 2023 and has received about 61% of the bill-

Fire Chief Len Howard said ideal of three platoons of 10 staff (ARPA) money, of which the

to actually collect what they've billed and that the billing agency told him it takes five or six months before you know accurately how much of what's been billed has definitively been collected.

Former Selectboard member Dick DeGray said he has "huge concern" about a collection rate running at 61% and doesn't believe the town will have a clear enough picture of the financial implications of contracted services by the planned September decision date.

Regarding the contracted service exploration, a Request for Information (RFI) was published in multiple periodicals and online June 1 to gauge interest. Applications are due to the Municipal Center by Friday, June 30 at 4 p.m.

#### **In-house EMS** start-up costs

One question if the town runs its own service is how many ambulances to buy or lease.

Dr. Johndavid M. Storn, emergency medical provider and one of two medical advisors for Vermont's EMS District 13, the catchment area for Windham County, told the board that overall the health care field is seeing myriad challenges.

"Everybody's doing the best they can," he said. "Everybody's providing good care."

He also said that more than once a day, two calls come in at the same time, that the town needed two ambulances about 50 times in the past year, and that one time in a total of 2,800 calls Brattleboro could have benefitted from a having a fourth ambulance.

Moreland offered what he called "staff's best guess" regarding start-up expenses, noting that currently the department has three platoons of eight staff members. The working model after reviewing best practice recommendations — is for the in American Rescue Plan Act

it's his understanding that "it'll members plus an EMS supervitown currently has \$2.7 million, take months" for Golden Cross sor, he said. town currently has \$2.7 million, or borrowing. Borrowing would sor, he said.

This scenario would require seven staff members to join the force between November 2023 and June 2024.

A supervisor would be hired for eight months at a cost of \$84,702 to help hire other staff members and build the program within Brattleboro fire. The six new firefighters would cost \$154,713 for 21 months, for a total of about \$240,000 in personnel costs.

To make up for the gap between when the town would start billing for services and collecting fees, Moreland estimated about \$250,000 would be "frontended" for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025.

Ťhis plan includes \$30,000 in billing software and \$20,000 for a start-up consultant. The fire department would also need to buy 10 new radios of different types, bringing the staffing and equipment start-up cost to \$674,250.

Moreland laid out four possible scenarios regarding ambulances, all including buying three ambulances but of different types. Cab-on-truck-style ambulances cost \$400,000 each, and van-style ambulances cost \$250,000. All would be fully equipped; however, the cab style requires about two years lead time to purchase.

• The first option is to buy three cab-style vehicles and lease the same during the gap for 15 months at a cost of \$50,000. The total cost for this scenario is \$1.9

• The second option is to buy two cab-style vehicles and one van-style. That option would cost \$1.7 million.

• The third choice would be one cab-style and two van-style ambulances for \$1.5 million. • The final option would be to

choose three van-style vehicles for

just under \$1.3 million. Options to pay for the system include using about \$1.7 million

require Representative Town Meeting authorization.

In the least expensive scenario for taxpayers, borrowing would add \$175,000 each year over 10 years of payback, including \$445,000 in cumulative 10-year interest costs.

Borrowing could also impact other projects, including swimming pool improvements.

And, if the vote to borrow were to be "no," said Moreland, we're in a bit of a predicament.'

After being questioned as to whether the town can afford this, Selectboard Chair Ian Goodnow acknowledged many other areas where ARPA money could be spent, including addressing increasing homelessness and needed social services and a potential property tax increase.

You're totally right," he said. "We're not quite there [...] we've looked at potential revenue, we've looked at start-up expenses, [and] one proposal to pay for the startup expenses would have no impact to the taxpayer using ARPA funds, but we have not looked at operating costs.'

Goodnow pointed out "the contrast between the potential proposed revenue and the potential operating costs and what that impact would have on the General

Fund and on the taxpayer."
"That's a critical, critical element to that consideration," he said. "We haven't even gotten that far to begin that discussion. We're halfway through the process as to whether to we're to go down the municipal EMS track or a third party.'

#### Next steps, and community feedback

The next step of the EMS Transition Project timeline takes place Tuesday, July 25, when board members will address public comment, which board members are encouraging. The board will also review results of the RFI and draft a Request for Proposal (RFP).

To submit feedback, email emsfeedback@brattleboro. org or mail comments to EMS Feedback/Town Manager's Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301.

The board plans to discuss the project also at its Aug. 15, Sept. 5, and Sept. 19 meetings, which are open to the public and available via Zoom.

A public forum exploring fire-EMS alternatives is planned for Friday, Sept. 1.

# 'Brattleboro Goes Fourth' holiday festivities set for 50th year

BRATTLEBORO—"By the People: Brattleboro Goes Fourth" is set to hold the town's 50th annual Independence Day celebration on Tuesday, July 4, with a morning parade downtown and afternoon and evening program of family activities and fireworks at Living Memorial Park.

Marching units — including the local American Legion and Brattleboro Union High School bands, veterans, civic and youth groups — will kick off the festivities at 10 a.m. with a parade from Flat Street to Main Street to the Town Common.

Brattleboro's Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, which is sponsoring the parade for a sixth year, will lead the march with its giant American flag, while local personality Alfred Hughes Jr. will conclude the event by debuting his annual top-secret

Children seeking to decorate a bicycle for inclusion can meet at 9 a.m. at the Whetstone Parkway beside the Brattleboro

The parade route also will host athletes in the Bill Powers Memorial Firecracker 4-Miler, set to run from Living Memorial Park at 9:15 a.m. through downtown to the Common.

After, the town Recreation & Parks Department will offer a series of public concerts, sporting events, and family activities at Living Memorial Park — just off Western Avenue and Interstate 91 Exit 2 — from 2:30 p.m. to the start of fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Highlights include a Small Fry baseball All-Star Game at 2:30 p.m., a New England Center for Circus Arts performance at 5:45 p.m., a children's concert by Les Julian at 6:30 p.m., and the Miles Band from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

All "By the People: Brattleboro Goes Fourth" programs are free thanks to citizen, civic, and corporate donations.

More information is available by checking for updates on the Brattleboro Goes Fourth Facebook page (facebook.com/ BrattleboroGoesFourth) or by emailing brattleborogoesfourth@

#### West Townshend **Stone Arch Bridge restoration** moves forward

TOWNSHEND—Spurred on by the continued strong support of the people of Townshend, who have voted a total of \$288,000 over the past five years for the restoration of the historic West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge, built in 1910 by Townshend farmer-turned-stonemason James Otis Follett, the project is moving forward.

Work on the bridge, which carries traffic on Back Windham Road across Tannery Brook, is slated to begin in the spring of 2024 and be finished by fall. The road will be closed during

The Townshend Historical Office, Municipal Center, 230 Society has also recently been awarded A Save America's Treasures grant of \$221,000 for the project from the National Preservation Fund, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service. This grant, in addition to the \$288,000 in town funds, numerous gifts, and anticipated

pledges, has brought the project well within reach of its projected \$800,000 budget.

A team composed of representatives from the town, the Historical Society, and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has completed work on the project's Request for Proposals (RFP) from certified dry stone masons interested in leading the project.

The RFP was released to the public on June 16. Bidders must hold a current Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain Master Craftsman Certification and have experience working on projects required to meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation.

Potential bidders may access the RFP on the Vermont Business Registry's Electronic Billboard (bit.ly/721-bridge), or request a copy from Townshend Selectboard Assistant Connie Holt at cholt@townshendvt.gov or 802-221-2051.

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# Report: Vermont Everyone Eats program stimulated \$78 million in additional local spending

WESTMINSTER— Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE), the innovative, statewide, \$49 million pandemic relief program that increased food security, economic stabilization, and agricultural resilience within a single initiative, recently released an economic report showing that the program also stimulated significant lasting economic impact in Vermont.

Between August 2020 and March 2023, nearly four million meals were produced by Vermont restaurants and distributed statewide to local meal recipients negatively affected by the pandemic. Meals were made by more than 320 Vermont restaurants using ingredients from more than 270 Vermont farmers and food producers, and were distributed to individuals in need through local community hubs.

Funded by FEMA and the Vermont Legislature, VEE's dual investment in both food security and the local food economy resulted in a \$78 million increase in local spending by restaurants and farms outside of income received through the program.

Participating restaurants were paid \$10 per meal, bringing \$39 million in total revenue to restaurants statewide. VEE restaurants were required to use a minimum of 10% ingredients purchased from Vermont farms and food producers.

Actual local purchasing for program meals averaged 36% statewide, which provided more than \$7.4 million in agricultural revenue, primarily to small businesses.

Research by agricultural economists Elizabeth Schuster of Sustanable Economies Consulting and Michelle Klieger of Helianth Partners showed that VEE income stabilized participating businesses, enabling VEE restaurants and farms to make additional investments in equipment and infrastructure to support the viability of their businesses for years to come.

According to Schuster, "Vermont Everyone Eats was by definition a full economic development program that also had astounding local food security benefits. This program model is a game changer. It is a paradigm shift that compels us to think about food security and the local food economy in Vermont in new ways.

The full Vermont Everyone Eats Economic Impact Report can be found at vteveryoneats. org (vteveryoneeats.org).
"This program required un-

precedented cross-sector collaboration and innovation," said Housing and Community Development Commissioner Josh Hanford. "These results show what can be achieved

when people work together in times of crisis. We hope lessons learned along the way can be leveraged effectively in future initiatives."

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA), which served as fiscal and administrative agent for VEE, is developing a comprehensive tool kit that will serve as a resource for future emergency and nonemergency projects related to food security, economic development, and agricultural resilience. The tool kit will include a documentary produced by Vermont filmmaker Corey Hendrickson for release later in 2023.

"We are committed to ensuring that the lessons learned from this program are preserved and carried forward to inform and benefit future initiatives in Vermont and beyond," said SEVCA Interim Executive Director Kathleen Devlin. "SEVCA has gained a tremendous amount of insight and experience through administering the VEE program, and we look forward to applying what we have learned to our local programming while continuing to collaborate with oth-

ers statewide," Those currently in need of food assistance can find information at HungerFreeVT.org and VTFoodbank.org.

The Commons

page B1 Wednesday, June 28, 2023

**COLUMN** | Creative Conversations

# Vermont family keeps 'brother band' tradition alive

'I think we've come full circle — back to using the bluegrass instrumentation of banjo, mandolin, bass, and guitar, and approaching music with a kind of bluegrass/folk sensibility,' says Barry Stockwell of The Stockwell Brothers

BrattleboroUR WINDOW for enjoying live outdoor music is rather short in Vermont — three months, if we're lucky. So why not pile the kids in the car, grab a blanket and some folding chairs, and head to the Retreat Farm to hear great local music while sampling appealing global cuisine? (You won't even have to clean up!)

The Retreat Farm has just what locals and tourists alike are looking for this summer as its live music summer season continues with local favorites, like The Stockwell Brothers, who will perform at the weekly Food Truck Roundup on Thursday, June 29.

A contemporary folk and bluegrass quartet, this Putney band of brothers — and one sister-in-law — is Bruce Stockwell on banjo and vocals, Barry Stockwell on guitar and vocals, Alan Stockwell on mandolin and vocals, and Kelly Stockwell on bass. They have been sharing their music in some form with audiences for

over five decades. According to their publicity materials, their music spans traditional and progressive styles, but their trademark



acoustic sound features new singer/songwriter material recast with banjo, alternative rhythms, and three-part harmonies. They cover "straightahead bluegrass songs, finger-picked acoustic guitar ballads, full-tilt breakdowns, [and] traditional mandolin tunes mixed in with songs from other genres."

Featuring Bruce, the winner of the 2005 MerleFest bluegrass banjo contest, The Stockwell Brothers have performed alongside artists such as Bill Monroe, Doc Watson, and Earl Scruggs to Mary Chapin Carpenter, Jonathan Edwards, and Asleep at the Wheel.

