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Judge's ruling clears closing of pharmacy

Court denies motion for restraining order in Greater Falls Pharmacy case; previous owners vow to open anew

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—A judge's denial of a motion for a restraining order has likely sealed the fate of yet another independent Vermont pharmacy — but its former owners, who sought the judicial intervention, say they will open a new pharmacy once they regain control of their commercial space.

Greater Falls Pharmacy at 78 Atkinson St. will close at the end of the day on Friday, Sept. 29, and the current operators will be filing for bankruptcy.

On Sept. 15, Vermont Superior Court Judge David Barra denied a motion by former owner Marc Cote, who sought a restraining order against the pharmacy on Sept. 8 when current owners Michelle and Donald Laurendeau announced the closing.

The Cotes had asked the court to order the Laurendeaus to retract any public statements directing customers to other pharmacies, all public statements about closing the pharmacy, and that they take no further action to close accounts, fire employees, cancel vendor contracts, or terminate the pharmacy's professional licenses without Cote's permission.

In a response filed on Sept. 13, Patrick M. Ankuda, the attorney for the Laurendeaus and the pharmacy, sought a 30-day continuance for the Cotes' motion "so that the Defendants may move forward with their bankruptcy filing and not incur further expenses litigating this case."

Ankuda cited state regulations governing closing of pharmacies that actually mandate the urgent notification to customers and the public, calling the Laurendeaus' actions "perfectly legal and required by regulations."

"In this case, Marc Cote is a creditor of the Defendant, Greater Falls Pharmacy, and he and his counsel know that he is not the only creditor of the Pharmacy," Ankuda wrote. "The Pharmacy vendors and other suppliers wear the same shoes as Mr. Cote."

"Moreover, Mr. Cote has no controlling interest in the Pharmacy and cannot dictate the terms of closure. The Board of Pharmacy controls by its regulations and Defendant, Greater Falls Pharmacy, is acting in compliance therewith," Ankuda continued.

He also argued that the court "cannot enjoin Greater Falls Pharmacy from closing and/or filing for bankruptcy."

In denying the motion, the court stated that to grant a

temporary restraining order, it must consider "the likelihood of success on the merits, the threat of irreparable harm to the movant, the potential harm to the other parties, and the public interest."

The finding also states that a restraining order is an "extraordinary remedy, especially when sought without notice or evidentiary hearing."

The judge denied the motion for the restraining order, stating that "the court is not persuaded on the pleadings alone that plaintiff has established either that he has a likelihood of success, or that there would be irreparable harm if the defendant is not prohibited from taking the challenged actions to close the pharmacy, apparently as a prelude to bankruptcy."

A history of litigation

The Cotes opened the pharmacy in 2003 and ran it profitably for 15 years. In 2018, with Marc deciding he'd like to slow down his work schedule, the Cotes sold the pharmacy to the Laurendeaus, both longtime employees.

According to the Cotes, they were willing to finance 100% of the sale under two conditions: that Marc Cote stay involved part-time for the next 12 years at the pharmacy to help with the transition to new owners, and that he have access to the pharmacy's books and records in order to keep track of how it was performing.

According to the Cotes, the pharmacy collateral — the business, its inventory, and the customer base — would return to them if the Laurendeaus failed

■ SEE PHARMACY, A3



KEVIN O'CONNOR/VTDIGGER.ORG

Sam's Outdoor Outfitters has anchored the downtown Brattleboro corner of Main and Flat streets for nearly a century.

Iconic retailer will leave Brattleboro



RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT/COMMONS FILE PHOTO

Stanley "Pal" Borofsky

'Losing Sam's is like New York losing Macy's,' former Gov. Peter Shumlin said of Brattleboro's largest, longest-operating downtown store

By Kevin O'Connor
VtDigger

B RATTLEBORO—Sam's Outdoor Outfitters has long advertised itself as "The Biggest Little Store in the World." But such hype will likely morph into history when the nearly century-old family-owned business leaves its 30,000-square-foot Main Street location at the end of its lease next spring.

"With a lot of thought, and

with huge regret, we have decided that we must close the Brattleboro store," third-generation head Brad Borofsky recently wrote in a letter to employees.

Two satellite locations — one in Swanzey, New Hampshire and the other in Hadley, Massachusetts — will remain open.

Borofsky's grandfather, Sam, emigrated from Russia at the turn of the 20th century and began selling U.S.

■ SEE SAM'S TO CLOSE, A6

Railfans visit Bellows Falls

Green Mountain Railroad hosts the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts for a trip through a historic Vermont rail route

By Robert F. Smith
The Commons

BELLOWS FALLS—Rail enthusiasts from around New England rolled into town on the morning of Sept. 23. They soon rolled back out again — this time, riding in one of four rail passenger cars pulled by Green Mountain Railroad's Engine 405, the F Nelson Blount.

