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Brattleboro, Vermont • Wednesday, October 25, 2023 • Vol. XVIII, No. 43 • Issue No. 737

commonnews.org

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

Disease that affects beech trees has arrived in southern Vermont

Beech leaf disease — confirmed in Vernon and Dummerston — is caused by invasive nematodes that spread in the tree's leaves

By Emma Cotton
ViDigger

For the first time in Vermont, officials with the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation have confirmed the presence of a disease that infects the leaves of beech trees.

Beech leaf disease, which was confirmed earlier this month in Vernon and, more recently, in Dummerston, is caused by invasive nematodes that spread in the

tree's leaves.

In the United States, the nematodes were first found in Ohio, then identified in 14 states, including New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts, according to Josh Halman, forest health program manager with Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

The nematodes, which are worm-like creatures native to Japan, "are in such high concentrations within the leaf material

■ SEE BEECH TREES, A5

Brattleboro shelter leader will take helm at SEVCA

'We've been through a lot,' says Joshua Davis, who's departing as executive director of Groundworks Collaborative

By Kevin O'Connor
ViDigger

BRATTLEBORO—The executive director of the Groundworks Collaborative shelter and support program is set to depart for another human services post, capping a tumultuous year still unsettled by the violent killing this spring of one of the nonprofit agency's social workers.

When Joshua Davis began as a graduate school volunteer at one of the agency's antecedent organizations 14 years ago, he didn't foresee he'd soon join the staff, then governing board, then leadership team. Nor did he expect he'd help merge Brattleboro efforts targeting homelessness and hunger into one umbrella organization.

Groundworks has faced unprecedented challenges this year. They include working with people who lost eligibility in the state's motel voucher program, and the April 3 killing of local Shelter Coordinator Leah Rosin-Pritchard, allegedly by a client now in the custody of the Vermont Department of Mental Health.

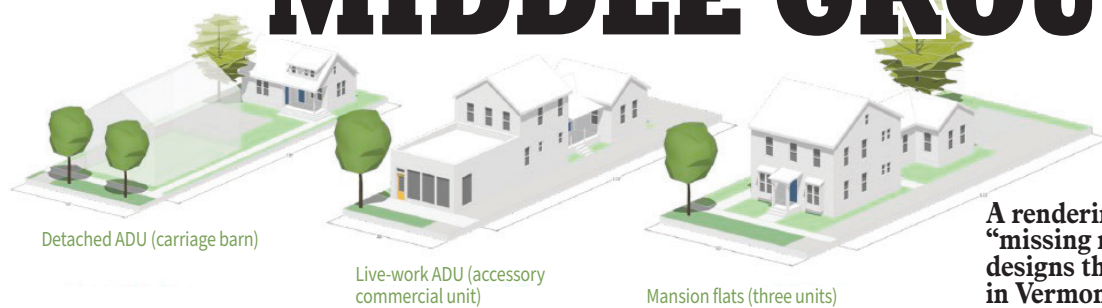
"There are a number of questions on the table for the organization that the book has not been opened on," Davis, 48, said in an interview Tuesday. "It feels like a really ripe time to bring a new

leader in."

In his tenure, Davis helped the Morningside Shelter, where he was executive director, and the Brattleboro Area Drop In Center merge into the collaborative in 2015. The new agency has gone on to build a \$3.3 million downtown headquarters with overnight beds and daytime restrooms, showers, washers, dryers, and storage lockers.

Construction began in 2020 as
■ SEE DAVIS RESIGNS, A5

MIDDLE GROUND



Detached ADU (carriage barn)

Live-work ADU (accessory commercial unit)

Mansion flats (three units)

A rendering of various "missing middle" housing designs that can be used in Vermont communities.

A state project brings a fresh look to Vermont's urgent need for more housing of the right size — and Bellows Falls is one of five places in Vermont where these ideas will take shape



ELLEN PRATT/THE COMMONS

From left, Matthew Littell of Utile Architecture & Planning, Bellows Falls resident Dalila Hall, and local developer John Dunbar discuss building missing middle housing on Hall's residential lot in Bellows Falls during a Oct. 18 tour convened by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

By Ellen Pratt
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—On a recent mid-October day, tourists mingled with locals in Village Square Booksellers, a young DIY-er in jeans bought a screwdriver at J&H Hardware, and clusters of lunchgoers sat in the windows of the Moon Dog Cafe.

Groups of children, home from an early-release school day, played in the neighborhood park. A train chugged in the distance. Fall Mountain, a blaze of autumn color, towered over the falls that gave both the town and the mountain their names.

And in the lower theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House, a group of residents, planning commissioners, Selectboard members, a legislator, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) staff, the town's development director, and architects from a Boston-based architecture and planning firm met to discuss how to address the village's need for more housing in a way that

creates a community where people live, work, and raise families.

The meeting was convened by ACCD as part of its Homes for All Toolkit project. The project aims to encourage small-scale, local development of missing middle housing (MMH) — various options of smaller-scale multiple-unit housing in walkable residential neighborhoods — by providing educational, training, and financial resources to community-based developers.

Housing for the times

Missing middle housing, a term coined in 2010 by California architect and urbanist Daniel Parolek, encompasses accessory dwelling units (ADUs), duplexes, small-scale multi-household buildings, and neighborhood-scale mixed-use/live-work buildings. These housing types were largely developed in the pre-World War II era in response to changing economic times.

"Bellows Falls was a major mill town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries,"

said Lyssa Papazian, a historic preservation consultant in Putney, in an interview with *The Commons*.

In addition to the first paper mill in Windham County, the village had a woolen textile mill and factories that produced furniture, sashes and blinds, carriages, and organs.

"When those businesses expanded — especially in response to a very lucrative war contract, for example — you would see increases in housing in the next year's census," she continued.

Those historical records reveal that "three-quarters of the houses that used to be single-family were now taking in boarders, and then, once they filled up all of the spaces in those houses, they added a room or two, or added a little house in the back," said Papazian.

But during the mid-20th century, Vermont started employing zoning models that weren't necessarily developed here.

These zoning practices made many of these Missing Middle Housing options
■ SEE MISSING MIDDLE, A2

For WNESU kids, a field trip to the farm



RANDOLPH T. HOLMUT/THE COMMONS

Kids met calves during a Oct. 19 field trip to the Miller Farm in Vernon.

Students meet some heifers and learn where milk really comes from as their school district pilots a state organic milk program, thanks to a \$250,000 grant

By Virginia Ray
The Commons

VERNON—More than 100 Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (WNESU) students visited the Miller Farm here recently, spending time with heifers, taking hay rides, and learning how to make butter.

"I get to learn more things about where the milk comes from," said second-grader Adeline Chamberland, who added she sometimes drinks milk before bed and also has it with cereal.

"I just like knowing stuff," said Maceo Mayhew, a third grader who likes both regular milk and chocolate milk.

Miller Farm bottles its own organic milk and recently expanded its processing operation, thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the Northeast Dairy Business

Innovation Center.

The grant enabled the farm to add the bulk bags the school nutrition service needs for meal service so organic milk can now be shipped directly to schools, explained Northeast Organic Farming Association spokesperson Helen Rortvedt.

"We are trying to demonstrate that it can be done — local schools can work with local farms," she said.

The Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership is spearheading the pilot program along with partners Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) and Farm to Institution New England (FINE) with the goal of not only introducing youngsters to organic foods, but also helping local economies by giving organic
■ SEE DAIRY AND SCHOOLS, A6

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COLUMN | Deeper Dive

‘They saw a problem and got busy doing something about it’

Pat Burke reflects on nearly three decades of serving on the Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing board

IN 1996, WHEN Pat Burke was invited to attend a meeting of the Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing (BAAH) board, she went. She was young, new to the area and to human resources work, and she was flattered that someone thought her input would be valuable.

She’s been going to monthly BAAH meetings ever since. The September 2023 meeting was her last; she is leaving the volunteer board, but she won’t stop working to assist people in need.

“There was always a sense in my family of service,” she said. “It was always kind of instilled in me to do for others.”

When Burke joined BAAH, she was working at the Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust (now Windham & Windsor Housing Trust) as the tenant services coordinator.

She was impressed with BAAH’s mission: to improve, increase, and preserve affordable housing in the Brattleboro area and to assist those facing

NANCY DETRA serves on the board of Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing. The Commons’ Deeper Dive column gives nonprofits elbow room to write in first person and/or be unabashedly opinionated, passionate, and analytical about their own creative work and events.

housing emergencies. The board she met was a good representation of folks in the Brattleboro area human services sector.

Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing is a small, volunteer nonprofit organization that raises money in large part through individual donations. It also receives donations from local businesses and organizations, and has received grants from the town of Brattleboro, the Thomas Thompson Trust, and the Fanny Holt Ames and Edna Louise Holt Fund.

BAAH offers three programs dedicated to raising awareness

about and providing solutions to housing problems that are sustainable, collaborative, and empowering:

- Housing Improvement Program (HIP), which helps people address the many barriers that they may face in accessing financial assistance for making necessary home repairs.
- Apartments in Homes Program (AIH), which encourages owners of single-family homes to convert underutilized space into affordable rental units.

- Creative Community Housing Program (CCHP), which provides individualized and creative short-term assistance to help people stay in their homes.

BURKE’S FIRST college degree was in commercial art; she made a minimal salary “designing placemats and whatnot.” It wasn’t inspiring work, and it didn’t earn her enough to live on. To supplement her income, she took a job at a camp for young children who were facing hardships.

This more-demanding job let her help people, but she realized quickly that she needed more training. She signed up for classes in counseling at Notre Dame College in Manchester, New Hampshire, then eventually got her master’s degree in counseling from St. Joseph’s College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Now, she serves as the family services director for Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA). Reflecting on her decision to



Pat Burke

COURTESY PHOTO

Safely dispose of prescription medication

Windham County participates in Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28

Saturday, Oct. 28 is the federal Drug Enforcement Agency’s National Drug Take Back Day, and the Windham County Prevention Partnership is using this event to raise awareness about proper storage and disposal of prescription medications.

This initiative gives communities the opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by ridding homes of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Simply collect your expired or unused prescription pills or patches in their original bottle or place them in a disposable bag. Be sure to remove or cover your personal information. Then, you may anonymously drop your medication at the nearest prescription drug drop box.

Keep in mind that the DEA cannot accept liquids, needles, or sharps — only pills or patches.

According to organizers, Drug Take Back Day “addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that are left in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse.”

“Rates of prescription drug misuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs,” according to the DEA.

“Additionally, simply throwing unused medicines in the trash or flushing them down the toilet risks environmental harm, theft, and poses a public health hazard.”

As a result, “it is so important to come together as a community and do our part to help raise awareness and take this issue head on. We are so grateful for the support we’ve seen for this event,” Elisha Underwood, the executive director of West River Valley Thrives in Townshend, said in a news release.

Bring your medications for disposal to any of the following locations:

- Messenger Valley Pharmacy, 170 Grafton Rd., Townshend.
- Brattleboro Police Department, 62 Black Mountain Rd.
- Brattleboro Memorial

- Bellows Falls Police Department, 170 Rockingham St.
- Wilmington County Department, 2 East Main St.
- Dover Police Department, 245 VT 100.

All locations have permanent drop boxes in their respective lobbies, and boxes are available for pill disposal during open lobby hours, no questions asked.

Event organizers caution that these locations may have fluctuating hours and urge those wanting to participate to call ahead to confirm their hours.

If you are unable to make it to a physical drop box and would like a postage-paid bag to dispose of your unwanted prescription via mail in a medication-safe envelope, you can request an envelope from the Vermont Department of Health (bit.ly/737-meds).