They have recorded with Mike Auldridge and Phil Rosenthal of the bluegrass supergroup The Seldom Scene, and toured throughout the United States and in Canada



COURTESY PHOTO

The Stockwell Brothers will perform at the Retreat Farm on Thursday, June 29.

and Europe. As a trio, Bruce, Barry, and Alan have released two albums, Stobro and Leave

My Dreams Alone.
"The performing arts are an amazing and energizing way to get folks out to Retreat Farm and into nature. It's a fun way to unwind and be part of a community," says Kristin M. Sullivan, Retreat Farm executive director.

Sullivan continues, "One dollar of every \$5 from tickets will go to support a different area nonprofit each week. On June 29, that nonprofit is Black Mountain Assisted Family Living. The rest [of the revenue] helps to keep Retreat Farm free and open to the public all year-round."

The Commons caught up with Barry Stockwell recently

and talked about his career as a Vermont-based musician and concert producer. He is The Stockwell Brothers' guitarist and lead singer, has a concert production company Twilight Music, and is the production director and co-founder of Next Stage Arts Project in Putney. Here's an excerpt of their conversation.

**VICTORIA CHERTOK:** Have you and Bruce been playing together for 53 years?

**BARRY STOCKWELL:** 

Yeah, I started playing bluegrass music with my older brother Bruce and our two cousins Doug and Tim Harlow as The Green Mountain Boys in 1969. We played throughout Vermont and a bit farther afield for about six years,

until Bruce and I both ended up in college in New Haven, Connecticut, and formed a band called Old Dog, with Phil and Beth Rosenthal. Both of those bands played "contemporary" bluegrass, mixing elements of other musical genres with bluegrass.

After Bruce and I graduated from college, we moved even farther away from traditional bluegrass — forming a five-piece folk/rock and dance band, The Stockwell Brothers.

We'd played in high school rock bands with our friends, and Bruce was as good an electric guitarist as he is a banjo player. By the mid-'80s, Derrik Jordan had joined the band, and The Stockwell Brothers morphed into a world beat band called Spunk that

featured Derrik's original pop,

**v.c.:** Interesting! How did you get back into playing bluegrass and folk tunes?

funk, reggae, salsa, and samba

**B.S.:** During Spunk's heyday, Bruce and I kept playing contemporary bluegrass folk as a side project with our younger brother Alan. When Spunk disbanded, that became our main band again. Bruce's wife Kelly joined the band on acoustic bass about seven years ago, so we're quite the family

band now. I think we've come full circle — back to using the bluegrass instrumentation of banjo, mandolin, bass, and guitar, and approaching music with a kind of bluegrass/folk

■ SEE STOCKWELL BROTHERS, B3

Vermont Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."

-MALVOLIO, TWELFTH NIGHT

By Annie Landenberger The Commons

RATTLEBORO—Twelfth *Night*, by William Shakespeare, is slated as the Vermont Theatre Company's (VTC) annual outdoor production presented in collaboration with, and at, Retreat Farm. "Twelfth Night," a VTC media release

explains, "tells the tale of Viola, who's been tragically separated from her twin brother, Sebastian, during a shipwreck. Viola disguises herself as a boy and works for Duke Orsino, with whom she falls in love. Orsino is in love with the Countess Olivia, and sends Viola to court her for him, but Olivia falls for Viola instead. Sebastian arrives, causing a flood of mistaken identity. In short, Viola thinks her brother is dead. He thinks that she is dead. Everyone thinks that she is her brother. Everyone thinks that her brother is she. Shenanigans ensue."

Shakespeare's subtitle for Twelfth



■ SEE 'TWELFTH NIGHT', B3

Cameron Cobane as Antonio and Geof Dolman as Sir Toby Belch.

12th night of Christmas, the eve of the

around good fun.

feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi to the newborn Jesus — Epiphany. Twelfth Night is often celebrated with a suspension of rules and social orders, the overturning of convention, and all-

It's a Medieval tradition Shakespeare would have been familiar with writing in the late-16th, early-17th century — revelers singing and dancing, drinking and

Night, ... or What You Will, refers to the eating king cake and other special treats, defacing doors with chalk, and generally behaving against the grain.

According to sussexexpress.co.uk, one of the most popular Twelfth Night traditions was to hide a pea and a bean within the cake. The lady who found the pea would be Lady or Queen of Misrule; the man who discovered the bean would be proclaimed Lord or King of Misrule, usually a peasant or commoner who led the drinking and debauchery. "Twelfth

Night was one of the few times of the year where servants were allowed to mix with their masters, sometimes even switching roles through disguises." In short, the Twelfth Night buzz line? "Anything goes!"

The VTC production will take this to the hilt, according to director Michelle Page. VTC's president for four of the last 12 years she's served on its board, Page hails from Connecticut, where her

Publication of this week's Calendar is underwritten by Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors • www.berkleyveller.com



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# arts & community CALENDAR

#### THURSDAY

#### Music

PUTNEY Yellow Barn: Works by Beethoven, Brahms, Coleridge-Taylor, Debussy, Dvorak, Schoenberg, and Takemitsu, plus an additional six works by YAP composers premiered by their performer colleagues.

- ► Two performances choose from 3
- p.m. or 8 p.m. ▶ Free.
- Yellow Barn, 49 Main St. Information: Reserve your free tickets: tinyurl. com/ysvzhxmp.

The written word

w. BRATTLEBORO Ekphrasis Writing Workshop: Basically, an ekphrasis is a literary description of art. Like other kinds of imagery, ekphrasis paints a picture with words. What makes it different from something like pictorialism is that the picture it paints is itself a picture: ekphrasis stages an encounter between representations in two mediums, one visual and one verbal. Workshop is led by Trish Murtha.

- > 2:30-4:30 p.m. or 5:30-7:30 p.m. (choose time that works for you). One of the oldest examples of ekphrastic writing is Homer's long description of Achilles' shield in the epic The Iliad. Throughout that ekphrasis, the poet emphasizes the fact that the images described are images on a shield, and even calls attention to the god Hephaistos' act of making that shield.
- \$22 (some scholarships available). ► All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. Information: Info and registration: TrishJourneys@ gmail.com.

**Visual arts** and shows

**BELLOWS FALLS Art Around Books** - Exhibition and Bookstore Grand Opening!: "We are an unconventional gallery and idea space featuring fine press artists' books, drawings, paintings, and prints for sale by international, national, and local artists. This space also offers an eclectic bookstore specializing in used and rare poetry, art, literary fiction, philosophy, children's books,

- ► 5-7 p.m. Exhibition continues through 7/29. "We'll also offer occasional gatherings for readings, musical events, and artist talks.".

and first editions.

► Art Around Books, 5 Canal St. Open: Wed.:10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Thurs.: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Fri. and Sat.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Upcoming workshops: artaroundbooks.com

#### FRIDAY

#### Music

BRATTLEBORO The Edd and Timbre Coup: The Edd is a psychedelic rock quartet, formed in Burlington, VT in 2009. They make each of their live shows unique, with extensive improvisation, high energy, clever setlist writing. Formed in 2007, Timbre Coup is Albany, NY's premiere progressive jamband. Their sound converges into various realms, easily crossing over to electronica and

- 8:30 p.m.
- \$15 in advance, \$20 at door.
- The Stone Church in Brattleboro, 210 Main St. Information: 802-579-9960; stonechurchvt.com.

Instruction BRATTLEBORO Tree Dancing

Workshop offered by Nimble **Arts:** n this experiential outdoor workshop discover freedom/joy of climbing trees with rope, harness,

#### FRIDAY CONT.

and dancing where gravity feels suspended. Ascend into a world of physical/personal discovery. Lead Instructors: Tree Dancing/Aerialist Serenity Smith Forchion (Nimble Arts), Tree Climbing/Arborist Mark Przekurat from Renaissance Acres Tree Care: "We'll teach you the ropes including creative techniques while giving you space to explore at your own pace."

- ► 6/30: 5:30-8:30 p.m., 7/1: 9 a.m.-6 p.m., 7/2: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For ages 16 and up or by permission of instructor. No meals or lodging on site.
- Through Sunday, July 2. Fee: \$425 / Deposit: \$200.
- Nimble Arts, 416 Meadowbrook Rd. More information: www.nimblearts. org, 802-318-2639 Tickets: tinyurl.

**Kids and families** JACKSONVILLE British Storyteller Simon Brooks: Brooks will have us all in stitches with laughter.

- 1 p.m. All ages are welcome.
- ▶ Whitingham Free Public Library, 2948 VT Rte. 100. Information: 802-

#### **SATURDAY**

Music

GREENFIELD Blanket Approval (NYC) on tour with 3 Massachusetts Bands: The Upstairs District, **Trouble With Parachutes, Baxbys:** Blanket Approval (Groovy Indie Rock) set off on their first Northeast tour with support from MA stalwarts The Upstairs District (Indie Rock/ Electronica) and Trouble With Parachutes (Grunge/Hard Rock/Punk), Baxby's (Alternative Rock).

- 7:30 p.m.
- \$10 (plus \$2.51 Event Brite). 10 Forward Venue, 10 Fiske Avenue. Information: tinyurl.com/

**Farmers' markets** 

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Farmers Market: BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place. Live music 11 a.m.-1 p.m., special events and workshops

- throughout the season. ▶ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. Rain or shine.
- ► Through Saturday, October 28. ► Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge, Information: 802-490-4371: brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

The written word **Brattleboro Poetry Discussion** · Luijeta Liesnanaki (Online): This month: Luljeta Lleshanaku. No experience neces sary. copies of the poems provided. Led by Barbara Morrison.

- ▶ 12 noon 2 p.m. Free.
- Zoom. Information: Information/Register: info@timetowrite. usnformation.

**Dance** 

WINCHESTER Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club: Live music by "Champagne Jam." Everyone is welcome.

- 7 10:30 p.m. Nonalcoholic beverages available, 50/50 Raffle.
- \$10 members, \$12 non-members. Elmm Community Center, 21 Durkee St. Information: For more information: Tom: 978-249-6917, 978-790-9322 or Barbara: 802-722-9205, 802-376-0317.



#### **PETS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION**

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known about my previous life. I do have a few behavior issues and would need an experienced adopter. I seem ok with other dogs outside of my territory, but I should live without them in my home. I would do best in a home without any kids. Cats are unknown a slow introduction would be best. Hi, my name is **Lionell!** I am very sweet and outgoing.

Hi, my name is Curly! I came in as a stray so not much is



I seem to like other dogs and may be able to live with one in my new home. Cats would be new and should be gradual. I have a ton of energy and need someone that can give me the exercise that I need. I would do best in a home without any small kids.I really am looking for someone to give me all the love and affection that I deserve



Hello new friends, I'm Shadow! I'm very affectionate and love hanging out with my human friends. I do have a significant heart murmur which should be monitored and the staff here can tell you more when you visit. Small or medium dogs should be okay with a proper introduction and some time to get to know each other. Older, respectful kids should be okay with some time to adjust

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#### **SUNDAY**

#### Music

GUILFORD Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo with Jim Countryman perform outdoors at Springs Farm: Erin on acoustic guitar,

vocals, kazoo, foot percussion, with Jim on ukulele bass and backing vocals. Their energetic performances transport the audience to the Delta. with vintage classics by the likes of Memphis Minnie, Mississippi John Hurt, Tommy Johnson and Blind Blake - elevated by Erin's own interpretations and mixed seamlessly w/ original compositions and country blues takes on other popular songs.

- ► Show starts around 6:30 p.m.: Parking: Drive up if you need assistance. Otherwise, try and park off-site and walk up the driveway. We may have additional parking behind farmhouse for all-wheel drive or cars that don't mind driving up to a grass lot. Come early/stay late and socialize. Refrain from bringing pets (we might have roaming hens). Harpe has been called "one of the most dynamic, talented and exciting roots rocking blues women on the scene" by Living Blues Magazine. The singer, songwriter, quitarist, band leader was recently named New England's "Blues Artist of the Year.".
- ▶ \$10 to \$20 suggested donation, free for children.
- Springs Farm, 49 Carpenter Hill Rd.