This rail fan trip for 150 was part of a daylong excursion

chartered by Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, Inc. The engine traveled from Bellows Falls to Rutland, passing a number of notable sights, including covered bridges, train trestles, scenic views, and the former site of Steamtown, U.S.A.

Engine 405's namesake, Nelson Blount, was one of the founders of the rail museum, which began operating in Rockingham in 1963 and moved to Scranton,

■ SEE RAILFANS, A3



ROBERT F. SMITH/THE COMMONS

An excursion train operated by the Green Mountain Railroad pulls into the Bellows Falls station on Sept. 23 for a railfan trip organized by the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts.

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P.O. Box 1212, Brattleboro, VT 05302
888-511-5150 • fax 802-246-1319
commonsnews.org
Office hours by appointment

Jeff Potter
Editor-in-Chief

Kate O'Connor
Executive Director

EDITORIAL

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Randolph T. Holhut, News Editor
Elizabeth Julia Stoumen,
Calendar and Proofreading
Heather Taylor, Copy Editor

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Olga Peters, Fran Lynggaard Hansen,
Robert Smith, Megan Applegate,
Annie Landenberger,
Dot Grover-Read, Victoria Chertok,
Deborah Lee Luskin, Elaine Cliff,
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We welcome story ideas and news tips. Please contact the newsroom at news@commonsnews.org or at (802) 246-6397.

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

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

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

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

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

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Mia Gannon

A Brattleboro movie palace offers a picture of storm resilience

‘We’ve come through an awful lot over time,’ says the head of the Latchis, which opened during the Great New England Hurricane of 1938. ‘That just makes us very empathetic to others.’

By Kevin O'Connor
VtDigger

BRATTLEBORO—When Jon Potter, director of downtown’s Latchis business block, first heard the weather forecast this past July, his brain flooded with flashbacks as historic as the predicted precipitation.

Potter knew his predecessors had to postpone the formal opening of the Art Deco landmark’s anchor theater 85 years ago during the Great New England Hurricane of September 1938. Years later, they had to shutter the adjacent hotel and storefronts for weeks after Tropical Storm Irene wreaked \$500,000 in damage in 2011.

So imagine Potter’s surprise when the Latchis was hit this summer less by record rains than an even splashier one-two punch: The “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” double feature playing on a pair of its four theater screens.

“It’s been absolutely unbelievable,” he said of ticket sales for a cultural phenomenon called “Barbenheimer,” set to continue this anniversary weekend. “We blew the last comparable period before the pandemic out of the water.”

The Latchis credits its current success to the power of both films — and flood mitigation efforts that have kept its building open this year as many storm-ravaged businesses throughout the state remain closed.

“We’ve come through an awful lot over time,” Potter said. “That just makes us very empathetic to others.”

And happy to share a few lessons.

When the Greek immigrant-turned-impresario Latchis family scheduled the Sept. 22, 1938, opening of its namesake building — a four-story theater, hotel, restaurant, and shopping block advertised as “a town within a town” — it aimed to take the state by storm.

Enter a gate-crashing hurricane that nearly sidelined the inaugural 20th Century Fox movie musical *My Lucky Star* and Felix Ferdinand and His Orchestra, “direct from Million Dollar Pier, Atlantic City,” according to the bill.

“To me,” Potter said 85 years

later, “it was a sign that resilience was going to have to be part of the business plan.”

Learning from disaster

In 1938, the Latchis needed only to borrow a pump from the nearby fire station to bail out the basement. But when Tropical Storm Irene funneled the neighboring Whetstone Brook into the cellar in 2011, it required a two-month closure to restore the flooded electrical, plumbing and heating systems.

“We’ve been on the receiving end of nature’s wrath,” Potter said. “We’ve rolled with horrible winters and terrible mud seasons and tectonic changes in the culture.”

The Latchis has adjusted in different ways. Businesswise, it became a nonprofit in 2003, allowing access to public and private funds for a 2013 interior facelift and continuing exterior maintenance of an address that also houses the newly renovated Latchis Pub and Underground Lounge.

Building-wise, it has reinforced brookside doors and windows and relocated many of its utilities above flood level.