TURKEY DINNER
Saturday, October 28
EVENING STAR GRANGE
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
Menu: Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Winter Squash, Green Bean Casserole, Pumpkin Upside Down Pie.
Serving time 4:30pm - 6pm
\$13 Adults.
\$6 Children ages 5-11.
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Reservations suggested.
Call 802-254-1138 to indicate in-house or take-out.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Brattleboro Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, 11.15.2023 at 7:00 PM in the Selectboard Meeting Room, Municipal Center, 230 Main St., Brattleboro, VT; the meeting will also be held on Zoom. Meeting ID: 881 4045 1917 Passcode: 190450.
2023-121 Jennifer Shay; HRO & RN3600 Districts; request for Design Review Approval to demolish a contributing structure in the Homestead Home Historic District at 198 Canal St; TMP #325182.000;
2023-129 Wesley Babb & Stacy Salpietro-Babb; RN District; request for Conditional Use Approval to construct an enclosure and keep a rehabbed raven at 31 Christie LN; TMP#110326.220; Pursuant to 24 VSA §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.
NOTE: Meetings are open to the public. For specific accommodations please call the Planning Services Department at 802-251-8154. Application materials are available at <https://tinyurl.com/DRB-Applications>. Additional materials may be submitted up to the time of the meeting and will be uploaded to the above address.

HireAbility VERMONT
JOB OPENING
Vocational Counselor

The Brattleboro office of HireAbility (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation) has an opening for a skilled Vocational Counselor to join our highly innovative team of professionals with the mission of helping Vermonters with disabilities to gain and maintain employment and to access career training and education opportunities. Job duties include assessment, guidance and counseling, case management, documentation and collaboration with many community providers.

The position is posted on the State of VT Department of Human Resources website. Deadline to apply is 11/2/23. For questions or further information about this position, please contact Leo Schiff, Sr. Vocational Counselor at 802-798-9163, leo.schiff@vermont.gov.

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To learn if we're the right place for you please visit our website at www.gardenpathelderliving.org.

West River Valley Thrives
Engaging and inspiring healthy communities

Are you ready for an amazing opportunity to lead an innovative program and make positive changes in your community?

Youth Engagement Specialist Job Posting

Hours and Compensation: This is a flexible 30-35 hour per week position eligible for generous benefits including paid time-off, health and dental insurance, and 403(b) retirement benefits. Starting rate, \$22 per hour.

Job Summary: In conjunction with other staff, this position is responsible for coordinating the implementation of youth program opportunities, outreach, and communication to meet the outcomes of the substance use prevention strategies of West River Valley Thrives (Thrives). The Youth Engagement Specialist will communicate through multiple channels to educate, coordinate, and build momentum around Thrives’ activities, best practices and initiatives to highlight and amplify youth voice.

For full job announcement and how to apply go to:
wrvthrives.org/blog/full-time-job-opening

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Position will remain open until filled.

HELP WANTED
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TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT

Windham Solid Waste Management District is looking for a temporary part-time transfer station attendant for up to 20 hours per week, including some Saturdays. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. and work outside. Ability to operate heavy equipment a plus.

Applications are available at 327 Old Ferry Rd, Brattleboro, VT, or at windhamsolidwaste.org. Applications must be received by August 31 at the office, or by email to admin@windhamsolidwaste.org. WSWMD is an equal opportunity employer.

WE ARE HIRING!!!

Against the Grain Gourmet

We have multiple openings for production: Full-Time Production Bakers/Line Workers.

Must be able to lift 65+ pounds from a bending position, take direction well, follow precise instructions in a timely manner, and work well both independently and with others. The ideal candidate will have a strong work ethic, high quality standards, and a positive attitude. Attention to detail is essential. We prefer candidates with some commercial kitchen or food production/manufacturing experience.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Ingredient preparation, dough production, product packaging, line work and cleaning.

REQUIREMENTS: Applicant must be at least 18 years of age, with a valid High School Diploma or GED.

WORK HOURS: 40 hour work week, an eight-hour shift, Monday - Friday, multiple shifts available. Occasional overtime.

COMPENSATION: Starting salary of \$17.50-\$18.50/hour, with an opportunity for a raise of \$1 at both 6 and 12 months depending on performance. We offer a highly competitive benefits package: company paid medical, dental & vision, up to \$2,000 in a company paid HRA plan, company paid Short-Term & Long-Term Disability and Life Insurance, 14 paid days off, 12 paid holidays, a 3% employer 401K contribution, and other supplemental benefits.

TO APPLY: Scan the QR code, or visit againstthegraingourmet.com/pages/careers

MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

College news

The following local students were honored for academic achievement during the summer 2023 semester at Community College of Vermont. Named to the Student Honors List were **Marguerite Janiszyn-Lisai** and **John McCann** of Bellows Falls; **Tessa Clayton**, **Jessica Farquhar**, **Candace Kendrick**, **Daelyn Lynn**, **Emily Pinz**, **Alexandria Tupper**, **Sierra Ward**, and **Lindsey Wright** of Brattleboro; **Lucinda Weed** of Jacksonville; **Ryan Gardner** and **Shane Martin** of Putney; **Jessica Burbridge** and **April Worden** of South Newfane; **Kailuna Holmes** of Townshend; **Alexander Kemp** and **Nadine Kissell** of Vernon; and **Shannon Moore** of Whitingham. Named to the President's List was **Noah Morgan** of Brattleboro.

at the School for International Training and volunteered periodically on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He is survived by Irene, his wife of nearly 60 years; his children Jenny, Krista, and Patrick; and one grandchild. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A service will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m., followed immediately by a reception at the Brattleboro Country Club, 58 Senator Gannett Drive, where the family anticipates many stories about "Doctor B" will be shared; as Dick would say, "Some of them might even be true!" Donations to St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301; Bradley House, 65 Harris Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301; and the Bayada Hospice Fund, 1222 Putney Rd., Suite 107, Brattleboro, VT 05301. To share a memory or offer condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

Obituaries



Dr. Richard Thomas "Dick" Burtis, 89, of Brattleboro. Died peacefully on Oct. 18, 2023 at Bradley House. He was a devoted husband, loving parent, loyal friend, and a great teller of bad jokes. He practiced as a physician in Brattleboro for five decades and was widely respected for his medical acumen, good cheer, humility, and kindness. He will be remembered as a true force for good in his community and will be missed by the many people he touched in his nearly 60 years in the Brattleboro area. Dick was born on Feb. 9, 1934 in Baldwin, New York, the son of Theodore Alfred Burtis and Florence Angela Burtis (née Whalen). The youngest by 10 years of three children, Dick liked to joke that his arrival was a "Depression surprise." Dick grew up on Long Island and Mount Lebanon and Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. An exceptional student and athlete, Dick attended Swarthmore College, where he studied zoology and played varsity football and lacrosse. After graduating in 1955, Burtis and his college roommate Michael Dukakis hitchhiked to Mexico City, enjoying many adventures along the way. That fall, as one of two inaugural Keasbey Fellows, Dick matriculated at New College, Oxford University, where he studied anatomy and played on the lacrosse and rugby teams. In the summer between his years at Oxford, Dick studied in post-war Vienna, which left him with a lasting fondness for Austrians, the German language, the Alps, and, rather uniquely, liverwurst. After Oxford, Dick attended Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1960. During his residency in Cleveland, Dick met a young nurse, Irene Miriam Macur. The couple married in November 1963. Declining offers from big-city hospitals, they instead chose the rural life and moved to the Brattleboro area in 1965 with one-year-old daughter Jenny. They settled on Hale Road in Guilford, where they raised three children, several dogs and cats, and numerous farm animals. The Burtises moved into Brattleboro permanently in 2008. Dick was drawn to Vermont for its peaceful mountains and wild beauty, and remained an avid skier, cyclist, and bird watcher into his 80s. Dr. Burtis operated a private practice in Brattleboro for nearly 50 years, and was closely affiliated with Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. He served as president of the Vermont Medical Society in 1986. Near the end of his career, he was attending physician



Robert J. "Bob" Esden, 83, of Dover. Died on Oct. 17, 2023 at Spring Village at Dover while under the care of Hospice of Dover. Robert was born in Brattleboro on Jan. 15, 1940, the son of the late Robert R. and Miriam (Trumble) Esden. He attended Brattleboro Union High School, graduating in 1958. Following graduation, Robert joined the Air Force and served his country proudly until 1962 when he was honorably discharged. Bob loved sports; he was a proud member of the BUHS 1957 state championship football team, played for the All-Air Force softball team, and was a scratch golfer for the majority of his life. He was happily married, on May 4, 1963, to Janet Cowling. They celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. Robert was an industry-recognized expert in industrial coatings, working as a chemistry lab leader in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Ohio, before retiring in 2009. Bob loved people, enjoying time as a Little League baseball coach, softball umpire, and working out at the YMCA. He also volunteered as a lay minister for the Grace United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio, and was a longstanding member of the Masonic Lodge #102 in Brattleboro. He had many nicknames throughout his life — Casey, Bionic Chemist, Old Goat — but the names he liked to be called the most was Hop on Pop and Grandpa Duck. Robert is survived by his wife, Janet; sons Paul Esden (Michelle) and Stephen Esden (Jose); grandchildren Brody, Nicholas, Paul Esden Jr., Heather Ann, Kali, and Haley; and great-grandchildren Sophia, David, Zariah-Luna, Huyam, and Yousf. He was predeceased by his siblings Richard and Heather. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A graveside service was held at West Brattleboro Cemetery on Oct. 20. Donations to the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org). To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

David Burke Fontaine, 89, died peacefully at home with family on Oct. 1, 2023. He was born on Nov. 14, 1933 to Nelson and Marion Fontaine and raised in Townshend. He served in the Army from 1951 to 1954 during the Korean War, and married his high school sweetheart, Jean E. Roche, in 1954 at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Together, they had five children: Alice Thomas (Tim) of Phelen, California, David B. Fontaine Jr. (Carol) of Lititz, Pennsylvania, Daniel Fontaine (Margaret) of Townshend, and Donald (Nancy) of Taverse, Florida. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, in 2020 and their son Douglas in 1975. David owned and operated his own construction



The young photographers who attended the Insight Photography Competition Awards ceremony: **Roxanne Burt** (prizewinner), **Nico Conathan-Leach** (prizewinner), **Ezra Hemphill**, **Eowyn Jakub**, **Emma Paris** (prizewinner), **Charlie Latham**, **Blake Trubridge**, **Lily Arnold**, **Felix Burch** (prizewinner), **Matrix Balsley-Patraska** (prizewinner), **Genevieve Taggart**, **Aubrey Hallock** (prizewinner), **Kota Rayne** (prizewinner), **Milo Latham**, **Thaddeus Taggart**, and **Nova Stroble**.

In-Sight names winning youth photographers

BRATTLEBORO—In-Sight Photography named the winners of its first photo contest at an award ceremony and photo fair on Sept. 30 in the Latchis Theatre. Photographers from the region — 31 of them, ranging in age from 11 to 18 — won awards in five categories (Analog/Film, Artistic, People, Places, and The New England Experience). A team of judges of local and national renown evaluated 89 images. Photographer Cathy Cone was honorary chair. Community members also weighed in on a People's Choice award.

Prizes included Canon DSLR cameras, Polaroid cameras, gift certificates, and more, and each participant received a gift bag from In-Sight.

Founded in 1992, the In-Sight Photography Project offers all youth access to opportunities — classes at its headquarters at 183 Main St., school partnerships, and in other ways — to express their creativity in the photographic arts (from darkroom, digital, and video) in a learning environment and with a curriculum that supports the diversity of individuals, communities, and cultures.

The winners:
Analog/Film — *First place:* Aubrey Hallock, Brattleboro. *Second place:* Antonio Andrew-Moore, Putney. *Third place:* Ronen Carnes, Vernon. *Jury:* Michael Kirchoff (*Analog Forever* magazine) and Vaune Trachtman (Olcott Family Award/The Print Center's Annual International Competition).
Artistic — *First place:* Nico Conathan-Leach, Guilford. *Second place:* Kota Rayne, Jacksonville. *Third place:* Ruby Schlatter, Bennington. *Jury:* Cathy Cone (Cone Editions

Press and InkjetMall) and Aline Smithson (*Lenscratch* magazine).

People — *First place:* Roxanne Burt, Marlboro. *Second place:* Antonio Andrew-Moore, Putney. *Third place:* Blake Trubridge, Newfane. *Jury:* Rachel Portesi (photographer) and Geoffrey Peckham (Tusen Takk Foundation).

Places — *First place:* Roxanne Burt, Marlboro. *Second place:* Emma Paris, Putney. *Third place:* Felix Burch, Brattleboro. *Jury:* Joan O'Beirne (Greenfield Community College) and Dale Rio (The Halide Project).