**Farmers' markets PUTNEY Putney Farmers Market** with Live Music by Slow Pony: Slow Pony: A 100% organic, local, free range accordion-centric musical

- collective joins us this week! ▶ 11-3 p.m. on Sundays. Across from the Putney Food Coop.
- Putney Farmers Market, 17 Carol Brown Way. Information: putneyfarmersmarket.org.

**Dance** 

**GUILFORD Contra Dance:** On July 2, Ben Sachs-Hamilton will be calling, with music by Sycamore (Cedar Stanistreet and Michael Sokolovsky). New dancers welcome and all dancers taught.

- ► 6:30 9 p.m. First Sunday of the
- month through 9/3. ► Through Sunday, September 3.
- ► Admission: \$15 \$20. Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Questions / concerns: ewruger@gmail.

#### TUESDAY

Music

**BRATTLEBORO** The Windham Philharmonic, Brattleboro American Legion Band, and other local musicians: This is Winston Prouty Center's annual July 4th Celebration Concert. Repertoire feature Berlioz' Grande symphonie funebre et triomphale, Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks, as well as some more traditional marches.

- This is an outdoor performance - bring blankets and chairs. Food available for sale. 3-4 p.m. Admission by donation.
- Winston Prouty Campus, 209 Austine Dr. Information: 802-257-7852.

**Celebrations** 

and festivals **SAXTONS RIVER Saxtons River 4th** of July Celebration: Firecracker 5K Race. Street Fair, Food, Merchandise Vendors, Sales of 2023 t-shirts. aprons, totes, glowsticks. Info booths from various organizations. Games for kids/adults: Mini Golf. Croquet, Egg Toss contest, Skee Ball. Musical Chairs. Hula Hoop contest

#### TUESDAY CONT.

with Maryann McArdle & drummers in front of Saxtons River Village Market (who will also have a pie contest - sweet and savory pies).

- ► 7:30 a.m. Register for Firecracker 5K Race. 9:30 a.m. Parade starts. Music on bandstand after parade: Main Street Arts String Band performs on MSA porch. Saxtons River Historical Society open after the parade Aerial photography throughout day. Awards donated by Village Square Booksellers and medals sponsored by Savings Bank of Walpole.
- ► Saxtons River Independence Day. Information: Additional information: Facebook.com/SRFOURTH.

#### WEDNESDAY

Music

BRATTLEBORO Lunchtime Pipe Organ Series with David Neiweem: Organist and composer David Neiweem is one of New England's most sought-after musicians. His program for July features new compositions based on traditional American themes to celebrate Independence Day as well as marches by John Philip Souza exhibiting the many sounds of our in house unique Estey organ.

- ▶ 12 noon.
- ► Free.

► Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Information: RSVP: tinyurl.com/4c5p978w. **Community building** 

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

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

**Ideas and education** DOVER "Pilgrimage": Book **Discussion Series hosted by Dover** Free Library: Human beings have undertaken pilgrimages of all kinds for thousands of years. Discover a variety of journeys - and whether the seekers find what they are

- looking for in these varied writings. "Pilgrimage" is a Vermont Humanities program hosted by Dover Free Library and supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. ► 7 p.m. Discussions take place on:
- 7/5, 7/19, 8/2, 8/16. These sessions are open to the public and accessible to those with disabilities. Books available on loan in advan
- Through Wednesday, August 2. ▶ Free.
- Dover Free Library, 22 Holland Rd. Information: More information: John Flores: 802-348-7488 or john@ doverfreelibrary1913.org

#### **THURSDAY**



**Performing arts** PUTNEY "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown": Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz. It was a 1967 musical with music and lyrics by Clark Gesner and had a 1999 revision by Andrew

Lippa. ▶ 4 p.m. outdoors. Attendees should bring their own low-profile seating. Next Stage Arts and Weston Theater have brought this show to Putney. Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer. Additional Music/Lyrics by Andrew Lippa. Directed by Frances Limoncelli.

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► Free but reservations must be made in advance.

THURSDAY CONT.

► Putney Central School, 182 Westminster Rd. Information: Reservations: tinyurl.com/mundpkp2, tinyurl.com/ mundpkp2,. Information: 802-387-0102, tinyurl.com/mundpkp2,.

Community building **GUILFORD** Guilford Cares: New Support Group for Guilford Se**niors:** Led by Deb Albright - retired nurse and professional support group facilitator - seniors meet to talk about the many aspects of aging in place, health, fitness, loneliness, communication with family, change.

- Getting together makes life better. ▶ 1 - 2 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays every month. Includes light
- refreshments. Free.
- ► Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: 802-579-1350; guilfordcaresvt@gmail.

#### **FRIDAY**

**Performing arts** BRATTLEBORO Baker Street Read-

ers present "A Month of Mystery": Join James Gelter as Sherlock Holmes, Tony Grobe as Dr. Watson, and special guest stars as they read two spellbinding mysteries backto-back. Each Friday night features a canonical Holmes tale by Arthur Conan Doyle and a new adventure by James Gelter.

- 7 p.m. (intermission between stories). Performances continue on Fridays: 7/14, 7/21, 7/28.
- Through Friday, July 28. \$10 suggested donation - cash at door.
- Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: For reservations email: bakerstreetreaders@gmail.com.

The written word wilmington Tinky Weisblat

discusses her new book: Pot Luck: Random Acts of Cooking: A pot luck is a meal for which disparate people provide a variety of elements. Somehow, Tinky maintains, those elements always seem to come together to create a unique, delicious feast. This book is her own pot luck, a collection of recipes, stories, and historical essays that tickle her fancy. Some of the recipes are new; some she has been preparing for years. All are reasonably easy

- to make. ▶ 6 p.m.
- ▶ Free. ► Bartlebys Books, 17 W. Main St. Information: 802-464-5425;

**Visual arts** and shows

BRATTLEBORO "Two Witnesses" Oil on Canvas by Bobby Ditrani: Join us for Bobby Ditrani's second solo show at Gallery in the Woods. He presents new and past works that combine his skill and talent with figures and faces, smokey forests and far away mountains, and how they might shine in a sunset or the glow of a nearby burning industrial refinery. He works in oil paints on canvas and panel. By layering the colors using classical techniques, he

- brings an inner light to each form. ► 5-8 pm. DiTrani's masterly oil paintings evoke an atmosphere balanced precariously between serene beauty and cataclysmic chaos. He studied classical drawing and painting under Juliette Aristedes at her classical Atelier at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle and has had work shown extensively on both coasts. Of note: He created over 200 illustrations for NY Times best-selling author GennaRose Nethercott to accompany a series of
- narrative prose performances.
- ► Gallery in the Woods, 145 Main St. Information: 802-257-4777; galleryinthewoods.com

#### **SATURDAY**



**Farmers' markets BRATTLEBORO** Brattleboro Area Farmers Market: BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place. Live music 11 a.m.-1

#### SATURDAY CONT.

p.m., special events and workshops throughout the season.

- ▶ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. Rain
- ► Through Saturday, October 28.

► Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge. Information: 802-490-4371; brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

The written word **NEWFANE** The Friends of the **Moore Free Library: Summer Book Sale:** Diverse and meticulously organized with over 40 categories and an especially large selection of children's books.

- ▶ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the lawn (rain or shine). Buy a Moore Free Library tote bag for \$15 or fill it with books for \$20.
- Free.
- ► Moore Free Library, 23 West St. Information: More information: Julie at julielavorgna@gmail.com, 802-365-7278.

**Visual arts** and shows

► Free.

**NEWFANE** The Crowell Gallery presents "Many Layers of Expression" by artist Nancy Powers Libby

► Moore Free Library, 23 West St. Information: 802-365-7948: moorefreelibrary.org.

► 4 - 6 p.m. Artist Reception.

**Ideas and education DUMMERSTON** Dry Rich Forest Ecology: A Day in the Field with Naturalist Patti Smith and **Ecologist Daniel Dubie:** Join this workshop on the ecology and botany of a dry rich forest. Explore a Dry Óak-Hickory-Hophornbeam Forest, an uncommon community type. Designed for all skill levels, we'll explore ways in which geology, hydrology, soils, we'll focus on the ecological processes that have led to the establishment of this forest and on plants that thrive in such

- conditions. ▶ 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Rain date 7/9.
- \$25 to \$75 sliding scale.
- Deer Run Nature Preserve Trailhead, 940 Camp Arden Rd. Information: Pre-registration required / more information: tinyurl.com/y49dthtd.

#### **TUESDAY**

Walk-In Clinic: Primary medical treatment for patients ages 18 to 64 in our community who do not have health insurance or who cannot

BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro

Well-being

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.

**Community meals LONDONDERRY Community Meal:** 

LEFT MESSAGE ▶ 12 noon. WHAT IS BEING SERVED?.

COST??? Neighborhood Connections, The Meeting Place, Rte. 100, 5700 Marketplace (across from the post office). Information: Reserve your place at the

communal table: 802-824-4343.

To submit your

event: calendar@ commonsnews.org Deadline:

5 p.m. Friday No newspaper published next week — see page A1

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# Weekend of events brings creatives of color from around the world to southern Vermont

Co-curators Jamie Mohr and Shanta Lee present new multidisciplinary artist salon

Friday, July 7, and Saturday July 8, a series of events at Epsilon Spires in downtown Brattleboro and the Green River Bridge Inn in Guilford will feature a diverse array of artists, academics, and musicians exploring the theme of "Transcendence: Call & Response/Things Unseen" as part of the second annual Multidisciplinary Artist Salon.

'Makers and creators of art are in conversation — but with who, and with what?" co-curators Jamie Mohr and Shanta Lee said in a joint statement about the theme of the Salon, which was inspired by the latest sonification of the black holes in our universe and the idea of "call and response within the realm of the unseen.

Mohr, who is the executive director of the nonprofit arts venue Epsilon Spires, has previously collaborated with Lee on events such as a three-day Celebration of Black Girlhood and Womanhood in 2021 and the first Multidisciplinary Artist Salon in the summer of 2022.

Lee, who is an award-winning writer, visual artist, and the creator and producer of Vermont Public's Seeing...the Unseen and In-Between within Vermont's Landscape, will present a short film on the first night of the Salon titled *Time Is...*, a film that was inspired by her second

Black Metamorphosis, and attempts to address how race, gender, and colonialism impact the "forcibly shapeshifted body."

The first night of the Salon European art collectors. will also feature a musical performance by the kora player John these artifacts have been repa-Hughes and cellist Stephen Katz, who will play an avant-garde fusion of African and European stringed instruments in a style they describe as celebrating "both tradition and improvisation in a spellbinding nexus of bliss."

Hughes has studied the music, song, and dance of West Africa for over 25 years and has developed a style of kora playing that is both unique and deeply rooted in the ancient Mande tradition.

Katz, who holds a master's degree from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and has premiered his cello compositions at venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York City, has also originated his own instrumental style which he calls "Flying Pizzicato," which uses multiple voices on the cello to "make music that simultaneously lays grooves, weaves tunes, and lifts spirits.'

The evening also includes a presentation by the interdisciplinary artist Minne Atairu titled "The Metadata Memoir, which explores the histories of the Benin Bronzes through our scent memories can help us Generative AI and 3D printing.

tion of more than 4,000 sculptures that were looted from Nigeria by British colonial forces in 1897 and auctioned off to

To date, fewer than 100 of triated, and Atairu's work recombines historical fragments, sculptures, texts, images, and sounds to generate synthetic Benin Bronzes in a decentralized archive that promotes accountability, transparency, and poses the question of whether a historic wrong can be corrected.

Atairu is the recipient of the 2021 Lumen Prize for Art and Technology and has exhibited and performed at galleries and museums around the world.

The Salon continues the next afternoon with two interactive workshops on the grounds of Green River Bridge Inn. At noon, the perfumer, interdisciplinary artist, lecturer, and storyteller Dana El Masri will lead a 90-minute workshop titled "Olfactory Imprints: Scent for Self-Reflection," in which she will share six essential oils from several parts of the world and discuss their history and cultural significance.