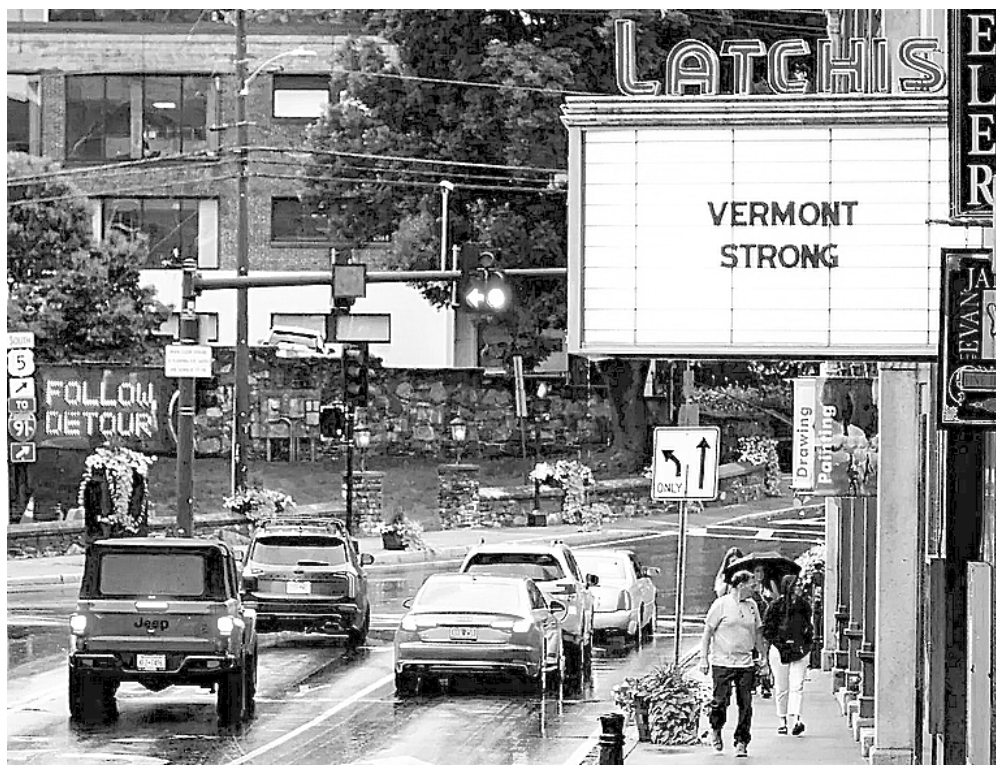
Potter also credits larger mitigation efforts locally and regionally. He lives, for example, in a neighborhood 2 miles west, where the town recently replaced low-lying housing with a restored floodplain to slow and store runoff [“Funding in place to move families living in danger of flooding,” *News*, Sept. 13].

After camping out at the Latchis a couple of rainy sleepless nights this July, he appreciated the results.

“We didn’t get hit,” Potter said, “and I wonder if some of those measures upstream gave us enough margin to survive.”

And so this anniversary, the Latchis is offering itself as a picture of how patience, perseverance and community support can, slowly but surely, pay off.

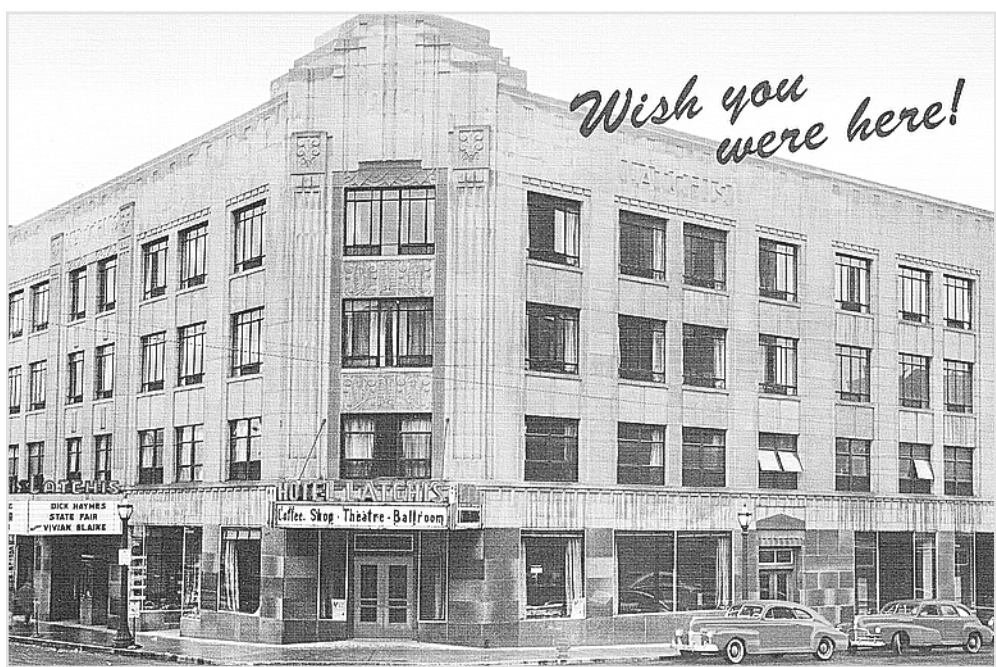
“It’s a matter of degrees,” Potter said. “If you can affect the harm of a storm by 2 or 3%, that might be the difference between catastrophic flooding and just a nervous couple of days. I think every little bit helps.”



The marquee of downtown Brattleboro’s Latchis building offers a message for a state hard-hit by summer storms.