The New England Experience — *First place:* Nico Conathan-Leach, Guilford.

Second place: Matrix Balsley-Patraska, Guilford. *Third place:* Ronen Carnes, Vernon. *Jury:* Jon Gitelson (Keene State College) and Tim Trelease (Deerfield Academy).

People's Choice: Felix Burch, Brattleboro.

Participating artists also included Adnan Hussainzada, 16, of Brattleboro; Atticus Haskins Rogers, 12, of Florence, Massachusetts; Ava Einig, 14, of Guilford; Azzan Yahya, 16, of Brattleboro; Blue Berenguel, 16, of Brattleboro.

Also, Charlie Latham, 15, of Keene, New Hampshire; Eisa Hiam, 14, of Putney; Eowyn Jakub, 13, of Leyden; Ezat Yahya, 17, of Brattleboro; Ezra

Hemphill, 14, of Northfield, Massachusetts; Genevieve Taggart, 15, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; Jasmine Thibault, 15, of Dummerston.

Also, Leo Mousseau, 16, of Marlboro; Lily Arnold, 11, of Dummerston; Milo Latham, 12, of Keene, New Hampshire; Navaeh Sheldon, 13, of Brattleboro; Nova Stroble, 17, of Vernon; Otto Morlock, 17, of Brattleboro; Thaddeus Taggart, 15, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; and Vivian Elliot, 16, of Brattleboro.

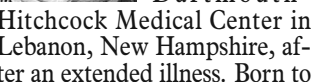
To see all the photo entries, visit the In-Sight website (insightphotography.org).



Aubrey Hallock, 12, earned first place in the Analog category for this entry.

company and enjoyed making furniture and kitchen cabinets. He had many hobbies, including camping, fishing, hunting, square dancing, beekeeping, and snowmobiling. He enjoyed country music and played the fiddle in his younger years. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Sandra E. "Sandy" (LaValley) Rouleau, 69, of Brattleboro. Died on Sept. 14, 2023 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, after an extended illness. Born to



Albert and Victoria LaValley on Nov. 3, 1954, she spent her life in Brattleboro and attended grade school and graduated from Brattleboro Union High School. Over the years, Sandy worked at Holton Home, Thompson House and the Maytag laundromat, all in Brattleboro. She married Henry Rouleau on Oct. 10, 1998 on the Brattleboro Common with family and friends gathered around. Sandy enjoyed crocheting and knitting things for her extended family members. She also liked doing search-a-word puzzles, going to flea markets, and attending family get-togethers when she could. She was predeceased by her parents, her sisters Theresa Bolster (Cleon) and Linda Weaver and brother-in-law David Weaver, sister-in-law Hazel LaValley (James), and her in-laws George and Edith Rouleau. She is survived by her husband, her sisters Leatrice Perkins (Mike) and Barbara Winslow (Scott), her brother James LaValley, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** As per her wishes, there will be no services.

Sonya Diane Shippee, 82, of Vernon. Died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on Oct. 13, 2023. She was born in Brattleboro on July 26, 1941, daughter of the late Lester and Myra (Brown) Howard. She grew up in Dover and attended local schools. Sonya was known for having a brilliant mind and valiantly fought dementia for the last few years until her death. Sonya married Lawrence Shippee on Dec. 30, 1957. They initially resided at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and, after Lawrence's Army service ended, they moved

back to Vermont finally settling and raising their family in Vernon. She was the bookkeeper and driving force behind their family automotive business in Vernon for more than 30 years. Sonya also was a bookkeeper at Vermont Yankee during the final few years of construction. She was a dedicated Christian and valued her family first and foremost. She had plenty of love to give to her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Sonya had the most beautiful handwriting and loved gardening. She was always known for her huge garden and trying to give everyone she met her overabundance of zucchini every August. Sonya was an amazing cook and every Thanksgiving and Christmas her home was full with her ever growing family. Her potato salad, meatballs, and macaroni and cheese recipes will live on through her children. Sonya was an extremely humble person and few know that she was instrumental in starting the winter ski program at Vernon Elementary School in the 1970s while she was the PTA President. She spent many winters gathering up all the ski equipment with her truck and delivering them to and from Maple Valley Ski Area so that the kids could ski. This later turned into the winter sports program. She rarely spoke of her many accomplishments, which included: earning her pilot's license, winning trophies drag racing in the 1960s, winning trophies circle track racing in the 1970s, bowling across the country, and being awarded the employee of the year in 1999 by the Windham County Sheriff's Department. The town of Vernon was very important to Sonya. She spent many years trying to have a positive influence on the town. She took on many roles including Selectboard member, Windham Regional Commission

member, low-level radioactive waste advisory committee chair, and delinquent tax collector. After her children were grown, she started working at the Vernon Police Department and quickly became well respected in law enforcement due to her unwavering honesty and work ethic. She later joined the Sheriff's Department, where she was the office manager until her retirement. As office manager, she was a jack-of-all-trades and was often seen dispatching or serving court papers. She was also the work "mom" to all the younger deputies who may or may not have been scolded a time or two about time sheets or paperwork. She leaves her loving husband, Lawrence Shippee Sr.; sons Lawrence Shippee Jr. and wife Jean of Vernon, Shane Shippee and wife Linda of Vernon, Shawn Shippee and wife Alison of Westmoreland, New Hampshire, and Sheldon Shippee of Martinez, Georgia; grandchildren Jennifer Calantropio and husband Garrett, Jessica Shippee and fiancé Dan Spooner, Lawrence Shippee III and wife Allison Cram, Vickie Rea and husband Robert, Seth Shippee and wife Elizabeth Parolski, Alex Shippee, Brendon Shippee and wife Alyssa, and Reagan Shippee; and great-grandchildren Tenley and Mason Rea, and Paxton Shippee. Sonya was predeceased by her sister Constance O'Masta and a grandson, Derrick Shippee. **MEMORIAL INFORMATION:** A memorial service was held on Oct. 21 at West Brattleboro Baptist Church. A burial service will be held at the North Cemetery on Fort Bridgman Road in Vernon on Oct. 25. Donations to the West Brattleboro Baptist Church. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information, visit pneauv.net.

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.

Love thy neighbor

thy immigrant neighbor

thy black neighbor

thy atheist neighbor

thy religious neighbor

thy depressed neighbor

thy asian neighbor

thy lgbtqia neighbor

thy disabled neighbor

thy indigenous neighbor

thy conservative neighbor

thy elderly neighbor

thy homeless neighbor

thy latino neighbor

thy addicted neighbor

thy progressive neighbor

thy incarcerated neighbor

thy _____ neighbor



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COLLABORATIVE

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RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT COMMONS FILE PHOTO

Joshua Davis, longtime executive director of Groundworks Collaborative, announced on Oct. 23 that he is stepping down to take a similar post at Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA).

■ Davis resigns

FROM SECTION FRONT

the COVID-19 pandemic spurred the state to offer motel vouchers to anyone without permanent housing. But soon after the facility opened last year, staffers found that, even with a record local supply of 34 shelter beds and 200 motel rooms, demand was even higher.

“It’s disheartening,” Davis told VTDigger at the time. “We collectively haven’t made much progress.”

Groundworks lost 30 other beds this past April when it closed its nearby Morningside House shelter upon its coordinator’s death.

“It’s incredibly painful to look somebody in the eye and say the only thing that I have to provide for you today is a tent and a sleeping bag,” Davis said this summer. “For better or for worse, that’s all

we got right now.”

Groundworks employs 45 people in its housing, food, health, and support programs. Former Brattleboro Town Manager Peter Elwell, who has assisted Davis this past year, will serve as interim leader until a new administrator is found, the collaborative’s board of directors said in a statement.

For his part, Davis is set to become the new executive director of Southeastern Vermont Community Action, a nonprofit that serves low-income households in Windham and Windsor counties.

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead this organization for so long,” he said of his eight years heading Groundworks. “We’ve been through a lot.”

■ Beech trees

that it’s actually damaging cells and disrupting the flow of nutrients and water within the leaves,” Halman said.

“And so, when you have high enough numbers of these nematodes within the leaves, it can really reduce the ability of the tree to have to photosynthesize and grow properly,” he added.

Staff at the department confirmed the disease after local residents submitted photos of potentially infected American beech trees to VTInvasives.org.

“People in Vermont are surprisingly up to date with what’s going on in terms of forest health in the region, and so this was somebody who thought it looked suspicious and submitted it,” Halman said.

After collecting samples, department staff sent them to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service Laboratory, which confirmed the presence of the invasive nematode’s DNA.

When leaves are first infected, they begin to develop thick stripes between the veins, which can sometimes coincide with yellowing of the leaves, according to a press release from the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation.

In severe cases, the striping area becomes “slightly raised and thicker than normal tissue, which will lead to leaf deformation, premature leaf-drop, and dieback,” according to the department. The progression of the diseases is more severe in younger trees.

Scientists don’t yet know how the nematode spreads from tree to tree. While no known cure exists, “there’s a lot of research going on to see what kind of treatments can be effective for controlling this,” Halman said.

For decades, beech trees in

Vermont have already been infected with beech bark disease, which gives beech trees bumpy bark. Halman said it’s more common to find beech trees infected with beech bark disease than to find trees showing no symptoms.

The two diseases could have

compounding impacts, he said, and scientists are currently studying whether beech bark disease could help beech leaf disease become established.

Halman called beech “a great survivor” because it can reproduce through its roots by sending sprouts to create new trees.

“Even if a tree dies, there’s new trees that are being generated from its roots immediately,” he said.

Halman encouraged Vermonters to report potential beech leaf disease, and any other suspected invasive species, to VTInvasives.org.

FROM SECTION FRONT



Beech leaves infected with beech leaf disease.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, PARKS, AND RECREATION

4-H seeks new members, adult volunteers as new season of programs begin

BURLINGTON—October marks the start of a new 4-H year, bringing fresh opportunities for both youths ages 5–18 and for adult volunteers.

Many 4-H clubs are enrolling new members for the upcoming project year. Current members will be able to sign up for projects ranging from livestock, clothing, and culinary to robotics, photography, and crafts. Adults will have the opportunity to organize and lead new clubs as well as support 4-H programming and events.

Vermont 4-H also continues to add new staff to support programming. Recently, Amber Thibodeau was hired as the new 4-H educator for Windham and Windsor counties and is based in the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension office in Brattleboro.

“4-H is a youth development

program that is more relevant today than ever before,” Allison Smith, assistant 4-H director, said in a news release. “It provides opportunities for youths to connect in meaningful ways with those around them and develop a sense of belonging.”

This past 4-H year, 933 youths and 269 volunteers were involved in UVM Extension 4-H clubs. Among the most popular projects were those focusing on horses (282 youths), dairy (235) and shooting sports (108).

There were 2,602 participants, both 4-H members and non-4-H’ers, who took part in 4-H special-interest and short-term programs, including VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Cafés, AgroTek, and after school programs. An additional 546 adults and 130 4-H teens assisted with these and other 4-H programs

and events.

“4-H uses hands-on learning to help youths develop life skills, engage in community service, form lasting friendships, and be mentored by caring adults,” Smith says. “When all these ingredients come together, 4-H helps [participants] thrive by developing their sense of mastery in learning new skills and hopeful purpose in connecting with their community.”

To learn more about joining a 4-H club or becoming an adult 4-H volunteer, contact the UVM Extension State 4-H Office toll-free at 800-571-0668. For information about upcoming 4-H events, visit bit.ly/736-4H. 4-H alumni also are encouraged to reconnect with 4-H through social media (facebook.com/Vermont4H) or by becoming a 4-H volunteer.

Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market opens on Nov. 4

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market opens for its 18th season on Saturday, Nov. 4, once again in the Croker Hall gymnasium on the Winston Prouty Campus.

The indoor market season begins on the first Saturday in November following the last outdoor summer market in October. Fans of the summer Brattleboro Area Farmers’ Market in West Brattleboro can simply follow many of their favorite vendors indoors to the only weekly indoor farmers market in the region open every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through March 26.