El Masri's theory of "olfactory imprints" states that using re-identify ourselves through a

is inspired by her deeply rooted Egyptian-Lebanese cultures and global life experience, and she describes her ultimate goal as swapping "the Eurocentric lens of perfumery with a multi-faceted, multicultural, flourishing universe of narratives.

At 2 p.m., the Iranian-American poet and vocalist Haleh Liza Gafori will perform the work of the poet Rumi, whom she has translated into English from the original Persian in a collection titled Gold, published in 2022 by New York Review of Books

Gafori grew up hearing recitations of Persian poetry, and has maintained and deepened her connection through singing and translating the poetry of various Persian poets which, along with a her an Academy of American com. Poets Prize and the Goodman Grant for Poetry.

During the workshop, Rumi's poems will be used as prompts for discussion and for writing created by participants, exploring how his insights on love, ego-death, mortality, generosity, greed, and compassion dialogue with our lives and our times.

"This year's Salon is dedicated to this idea of creativity as a dialogue and conversation,

BRATTLEBORO—On full-length collection of poetry, The Benin bronzes are a collec- new lens, bringing us closer to said Mohr and Lee. "What are ourselves. Her unique perception we calling, or what is calling us? In our summoning, how do we respond?"

The Multidisciplinary Artist Salon is made possible by support from Vermont Humanities and the Town Arts Fund, which has allowed Epsilon Spires to offer tickets for Friday night on a donation basis. The suggested donation for each workshop on Saturday is \$25 per participant, with tickets available for as little as \$5 for those experiencing financial hardship at epsilonspires.org.

Space in the workshops is limited and advanced registration is encouraged. Please carpool when possible to the Green River Inn, and bring a bathing suit to enjoy swimming in the beautiful waterfall afterwards. Locally-sourced refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact selection of original work, earned Mohr at jamie.mohr78@gmail.

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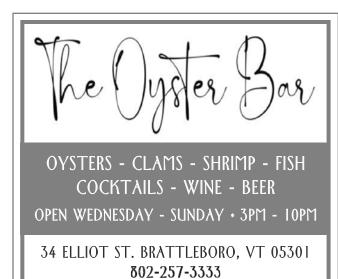
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# **Stockwell Brothers**

sensibility. We've always borrowed songs and musical ideas from other genres and tried to make them our own with acoustic instruments and three-part harmonies.

- **V.C.:** How do you come up with your repertoire?
- **B.S.:** I mostly bring in songs from contemporary folk singer/ songwriters. There are so many great songs out there — ones that I want to sing and that I feel should be heard and passed

We rework some traditional songs and tunes, too.

- **v.c.:** Who are some of those singer/songwriters?
- **B.S.:** One of my favorite singer/songwriters is Antje Duvekot. We do four or five of her songs and have performed our versions with her, which is great fun. But we cover material from lots of singer/songwriters the likes of Cheryl Wheeler, Dougie MacLean, Richard Thompson, and Mark Knopfler.
- **v.c.:** Who were some of your early music influences?
- **B.S.:** I was listening to country and folk singer/songwriters from the beginning – focusing on their singing and lyrics. Merle Haggard stood out from all the other country artists, and by the time I was in high school, I was listening to Gordon Lightfoot, Ionathan Edwards, and Iim Croce. Bruce and I listened to a lot of bluegrass — first-generation bluegrass players like Flatt and Scruggs, The Osborne Brothers, The Stanley Brothers, J.D. Crowe, The Country Gentlemen, Bill Monroe, and

Then, high school friends introduced Bruce and me to Led Zeppelin, The Allman Brothers Band, and Aerosmith, and we started playing that stuff. Pretty different, but we were open to exploring all of it.

- **v.c.:** Do you play any originals?
- **B.S.:** We currently do some of Bruce's original banjo tunes. He wrote an entire record of songs — our *Leave My Dreams Alone* CD — but that was during our more "electric" days, and we don't do those songs out anymore.
- **V.C.:** Which instrument did you start on when you were a student at Putney Central
- **B.S.:** My first instrument was the acoustic guitar. My dad played mandolin, guitar, and harmonica, and he got me started. I played bass with The Green Mountain Boys at first, but switched to guitar when I bought a better one than the Gibson that Doug was playing. I still play that 1971 Martin
- **v.c.:** I bet you listened to a lot of music in your nouse growing up since your dad played and sang, too.
- **B.S.:** Yeah, we listened to our mom's 78 rpm records and bought every bluegrass LP that we could find at a couple of area record stores and by mail order.

Bruce started with a Pete Seeger How to Play the 5-String Banjo book, but spent hours and hours slowing our 331/3 rpm LPs down to 16 rpm on the phonograph to pick out all those banjo notes one by one. I iust cranked up the volume and sang along, as loud and high as

- **v.c.:** What did music mean to your dad?
- B.S.: A lot. My dad Raymond's whole family was musical — he and his six siblings all played instruments. I remember my dad and his younger brother Earl playing at parties, and they actually recorded a 78 — just one copy of "The Wabash Cannonball." I don't know what was on the

B-side. The story goes that they added it to the Putney Diner jukebox, and people played it so much that it wore out and was discarded.

Before my time, but that song was Earl's trademark song for decades. I'd go to parties as a kid and hear them play that one four or five times. The Stockwell Brothers can do the "Wabash," but not like Ray and

- V.C.: Tell me about Alan's other business.
- **B.S.:** Alan is a recording engineer, as well as The Stockwell Brothers' mandolinist and sound man. He worked at Soundesign Recording Studio in downtown Brattleboro for years and now has his own recording studio, Black Mountain Audio. He does live sound for shows at Next Stage, too.

He is six years younger than me, and joined the fun after Bruce and me — first as a sound man for Spunk and then The Stockwell Brothers.

- V.C.: I'm intrigued about the long history of brother bands that The Stockwell Brothers fits into. Which brother bands were you listening to growing up?
- **B.S.:** There have been a lot of great ones. The "father of bluegrass" — Bill Monroe started out with his brothers, and there's a long list of brothers who played together their entire careers — the Osbornes, Stanleys, McReynolds, Allens. The Kruger Brothers is an amazing bluegrass trio originally from Switzerland who have been playing together since 1979. They will perform at Next Stage on July 7.

I think it's a natural thing – you grow up together and are exposed to so many of the same things, including music. And you're kind of wired the same way — everything from your voices to your temperament.

FROM SECTION FRONT

- **V.C:** There is a plethora of live music offerings this summer at Retreat Farm, Next Stage, Stone Church, etc. I heard you say, "It seems that we're back after Covid.'
- **B.S.:** It's amazing and wonderful that there is so much live music happening in our area. It does feel like we're back after three years. The summer outdoor concerts — Next Stage Bandwagon and Twilight on the Tavern Lawn — got us through it, and it seems like the crowds are back inside our theaters,
- v.c.: Lastly, how has growing up in Vermont informed you and your music?
- **B.S.:** Certainly, growing up in Vermont has shaped me and my music. I'm third-generation Putney, and I love this area a sweet spot with a small-town feel, with so much happening in

I grew up across the street from Windham College (now Landmark College), and got used to that mix early on. We weren't listening to a lot of radio, and we got only three TV channels, but we were picking up music from our friends (two banjo players and a mandolin player in the neighborhood) and family.

Pretty lucky, I think.

The Stockwell Brothers perform at Retreat Farm's weekly food truck roundup Thursday, June 29 at 5 p.m. at 45 Farmhouse Square. Thirsty Goat Bar, HAngry Traveler, Anon's Thai Cuisine, Mach's Mobile Pizza, Vermont Gelato, and Cousin's Lobster will be on site this week. Tickets are available online or at the door, "and free options are available, no questions asked," says Kristin M. Sullivan, executive director of Retreat Farm. For more information and to buy tickets, visit retreatfarm.org/roundup.

# 'Twelfth Night'

love for theater grew from when character vividly to life to tell she worked with Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown, through high school working with good mentors, and even through a stint in professional theater.

A graduate of Castleton University, Page is a math teacher at Brattleboro Union High School, where she has produced musicals and assisted with direction of the annual spring production.

Page says Twelfth Night is her favorite Shakespearean comedy, having acted in it twice and assistant-directed it. More a fan of the tragedies, she says, the language and characters of Twelfth Night are beautiful and compelling in an often borderline-tragic way. Moreover, she says, a bit tongue in cheek, "it's a poorly written comedy": its poignancy and depth often trump the humor.

Of her overarching production concept, Page explains, "instead of focusing on a specific time period, I've focused on the story and on how the actors and their personalities will bring each it." The costumes are as eclectic as the characters in this production, she says. Some actors are in "Elizabethan pirate shirts," another is in a French maid's outfit. Even so, she notes it all makes sense. "It's cohesive."

Played at Retreat Farm, Page intends to take advantage of the outdoor stage and lawn, augmenting it to become a three-quarter thrust configuration. "I want to utilize the beautiful lawn," Page says, and the elements that nature offers. The character Olivia's house is on stage, for instance, but her garden is outside those confines.

Seeing Shakespeare outside, Page offers, is a different experience. People can relax on a field with food, family, friends, and have a great time with the characters and their quirks.

"This is a queer-friendly show," Page says. Noting the instances of cross-dressing in the play, she adds: "We've been trying to be really respectful of the worst enemy at some point in the queer community so much so that story. They all have extremely

we've actually changed some pronouns in the show." Many cast members are part of that community, "and so we've been trying to be respectful making sure we take this show in a direction that is inclusive and comfortable for all."

The cast features Aubrev Clowndinst as Viola, Mariah Palmer as Countess Olivia, Isaiah LaPierre as Duke Orsino, and Phoebe Okoomian as Feste the Clown. The cast also includes Cameron Cobane, Geof Dolman, Ruben Ray Garza, Eden Gorst, Olivia McNeely, Michelle Page, Avellana Ross, and Elliot Vigue.

Kyle Girard will be acting and offering incidental music throughout the show, and Cobane is fight choreographer.

Cast member McNeely says of the production: "Although this play is centuries old [...], the characters are still absolutely recognizable. The play doesn't have a villain lurking in the background [...] but almost every character in Twelfth Night becomes their own

hate-able and extremely sympathetic moments; if I can personally get the audience to walk away feeling at least a little bad for Malvolia (despite how snobby and rude she is), I've succeeded."

FROM SECTION FRONT

LaPierre adds: "I'd say that: Twelfth Night — with its disguises, love triangles, and mischief — is one of my favorite Shakespeare plays because it's hilarious, queer, and seems to explore not only how we love one another, but why we do."

All performances begin at 6 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, June 30 through July 9. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and free for children 12 and under. Audiences should bring chairs or blankets and feel free to picnic on the grounds before and during the performance. The HAngry Traveler Food Truck, Vermont Gelato, and the Thirsty Goat Bar will be on site for those who wish to purchase food and drink. For more information, visit vermonttheatrecompany.org.



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#### RFPL hosts 'Downriver' art exhibit

BELLOWS FALLS—In visible in the show." late May, a group of 16 artists Participants cam gathered in Bellows Falls for a week of fellowship and painting. Some knew each other; some had never met before. It was billed as "The Fryer-Hunter Gathering," a colloquium hosted by friends Doug Fryer, a Utah painter and one-time Vermont resident, and local artist Charlie Hunter.

A show of selected works from that week, entitled "Downriver," is now on display at the Rockingham Free Public Library.

"Bellows Falls has fabulous subject matter for painters," Fryer said in a news release, "ranging from serene river views to gritty post-industrial landscapes. That range is clearly

Participants came from as nearby as Norwich to as far away as New Zealand. All stayed in town at local inns and AirB&Bs and took evening meals together. Darlene Doane of the soon-to-reopen Ciao Popolo hosted three of the four dinners, with the fourth taking place at Wunderbar after the screening of the painting-nerd whodunnit, Tim's Vermeer, at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Pieces in the show are for sale, with prices ranging from \$300 to \$750, and proceeds will be shared with Friends of the Rockingham Library, the Bellows Falls Historical Society, and Rockingham For Progress, the local organization of which Hunter is a member working

to restore and reopen the Miss Bellows Falls Diner.