Mural painter Louis Jambor works on one of his creations at the Latchis Theatre in 1938.



A postcard from 1945 of the Latchis complex on Main Street.

Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it’s less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you’ve lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that’s good.

— ELIZABETH EDWARDS

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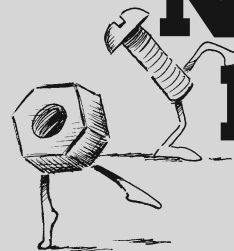
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From all of us at *The Commons* and Vermont Independent Media



■ Railfans

Pennsylvania, in 1984. From Rutland, the excursion continued to Whitehall, New York on the Clarendon and Pittsford Railroad, then backtracked the journey, ending in Bellows Falls mid-evening. According to its website, massbayrre.org (massbayrre.org), the group traces its beginnings to 1934, when its founders sponsored what has been called the first "railfan trip" in the United States on the now-disbanded Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington Railroad. Since then, Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts has sponsored hundreds of railfan excursions over almost every past or present New England rail route.

Celebration of a bygone era of transportation

The Sept. 23 excursion also celebrated Bellows Falls' long history of rail travel in the Northeast. The first railroads came to Bellows Falls in 1849, and the village continues to have very active passenger and freight train activity 174 years later.

The Bellows Falls to Rutland section of the trip covered part of the route of the now-defunct Rutland Railroad's most notable passenger train, the Green Mountain Flyer, which ran



Passengers at the Bellows Falls station prepare to board an excursion train operated by the Green Mountain Railroad for a Sept. 23 railfan trip organized by the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts.

between Boston and Montreal until 1953.

Bellows Falls was a key junction point for the Flyer, where it connected with the Boston & Maine Railroad for the trip down the Cheshire branch of

the B&M through Walpole and Keene, New Hampshire on the way to Boston, as well as Central Vermont Railway for trains heading to New York City.

In its prime years in the 1930s, a passenger could get on the

Flyer in Bellows Falls and arrive in Rutland about 1 hour and 20 minutes later, or stay aboard and reach Montreal, via Burlington, in a little more than seven hours.

FROM SECTION FRONT

ROBERT F. SMITH THE COMMONS

■ Pharmacy

to keep the pharmacy operating.

That arrangement began to deteriorate very quickly after the sale. Although there had been no formal agreement about how the scrapbooking part of the business, run by Gina Cote, would continue to operate, the Cotes thought they would still be involved with that.

When it looked like the Scrapbook Nook portion of the operation would be changing or perhaps even discontinued, the Cotes took some of the scrapbooking materials from the pharmacy. According to the Cotes, the Laurendeaus used that as a reason for terminating Marc Cote on Oct. 2, 2018, just 45 days after the sale agreement.

Cote said he was terminated by email, without any personal discussion of the situation with the Laurendeaus.

In 2019, the Cotes began their efforts to get access to the pharmacy's business records. They were unsuccessful.

Beginning in 2020, the Cotes filed court claims, soon matched with the Laurendeaus' counter-claims of fraud, breach of contract, violation of the Vermont Securities Act, defamation, and tortious interference. The court docket has spiraled to 362 entries. "I wanted my business to continue as a local independent pharmacy, and I wanted to be part of the business," Marc Cote said in a statement to *The Commons*. "That's why I worked out a deal where I could sell and have less responsibility, but continue as the pharmacist in charge part time." Cote said he thought that that arrangement would also be helpful to the new owners.

"I would be there to mentor and advise the new owners and oversee the financial health



Greater Falls Pharmacy in Bellows Falls is closing its doors on Sept. 29.

FROM SECTION FRONT

ROBERT F. SMITH THE COMMONS

of the business," he said. "The pharmacy industry is constantly changing and my 30 years navigating these changes was an invaluable resource that could have prevented this extreme measure."

But that arrangement never worked out.

Since 2018, the Laurendeaus have continued to regularly make their payments on the business loan, as well as staying current on their rent for the pharmacy space to Gina Cote, who owns the building. But they did not allow access to the financial records.

The Cotes say that they were never notified that the pharmacy would be closing or that the Laurendeaus had planned to file for bankruptcy. They found out about it only when they were told that a notice was posted on

the pharmacy door on Sept. 8 notifying customers of imminent closing and advising them to find a new pharmacy.

The Cotes filed the restraining order that same day.

A new chapter?

Now that the restraining order has been denied and the bankruptcy action filed, nothing can be done to save the business until the bankruptcy is settled.

But the Cotes have not given up hope.

"As soon as we get our building back," they told *The Commons*, "we will get ready to reopen, with a new name, a new business model, and with serving our community with optimal pharmacy care at the heart."

The Cotes have made clear

that the value of the pharmacy is primarily in its customer base, and have argued that their lawyer should have been notified as soon as the business started losing money.