Visitors will find plenty of farms and local produce represented. This location provides convenient parking and a spacious market that adequately serve both vendors and customers. Most weeks, market visitors will find

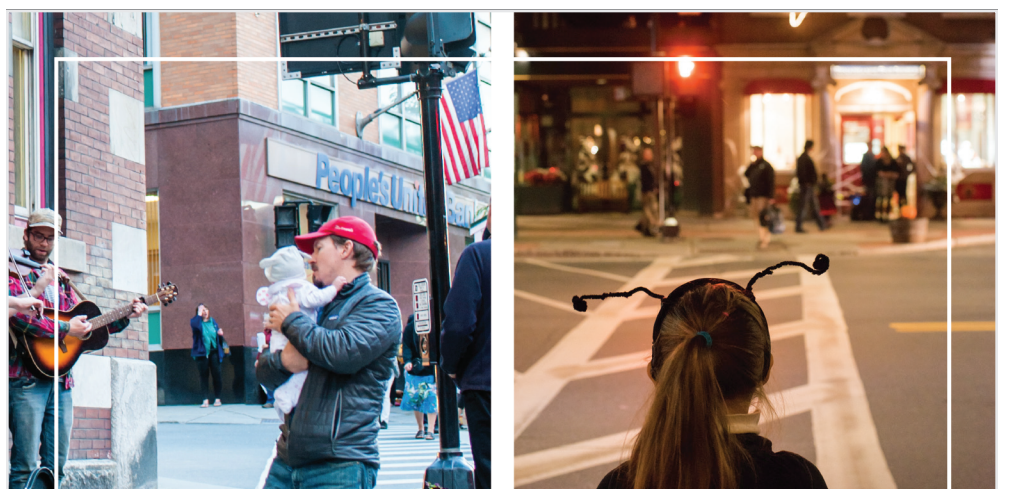
more than two dozen vendors, including many favorites from past seasons as well as new faces. Offerings include fresh produce, syrup, local meats, eggs, cheese, and other farm products, as well as breads, treats, great lunches, preserves, beautiful handmade gifts, and live local music.

The Brattleboro Winter Farmers Market welcomes SNAP/EBT shoppers, and can process credit and debit cards as well. SNAP customers can turn \$10 into \$30 each week with Crop Cash Coupons thanks to NOFA-VT with funding from the USDA, and the market’s own Boost Your Bread coupons thanks to Post Oil Solutions, the Vermont Foodbank, and other funding sources.

According to the Farmers Market Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening

farmers markets across the country, the impact of direct farmer-to-consumer transactions at a market is greater than it might appear on the surface. They say that markets serve as community anchors, positively influencing community health and wealth, resulting in more viable regional economies, increased access to fresh, nutritious food, and stronger social networks that help keep communities healthy.

The winter farmers market is sponsored by Post Oil Solutions, a local nonprofit working to promote sustainable communities. For more information, call Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835 or email farmersmarket@postoilsolutions.org. Follow Brattleboro Winter Farmers’ Market on Facebook or join their newsletter at brattleborowinterfarmersmarket.org.



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Each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our goals in life. I learned this first through agriculture, because all farmers can expect to have about 40 growing seasons, giving them just 40 chances to improve on every harvest.

—HOWARD GRAHAM BUFFETT



Art Miller, holding his grandson Zeke, talks to a group of Windham Northeast elementary school students as they get ready to take a hayride around the Miller Farm in Vernon during a Oct. 19 field trip.



A few of the more than 200 cows at the Miller Farm in Vernon.

BRATTLEBORO

Co-op, BCAT offer shelter for bikes downtown

BRATTLEBORO—Those who have ever tried to find a place to park their bike downtown when it was raining or snowing know sheltered bicycle parking spots are few and far between. The Brattleboro Coalition for Active Transportation (BCAT) announces the installation of a new bike parking shelter over the existing bike parking at the Brattleboro Food Co-op. The shelter will provide cover for up to eight bikes.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at noon on Monday, Oct 30, on the Whetstone Pathway. All community members are invited to attend.

“Providing covered bike parking is best practice when it comes to encouraging bicycling for transportation,” BCAT volunteer Alice Charkes said in a news release.

Charkes said BCAT accomplished this project with help from key partners. Volunteers generated the idea and started fundraising and organizing for the shelter several years ago. Many community members donated small amounts and several organizations also chipped in larger sums, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont.

The Brattleboro Food Co-op provided about half of the funding for the shelter, which will be located on its property along the Whetstone Pathway. The town of Brattleboro also played a key role and contributed to the project by installing the shelter.

Statewide walk/bike/roll advocacy group Local Motion sourced and provided a discount on the shelter, completed permitting and site plans, and assisted with coordination of the initiative. Much of this assistance was possible thanks to a Mobility and Transportation Innovations grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Brattleboro Coalition for Active Transportation is a citizens’ group dedicated to making walking and biking in Brattleboro safer and more enjoyable for everyone. For more information about getting involved, contact them at bcattbratt@googlegroups.com.



Windham Northeast School Nutrition Director Harley Sterling.

■ Dairy and schools

dairy farmers a financial boost through school sales.

An added \$12 million is currently being rolled out across the region to expand organic dairy farmers’ processing capabilities and thus, the program.

Miller Farm and owner Pete Miller served their milk for the field trip fresh from the New England Dairy Mobile Dairy Bar.

Schools participating in this year’s pilot program, all part

of the WNESU district, are Westminster Center School and Bellows Falls Union High School, Westminster; Rockingham Central Elementary School, Bellows Falls; Saxtons River Elementary School, Saxtons River; and Grafton Elementary School, Grafton.

Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts mingled with the cows and kids.

“Organic has gone through

some serious growing pains,” he said. “This project here is a piece of that puzzle — getting into more institutional settings, whether it be schools, correctional facilities, colleges, etc.”

FROM SECTION FRONT

A news release about the pilot program, “Pilot program offers Windham Northeast students organic milk from Miller Farm,” appeared in the Sept. 27 issue.



Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts, left, and Paul Miller exchange pleasantries during an Oct. 19 field trip for Windham Northeast elementary school students to the Miller Farm in Vernon.



Half-pint bottles are filled with organic milk at the Miller Farm in Vernon.

RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/THE COMMONS

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COLUMN | Creative Conversations

Simple to the bone, straight to the heart

Walter Parks of The Unlawful Assembly brings old spirituals into the present day and makes music that reaches across the color lines

Walter Parks, the 65-year-old guitarist, composer, founder and band leader of The Unlawful Assembly, lives in St. Louis and says it's a great music town. He founded the band earlier this year and plays guitar and sings, along with Ada Dyer on vocals and Steven Williams, drummer and producer.



VICTORIA CHERTOK covers arts and entertainment in Vermont for The Commons. She is a classically trained harpist and received a B.A. in music at Bucknell University.

heart. That led me into old English hymns, the roots of all the music we love.

This is not a religious project. This is a historic project that takes old spirituals like "Down by the Riverside" and brings it into the present day. It's almost like [electronic dance music]; it has that kind of vibe.

V.C.: You toured with and played next to Richie Havens from 2001 to 2011. What lessons did you learn playing with Richie?

W.P.: When I first got the gig with Richie, I was playing three nights a week for 10 years. It was a great experience. I feel like one of the luckiest musicians in the world. I learned so much from him.

He valued the average person. He was 100% in the moment with whoever he was talking to instead of looking around the room for people who could help his career.

He was a true man of the people. He liked to mentor new talent in young people. He would appreciate and nurture the reasons why we as older artists got into art in the first place.

V.C.: You say that you play guitar like a piano. How so?

W.P.: As a guitar player, I love working on my guitar and studying musical harmony. I play the guitar kind of like a piano. I translate the music to guitar from old hymns which were written for organ. I use the piano or organ music and translate it for guitar.

Then the light went off. I hear hymns and spirituals in everything now!

V.C.: How did an experience in Vermont change your creative career?

W.P.: I was a guitar player for years before one of my mentors, Daniel Lanois, of Ontario, Canada, a great lover of American roots music, taught me a different relationship with my instrument: a finger pick method, kind of like caressing of the guitar and playing it like a banjo in a sort of banjo style. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think of Daniel.

V.C.: How did you find the Georgia "swamp music" and bring those songs to life?

W.P.: I started thinking about this old swamp in Georgia, the Okefenokee Swamp, which [was a setting for] all those railroad work songs that those guys would all sing. They had to hit a piece of rail in the same time, and there was music involved in the timing of that.

None of the Black folks were preserved in recording, just the white folks. The swamp had been harvested, the railroad tracks were ripped out, and the Black folks were gone.

The history of it is fascinating! Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) was instrumental in honoring this area.

V.C.: Where did you grow up?

W.P.: I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. I'm a Southerner. I did a lot of research from the 1930s and '40s Swamp music. I went searching for that music [on] a hunch.

I found a man named Francis Harper and the really rustic music he recorded: really beautiful old hymns, Appalachian reels and hollers [an old



The Unlawful Assembly

PAUL STOREY, COURTESY PHOTO

European holler that sounds like a yodel]. This is the music we play in The Unlawful Assembly.

V.C.: When you were a kid, you were interested in early '70s soul from Al Green to the Staple Sisters. What appealed to you?

W.P.: My father would play country music on the AM radio to wake me up in the morning to go to school. Dolly Parton, Porter Wagoner, Merle Travis.

And I hated it. I really hated white gospel music because I was forced to listen to that on Sunday morning. I rebelled. I needed to hear something different. I started listening to pop music: the Stylistics, Al Green, and Stevie Wonder.

For many white Southerners of my generation now, a lot of times the only exposure to people of color would be through somebody who maybe worked for them. They were the ones who consoled me when I was injured.

That humanity I saw at that

■ SEE PARKS, B3

'What? No vocals?'

Big Lazy's 'new American music' combines the archetypes of blues, jazz, and early rock 'n' roll with film and experimental music

STEPHEN ULRICH, guitarist, composer, founder, and bandleader of Big Lazy, grew up in New Haven, Connecticut and moved to New York City at age 17. He lived in Brooklyn and Manhattan for decades and now makes his home in Jersey City, New Jersey, with his wife and two teenaged children.

The 64-year-old Ulrich formed Big Lazy in 1990. He plays guitar and composes the band's music. Big Lazy also features Yuval Lion on drums and Andrew Hall on bass. Both longtime band members are integral to the band's chemistry.

VICTORIA CHERTOK: What is the origin of Big Lazy?

STEPHEN ULRICH: The original band was called Lazy Boy and was formed in 1990. We played a kind of murky jazz noir — guitar, bass, vocals.

One night, our singer didn't show, and we went on stage and played instrumentally. We never looked back!

What at first seemed like a career disaster — "What? No vocals?" — actually became our strength, as we license a lot of music for film and TV. This has led me to composing film music.

When the big gig came in

2010 — I composed music for two seasons of the HBO series *Bored to Death* — the original band dissolved. I re-invented it with two musicians from NYC that I really respected — Yuval Lion and Andrew Hall.

V.C.: What type of music do you play?

S.U.: We're an instrumental trio. The band combines the archetypes of blues, jazz, and early rock 'n' roll with film and experimental music and creates what, I think, I hope is some kind of new American music.

V.C.: You've been on crime TV shows and played on camera.

S.U.: Our music gets used often in crime shows. It's kind of evocative/suspenseful and with a film noir element to it.

V.C.: Where did you study guitar?

S.U.: When I was 17 years old, I studied with jazz guitarist Sal Salvador in New York City at the Ed Sullivan Theater. He had a dusty backroom office.

V.C.: Who were your early music influences?

S.U.: I grew up with one foot in the '60s (Hendrix, The Beatles) and one foot in the punk era (The Clash, The Sex Pistols, The Slits).

■ SEE ULRICH, B3

Double bill at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY—Next Stage Arts will present a double bill featuring "the reimagined historic spirituals and hymns of Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly, and "guitar noir"/"crime jazz" of Big Lazy, on Friday, Oct. 27 at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. They are \$10 livestream. Advance ticketing closes two hours before showtime. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit nextstagearts.org.

To learn more about The Unlawful Assembly, visit walterparks.com/the-unlawful-assembly. To learn more about Big Lazy, visit biglazymusic.com.