"We asked folks to keep the prices as affordable as possible," says Hunter. "This colloquium was about digging deep as an artist, not about churning out salable work. Some great stuff got produced, and we want to make sure it can be shared with the whole community.'

The Rockingham Free Public Library is located at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. It is open Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is closed Sunday. The show is visible online at tinyurl.com/ Downriver2023.

#### Boston-based Tap Ensemble Subject:Matter comes to the Bandwagon Summer Stage

Stage Arts brings Bostonbased tap dance ensemble Subject: Matter to the Bandwagon Summer Stage, on Saturday, July 8 at 6 p.m. The performance will take place at the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA), 10 Town Crier Drive, in Brattleboro.

Tap dance is an American invention, and Subject:Matter are masters of the craft," Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, said in a news release. "The pairing of a jazz trio with

BRATTLEBORO—Next tap dance is an exciting way to present dance to our community. The audience loved them the last time they were here, and we are responding to the community asking us to bring them back."

Subject: Matter brings an assortment of music from their varied musical catalog, including jazz standards from their show Songbook, funk tunes from their show Blowout, and new music from their upcoming premieres

This performance is funded in

Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

Co-presented with NECCA and sponsored in part by Farnum Insulators, tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. Children under 12 admitted free. Next Stage will provide a cash bar. Advance tickets are available at nextstagearts.org. For more inpart by the New England States formation, call 802-387-0102.

#### Next Stage Arts, Weston Theater Company bring 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' to Putney

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts presents You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, a Weston Young Company production, at Putney Central School on Thursday, July 6, at 4:00 pm.

"The ability to invite community members to see a professional-level production from Weston in our community gets to the heart of community partnerships that Next Stage is striving for," Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, said in a news release about this free community presentation.

Based on the iconic comic strip, "Peanuts," by the late Charles M. Schulz, the book, lyrics, and music were written

by Clark Gesner, with additional dialogue by Michael Mayer, and additional music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa.

Directed by Frances Limoncelli, this is a Weston Young Company production performed outdoors at Putney Central School. Audience members should bring their own lowprofile seating.

The performance is free; however, ticket reservations are required.

With charm, wit, and heart, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown follows the life of America's most lovable loser," states the news release. "Along with Snoopy and other friends from the Peanuts

gang, Charlie Brown navigates the ups and downs of growing up, playing football, flying a kite, and being friends with just about the best dog there is.

Full of memorable songs and iconic moments from the 'Peanuts" comic strip, this charming show is sure to delight audiences of all ages, say organizers.

Putney Central School is located at 182 Westminster West Rd. To reserve a free ticket, which must be done in advance, go to westontheater.org. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit nextstagearts.org.



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# Aurora Robson transforms plastic into art at BMAC

### 'Human Nature Walk' is artist's first solo exhibition in New England

Aurora Robson, whose new sitespecific installation, "Human Nature Walk," is on view at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) through Feb. 11, 2024, creates art to bring about a circular economy and remove plastic debris from the waste stream.

For more than 20 years, Robson has been radically reframing the potential of plastic debris, creating otherworldly sculptures and installations — "transforming trash into beauty," as BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld puts it — and supporting other artists in their efforts to do the same.

"Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck of plastic is dumped into the ocean," states the Plastic Pollution page of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). "Approximately 7.7 billion of the 10 billion tons of plastic produced from 1950 to 2017 became plastic waste, ending up in landfills or dumped." And the situation has only worsened since then. "Plastic pollution alters habitats and natural processes, reduces ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, directly affects millions of people's livelihoods, food production capabilities, and social well-being.

UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen has said, "We will not recycle our way out of the plastic pollution crisis. We need a systemic transformation to achieve the transition to a circular economy" — that is, an economic system based on the reuse of materials and the reduction of waste."

"My practice is a form of serious play driven by the widespread perception that plastic is disposable when it is precisely the opposite," Robson said in a news

is an environmentally destructive material, it has vast potential in art applications. I turn plastic into art, taking it out of the waste stream and turning its longevity into an asset.

Robson's BMAC installation her first solo exhibition in New England — represents a compendium of the artist's innovative approaches to repurposing plastic: bending, welding, sewing, injection-molding, and more. Curator Katherine Gass Stowe

said, "'Human Nature Walk' reframes our relationship to plastic by inviting us to slow down and move mindfully through the meticulously organized colors, many varieties of shapes, and enveloping forms of Robson's creations. Her dedication to solution-oriented applications for plastic debris magnificently demonstrates the power of human imagination for transformative change.'

Robson and BMAC invite the public to take part in that change by contributing their own plastic bottle caps to the installation.

"We are asking visitors to gather up their plastic caps, clean them according to instructions available on our website, and bring them to the museum," said BMAC Gallery Manager Rhiannon Greywolf. "We will give them a final rinse, and we will make the cleaned caps available for visitors to add to specially designated sections of the installation — much like tossing pennies into a wishing well."

On Saturday, Aug. 19, BMAC will present Robson with its firstever Award for Service to Art & Humanity, in recognition of the artist's efforts to increase awareness and develop creative solutions to the pernicious problem of plastic pollution. The award presentation will take place during

BRATTLEBORO—Artist release. "Although plastic debris BMAC's annual gala, an event that raises vital funds for BMAC's contemporary art exhibitions, always-free admission, transformative education initiatives, and dynamic public events.

Other events and activities planned in connection with the exhibit include a river walk and found-object cyanotype workshop with artist Madge Evers (Saturday, July 15); art-making activities at Brattleboro's Riverfest (Sunday, July 30) and Southern Vermont Natural History Museum's Wildlife Festival (Sunday, Sept. 24); a source-to-sea river cleanup and found-object sculpture workshop with Retreat Farm, Connecticut River Conservancy, and River Gallery School (Saturdays, Sept. 23 and 30); an artist talk (Saturday, Oct. 28); and more. Details are available at

brattleboromuseum.org. Born in Toronto and raised in Maui, Hawaii, Robson lived, studied, and worked in New York City for two decades before she and her family moved to the Hudson Valley, where she currently lives and works.

Robson's sculptures have been exhibited and collected internationally and she has been the recipient of grants and fellowships from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Robson founded and continues to lead Project Vortex, an international collective of artists, designers, and architects who educate about plastic pollution and reduce the flow of plastic debris through their creative work.

"Human Nature Walk" is generously supported by the Wolf Kahn Foundation, subLyme payments, and private donors.

#### Harmony Collective plans open house for its new artists

BRATTLEBORO—On observation and a passion, an es-Friday, June 30, from 5 to 8 p.m., the Harmony Collective Artist Gallery, 49 Elliot St., will host a new artist reception for five artists who have recently joined the collective: Rachel Eleanor Brown, Sarah Gerould, Sandy Klein, Julia Sorensen and Monty Zwickerhill. The public is welcome.

Brown is a painter, tattooist, and writer. After studying at Parsons School of Design in NYC, she pursued her apprenticeship in tattooing, which led to opening Strange Brew in 2011. Alongside tattooing, she has spent the last decade concentrating in watercolor illustrations that pull inspiration from traditional tattoo elements as well as oil portraiture of musical and historical

Gerould's paintings are a window on our world, organizers say: "serious, humorous, grocape, and a commitment. The landscapes and creatures take her back to places she's been, and affirm her commitment to the natural world. Throughout her life, Sarah has sought mixes of art and the natural world." She explores painting, marbling, printmaking, and collage.

Klein is an artist, early childhood educator, and costumier. Her current work, Redoodle Dolls, is a joyous culmination of those experiences. Sandy says, 'character building is the joy of this work. Each doll tells me who they are as I create them." She works in repurposed materials and says each doll has a story of how they were created.

Sorensen's focus is abstract contemporary art, although she says she enjoys plein air painting and capturing the ethereal feeling of nature. Her work is mostly tesque, and serene. They are an oil or acrylic on canvas, with

the occasional encaustic piece. Texture and layering are typical features in her work, which can appear sculptural. She believes that art has the ability to capture intrinsic elements of life and all that is fleeting as well as an ability to both express and evoke

Zwickerhill says she is passionate about exploring artistic expression in whatever medium she can lay her hands on. Currently she works primarily with watercolor, gouache, and acrylic pens on wood and paper. In her anatomical works she uses a base of watercolor, layered with gouache, and adds details and embellishments with acrylic paint pens, on wood or paper. In her Gender Envies pieces, she works with acrylic paint pens on wood or paper.

For more information, call 802-490-3676 or visit harmonyartsbrattleboro.com.

#### Nancy Powers Libby is featured artist for July at Crowell Gallery

NEWFANE—During July, the her intuitive work to life. Crowell Gallery at Moore Free Library, 23 West St., presents "Many Layers of Expression," recent work by artist Nancy Powers Libby. An artist reception will be held on Saturday, July 8, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Libby is an abstract expressionist artist who uses multiple layers of paint (acrylic, oil, watercolor), cold wax, collage, and various pencils to translate how she sees and feels the world around her. The combination of colorful and energetic marks brings

The paintings she is presenting at the Crowell Gallery range in size from 6 inches by 6 inches to 43 inches by 25 inches on either cradled panels or paper.

Libby has been painting on and off for more than 30 years. While continuing to work part time for a software development company, making art in her home studio has been her primary focus over the last several years. Nancy is an enormous fan of outdoor adventure and spends much of her spare time hiking in the woods near her home in Brookline.

"The woods are where I gain my focus, figure things out, make plans, and recharge," she said.

Libby has been studying on-line with Louise Fletcher (in Yorkshire, England) since 2018 and credits her for helping her find her artistic voice and confidence in getting her art out in the world for everyone to see.

Crowell Gallery hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1 to 5 p.m., Thursdays 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.

#### Kruger Brothers perform at Next Stage

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts bluegrass style popularized by and Scruggs, Bill Monroe, and Project and Twilight Music present contemporary bluegrass, Americana, and folk trio the Kruger Brothers at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill on Friday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Jens Kruger (banjo and vocals), Uwe Kruger (guitar and lead vocals), and Joel Landsberg (bass and vocals) personify the spirit of exploration and innovation that forms the core of the American musical tradition," say organizers

Although initially staying fairly close to a traditional repertoire, the Kruger Brothers later turned to songwriting and composition in order to draw more closely from their personal experiences.

Kruger's style of banjo playing is based on the three-finger cordings of Doc Watson, Flatt

Earl Scruggs. His playing is differentiated by long melodic passages and a more complex compositional foundation, often building on jazz or classical themes and techniques.

Kruger is an inductee to the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame and is the fourth recipient of the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass (selected by a committee that included fellow banjo players Martin, Pete Wernick, Béla Fleck, Alison Brown, J.D. Crowe, and Tony Trischka).

Originally from Switzerland, brothers Uwe and Jens began playing North American folk music at an early age and say they were particularly inspired by re-

other progenitors of country, bluegrass, and folk music. Their first public performances were as a duo, busking on the streets of cities throughout Europe. After gaining a recording con-

tract as well as a radio show on SRG SSR, the Swiss public broadcaster, they teamed up with bass player Joel Landsberg, inaugurating a trio that has been playing together professionally since 1995.

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

SECTION C

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 page C1

#### **ESSAY**

# The Titan tragedy and our shared humanity

How many of us respond to the sensational crisis of the day or donate to those who experience a tragedy while simultaneously ignoring the slow, erosive suffering all around us?

Marlboro

WAS LATE to news of the submersible. And even later to write about it. Words felt too painful, like a trespass on tragedy. But to ignore the words written by others, especially those who mocked the lives needing oxygen, seemed an even greater disregard of our shared humanity.

My own grief, however, isn't without question.

What of the small boats filled with families, all those tilting, sinking vessels left floundering off coastlines, denied entry by laws and leaders and the conflict between citizens?