Now, they hope it's not too late to build a new business, but they also noted that by the time the bankruptcy is over the customers may very well be gone.

Additionally, the Cotes are still owed a considerable amount of money on the pharmacy sale that they financed, and will likely only be repaid pennies on the dollar from the bankruptcy.

The Laurendeaus declined to comment for this article.

Brattleboro installs new bike lanes

BRATTLEBORO—The town is in the process of striping bike lanes onto Western Avenue between its intersections with High Street and Allerton Avenue.

The project is expected to be completed this fall. Drivers should pay attention to the lane shifts and are reminded that no parking is allowed in bicycle lanes, Department of Public Works personnel wrote in a news release.

The department is marking bike lanes, installing signage, and adding new crosswalks on Western Avenue at Greenhill Parkway and on Western Avenue at Green Street. A rectangular rapid-flashing beacon will also be added near Allerton Avenue.

This project started in 2020 with a state-funded scoping study to look at how to provide safe and accessible facilities for bicycles and pedestrians from Exit 2 to Main Street. The Dufresne Group, a consulting engineering firm based in Springfield, was hired to study the road corridor and present design alternatives for improvements, including the addition of bicycle lanes.

The gradual transition of the drive lane allows for parking located adjacent to properties that are more likely to use it, the DPW says.

Various public meetings held during this study highlighted the community support for bicycle

and pedestrian improvements and gave the public the opportunity to weigh in on the preferred design.

Funding for the project was awarded in 2022 by the Vermont Agency of Transportation Small Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant program.

"This project, along with the new bicycle lanes installed as part of the Route 9 and Route 30 projects undertaken by the state, help to meet the mobility needs of all people, not just vehicles," said Planning Director Sue Fillion, adding that "these bike lanes are consistent with the Walk/Bike Action Plan that was recently completed in 2023."

Vermont Emergency Eats program continues providing meals during flood recovery

WESTMINSTER—Vermont Emergency Eats (VEE) continues to distribute meals to flood-impacted Vermonters through September and October in areas of the state where the need continues.

Since early August, VEE has been engaging local restaurants in providing prepared meals. Thanks to an extension authorized by the state, the program, which was originally set for 30 days, will continue for up to 90 days.

Based on the COVID-era VEE program, this new short-term emergency program is the result of a joint effort between the

Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), and Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA).

The reawakening of the VEE program allows the state to "distribute local, restaurant-prepared emergency meals to Vermonters whose access to food has been impacted by flooding in their communities, while also providing recovery support to those local restaurants," Gary Holloway, ACCD's Downtown Program Manager, said in a news release.

Kathleen Devlin, SEVCA's interim executive director, notes this joint action by the two

organizations "reflects the values of cross-sector collaboration, support for our local restaurants and farmers, and local solutions to local needs."

VEE is administered by SEVCA through a statewide network of hubs, including Capstone Community Action, Center for an Agricultural Economy, Chester Helping Hands, Green Mountain Farm-to-School, The Giving Fridge, Springfield Family Center, and Vermont Farmers Food Center.

Meals are available in Windham and Windsor counties. Call 211 or visit vtemergencyeats.org for more information.

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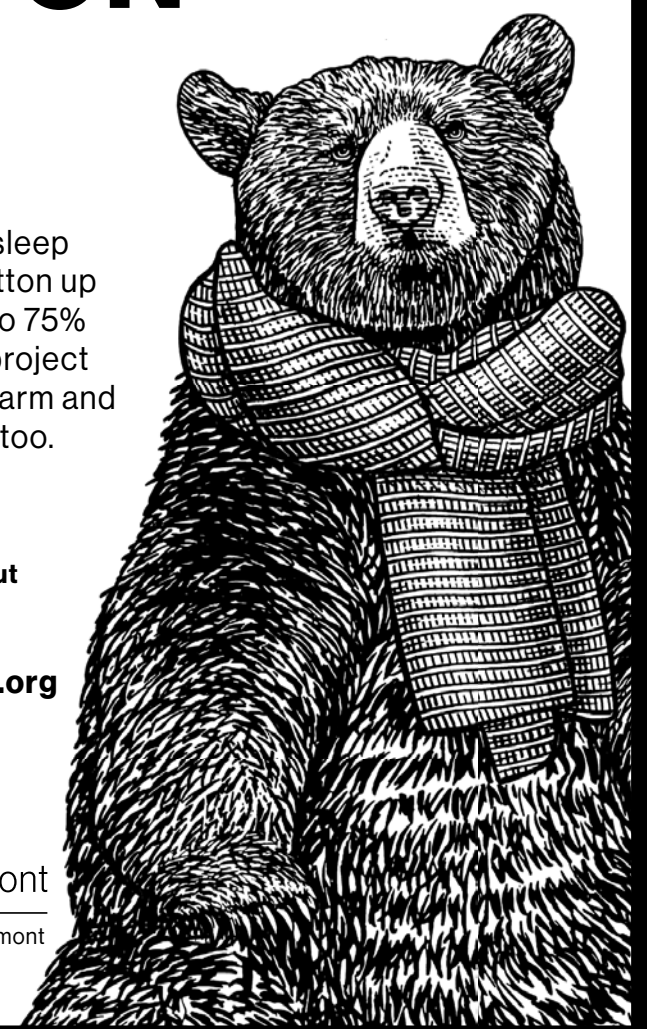
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MILESTONES