Vocalist 'comes home to the church'

'I didn't know singing could have a physical effect on the body,' says Ada Dyer, vocalist for The Unlawful Assembly

ADA DYER, vocalist for The Unlawful Assembly, has lived in Manhattan since 1981. She's currently on break from a world tour with Bruce Springsteen, where she sings in his E Street Band.

She joined Springsteen in January and began touring in February. Her favorite two places to visit so far were Amsterdam and Spain.

VICTORIA CHERTOK: Thanks for finding time to chat during your busy musical touring life! What is it like to tour with Springsteen?

ADA DYER: What can I

say? Bruce is a legend, and I'm very excited to be working with him. I couldn't ask for a better artist to work with at this point in my life. This is just perfection. I'm so grateful.

V.C.: I heard you spent your childhood in Chicago?

A.D.: I grew up on the South Side of Chicago. All of my early training was in the Pentecostal church.

One of my early influences was Mahalia Jackson. I remember listening to her and getting chills. I didn't know singing could have a physical effect on the body. I was like *wow, wow, wow*. I want to know how to do that, too.

V.C.: Who were some of

your early musical influences?

A.D.: Aretha [Franklin] — everybody was influenced by Aretha, and Stevie Wonder. Chaka Khan.

I did a few tours with Chaka Khan. She would do a lot of spot dates. The one that I remember the most was when we went to South Africa. I appreciated very much going to the motherland. And I played with Roberta Flack.

V.C.: What is your favorite genre to sing today?

A.D.: That's a hard one. Today, if I was doing my own thing, I'd want to go back to the Jazz standards. Songs that are not heard often anymore, like one of my favorites, "At Last."

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY

26

Performing arts
BRATTLEBORO Halloween-Themed Late Night Talk Show Parody with a Philosophical Twist: Halloween theme - costumes are encouraged.

Kids and families
Parent Education Program: "Nurturing Program" for Families in Substance Use Treatment & Recovery" (Online): This is one of several programs available to any parent or caregiver in VT who wants support and/or learn new parenting skills.

Community meals
PUTNEY Putney Monthly Free Produce Distribution: The Vermont Foodbank and Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor this monthly food drop of free produce and some non-perishables.

NOW PLAYING at the MOVIES

LATCHIS THEATRE
OCT. 27 - NOV. 2
KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON
FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S
TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR
HAUNTING IN VENICE
HOCUS POCUS

THURSDAY CONT.

Multimedia
BELLOWS FALLS Art Around Books presents "Confluences" Mixed Media Exhibition: Featuring: The new artists' book "Paper Bridge," poems by Kadya Molodowsky and hand-painted etchings/collages by Ellen Schechner-Johnson.

Ideas and education
BELLOWS FALLS Genealogy Workshop: Scavenger hunt workshop to test your genealogical skills and learn new ones. Does your family genealogy make you feel like you are in a construction zone full of bumps, wrong turns, and dead ends?

BRATTLEBORO Brattlemasters: "A Tale of Two Diseases - Are Type 2 Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease linked?" (In Person/Zoom): Recent research at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health has indicated that insulin resistance is linked to Alzheimer's Disease pathology.

FRIDAY

27

Music
PUTNEY Next Stage Arts: Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly and Big Lazy: This double bill features the reimagined historic spirituals and hymns of Walter Parks & The Unlawful Assembly

FRIDAY CONT.

along with the "guitar noir"/"crime jazz" of Big Lazy.
7:30 p.m. Next Stage provides beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

Well-being
Townshend Community Meeting about Health Care in Southern VT (Virtual/Zoom/Phone): The public is invited to participate in these community conversations. Meeting attendees will have a chance to share their first-hand experiences with navigating the health care system.

Dance
BRATTLEBORO Dungeons and Drag: Queer Dance Party and Cabaret: Join us in your finest and spookiest costumes for a helluva Halloween Bash! We're bringing DJ LeFox up to keep the beat and have an awesome lineup of your favorite performers.

Film and video
BRATTLEBORO Teen Halloween Movie Night "Edward Scissorhands": "Edward Scissorhands" is a modern day fairy tale which tells the story of Edward, the man created by an inventor, who died before finishing him and left Edward with scissors where he should have hands.

SATURDAY

28

Performing arts
BRATTLEBORO The Green Mountain Mimmers: Watch this group perform their symbolic death-and-resurrection "street theater" sword dance.

Music
BRATTLEBORO The KaneLoggiaHY-PTHESIS present "Masters of Sonic Liberation": New performance series highlights world-renowned musicians in the ever expanding field of experimental music.

SATURDAY CONT.

Ayumi Ishito, Dei Xhrist, Bonnie Kane, John Loggia.
7 p.m. More such performances to come: 11/18 and 12/16.

BRATTLEBORO North Indian Classical Music: North Indian classical music has been handed down from guru to disciple for hundreds of years through the guru-disciple relationship.

Farmers' markets
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Area Farmers Market (Last day of the year): BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place.

The written word
WILMINGTON Ann McCloskey talks about her new memoir: "These Dreams of You: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Resilience": This is a story of a mother's love for/commitment to her daughter who developed anorexia at age 10 and subsequently died young.

SUNDAY

29

Music
BELLOWS FALLS Friction Farm and Eric Phelps co-headline Stage 33 Live: International travelers/modern-folk troubadours - Friction Farm and longtime singer-songwriter Eric Phelps co-headline.

Well-being
BRATTLEBORO The Beloved Community of Brattleboro offers Exercise/Dance Class "Sacred Dance Workshop" (choose one or both): Exercise: Gentle, stretching exercise class for all levels.

Community building
MARLBORO Marlboro's first ENERGY FAIR!: "We'll have folks tabling to talk about solar installation, heat pumps, electric bikes, electric cars, weatherization, conservation, more.

Community meals
BRATTLEBORO Egyptian Hawawshi Meat or Lentil Pies: Free Class for Teens and Adults: Make speedy and flavorful Egyptian Hawawshi Meat or Lentil Pies with tahini sauce.

Dance
GUILFORD Brattleboro Bal Folk: Live music & dance instruction by Eloise & Co. Becky Tracy (fiddle) & Rachel Bell (accordion).

SUNDAY CONT.

6 p.m. in-house at Grafton Chapel. (6-7 p.m. Pick-up.)
Adults \$15, Children (ages 5-10) \$6.

Multimedia
BRATTLEBORO The Anvil Orchestra plays their live score to "A PAGE OF MADNESS" (Dir. Teinosuke Kinugasa, 1926): One of the rare Japanese silent films to survive WWII, this film is unlike anything you've ever seen.

Film and video
BRATTLEBORO "The Rocky Horror Picture Show": This 1975 cult classic/fan favorite features sweethearts Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon) stuck with a flat tire during a storm.

Music
BELLOWS FALLS Friction Farm and Eric Phelps co-headline Stage 33 Live: International travelers/modern-folk troubadours - Friction Farm and longtime singer-songwriter Eric Phelps co-headline.

TUESDAY

31

Kids and families
GUILFORD Trick or Treat - Guilford Center and the Guilford Free Library: Witches, monsters, fairy tale creatures, animals and others are invited to Trick or Treat the six homes and Library in Guilford Center Village.

WEDNESDAY

1

Community building
BRATTLEBORO Lantern Walk hosted by Brattleboro Area Hospice (BAH): BAH staff invites people to gather at Piny Park to begin a new tradition - a "lantern walk" through town ending at the parking lot at Experienced Goods.

Ideas and education
Autism Advocate Delivers Presentation "The Educational Experiences of a Non-speaking Autistic Person (Online)": Jordyn Zimmerman, a non-speaking autistic person/advocate who received her graduate degree in education from Boston College.

Dance
GUILFORD Brattleboro Bal Folk: Live music & dance instruction by Eloise & Co. Becky Tracy (fiddle) & Rachel Bell (accordion).

SUNDAY CONT.

from beautiful and meditative to raucous and energetic. Even if you've never tried anything like this before, come on over! Feel free to sit along the edges and listen and check it out, or join right in on the fun!

Film and video
WESTMINSTER WEST Westminster West Congregational Church Movie Series continues w/ "Johnny Cash! The Man, His World, His Music": 1969 documentary film directed by Robert Elfstrom follows Cash in his home/on the road playing concerts including one in the Tennessee State Prison and at Rosebud (Sioux Reservation in So. Dakota).

TUESDAY

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WELL-BEING

W. BRATTLEBORO All Souls Church Hybrid Worship Service: "Retreat: One Pathway to Purpose": In a busy life, how productive is it to stop the flow of activity? Won't things that need doing just back up and make things more complicated?

DANCE
GUILFORD Brattleboro Bal Folk: Live music & dance instruction by Eloise & Co. Becky Tracy (fiddle) & Rachel Bell (accordion).

The Commons HOLIDAY Shopping Pages to benefit Project Feed the Thousands November 29 - December 20 PROMOTE YOUR LOCAL OFFERINGS in our special HOLIDAY SHOPPING PAGES — our biggest papers of the year! A portion of advertising dollars will be given to Project Feed the Thousands to help those in need. Call 1-888-511-5150, or email one of our ad reps: lori@commonsnews.org nancy@commonsnews.org

To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

COLUMN | Creative Conversations

'It's a part of the cosmic download'

Sam Grisman Project
plays at the Stone Church

BASS PLAYER AND band leader Samson "Sam" Grisman, 33, of Nashville, Tennessee, tells us how excited he is about touring with his new band, Sam Grisman Project.

The band's upcoming tour will bring the four members to The Stone Church on Thursday, Oct. 26 for an "acoustic and electric set of timeless music," he says.

That music pays tribute to the offerings of two friends: Grisman's father, David "Dawg" Grisman, 78, and the late Jerry Garcia, of the Grateful Dead.

The elder Grisman, a legendary mandolinist, lives "far outside of Seattle, Washington" but recently joined his son's new band on stage in that city and provided "probably the most memorable" moments there.

During the band's last show in Seattle, Grisman's dad "got on a ferry and came out to the gig and played way more music than he planned to."

"Dawg" Grisman "really enjoyed himself, enjoyed interacting with the guys in the band," his son said. "It was really special for everyone involved. He played two-thirds of all acoustic music in that show."

The band began its first tour in January with the release of its first album, *Temple Cabin Sessions, Volume 1*, "and we seem to be on the road constantly since then," Grisman says.

"My goal in starting the band was to build a platform for my friends and me to showcase our genuine passion and appreciation for the legacy of Dawg and Jerry [Garcia]'s music," he adds.

Noting the friendship between his father and Garcia, Grisman writes in the band's publicity materials that he is inspired by "the way their camaraderie and their love and joy for the music, simply oozes out of each recording."

"By playing some of their beloved repertoire and sharing the original music that our own collective has to offer, we will also show the impact that this music has had on our own individual musical voices," he added.

Grisman grew up in Mill Valley, California, but now



VICTORIA CHERTOK covers arts and entertainment in Vermont for The Commons. She is a classically trained harpist and received a B.A. in music at Bucknell University.

makes his home in Nashville.

Grisman started early. He made his recording debut at age eight with his father, Dawg, and his friends John Hartford and Mike Seeger on their Grammy-nominated album, "Retrograss."

Since then Grisman has played and recorded with Darol Anger, Noam Pikelnny, Tim O'Brien, Bryan Sutton, Martin Taylor, Lee Ann Womack, Eric Krasno, and Billy Strings to name a few.

The Sam Grisman Project includes Grisman on acoustic upright bass, electric bass, and vocals; Ric Robertson on guitar, mandolin, keyboards, and vocals; Chris J. English on drums, percussion, and vocals; and Aaron Lipp on electric and acoustic guitar, keyboards, lap steel, and vocals.

Each night, the Sam Grisman Project performs a very different set list (as the Grateful Dead did). Grisman puts a lot of work "tracking what we play and when we played it."

"We've had a lot of folks travel to multiple shows once they realize that we're playing a different set list every night," he says. "It's humbling and encouraging to see so many familiar faces from night to night."

The Commons caught up with Grisman recently on the phone and talked about his new band, his upcoming tour, how they curate set lists for their shows, and how many instruments he brings on the road. Here's an excerpt of their conversation:

VICTORIA CHERTOK:

What should the audience expect at the Stone Church? Do you play acoustic sets and electric sets?