Just before the submarine, it was a boat of migrants off Greece. Seven hundred people. Unbearable.

I think of the boats that this nation turns away. I remember

#### KELLY SALASIN,

a longtime prolific blogger, is currently in the throes of writing a memoir. She originally posted this piece, a work in progress, on Facebook.

learning about a passenger ship filled with Jewish refugees that escaped Germany only to be forced to return to Europe because they did not have visas or security clearings.

More than 250 of those passengers went on to die in the Holocaust.

SOME SPEAK to the astronomical cost of the rescue attempts for the submersible or suggest that those who take unprecedented

■ SEE SHARED HUMANITY, C2



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

An image of the fishing boat involved in the 2023 Peloponnese migrant boat disaster, taken by the Greek coastguard hours before the capsizing.

#### ESSAY

# A 3D computer model image of the Titan submersible, which imploded on June 18 en route to the remains of the Titanic, killing

Safe from caring?

All too often, I see people being cruel just for the sake of being cruel. Why is it now safe for people to behave this way?

HAVE BEEN paying very little attention to the story of the five rich people who went down to view the Titanic wreck on the ultra deep submersible. I was pretty sure that they were already dead. At that depth any tiny thing goes wrong and it is pretty quick — like nanoseconds — and it is over. The pressure at that depth is immense.

I did, however, see the reactions of a lot of people.

Some people tried for humor and rarely succeeded, some people tried to be supportive of those families affected by the tragedy, some people offered prayers and the like, and some people just flat out denigrated the people

#### **KEVIN G. FARRELL** describes himself as "an IT guy with

a lot of, mostly, informed opinions about pretty much anything."

involved, and others just getting in the face, so to speak, of anyone making fun of this.

Then came the news of what I suspected: those aboard were dead and probably had been since the moment that communication was lost — an outcome that was not unexpected by

me and, I suspect, a lot of others. And the reactions kicked up.

The ones that I found most

SEE SAFE FROM CARING?, C2

#### VIEWPOINT

PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY MADEL GARRIS WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# The need continues

This past heating season, the Windham County Heat Fund provided \$62,576 worth of fuel to 109 people and families — often for neighbors experiencing financial catastrophe

five passengers.

HE WINDHAM COUNTY HEAT FUND, an IRS-recognized tax-deductible non-profit, was started in 2005 by me and Daryl Pillsbury. We never intended to create a fund that would keep going for so long but the need never decreases. So we raise money every year and rely on a generous community to do the heavy lifting for us. They always come through, and Daryl and I — and the people we help — are grateful for the support. This past heating season, the fund provided

This past heating season, the fund provided fuel to 109 people and families, and we spent \$62,576 for oil, propane, kerosene, wood pellets, wood, and electricity.

To do so, 81 individuals and a number of local businesses and churches donated \$55,542. Daryl and I continue to work for the fund without compensation, and we have almost no administrative expenses. The money we raise goes directly to energy companies to buy fuel for

RICHARD DAVIS is a former Reformer columnist and a retired nurse and health-care policy advocate.

those in need.

We try to vet applications and rely on local human service agencies as well as the front-line people at local fuel dealers to help us make sure we are helping the people who need it the most.

THE AMAZING STORY of our fundraising is that we put very little effort into raising money.

Over the years, most of our donors send us a check on a regular basis — which seems miraculous, because we don't have a website, we don't have a mailing list, and we don't make public pleas, except for a yearly commentary in local publications. It is a testament to the generosity and uniqueness of our community.

We thank the Brattleboro VFW, Sunrise Rotary, Clear Solutions, the Brattleboro Elks, Mary Meyer Corporation, Guilford Community Church, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, the First United Church, and Dave Snyder and Sara Coffey. The Willard Trust has been a faithful yearly supporter, and we are thankful for that.

Daryl and I often consider ending the work of the heat fund, but then we hear from someone whom we helped, and we know that the need never goes away.

The gap between the haves and the have-nots is greater than it has ever been, and there is no indication that we will be living in a society of economic equality anytime soon.

WE CAN STEP BACK and try to look at the big picture but, in the end, we are changing the world

with small efforts that make a big difference.
Sadly, we often hear from people who may have recently been diagnosed with cancer or

who have had a brush with death because of an accident.

In our society, people who have those experiences generally lose their job and their health insurance almost instantly, and their life ends up in the toilet.

No one can plan for these kinds of catastrophes, but when they happen people have to scramble to find local resources. When they contact us, or when a caseworker calls us, we respond with minimal paperwork and give people the fuel they no longer can afford.

We also hear from people who have to work two or three jobs just to pay the rent and keep the family going. Heating fuel tends to drop down on the priority list, and a family can end up trying to stretch each gallon and live at 55 degrees. It is not a comfortable or safe thing to do, and when we find out about these people we fill their tanks.

■ SEE **HEAT FUND**, C2



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#### VIEWPOINT

# We should all be 'eligible' for health care

The pandemic reminded us that our individual well-being is tied to the health and well-being of everyone else. As pandemic programs subside, Medicaid unwinding is removing millions from access to medical care.

Putney 7-year-old boy, in remission from leukemia and living in ⊾Florida, was unable to access potentially life-saving treatments because his insurance coverage was suddenly cut off. This is the face of the government's cruel cancellation of Medicaid coverage for millions of Americans.

What's behind this nightmare?

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that it was actually possible to expand health care services and coverage to more individuals; all 50 states agreed to maintain Medicaid coverage for their beneficiaries in exchange for enhanced federal funds.

But now we're witnessing a bipartisan effort to take those gains back.

Starting in February, states have been combing through

JANE KATZ FIELD, M.D. is a retired local pediatrician. She is vice president of the Vermont Chapter of the Physicians for a National Health Program.

their Medicaid rolls to decide whose coverage continues and whose is dropped. This 14-month process to "redetermine the eligibility" of 93 million Americans is being called

"Medicaid unwinding."
According to the U.S. Health & Human Services Dept, about 15 million people, 5.3 million of whom are children, could be declared ineligible, the biggest change to the U.S. health care system since the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

An estimated 45% of the people (6.8 million) who stand to lose Medicaid will be disenrolled solely for avoidable procedural reasons, even though they are otherwise eligible. Oklahoma has disqualified 70% of its Medicaid recipients for such reasons.

Disenrollment has been triggered by the state's failure to send out a notice or mailing it to an out-of-date address, by the renewal notice being confusing or not written in a language people can understand, by the state losing the paperwork, or by the enrollee having difficulty providing documents.

Are these really justifiable reasons for Americans to lose their health insurance?

AND WHAT ABOUT our children? More than half of all children in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program). Almost three quarters of the children who will be disenrolled (3.8 million) will be dropped despite remaining eligible.

And this pain will not be spread out equally: 64% of Latinx children and 40% of Black children will lose Medicaid for procedural reasons, as opposed to 17% of non-Latinx white children.

Are there other options for these kids? In too many states (like those that have failed to expand Medicaid under the ACA), there are no affordable options. Private health insurance comes with unreasonably expensive premiums, copays, and deductibles, which force many into medical debt or even bankruptcy.

The Kaiser Family Foundation found that more than four in 10 people with Medicaid as their only source of health insurance "say they wouldn't know where to look for other coverage" if they were removed from the program. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the states' Medicaid eligibility "redeterminations" will likely leave 6.2 million people without any insurance at all.

In Vermont, the state estimates that about 38,000 people (30,000 adults and 8,000 children), could lose their Medicaid coverage. During the month of May, more than 5,800 Vermonters were disenrolled from Medicaid.

WHEN UNTREATED chronic illnesses spiral out of control, the sick will flood our emergency rooms. Many with no insurance, or who are underinsured, will be unable to afford prescriptions or preventive care or they will simply not be able to seek care and, as a result, will develop more medically complex diseases.

And those who do seek care risk falling into debt,

leading to possible evictions and homelessness.

Let's look at the notion of "eligibility." Almost everyone would agree that certain services are fundamental - services such as libraries, parks, roads, and fire departments. Most other high-income countries consider health care to be fundamental as well.

Public investment in health care (as currently proposed in Congress) extends far beyond the benefits to individual children and families; its social impact touches all our lives, and we all benefit.

THE PANDEMIC reminded us that our individual well-being is tied to the health and well-being of everyone else. So the bottom

**■** Heat Fund

The heat fund mostly helps

people once a year, and we try

to ask people not to rely on us

ation on a case-by-case basis,

and we do not have strict rules.

Life is complicated, and so are

We were able to head into

last heating season with a small

surplus, and that meant we

could help people before fuel

our decisions.

every year. We look at each situ-

line is that we should all be "eligible" for health care, based simply on our humanity.

With a universal, publicly financed health care system, we wouldn't have to submit documents explaining our income, household size, disability, family, or immigration status - nor would we have to pay sky-high deductibles in order to get the health care we need.

We can and must avoid a future tragedy like the "Medicaid unwinding" policy. Medicare for All would achieve this, and there are bills in the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 3421) and the U.S. Senate (\$1655) designed to create such a system.

Let's work to have these enacted!

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# Shared humanity

interesting were those that said that, basically: These rich people got themselves into this. Why are my taxes paying for the search and rescue? We have many other needs for this money, and they can afford to look themselves, can't Some of these posts played

off Facebook's offering to those affected by disasters of any sort to create an instant update that marked themselves safe. Here, I saw people sharing a fake Facebook graphic that purportedly tagged them as "safe from caring about this." This I found interesting as well.

ALL THESE reactions got me to thinking about how we all deal with the very public way that things like this play out in our

I remember, for example, when Ronald Reagan was president and was shot in an assassination attempt. He was not my fave president, by far; I found most everything that he did reprehensible. Yet, when the news flashed over the networks that he had been shot, I had a sick-to-my-stomach reaction and was appalled that anyone would want to do that to another person.

And I remember when the Challenger blew up, 73 seconds into takeoff. I was at work, and the word went around very quickly. I was in disbelief. And gradually I came to know it was true, and I experienced the same sick feeling and sorrow for the people on board the shuttle. These incidents took place

before social media. Now,

reactions have become much more diverse — and, in many cases, meaner.

What is it about social media that lets some people just be cruel to others?

I am not talking about disagreeing with someone's post and saying so and why. I am talking about just being mean for the sake of being mean, of denigrating the people involved just because they are different. Why is it now safe to do this?

Maybe because there is a certain distance involved so that no one can really call you out on it. And maybe because social media, by its very nature, clumps like-minded people together so that mean people can get reinforcement from one another

All too often, I see people being cruel just for the sake of being cruel. I am really grateful that I have not allowed myself to behave that way for a long

FROM SECTION FRONT

FROM SECTION FRONT

assistance programs start in late

November. That surplus is still

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out to the Windham County

Heat Fund, c/o Richard Davis,

63 Cedar St., Brattleboro, VT

05301, or donate directly to our

account at Brattleboro Savings

We accept donations anytime.

available for next fall.

and Loan.

time. I really believe that indulging in this behavior makes them less of a person and more of an animal. Let us be kind to one another.

Let us recognize the humanity in one another — even when we disagree with or dislike the life that someone else is living. (Although, I note: Neither of those things are your business.)

We are all human. And while I will continue to call out those that I see spreading harmful and hateful beliefs, I will strive to recognize that they are just as human as I.

For, as Ben Franklin said, "We must all hang together, or we shall most assuredly all hang separately." And with the state of our world today, that sentiment is more true now that it has ever been.

We must as a society be truthful and kind. That is the only way to save us all from our own destruction.

So I believe.

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thy incarcerated neighbor

thy disabled neighbor

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# risks have to accept their fate.

■ Safe from caring?

FROM SECTION FRONT

I think of all those who take risks, risks that I would never consider, or even those I do take, like the "necessary" drive in the middle of a snowstorm. I think of those who serve as

rescuers, those who save strangers no matter the cost, sometimes paying with their lives.