Births, deaths, and news of people from Windham County

Obituaries



• **Scott C. Bovat, 53**, of Brookline. Died on Sept. 7, 2023. He was born on Dec. 27, 1969 in Saratoga Springs, New York. Everything he did, and was, made a huge impact on the lives he touched. From his warm smile to his big bear hugs, he had a way of making people feel important and loved. He was impressive. Scott and Sam (Samantha) were high school sweethearts, together for 36 years and married for 31. Their love for one another was immeasurable and he is leaving a very big hole in her heart. As a father, he taught his boys everything they needed to know in order to be loving brothers and sons, hard workers and integral members of their communities. Scott was extremely proud of his kids and the men they grew up to be. Family was everything. His face lit up whenever the grandbabies and daughter-in-law arrived at the door. He enjoyed nothing more than spending time cuddling with the kids in his chair. He had a wonderful sense of humor and the gift of gab. He was an avid outdoorsman who would hunt all day and sit by a campfire all night. His passion for life was contagious and he always pulled up a chair for others to join in. He married into a very large family and quickly led the pack of "outlaws." He was truly a brother to all of Samantha's siblings. He was a jack of all trades and able to fix anything, including a gourmet meal out of leftovers. He was a Master Plumber and is leaving Scott's Plumbing & Heating in the very capable hands of his children. He will be missed by the tradesmen and customers that worked with him over the years. Although a child should not depart before their parents, they should be proud of the great job they did in raising this amazing individual. He is survived by his wife Samantha of Brookline; sons Harrison, his wife Elizabeth and grandchildren Bailee and Theodore of Wardsboro, Jeremy of Brookline, and Christopher of Dover; parents David and Cynthia of Grand Isle; and brother Gregory and his wife Heather of Holden, Massachusetts. Scott was predeceased by his first grandchild Henry; and grandparents Harrison and Edwidge Bovat, and Maitland LaForce and Phyllis Story Lee. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 10:30 a.m., at Indian Acres Farm in Brookline (476 Grassy Brook Rd). Bring a lawn chair, full cooler with what you want to drink, and your favorite Scott stories. There will be a tent, tables, and food, but feel free to bring a dish to share, if you are able. This is an outdoor event and the dress is casual. Donations to the American Red Cross, P.O.

Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839 or Grace Cottage Hospital, P.O. Box 216, Townshend, VT 05353. To share a memory or extend condolences to Scott's family, visit atamaniuk.com.



• **Carol Le Cain Church, 89**, of Westminster West. Died on Sept. 7, 2023 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Carol was born March 11, 1934, in Swampscott, Massachusetts to the late Arthur and Ruth (Van Blarcom) Le Cain. Carol is survived by her children, Linda Church and her wife, Kirsten Turner, and Lloyd Church, and his wife, Debra Cobb Church; grandchildren Robert Lloyd Mugford, William Arthur Church and his wife, Janice Embleton Church, Elizabeth Ann Church Bill, and her husband, Timothy John "T.J." Bill; and great-grandchildren Serene, Cheyanne, and Deven Mugford; Taylor and Lydia Church; and Riley and Morgan Bill. Carol was predeceased by her husband of 36 years, Lloyd Ellsworth Church. She would continue to celebrate their wedding anniversary yearly and got to 68 years. She also is predeceased by her brother, Reginald C. Le Cain, and her sister, Marcia K. Le Cain Coffee. Carol loved doing Sudoku puzzles daily and going on rides and picnics with her children. She worked on family history for 59 years and passed her love of family history on to her daughter, Linda. For many years, she would geocache with her daughters, Linda and Kirsten, then would take friends out and go geocache with them. Carol also enjoyed visiting cemeteries and writing down the information she found on family stones and adding it to her family history. Carol had various jobs and was a journalist in the early 1950s for the *Claremont Daily Eagle* and would cover the car races at Claremont Speedway under the byline of "Cookie Le Cain." She was the librarian for the Westminster West Library and a school librarian for Walpole Middle School. She was a member of the United Church of Christ in Westminster West and taught Sunday School for many years. She belonged to the Grange in Westminster West and was a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts. She was the editor of *Branches and Twigs* for the Genealogical Society of Vermont for about 25 years and was Auditor for the town of Westminster. She worked on the Cemetery Committee to get flags on soldiers' stones before Memorial Day weekend. Carol hiked many of the trails and mountains in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and was part of the Ramblers who hiked in Windham County. She particularly liked going to the heron rookeries. She also enjoyed visiting the Great Meadows in Putney and climbing Putney