SAM GRISMAN: We play one half acoustic and one half electric at our shows. When time allows for it, we like to do that as much as we can. Some rooms make sense for both kinds of music, but a lot of these rock clubs don't take well



Sam Grisman Project

to acoustic music sonically, and sometimes the opposite is true.

V.C.: You play originals and covers. Which genres do you play?

S.G.: We play both. All the guys in my band are incredible musicians. We have a wide variety of influences, everybody writes material that is diverse, and no one has really bought into genre specific confines.

Genres are more about branding music and selling music. If you are focused on playing good music, there is not a lot of consideration for what genre you're playing. It's a way to quantify people's success to try to put you in one box. That's not how art works.

V.C.: It must have been something to have a father who was good friends with lots of incredible musicians. What lessons did Dawg teach you?

S.G.: I grew up in an environment with a father who had a super highly refined artistic concept and he instilled a lot of musical values in me. He taught me that genres are jive and that music is not a competition, nor is it a meritocracy.

You're never done learning. It's a lifelong pursuit, and you can only hope to master a fingernail's worth of the knowledge available.

V.C.: Was bass your first instrument?

S.G.: Actually, "bass" was my first word! It's pretty bizarre. I was 4 or 5 when I was able to pick up the quarter-size bass that lived in the corner of our living room.

I was younger when my dad got me a cello and tuned it like a bass, which are tuned in fourths. He started working on my timing, and we focused on playing one song, "Sally Goodin," for a year or more.

V.C.: What was Dawg like as a teacher when you were a kid?

S.G.: He is a great teacher and loves to teach people. He likes to teach repertoire. He likes to work on tunes. I grew up around that — playing jazz standards in the living room,

reading charts, and learning a lot of his original compositions by ear.

He would never force me to practice; he wanted my drive to come from within. He wanted me to be passionate about it.

V.C.: This is your second stint living in Nashville.

S.G.: I love it here and have an amazing network of friends and musical peers. There is no place quite like it, for the breadth of musicianship you can encounter locally. It also exists in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and New York.

It's almost like Nashville has been architected for the business of music. It's like noplacelse. Music is the primary focus. From 2011–17 I lived here and played with Bryan Sutton, who is one of the greatest living flat-pickers.

V.C.: How did you end up playing with Lee Ann Womack?

S.G.: When I wasn't playing music with my dad, my main gig was playing country music with Lee Ann Womack. She's amazing — one of the greatest singers I've ever worked with and a total sweetheart. Her husband is the country producer Frank Liddell.

I met them on a cruise that I was playing music on. Frank came up to me and said he was "a closeted deadhead" and shortly after that they hired me to play in a music video. I worked for her for about four years.

V.C.: What exactly is Dawg music?

S.G.: Dawg music is a genre of music that my father invented. His dear friend Jerry Garcia gave him this nickname "Dawg" in the early '70s. They were living in Stinson Beach, California and were playing in a band, Old and In the Way. My dad produced [the band's first self-titled] record and wrote that song [of the same name]. It's the only song he's ever written with lyrics.

Dawg started writing music very early on and had already written lots of instrumentals. His compositions were broader than bluegrass and pulled from

a wide variety of influences, from jazz to bluegrass and world music.

Now there is a great tradition of new acoustic music or newgrass music, but the earliest examples of this forward-thinking acoustic music are some early Dawg tunes.

In the early '70s he started a band, The Great American Music Band, named after the Great American Music Hall. That band might kind of be closest to our concept. They played all kinds of music, but it was a great incubator for some of the new Dawg tunes my Dad was writing at the time.

He started the band with Richard Greene, the great fiddler and Bill Monroe alum, and they would play with a rotating cast of characters. Sometimes Taj Mahal would play with them, sometimes Jerry would play with them, and sometimes Maria Muldaur would play with them.

V.C.: Which was your favorite tune that your Dad wrote?

S.G.: My favorite Dawg tune is probably the epic "Dawg's Rag." It has seven parts or something like that, and lots of space for everyone to improvise. When I was a toddler, my Dad asked me what my favorite song was, and I said, "Dawg's Rag!"

I was born six weeks premature and had to spend time in an incubator, so my Dad would come to the hospital to play mandolin for me. That's one of the tunes he would play for me.

V.C.: Who were your early music influences?

S.G.: John Hartford was a dear family friend, and I remember him coming to the house and recording. His music still inspires me to this day. Hartford was an advocate for old-time music and American fiddle music and did a lot of transcribing of fiddle tunes.

One of my favorite records of his is *Aereo-Plain*. It was produced by David Bromberg in 1971. Norman Blake played guitar and Vassar Clements played fiddle; it features John's remarkable songwriting and inimitable vibe, and it's one of

the albums that most shaped the musical landscape that I live in today.

V.C.: Let's talk equipment for the tour. Which bass do you bring on the road?

S.G.: I play an American Standard upright bass built in Cleveland, Ohio in 1940. It's a tremendous old instrument. It's very reliable and sounds like all these old records sound. American Standards have a cool deep sound happening.

As for my electric, an amazing friend in Fairfax, California very graciously bought exactly the bass I would have wanted and is letting me use it indefinitely. It's a 1959 Gibson EB-2. I didn't have it in the budget to get the caliber instrument I needed for the job, and he came to the rescue!

V.C.: What is the most important thing to tell people about why you do this?

S.G.: Music is one of the most sacred art forms, because it's a language that not everyone can speak but that everybody understands. It allows people to communicate across language barriers and cultural barriers.

It's pre-technological. We were built with this information inside of us; it's a part of the cosmic download.

V.C.: Any closing thoughts?

S.G.: We care deeply about this music and about each other, and we hope that love comes across to our audiences when they catch our shows.

We are incredibly grateful to have all of these opportunities to play in front of so many wonderful new friends, and we're excited for what the future brings. The music never stopped!

Sam Grisman Project presents "The Music of Garcia/Grisman on Thursday, Oct. 26 at the Stone Church, 210 Main St., Brattleboro. It's an all-ages show. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit stonechurchvt.com. To find out more about Sam Grisman Project, visit samgrismanproject.net.

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~ Greg Underwood, Jamaica, VT

VIEWPOINT

Not down the middle

Why does New Hampshire have jurisdiction over the entire Connecticut River? It's complicated.

MOST WATERBODIES marking a boundary between two states or countries have an imaginary dotted line running down their middle. The Connecticut River does not because, as everyone “knows,” the river belongs to New Hampshire.

However, as with all things human, the real circumstances are more complicated.

The reality about river ownership started with the original land grants from England, modified during the time of the American Revolution, with the present-day boundary set by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. The English grants set the boundary between then-New York and New Hampshire as the western bank of the river.

Soon after Vermont declared her independence and the signing of the Declaration of Independence occurred, community leaders in 22 New Hampshire towns (Chesterfield to Haverhill) persuaded their fellow townspeople to secede from their state. They were convinced that the actions of the Crown were no longer the law and they wanted to eliminate the river as a jurisdictional boundary.

A convention of river towns from both states met in Cornish, New Hampshire, to consider forming a state called “New Connecticut,” as many of the settlers migrated to the valley from eastern Connecticut.

Instead, in 1778, the New Hampshire towns joined the Vermont Republic, and the river was no longer a boundary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE leaders tried to appease the rebels with political appointments and support for the idea of annexing Vermont river towns.

When these approaches failed, New Hampshire asked the Continental Congress to settle the dispute, making it clear that unless Congress returned the towns, the state would no longer contribute to the war

DAVID L. DEEN is a member of the Connecticut River Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, and the Connecticut Atlantic Salmon River Commission. Whenever he can, he writes and lectures about and fishes the Connecticut River.

effort. New Hampshire then took stronger measures and threatened to send 1,000 soldiers westward to the valley, ostensibly to protect against Indigenous peoples and the British, but in reality to take back the towns Vermont had annexed.

In 1782, prodded by a letter from George Washington critical of Vermont’s actions, Congressional actions, and the threat of a 1,000-man army headed its way, Vermont did a sudden about-face.

The state Assembly voted to renounce jurisdiction over all towns east of the river and any claim to jurisdiction east of the west side of the river, beginning at the low-water mark.

The river was a state boundary again — and New Hampshire got it all.

VERMONT ATTEMPTED to assert a claim over half the river and invited New Hampshire to appoint commissions to settle the boundary in 1792, 1794, and 1830. New Hampshire offered no response to the first two invitations and a flat-out *no* to the last overture.

In 1915, Vermont sued in the U.S. Supreme Court, asking to establish the boundary between the states as the thread (deepest part) of the Connecticut River. The state said it held title to the thread by virtue of English common law and, since Vermont joined the Union as a sovereign state, her boundaries were those she self-established, and the thread of the river was her eastern boundary.

■ SEE RIVER, C2

VIEWPOINT



COURTESY PHOTO COMMONS FILE

Timothy J. O'Connor and Michael J. Obuchowski both served as speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives. Could the way they conducted themselves in that job serve as an inspiration for current members of the U.S. House?

When the business of the people proceeded

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives should reach out to Democrats and resolve the impasse over the speaker, following the example of how the Vermont Legislature worked in the 1970s

AS I WITNESS the MAGA Republicans topple House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and then his proposed successor, Steve Scalise, I am reminded of how Vermonters have handled minorities.

I served in the Vermont Legislature in the '70s and the '90s. During my first hitch, the speaker was Timothy J. O'Connor Jr.

Tim — by heritage, education, and disposition — was a

THOMAS COSTELLO represented Rutland City in the Vermont House of Representatives from 1974 to 1980 and Brattleboro from 1994 to 2000. He is founding partner of Costello, Valente & Gentry, P.C., a law firm in Brattleboro.

Democrat. Make no mistake. And no one did.

Yet, in 1976, when the Democrats were a minority party in the House of Representatives, when there was a strong Republican governor and Republican Senate, Tim was elected speaker.

In 1996, the House was also divided, into Republicans, Democrats, Blue Dogs, and Progressives. As speaker, I elected Michael Obuchowski — also a Democrat by heritage, education, and disposition.

No mystery here.

In both instances, the speaker, who had sole power to appoint committees, treated all fairly.

As for O'Connor, for instance, he appointed Peter Guiliani, a no-nonsense Republican conservative, as chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. His vice chair was Tom Candon, of Rutland, leader of the Democrats, who Guiliani affectionately called “Boss Candon.”

■ SEE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP, C2

LETTERS FROM READERS

We must confront paradox of Palestinian suffering and Hamas's atrocities

How history repeats itself. As I encounter people saying that the Palestinian situation justifies the barbarism of Hamas, I think of the American leftists who wouldn't hear anything against Joseph Stalin.

In his 30 years of power in Russia and, later, the Soviet Union, Stalin engineered the murder of millions—all in the service of creating a Communist utopia.

He called for the eradication of the Kulaks, or peasants who owned more than 8 acres of land. He imprisoned in the Soviet gulag system — or simply murdered — anyone

deemed an enemy of the state. His policies exacerbated the Ukrainian famine of the early 1930s, starving millions.

These horrors were rationalized as the ends justifying the means.

The Hamas agenda is a very far cry from utopian. Its credo reduces women to chattel, calls for the eradication of not only every LGBTQ person, but all Jews and Christians as well.

Free speech is not tolerated, the media is suppressed, as is all political opposition. Nongovernmental organizations are eviscerated; all independent mechanisms for accountability, destroyed.

It is difficult in the face of terrorist violence to allow for nuanced ideas. It is hard to consider two opposing facts (Palestinian suffering and the

atrocities Hamas commits in the name of liberation) at the same time.

But we must. We bystanders cannot conflate the desperation of Palestinians — whose lives have already gotten immeasurably worse due to these terrorists — with the Hamas specious claim of noble struggle for the underdog.

Stephanie Greene
West Dover

Israel and Hamas: both guilty of civilian slaughter

RE: “Oct. 7 was not Day 1 of Israel’s war on Palestinians” [Viewpoint, Oct. 11]:

Kudos to Kate Casa for calling for historical context and

fair and balanced media coverage of the terrible conflict between Israel and the terrorist organization Hamas.