But what of the rescues absent such clear stakes? How many of us respond to

the sensational crisis of the day or donate to those who experience a tragedy while simultaneously ignoring the slow, erosive suffering all around us, the suffering in our own communities and sometimes in our own Is grief a sign of vir-

tue or simply self-indulgent

sentimentality? What if grief is absent of the complex understanding necessary to support all those needing rescue? What of those who refuse to act to on behalf of the planet upon which we depend for oxygen?

Maybe the uber-wealthy, risk-taking tourists don't deserve an outsized share of multinational action and media attention. But isn't the ache we feel for them a sign of our shared humanity?

Is it the novelty of their plight which captures our attention? I think of school shootings. I think of how many stuffed animals were sent to Sandy Hook. I think of how routine these shootings have become.

Maybe if more of us could afford to travel to the sunk Titanic, we'd think less of those lost doing so.

Maybe it's easier, especially for those of us in positions of power and privilege, to imagine ourselves like the few tourists at the bottom of the sea, rather than the 700 human beings fleeing a war-torn nation in search of peace for their families.

THOSE WHO MOCK the tourists' plight do so in the face of glaring inequity. They recognize that the tragedies experienced by refugees stem from the exploitation of their lives and

I imagine what is also true is that those who mock the tragedy of the Titan are like the rest of us, afraid. Afraid of our shared humanity.

At times so brave. At times so vulnerable. At all times, no matter how wealthy, reliant on the precious gift of oxygen.

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#### AROUND THE TOWNS

#### All Souls hosts creative writing workshop

WEST BRATTLEBORO - All Souls Church, 29 South St., will host two sessions of an Ekphrastic Writing workshop with artist/instructor/writer Trish Murtha on Thursday, June 29.

Ekphrastic is the Greek term for creative, descriptive writing triggered by a particular work of art — visual, musical, or other. Many museums and art centers now encourage writers to delve into a piece of art, or several, as a prompt for creative written expression.

Writers, poets, artists, and anyone who wants to explore word imagery are invited to create ekphrastic writing inspired by Karen Becker's art, now on exhibit at the West Village Meeting House. "Becker's artwork is so evocative as to be a perfect jumping off place for anyone to inspire a poem, Haiku, story, or a song," organizers say.

The sessions are offered from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., or 5:30 to 7:30 pm, and attendance is limited. All experience levels are welcome. Simple supplies and snacks are provided, but participants may bring their own. The cost is \$22 per person (some funding available if needed). To reserve a space or ask questions, email TrishJourneys@gmail.com.

#### **'Faces of Dummerston:** A Work in Progress' seeks ID help

DUMMERSTON — The **Dummerston Historical** Society's newest exhibit, "Faces of Dummerston: A Work in Progress," is currently on display at the Society's schoolhouse in Dummerston Center, featuring over 150 photographs of town residents.

Some images are ancient; more were taken within living memory. Teachers, farmers, firefighters,

bankers, truckers, writers, engineers — here they all are: some posed, many captured at public events such as the Apple Pie

The project is a work in progress. Some photos are yet to be identified. Visitors are invited to add names and catch errors. And when the pictures come off the walls, they will be preserved in albums to which new faces will be added over time. Also on display is Charles Fish's collection of cameras and other gear representing photographic practices of past and present.

The exhibit will be open every Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m., until Aug. 6, and other times by appointment. The public is invited, admission is free, and the Schoolhouse is handicapped accessible. For information, email Gail Sorenson at gailsvt@gmail.com or call 802-254-9311.

#### **SEVCA Family Support** Services available soon at Wilmington's **Old Firehouse**

WILMINGTON Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will soon offer benefits application assistance in Wilmington at the Old Firehouse Municipal Offices at 18 Beaver St.

SEVCA Family Services specialists will be at the Wilmington site on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 4 p.m., starting on July 11. They will assist families and individuals experiencing life-changing emergencies through crisis resolution programs and strategies that provide financial assistance, case management, service linkage, and

Assistance with 3SquaresVT applications, access to Farmto-Family coupons, utilities assistance programs, housing supports, and budgeting and

### Entries sought for Fourth of July pie baking contest

SAXTONS RIVER—In conjuction with the Saxtons River Fourth of July celebration, a pie baking contest will be held — actually two contests: one for savory pies, one for sweet.

Bakers are invited to submit their creations for judging by the International Union of Pie Judges, Saxtons River, Vermont (a self-appointed cohort of pie connoisseurs). All pies are welcome; they require only a crust and a filling. Entrants can surprise judges with their traditional summer standards as well as unexpected interpretations of the pie.

Judges will sample each entry and give scores for overall presentation, flavor, quality of the crust, quality of the filling, and creativity.

Pies are to be delivered to the Saxtons River Inn, 27 Main St., between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, July 4, or by special arrangement the evening of July 3. Parking on Main Street will be prohibited, so piemakers should

plan to walk a block or so.

After dropping off their pie, participants should plan to enjoy the full July Fourth experience in Saxtons River: the 5K race, parade, music, and street fair. You can learn more about Saxtons River Fourth of July events at Facebook.com/SRFOURTH.

The winner of the pie contest will be announced from the bandstand around 10:30 a.m., and awarded a basket of baking goodies, including an apron matching the 2023 Saxtons River Fourth of July T-shirts. The pie contest is sponsored by the Saxtons River Village Market.

Slices and whole pies will be sold after the judging is complete on the porch at the Saxtons River Inn. Proceeds will benefit the 2024 Saxtons River Fourth of July celebration.

Questions about the pie contest can be directed to: Anne Manner-McLarty at saxtsonsriver.us@ gmail.com.

### Rich Earth Jubilee celebrates local food cycles

BRATTLEBORO—The Rich and Brightwater Tools. Earth Institute will be holding a Rich Earth Jubilee, a family-friendly event on Saturday, July 1, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the Brattleboro Common, to celebrate local food and the cycles that sustain our lives. The rain location is the Vermont Jazz Center at the Cotton Mill.

It will feature art-making, music, free food, and exhibits from groups in the local food system, from growers to eaters to composters and peecyclers.

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center will host a printmaking station featuring harvests from local farms, including SUSU commUNITY Farm, Wild Carrot Farm, and West River Seeds. Attendees will also be invited to contribute to a collective collage of the food cycle.

Free snacks will be provided by Superfresh Organic Cafe, mango lassis from Dosa Kitchen, True North Granola, and popcorn from the Rich Earth Demonstration Garden. Attendees can cycle their way to a fresh smoothie with the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project's bicycle smoothie station.

Tabling activities will engage attendees with local nutrient-cycling opportunities from the Foodworks Cooperative, Edible Brattleboro, Ben Goldberg's VermiComposting, the Multicultural Community Center featuring new Vermonter Food Cultures, Grateful Greens,

Rich Earth operates the nation's first and largest community-scale urine nutrient recycling program. At their "Pee the Change" table, attendees can learn about participating in this program to keep nutrients out of our waterways, support farms with an abundance of local fertilizer, and complete the food nutrient cycle.

Rich Earth is now also offering installations of peecycling systems — including waterless urinals, urine-diverting toilets, and storage barrels — for local homes and businesses.

From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the gazebo stage, there will be presentations, music, and award announcements. There will be spotlights from participating organizations, an introduction to Rich Earth Institute's current research projects, and a presentation by Rich Earth cofounder/Brightwater Tools CEO Kim Nace on peecycling efforts throughout Europe.

There will also be a musical performance by local farmer Jay Bailey and the awarding of the 2022 Piss-Off winners to Rich Earth's most prolific urine donors. From 4:30 to 6 p.m, live music will be provided by local musicians (and peecycling supporters) Aura Shards.



#### Putney Library kicks off summer reading program with 'All About Bats' financial counseling will also be offered. More information is available at sevca.org, facebook. com/SEVCAorg, or by calling

July 5, at 4 p.m., the Putney Public Library kicks off the youth Summer Reading Program with a presentation, "All About Bats!" with bat enthusiast Jerry Schneider.

What is it echolocation? Why do bats echolocate? Why can't people hear them? Participants will create bat T-shirts using a combination of fabric dye sprays and cut outs. Participants may purchase blank T-shirts for \$5 or bring their own.

Kids can participate in Putney Library's Summer Reading Program all summer long, no sign-up is necessary. This year's theme is "All Together Now!" Kids and their families will learn about cooperation, teamwork, friendship, and community.

On Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m., starting July 5, sumsenters, and activities, such as a magic show with former FAO Schwarz resident magician Tom Joyce. Additional programming will include a show with Circus Minimus, community games, and a potluck night. Kids will also experiment with cooperative games inspired by ants, test out magnetism, weave friendship bracelets, and more.

Each week, readers can enter to win prizes for logging their reading and participating in activities. The library will wrap up Summer Reading with an ice cream party, storytelling, and free book giveaway on Wednesday, Aug. 2.

For toddlers and preschoolers, the library is offering Sing & Dance with Robin. This class is an enriching musical experience for toddlers and preschoolers, designed to support healthy mer activities and programs cognitive, physical, and social

PUTNEY—On Wednesday, include special story times, pre-development. Children will sing, clap, stomp, dance, and play. Parents are encouraged to participate with their child.

Created and taught by Robin Morgan, sessions outside behind the library under the big tent start at 9 a.m. on Saturdays (July 1, 8, and 15) and Wednesdays (July 19 and 26, and Aug. 2, 16, and 23).

The full schedule is available at Putneylibrary.org and at the library. All programs are free and open to all kids and their adults. Programs will be held outdoors at the library, weather permitting. The Putney Public Library's Summer Reading Program is generously supported by the Vermont Department of Libraries, the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), and the Vermont Community Foundation.

100 101 102

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104. Fishhook attachments

109. Cornerback Sanders

Oxford, for short

112. Silk Sonic's genre

102. Used to be

111. Cambridge or

113. Texas mission

114. Banking subj.

115. Muslim branch

120. Intel gatherer

122. Slimy stuff

123. Med. service

126. Use a skillet

127. High ball?

128. Urgent call

124. Asian occasion

125. "Despicable Me"

supervillain

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sert. A vegetarian protein dish will also be available. Reservations

are strongly suggested and can

be made by calling the Grange at 802-254-1138. Leave name,

phone number, the number of

meals, and whether eating in or

taking out. A donation of \$3 for

those 60 and older and \$4 for the

younger folks is suggested.

in Dummerston

- 1. Most wobbly
- Kathmandu tongue "Ghosts" playwright
- 20. Fall back on, as plan B Catherine of
- (Henry VIII's first) Drawing game?
- Threats to Jaws?
- 25. Bank offerings
- Fire on all cylinders Schedule abbr.
- 28. Nintendo's Super 30. Petting zoo sound
- Colorful coats for Bernie Sanders?
- Yellowfin tuna Wordless state
- 41. Make a claim against Jams
- Chi-town hrs.
- Give away 33-Down's homes
- Orvis rival Manage, somehow
- Drink with a kick

103

5. Tick off

6. Many video game

manufacturer

8. Law school class

22. Grand Slams

Period named

11. Gentle touch

16. Binger's box

19. Prying

12.

Winner of a record

after an athlete

"Are we still \_\_?"

14. Entomologist's study

15. Under the weather

17. What a "Happy Feet"

24. Gradually withdraw

34. Flinch or blink, e.g.

35. Ryder Cup side: Abbr.

36. Ryder Cup side: Abbr.

43. With the most 'tude

"Orange Is the New

Black" creator Kohan

47. It may be pulled at a pub

movie does?