Mountain to watch the hawks fly overhead and migrate. Carol was very proud that she had hiked up and down Mount Washington several times. She loved gardening and going to nurseries to find new plants to add to her yard. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Burial took place on Sept. 16 at Westminster West Cemetery. • **Robert Reed "Bob" Fredericks III, 70**, of Sebastian, Florida, formerly of Vermont. Died peacefully, with family by his side, on Aug. 30, 2023, Bob was born August 6, 1953 to Carole Emerson Fredericks and Robert Reed Fredericks, Jr. in Sellersville, Pennsylvania, living his early years in North Wales, Pennsylvania. The family moved from there to New England in June of 1965 and Bob graduated high school from the Stowe School in 1971. He married Christine Zaluzny in 1974, and the two lived together in the towns of Halifax and Vernon. They were married for 39 years and had two children together, Colin and Justin. Bob had a career in management that spanned the footwear and book binding industries including roles at Dunham, GH Bass, and The Book Press. After he retired, Bob moved to Sebastian, where he volunteered at the Friends of Sebastian Inlet State Park. He was encouraged to join the Friends as a general board member before serving as the vice president, then the president. He worked hard, doing an amazing job of managing all aspects of the organization and was instrumental in leading fundraising for the park. During the summer months, Bob also assisted as a scout for the park's Turtle Watch and Manatee Watch programs, two environmental programs he was passionate about. Bob always enjoyed boating, fishing and music. In his earlier years, he was an expert skier, and in his later years, he became a wood carving artist creating amazing wood sculptures of fish, birds and other animals. Spending time with his two grandchildren brought Bob great joy. Most of all, he was a kind and caring person to so many. Bob is survived by his two sons whom he loved dearly, Colin (Sarah) of Malden, Massachusetts and Justin (Jessica) of Atlantic Beach, Florida. He is also survived by grandchildren Ryan and Nell Fredericks, his mother, Carole Fredericks, his sister Linda (Michael) Putnam, his brother David (Cindy) Fredericks and his former wife Christine Fredericks. He was predeceased by his father in 2019. In addition he leaves several nieces and nephews of whom he was quite fond, as well as many close friends who span his lifetime and communities around the globe. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A private service will be held at a later date at the discretion of the family. Donations to Friends of the Sebastian Inlet State Park, 13180 Highway A1A; Vero Beach, FL 32963 (state in memo line: In Memory of Bob Fredericks). The donations earmarked with Bob's name will be used to erect signage for The Turtle Walk, Bob's overriding passion at the park.



• **Eileen Janice Freeman, 83**, of Brattleboro. Died Sept. 15, 2023 at Pine Heights, surrounded by her loving family, following a brief illness. Eileen was born in Lyon Mountain, New York on August 31, 1940, the daughter of Owen and Florence (Benjamin) Lord. At an early age, with her family, she moved to Brattleboro where she attended Saint Michael's Parochial School through the eighth grade. She graduated from Brattleboro Union High School with the Class of 1958. Eileen started working at the Grand Union grocery store while in high school and continued full-time employment with the company, retiring after

38 faithful and dedicated years with the Brattleboro store. On November 19, 1960, she was married to her high school sweetheart, Arthur E. "Art" Freeman. With her husband, she was a member of Centre Congregational Church on Main Street. Eileen was a former communicant of St. Michael's Catholic Church, where for many years she was active with the Daughters of Isabella, Ave Maria Circle #128. Eileen loved people, especially children. With a large extended family and lots of friends, she had an abundance of childrento keep track of and look after. She was known for her pleasant personality and spirit of friendship. Eileen's passion was cooking and she spent lots of time baking and creating delicious meals. She loved to feed people and many enjoyed her wonderful creations. Of her other leisure time activities, she loved to take trips to the casinos and thought pulling the slot machine handle was good exercise. Many times she beat the odds, bringing home some handsome earnings which she generously shared, treating her family to dinners out at their favorite restaurants. Besides her faithful and devoted husband of almost 63 years, she leaves her four children, Debbie Kennedy and husband Will of Montpelier, Virginia, James Freeman and wife Angie of Vernon, Daniel Freeman and wife Kim of Brattleboro and Brian Freeman, also of Brattleboro; one sister, Mary Jane Sykas of Ludlow, Massachusetts; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Additionally, she leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins, and their children. She was predeceased by two sisters, Dawn Bokum and Debbie Millerick, and two brothers, Owen "Tanny" Lord and Terry Lord. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Funeral services were conducted Sept. 21 at Centre Congregational Church in Brattleboro, with burial in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. Donations to Centre Congregational Church (Book of Remembrance), 193 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301; or to the Windham County Humane Society, P.O. Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To share a memory or extend condolences to the family, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Robert J. "Bob" Hewitt, 84**, of Saxtons River. Died on Sept. 6, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born on April 20, 1939, in Luzerne, Pennsylvania to Ernest and Geraldine (Grabsky) Hewitt. He married Jacqueline Jenkins on August 25, 1961, in Luzerne and they remained together until her death in May 2017. Bob graduated from Luzerne High School and went on to receive his teaching degree from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. After earning his degree, he taught high school in New Jersey while also performing research at the pharmaceutical company, Squibb, with the team that developed synthetic penicillin. In 1968, he moved the family to Vermont where he continued teaching science and photography at Vermont Academy, retiring in 2001. Bob spent his retirement years perfecting his self-taught woodworking skills. He attended craft fairs in Southern Vermont and was always willing to strike up a conversation. Affectionately known as "Doc," he is survived by his three children and their families: Robert (Pamela) Hewitt of North Haven, Connecticut, Charles (Laura) Hewitt of Bellows Falls, and Patricia (James) Rumrill of Ludlow. He is also survived by six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his parents and his wife of 56 years, Jacqueline. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A private service will be held at a later date. Donations to Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101.