Both Israel and Hamas are guilty of the slaughter of innocent people. We must bear witness to all the brutality occurring in an inconceivable escalation of violence that is killing civilian victims on both sides of the conflict. It’s a conflict without end, unless our fading humanity can recognize the human cost of massive aggression as a first step toward resolution.

In this terrible, tragic time we must mourn for all the victims of war and aggression, Jew and Palestinian together. We must hear their stories whether they come from Tel Aviv or Gaza. Those stories matter and enlighten us, as does the history of

the conflict.

We cannot turn away from all who suffer the consequences of violence and war, or we will all be doomed to a hopeless future.

Elayne Clift
Brattleboro

‘Got it all wrong’

RE: “Oct. 7 was not Day 1 of Israel’s war on Palestinians” [Viewpoint, Oct. 11]:

Kate Casa’s headline in your paper got it all wrong — so surprising for someone who claims to be a journalist.

Does she not remember several attempts by Arabs to bomb Israel out of existence? Was it not in 1948, when the first attempt was made, that leaders of the Muslim community told all the Palestinians in Jerusalem

to leave their homes for several days because they were going to bomb Israel away? Remember, they were on Hitler’s side.

History is important, my friends.

Seventy-five years later, we are in dire times when Hamas enters Israel and massacres and takes hostage citizens of several countries, because they want every Jewish person in the world to be dead. Why?

Selma Schiffer
Wilmington

More letters, C2



looks over a lawn, a rambling stone wall to the meadow and mountain views. Entry porch has EV charger. There is two bay basement garage with high ceilings, ample work space, washer, dryer and laundry sink. The 32 x 40 barn has a workroom and a loft.

The peaceful, pastoral views to meadows and hills will captivate you! The ever changing cloudscapes and the way sunlight dances with shadows add everyday delight! In West Guilford, nestled away on 18 acres, this 1868 square foot, contemporary six room home, surrounded by mature woodlands was built by the current owners in 1974. Planned with simple lines outside, designed inside with personality and large windows for the kitchen, living room and primary bedroom to enjoy the lovely views. There are vaulted ceilings, light filled rooms, front entry w/cedar closet, a spacious living room with a centerpiece fireplace, a loft library with a sleeping alcove, the cheeriest of eat in kitchens with plentiful storage, counter space, views and a 16' x 10' deck. The versatile layout offers a dining room if desired, or a office/den as it is used now. The primary bedroom has a three quarter bath with a shower. A stackable laundry was added to the craft room/bedroom closet. The 20 foot long covered deck off the living room and primary bedroom

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Public invited to participate in community meetings about health care in southern Vermont

MONTPELIER — The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) invites members of the public to participate in a series of virtual community meetings about the future of health care in southern Vermont.

During these community conversations, organizers said that meeting attendees will have a chance “to share their first-hand experiences with navigating the health care system — what is going well, what do you want to see more of, what changes could make it easier to get the care you need at an affordable price?”

Meetings will be held on Friday, Oct. 27, at 4 p.m., for Grace Cottage Health Care in Townshend; Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m., for Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington; and Thursday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m., for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Full information on these meetings and how to sign-up to reserve your spot can be found at bit.ly/3QoINRb.

The GMCB says these meetings “are part of a broad, state-wide community engagement effort to improve the sustainability of Vermont’s health care system, starting with the experiences and priorities of local residents.” More information about the GMCB can be found at gmcboard.vermont.gov.

Monthly produce distribution

PUTNEY — The Vermont Foodbank and the Putney Foodshelf co-sponsor a monthly food drop of free produce and some nonperishables on the fourth Thursday of every month from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Alice Holway Drive (in front of Putney Meadows, the white building across from the Putney Co-op and Putney Fire Station).

believe the future is vegetables and fruits. They are so much more sexier than a piece of chicken.

—JOSE ANDRES

All are welcome. This is a drive-up service. Bags provided. The next monthly food drop is Thursday, Oct. 26.

RFPL hosts genealogical workshop

BELLOWS FALLS — Come to the Rockingham Free Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for a scavenger hunt workshop to test your genealogical skills, as well as learn some new ones.

Experienced genealogists and newcomers alike are welcome to bring their laptops and join Genealogist Wayne Blanchard and Reference and Historical Collections librarian Pamela Johnson-Spurlock for this workshop as participants will take basic pieces of information and work together to help create a short biographical sketch of a person’s life.

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

Windham Philharmonic presents Halloween concert

BRATTLEBORO — A fun, family-friendly Halloween concert is next for the Windham Philharmonic on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre.

The orchestra, under the direction of Hugh Keelan, brings back Jerod Tate’s striking *Coyote* excerpt from their recent performance of *Spirit Chief Names the Animal People*, with bassoon, piccolo, and percussion showing Coyote’s tricky nature. The hall will ring with the dancing rhythms of Mexican composer Moncayo’s Huapango, the sweeping runs of Mussorgsky’s *Night on Bald Mountain*, and a “macabre” duet sung by sopranos Elizabeth Wohl and Jenna Rae. Halloween treats and maybe a trick or two make a lively

AROUND THE TOWNS

hour-long program.

This concert benefits their concert partner, Groundworks Collaborative, who are working with people and systems focused on creating solutions to end hunger and homelessness for all people in the region. Admission is by donation and costumes are encouraged! Mouth-watering baked treats will be available for donation. For more information, visit windhamphilharmonic.org.

Changing art exhibits at West Village Meeting House

WEST BRATTLEBORO — “Collaborations,” the current art exhibit at All Souls Church in West Brattleboro, will be on view through Saturday, Nov. 4. A closing reception for Stuart Copans and his many artistic collaborators will be held that day from 3 to 5 p.m.

For November and December, the church’s gallery spaces will

offer small art works — some framed, some not — as well as artist-made gift items. All are reasonably priced, affordable, creative selections to take home in time for unique holiday gift-giving. The Art Gift Sale will take place on Sundays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment.

All Souls Church is located in the West Village Meeting House at 29 South St. in West Brattleboro, up the hill from the fire station. For more information, visit ascvt.org or email allsoulsstart@gmail.com.

Leaf collection schedule announced

BRATTLEBORO — Brattleboro’s curbside Fall Leaf Collection will take place on Friday, Nov. 3 and 17. These will be the only days scheduled for curbside leaf pick-up.

All leaves and clippings must be in brown paper leaf bags and

at the curb by 7 a.m. on scheduled leaf collection days. Acceptable waste includes leaves, grass, clippings, garden waste, and twigs (no branches larger than 1 inch in diameter and 2 feet long).

No other household trash is to be included. Town leaf collection is designated for single family residences or apartment buildings with 2-4 units. No plastic bag or other containers will be accepted. Brown paper leaf bags are available for purchase at local businesses.

Grace Cottage hosts flu shot clinic

TOWNSHEND - Grace Cottage Family Health will hold a Saturday flu vaccine clinic on Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. Pre-registration is recommended (802-365-4331); walk-ins will be accommodated as space allows.

During the flu clinic, Grace Cottage will also host a food drive for the Townshend Food Shelf.

If you can, please bring a non-perishable food item. You do not need to be an established patient at Grace Cottage to get a flu shot at this clinic. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Most insurance covers this preventive health measure; bring your ID and insurance card with you. If you are not insured, payment for your flu shot is expected at the time of service.

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to avoid getting the flu and spreading it to others. It takes about two weeks for protection to develop after vaccination. Two different flu shots are being offered this year, one for those age six months to 64, and another for those who are 65 and older.

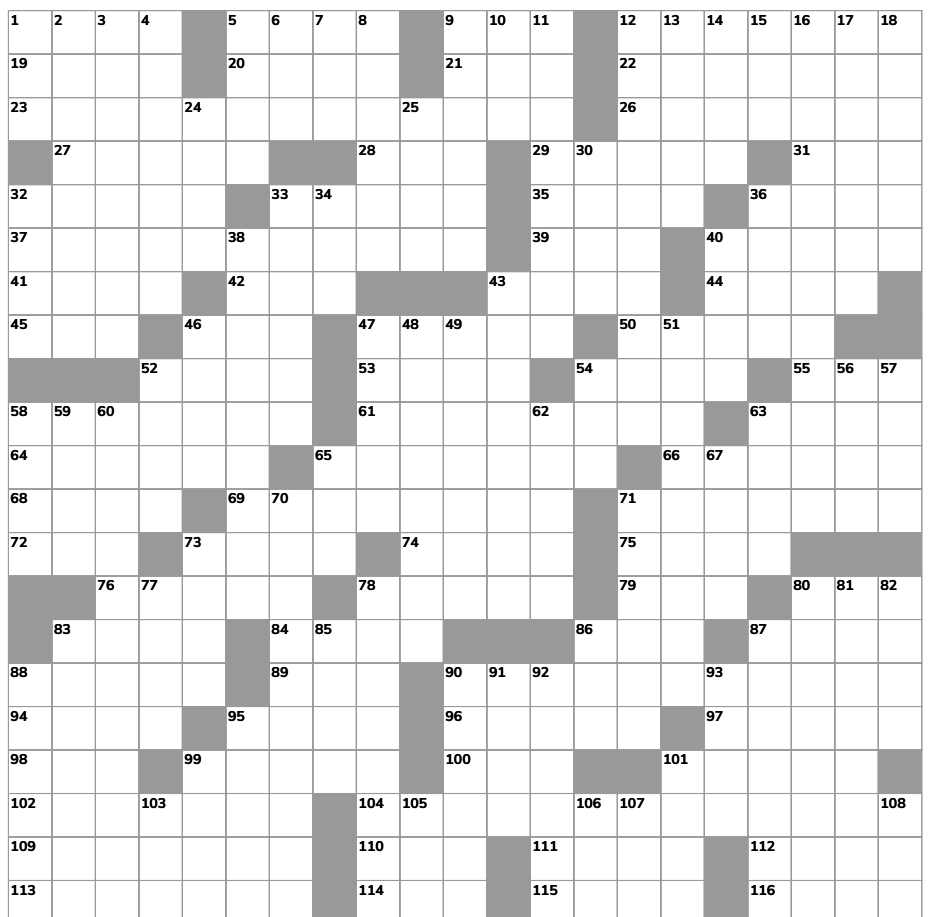
Flu shots are also available at Grace Cottage weekdays by appointment. Call 802-365-4331. Grace Cottage Family Health is located at 185 Grafton Road (Route 35).

BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

“Film Adaptations”

Across

- 1. Long walk in the woods
5. Donkey
9. Mac
12. Some coast-to-coast flights
19. Actress Campbell
20. Matmid Frequent Flier program carrier
21. “Other names include” letters
22. “The BEST!”
23. 1978 movie about a forgetful oboist?
26. Earns back
27. Void
28. Olympic skier Ligety
29. Cashier
31. Big wine holder
32. “Up” voice actor
33. “Old McDonald” letters
35. Spreadsheet sections
36. Ballet move
37. 1994 movie about the best butcher?
39. Bird of crosswords
40. Spectacle
41. Model Holiday
42. Brain disease that affects ex-NFLers
43. “You lose”
44. Tricky move
45. Pre-video clips
46. Toots and the Maytals genre
47. Chocolate-and-vanilla soft serve



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- 115. Rogon of “Platonic”
116. Does the math?

Down

- 1. Explosive palindrome
2. Discussed again
3. Uniformity
4. Unpopped popcorn
5. Ship part
6. Stinking of mothballs
7. “Negatory”
8. Butt muscles
9. Canine baseball helper in the minors
10. Oahu strings
11. Day of drinking in multiple places
12. 1954 movie about a unique skylight?
13. Decorative jugs
14. See 95-Down
15. Placido’s pronoun
16. 1998 movie about acquiring Peru’s capital?
17. Understanding
18. Sonnet section
24. Coin with a national side
25. Rhein rejection
30. TV host Love
32. “__ girl!”
33. Call for
34. Cold War prez
36. Dr. Biden
38. Gross measurement?
40. Flew (through)
43. Facial cover in a Dumas novel
46. Voice in an iPhone
47. Buffalo hockey player
48. Encircles with a garland
49. Rowena’s lover in literature
51. Risked everything
52. Dampens
54. Bamboozle
56. Latin egg
57. Cry over spilled milk?
58. Sonic creator

- 59. Company chair
60. 2003 movie about a rodent, literally?
62. Crispy cookie brand
63. Typical Tuesday fare
65. Nexplanon alternative
67. EGOT trophy
70. 2008 movie about calling an Italian city?
71. Ignatius follower
73. Cuts (off)
77. Billiard sticks
78. Doctor’s orders, often
80. Hung in there
81. Ran
82. Mangled
83. Uganda’s capital

- 85. Links numbers
86. Banned pesticide
87. Lady Gaga or Beyoncé
88. Throws with force
90. G neighbor
91. Legendary person
92. Court figures
93. Attendee
95. With 14-Down, The Fool’s spot
99. Chilean bread
101. The stuff of legends
103. —Manuel Miranda
105. “Ulalume” poet
106. Logger’s tool
107. It’s boring
108. Hits that make Angels happy: Abbr.