18. Sicilian volcano

29. Husqvarna rival

31. Plant pouch 32. Q neighbor 33. See 47-Across

Doone

villains, for short

116

130

71. Quick drink

88. Rent

73. Le Creuset purchases

75. Some Linux machines

80. Fuzzy carpet type

84. Hang, as curtains

85. Mathematician who

\_\_ of Sandwich

93. Gather up the grain

95. Programming gate

96. Apple Maps feature

99. Contactless payment

100. Front-four footballer

Last issue's solution

98. Yale student

101. Kind of deal

"Debugging"

S T U F F Y

type: Abbr.

solved the Bridges of

Königsberg problem

114 115

129

- Practical judgment "Search me," in texts
- Colorful parts of some Boeing 757s?
- 64. Atlanta sch. Marcus
- CBS news anchor O'Donnell
- Picked up
- 69. Wedding attire 70. Fake news items
- 72. Serving of bacon
- 74. More corny 76. Strong feeling
- 79. Voices in the choir
- 81. "Just watch me do it!" 82. Bruins, on scoreboards
- 83. Feral big black cats? 86. MBTA stop: Abbr.
- \_ Vanya' 90. Long-snouted fish
- 91. Rebekah's son
- in the Bible 92. Other name for
- an abalone 94. Like some stray dogs
- 97. Hidden valley 100. Close to the ground
- 103. Candlepin coups
- Jump off the page, say 106. Will Ferrell's Buddy, e.g.
- Drink that comes in imperial and
- session varities 108. Big storms for
- Bermudans? 114. Lo opuesto al oeste
- 116. Pencil lead?
- 117. Navarro of "The View" 118. Author Deighton
- 119. Pandemonium Fires caused by a
- bolt from the sky? 129. Lubricate
- 130. Appeared ominously 131. Paul McCrane's "ER" role
- 132. Real bad
- 133. Pompous
- 134. Invest in the government, say

#### **Down** 1. Some college

- visitors: Abbr.
- Some sarcastic laughs Together, team-wise
- Savory Indian dish made with yogurt
- 48. Spotify selection 50. Atomic bit 52. Experts 54. Big heads?
  - 56. Evil demon 57. Close compatriots

38. Sushi fish

46. Cap'n's mate

- Where regents rule? 59. Collector of tips
- 60. Give, as a grant 61. "Fish killer" of
- "Finding Nemo" Singer Houston
- 63. Part of a landing
- 66. Fannie
- 69. Its clients wear robes
- K E A T O N B A S E P A Y O T H E R S
- O H S U R E R U B Y R E D W E D D E A D O R A L I V E S T A G E E G O V E I N

ERICSKINS ALCOVES A S H C A P N A T I O N A L H E M S B E A U T Y P A G E S T R I V E N B R U N O O S I E R T S A R L O U R E S C U E D O G E M M E T A S I A G O C H I L E ART O M A N I R E A I R S

G E T S O R E

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R O B Y N A P A S T A L P H A T E S T E N S T I T O S O N I A L A V E R S A M O S A S A N D R E T H E G I T R E N C H R E M A R K S K A
D O R I T O S P L U S H O R A L S H I N O S U S A M B A W O N D E S T R U C T I O N N I C A E A A R A L S E A S O C K E T

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#### **COLUMN** | Sports Roundup

# Claussen steps down as Rebels softball coach

fter 34 years here in Windham County, I've gotten to know many people at our local schools. I'm now writing about the children of the players and coaches I've associated with in

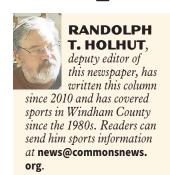
One marker of those passing years has been Tammy Brassard Claussen, who recently announced she was stepping down from her post as varsity softball coach at Leland & Gray Union High School.

I met Tammy Brassard in the fall of 1990, a young woman from Brookfield who was fresh out of Springfield College in her first job as physical education teacher at LGUHS. She soon became the school's athletic director and softball coach, got married to Al Claussen, and juggled raising four sons with her work at the school.

I watched her sons grow from rambunctious toddlers running around the gym or soccer sidelines to young men who all played spring sports at LGUHS. And I watched Tammy work wonders with her second family — all the young women who played softball over her three decades of coaching the junior varsity and varsity teams.

In 23 years of leading the varsity team, she compiled a 222-174 record with three appearances in the Division III finals in 2013, 2015, and 2017. The Rebels reached the semifinals in Division III in 2010 and 2011, and made the semis in their first season in Division IV this year. While her teams were unable to win a title, they usually were contenders inmost

But more important than wins and losses was the influence she had on her players. As she told the Brattleboro Reformer last week, "I hope I instilled that passion in them for the sport of softball and I hope I taught them some life lessons as well. It's not just about teach-



teaching them about being a good teammate, perseverance, communication, and working together — things that you can't accomplish by yourself. That's what it's all about being on a team and those are lifelong transferable skills."

Tammy's youngest son, Spencer, is starting ninth grade this fall. He played baseball as an eighth-grader this year, and Tammy would like to be able to follow his varsity career in a way that she couldn't for Spencer's big brothers. That is the main reason why she is stepping away from the sport that has been a part of her life ever since she was playing for Randolph Union High School back in the

She will remain the athletic director at LGUHS, and will help in the process of finding a successor to lead the softball program. You'll probably still hear her sing the National Anthem before Rebels games (and in my opinion, she does one of the most beautiful renditions of the Anthem that I have ever heard). Retirement is still a ways away, and I wish nothing but blue skies for one of the class acts on the Windham County sports scene.

#### Farewell, Coach Spencer

• The flip side of being around here so long is that you find more of your friends and colleagues in the Milestones section of this paper. As the



In her 33-year career at Leland & Gray Union High School, Tammy Claussen has been an educator, coach, and athletic director. Earlier this month, she removed one of those titles as she announced she was stepping down as the school's varsity softball coach.



curator of that page, it pained me to see the obituary for Frank Spencer, the longtime coach and educator at Wilmington High School and Twin Valley High School.

I first met Frank on the Reformer's softball team in 1989 (the less said about my softball career, the better) and got to know him better as the boys' basketball coach in Wilmington. He was a good coach, but was an even better teacher and administrator.

He earned the UVM Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1986 and was recognized as Vermont's **Outstanding Secondary** Principal by the Vermont Principals' Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1999. He was inducted into the VPA Hall of Fame in 2011.

Frank died in Florida on June 17 at age 74, from complications of Primary Progressive Aphasia, a rare nervous system syndrome that affects the ability to communicate. It's a cruel fate for someone like Frank, who was erudite (he was a Harvard Man, after all) and possessed a fine, dry wit. A memorial service is being planned for later this summer in Wilmington.

#### **GM's Mosher takes** fourth at decathlon

• Green Mountain senior Eben Mosher capped off his high school track & field career with a fourth-place finish at the Vermont Decathlon, which took place on June 19 and 20.

Mosher came into the second day in ninth place, but moved up five spots to finish fourth overall with 5,620 points in the boys' competition. Bishopp Boutin, competing as an independent, won the boys' decathlon with 6,113 points.

On Tuesday, Mosher fin-ished second in javelin, fifth in the 110-meter hurdles, eighth in discus, 14th in pole vault and 15th in the 1,500 meters. Teammate Conner Miles was

61st overall with 3,255 points. Other local boys competing in the event were John Parker-Jennings of Leland & Gray (38th with 3,801 points), Tristan Boylan of Bellows Falls (47th, 3,624 points), Trevor Stillwagon of Leland & Gray (50th, 3,509 points), Justin Draper of Bellows Falls (52nd, 3,480 points), and Gavin Joy of Bellows Falls (53rd, 3,450 points). Participating, but not placing, were Colby Dearborn of Bellows Falls and Jacob Girard, Trevor Gray, and Sean von Ranson of Brattleboro.

In the girls' decathlon, Tela Harty of Bellows Falls finished

13th with 3,757 points, while teammates Nola Sciacca finished 38th with 2,669 points, Ava LaRoss was 41st with 2,577 points, and Eryn Ross was 45th with 2,475 points. Teagan Thurber was Brattleboro top finisher (48th, 2,297 points), followed by teammates Maeve Bald (50th, 2,252 points), Priya Kitzmiller (52nd, 2,237 points),

Leland & Gray's Mary Sanderson was 51st with 2,248 points, and teammate Avery Hiner was 60th with 1,439 points. Green Mountain's Sophia Cherubini was 34th with 2,809 points, while teammate Gracie Vanakin was 64th.

The girls' winner was Essex's Genevieve Brzoza with 5,010 points. She won by just nine points over teammate Kayla Guerino.

#### **SVL** tennis allstars named

• The Southern Vermont League announced its all-star teams for girls' and boys' tennis

No Brattleboro players made the A Division girls' first team, but Wren Parker of Bellows Falls was a first-team selection in the B Division. Brattleboro's Nathan Kim was named to the bovs' A Division first team, with teammate Ben Berg earning honorable mention.

#### Beware of purple bears

• This is how change happens in the digital age—a Friday night email blast from BUHS Athletic Director Chris Sawyer to the state's media outlets letting them know that, from here on out, the high school's mascot is a purple bear.

As you can see from the new school logo on this page that Sawyer sent to Vermont's media, the BUHS bear looks hungry and fierce —teeth bared and mouth wide open. As bears go, the purple bear appears to be no pushover and not terribly cuddly. It means business.

And thus, a years-long battle to retire the Colonels moniker comes to end. You'll be seeing a lot of this purple bear in the coming months, as the school's new branding takes hold and new uniforms for the various teams are unveiled.

#### Post 5 off to good start in Legion ball

• Brattleboro Post 5 rallied to beat Lakes Region, 4-3, on June 19 in American Legion Baseball action at Tenney Field. The Lakers led 3-1 through five innings, scoring runs in the third and fourth to push ahead, but Post 5 got three runs in the sixth inning to win it.



This is the new logo for Brattleboro Union High School, incorporating its new mascot, a bear. It was unveiled last week as the 2022-23 school year came to an end.

Jackson Emery was the winning pitcher for Post 5, he held the Lakers to three hits over five innings. Reliever Alex Patch was the losing pitcher. He entered the game in the sixth inning after starter Carson Babbie pitched five innings and held Brattleboro to a pair of hits.

Later in the week, Post 5 had another big rally and handed Bellows Falls Post 37 a 5-3 loss. Brattleboro scored four runs in the sixth inning and Jayke Glidden would pitch the last two innings in relief to pick up the win. The victory left Post 5 with a 3-1 league record, and a 7-1 overall record.

#### **Fossils smash Granite**

• In Connecticut River Valley Baseball League (CRVBL) action at Gouin Field in Dummerston on June 18, the Putney Fossils defeated the Walpole Granite, 17-3.

Keith Lyman earned the win for Putney, pitching the final two innings of the mercy ruleshortened seven-inning affair. Lyman helped his cause by going 3-for-4 with two runs batted in and one run scored. His battery mate, catcher Steve Stanley, also had three hits, elevating his team-leading batting average

Peter Wagner pitched the first three innings for the Fossils, extending his consecutive scoreless-inning streak to 14. Wagner and shortstop Andrew Peloso each contributed two hits and two runs batted in. Mike McMahon, Rob Stevens, Abe Allen, and Ty Kirkwood each had a hit for the Granite, with Gus McGee, Brian Pearlman, and Kirkwood scoring their team's three runs.

Frank

Spencer, the

longtime

coach and

educator at

Wilmington

High School and Twin

Valley High

School, in

2011.

#### Senior bowling roundup

• Week 8 of the spring/summer season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on June 22 saw No Splits (27-13) have a 4-1 week to move into sole possession of first place. There's now a three-way tie for second between Slo Movers, Five Pins, and Turkeys (all 25-15), followed by The Bowlers (22-18), Stayin' Alive (21.5-18.5), Skippers (18.5-21.5), Wrecking Crew (17-23), and High Rollers (16-24).

Pam Greenblott had the women's high handicap game (257), while Doris Lake had the high handicap series (684). Jerry Dunham had the men's high handicap game (264) and series (667), while The Bowlers had the high team handicap

game (919) and series (2,554). Chuck Adams led the men's scratch scoring with a 638 series that featured games of 225, 217, and 196, while Robert Rigby had a 583 series with games of 222 and 201. Dunham had a 565 series with a 230 game, Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 546 series with a 217 game, Duane Schillemat had a 531 series with a 188 game, Gary Montgomery had a 529 series with games of 198 and 189, and Wayne Randall had a 183 game.

Carol Gloski again had the women's high scratch series (465), while Greenblott had the high scratch game (197). Shirley Aiken had a 178 game, while Gloski rolled a 177.

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