Last issue’s solution

“Forefathers”



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Be Sure To Check Our Full Program Schedule @ brattleborotv.org LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS Oct. 23-29 CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079 PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS! Here We Are - Willow O'Feral, Filmmaker: Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Thurs 1:20p, Fri 9:30p, Sat 12:15p, Sun 5:15p River Valleys Unified School District Board Special Mtg. 10/19/23: Mon 6:15p, Tues 10a, Wed 12p Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 10/23/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 10/23/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 10/23/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 10/24/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:30p Putney Selectboard Public Hearing on 2023 Draft Town Plan 10/24/23: Fri 6p, Sat 8:30a, Sun 12p Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 10/24/23: Fri 8:30p, Sat 6a, Sun 2:30p Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Mon 7:30p, Tues 12p, Wed 6a, Thurs 2:15p, Sun 6p Newfane Selectboard Mtg. 10/16/23: Mon 7a, Tues 9p, Wed 1:15p, Thurs 12p, Sat 11a, Sun 11a Vernon Selectboard Mtg. 10/17/23: Mon 4:25p, Tues 9:45p, Wed 9:40a, Thurs 11a, Sat 5:10p West River Education District Board Mtg. 10/10/23: Mon 9a, Tues 3:45p, Thurs 1p, Fri 4:45p Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 10/11/23: Mon 5:30a, Tues 5p, Wed 10:30a Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 10/2/23: Mon 2:30p, Tues 7p, Wed 2p Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 9/21/23: Mon 10:15a, Tues 7:15a Town Matters - Weekly Episode: Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p The David Pakman Show: Mon 8a, Tue 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a 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 Note: Schedule subject to change. View full schedule and watch online at brattleborotv.org BCTV's Program Highlights are sponsored by The Commons. BCTV's municipal meeting coverage helps Commons reporters stay in touch. Read about it in the Town & Village section at www.commonnews.org Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

COLUMN | *Sports Roundup*

Twin Valley boys earn top seed in Division IV tournament

Undefeated Wildcats capture SVL title, set sights on state championship

One championship down, one to go. The Twin Valley boys' soccer team finished the regular season undefeated with a 3-2 win over the Randolph Galloping Ghosts on Oct. 20 and, in the process, captured the Southern Vermont League C Division title.

After a season filled with routs over less skilled teams, Wildcats coach Buddy Hayford viewed the showdown with Randolph as the perfect tuneup for his team heading into the Division IV playoffs.

"We're playing our best soccer of the season," Hayford told me after a 10-1 win over Bellows Falls on Oct. 18. "We have our sights on a state title, but winning the SVL title would be a great way to go into the tournament."

Hayford said his team was expecting an intense game against Randolph, who like Twin Valley, entered the game with a 6-0 record in SVL play. The game turned to be exactly as billed, as Twin Valley opened with three unanswered goals before the Wildcats had to hold back a Randolph rally in the second half.

Twin Valley's two leading scorers, senior Cody Magnant and ninth-grader Hunter Roth, gave the Wildcats a 3-0 lead at the half. Magnant opened the scoring with a goal off a free kick by Steven Oyer in the fourth minute and then converted a penalty kick in the 12th minute for his 31st and 32nd goals of the season. Roth then got what turned out to be an important insurance goal in the 20th minute after knocking in the ball during a scramble in front of the Ghosts goal.

Randolph came back strong in the second half with two goals in the first 10 minutes of play. Hudson Grimes scored in the 45th minute and Silas Abbott got a goal five minutes later, but the Ghosts got no closer. With both teams were playing their third game in four days, they staggered to the finish.

Twin Valley had a 15-11 advantage in shots and Wildcats goalkeeper Kaelyn Lackey made nine saves in the win.

Before the Randolph game, the Wildcats had a pair of blowout wins. Roth and Magnant scored three goals each as Twin Valley torched Springfield, 9-0, at Hayford Field on Oct. 17. Oyer, Noah Dornburgh, and Halen Ranslow also scored. Brayden Brown had three assists, Roth and Magnant each had two assists, and Oyer and Garrett Cunningham each had an assist.

The next night against Bellows Falls, the Wildcats scored eight goals in the first half in a 10-1 win. Magnant scored four goals, Oyer added two goals and two assists, Brown had a goal and two assists, and Pacey Reynolds and Garrett Ryan got their first varsity goals. BF's Tristan Boylan broke up the shutout with a goal in the 65th minute.

Hayford said that the good thing about games against Springfield and BF was that it offered a chance to rest the starters and get the other players on the roster a chance to play substantial minutes.

"I have 21 players on the team, and they don't always get enough playing time," said Hayford. "I wanted the starters to score early and often [against BF] so they could some rest



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

and give the other guys some experience heading into the playoffs."

The 14-0 Wildcats got a first round bye and will take on the winner of the Oct. 25 first round game between No. 8 West Rutland and No. 9 Leland & Gray in a quarterfinal game at Hayford Field in Wilmington on Friday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

Football

- Burr & Burton quarterback Jack McCoy is considered one of the best in the state at his position. On a rainy night at Applejack Stadium in Manchester on Oct. 20, McCoy offered additional proof of his skill by throwing for 301 yards and four touchdowns in a 27-8 win over the Brattleboro Bears.

The soggy conditions and lots of penalties slowed down the Bulldogs, but McCoy and receiver Seb Dostal seemed to be in sync as they connected on touchdown passes of 64, 39, and 49 yards. Kaleb Gabert caught the other TD pass in the regular season finale for both teams.

McCoy completed 13 of his 18 passes, with Dostal catching four of them for 162 yards and Gabert reeling in three passes for 31 yards. Running back Peyton Gray had 10 carries for 72 yards.

The Bears struggled on both sides of the ball. They got their only touchdown midway through the fourth quarter off a short pass from quarterback Karson Elliott that deflected off the hands of Jack Cady into the grasp of tight end Jackson Emery in the end zone. Emery also caught a two-point conversion pass from Elliott.

At 7-1, Burr & Burton clinched the No. 2 seed in Division I with the victory. Brattleboro earned the No. 7 seed with a 3-4-1 record, and will face the Bulldogs once again in the quarterfinal round on Saturday, Oct. 28 in Manchester at 2 p.m.

- Bellows Falls also ended the regular season with a loss as they fell to the North Country Falcons, 27-7, in Newport on Oct. 21.

The Terriers trailed 14-0 at the half and got their lone touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter to cut the Falcons' lead to 14-7. North Country then closed out the game with two more touchdowns.

BF still kept the No. 3 seed in Division II with a 4-4 record. They will host No. 6 Spaulding (4-4) for a quarterfinal game at Hadley Field on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m.

Girls' soccer

- Leland & Gray, the defending Division IV champion, finished with a 10-3-1 record and the second seed in this year's tournament. They got a first-round bye and will host the winner of the first-round game between No. 7 Long Trail and No. 10 Proctor in a quarterfinal game in Townshend



Twin Valley midfielder Cody Magnant has scored 32 goals so far to help the Wildcats finish the regular season with a 14-0 record and the top seed in the Division IV boys' soccer tournament.

on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m.

The Rebels finished the regular season with a 7-0 win over Bellows Falls on Oct. 16 as Mary Sanderson scored four goals and Maggie Parker had two goals and four assists, and a 2-0 loss to White River Valley on Oct. 20.

- Brattleboro earned a home playoff game with a 8-5-1 record that gave them the No. 7 seed in Division I. They hosted No. 10 St. Johnsbury in a first-round game on Oct. 24 at Natowich Field. The Bears topped Rutland, 5-2, on Oct. 19 in the regular season finale as Reese Croutworst scored four goals.

- Bellows Falls finished with a 1-13 record and the No. 17 seed in Division III. The Terriers defeated No. 16 Thetford, 3-2, in overtime in a play-in game on Oct. 23. BF then went on to face top-seeded Fair Haven in a first-round game on Oct. 24. The Terriers lost their season finale to Green Mountain, 3-1, on Oct. 19 in Westminster.

- Twin Valley finished with 0-14 record and will sit out the Division IV tournament.

Boys' soccer

- Brattleboro finished the regular season with a 10-3-1 record and the fifth seed in the Division I playoffs. The Bears will host BFA-St. Albans in a first-round game on Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. at Natowich Field.

The Bears rolled to a 6-1 win over Rutland on Oct. 17, then rallied to beat Mount Anthony, 2-1, in the regular season finale in Bennington on Oct. 19. Jackson Pals and Ozzie VanHendrick scored in the final five minutes to knock off the Patriots.

- Leland & Gray got the ninth seed in the Division IV playoffs with a 5-8-1 record. The Rebels finished

the regular season with a 4-0 win over Bellows Falls on Oct. 17, and lost 2-1 to White River Valley on Oct. 20.

- Bellows Falls ended the regular season with a 0-14 record and the No. 16 seed in the Division III playoffs. The Terriers will travel to Stowe to face the top-seeded Raiders on Oct. 25 in a first-round game at 3 p.m. BF lost the regular season finale to Green Mountain, 7-1, on Oct. 20 in Westminster.

Field hockey

- It's been a challenging year for Bellows Falls, as the Terriers finished with a 9-4-1 record and the No. 5 seed in Division I. They will travel to Colchester to face the No. 4 Lakers in the quarterfinals on Friday, Oct. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

The Terriers ended the regular season on a high note with a 1-0 win over Burr & Burton in Manchester on Oct. 21. Eryn Ross scored the deciding goal for BF and goalie Livie Clough made six saves to earn the shutout victory.

- Brattleboro finished the regular season with a 4-9 record and the ninth seed in Division II. The Bears played the No. 8 Mt. Abraham Eagles in a first-round game in Bristol on Oct. 24, and lost 1-0.

Cross-country

- Thetford won the boys' competition and Stratton Mountain School was the girls' winner in the SVL A Division cross-country championships on Oct. 20 in Rutland. The Bellows Falls girls were sixth, while Brattleboro finished seventh.

In the boys' race, Thetford's Ben Mattern covered the 5K course in 17 minutes, 4.56 seconds to take first place. Nico Conathan-Leach of Brattleboro was fourth in 17:41.26.

Desi Broadley of Bellows Falls cracked the girls' top 10 with a ninth place finish in 23:36.08.

Next up for the Brattleboro and Bellows Falls teams is the state championship meet this Saturday at Thetford Academy.

Senior bowling roundup

- The standings were reshuffled again after Week 7 of the fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Oct. 19. Stepping Stones (28-7) had a 5-0 week, while Hairiers (23-12) had a 0-5 week to leave them in first and second place, respectively. Four Pins (21-14) moved up to third, followed by Skippers and High Rollers (both 20-15), Four Seasons (19-16), No Splits (17-18), Dumblebor (15-20), and PEWJ (6-29).

Pam Greenblott had the women's high handicap game (240) and series (667), while Jerry Dunham had the men's high handicap game (259) and Rick Wescott had the high handicap series (701). Stepping Stones had the high team handicap game (883) and series (2,528).

Robert Rigby had the men's high scratch series (591) with games of 205, 196, and 190. Westcott had a 560 series with games of 200 and 187, and Marty Adams had a 508 series with a 198 game. Warren Corriveau Sr. and Dunham both had a 508 series, with Dunham rolling a 213 game, while Charlie Marchant had a 502 series. Bob Uccello had a 189 game and Skip Shine and Norm Oakes each had a 185 game.

Carol Gloski again had the women's high scratch series (512) with games of 186, 164, and 162. Greenblott had a 168 game.



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