• **Judith Elaine "Judy" Laundry, 82**, of Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Died Sept. 16, 2023, at the home of her daughter on Old Chesterfield Road, following an extended period of declining health. Mrs. Laundry was born in Hardwick, Vermont on Dec. 12, 1940, the daughter of Edwin and Julia (Carpenter) Smith. She was raised and educated in Hardwick, where she attended public schools including Hardwick High School. At an early age, Judy started working. One of her first jobs was on a chicken farm in Connecticut. For many years, she was employed at the former Book Press in Brattleboro and previously worked at the Belchertown (Mass.) State School, a facility to help care for those with mental challenges. She also drove a school bus, the one position that she genuinely enjoyed. When she retired, she was a sales associate in the boys' and girls' department at the Walmart store in Hinsdale. Of her pastimes and interests, she enjoyed camping, watching Hallmark movies, games, puzzle books, and mostly spending time with her family. On Aug. 10, 1991, at the Colorado National Monument in Grand Junction, she was married to Marshall Laundry, who predeceased her on February 10, 2021. Two former husbands, Rev. Timothy Mylott and Elmer Bird, also predeceased her. Survivors include daughters Monica Larson and her husband Ron of Hardwick, Massachusetts and Melinda Bousquet, and her husband Todd of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; stepson Richard Laundry, whom she considered a son, and wife Toni of Enfield, New Hampshire; stepdaughter Lisa Daggett and her husband Paul of Iowa; and two other stepsons. Additionally, she leaves four grandchildren: Amanda Bird Pangelinan and partner Kevin of Nelson, New Hampshire, Sabrina Bird Douglas and husband Dave of Westminster, Melaina Cominoli Lazarick and husband Joshua of Chicopee, Massachusetts, and Katelynn Cominoli of Hinsdale, New Hampshire; as well as many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She was predeceased by her mother, father, and sister, Mary Ellen Dumas Butler. She was also predeceased by her only son, Andrew William Bird, and two twin-great grandchildren. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A celebration of her life will be held on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Millstream Community Center on Main Street in Hinsdale. The burial of her cremated remains, along with her husband Marshal Laundry's, will be in Durant Cemetery in Cabot, Vermont on Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. Donations to Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro, VT 05302. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

• **Beth S. Mclean, 37**, died on Sept. 16, 2023, after a long battle with cancer. Born March 6, 1986 at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, she was a 2004 graduate of Brattleboro Union High School. Beth loved music and played the flute through middle and high school. She attended Temple University in Philadelphia, where she obtained a bachelor's in criminal justice and graduated Cum Laude in 2008. An adamant believer in law and justice, Beth found a home with Brattleboro Probation & Parole, where she worked from an internship to a supervisor position. She deeply loved her work and team. She was an involved member of many interagency teams where she developed valued relationships as they worked together for the betterment of the community. Over the years, Beth would lend a hand, donate, and participate in causes and community events

such as Yellow Ribbon and Relay for Life. She leaves behind a legacy of her kindness, compassion, and passion for her convictions. She was a beautiful and thoughtful soul who loved to read and write, and who created special photo quilts for loved ones. While she will be missed by many, the light of her life, her son, Colton is the one she loved bigger than the whole world. Her greatest joy was watching him learn and grow, and getting to share all she loved with him including teaching him to bake, snuggling with him and their pets for movies, understanding how to make time to share with loved ones, and sharing visits to her favorite place, Wells Beach. In addition, she leaves behind her husband, Jon; her parents, Michael and Elaine Denyou; her sister, Jamie; and several uncles, aunts, cousins, and extended family; Jon's family including his maternal grandmother, Edna Sherling; sister and brothers-in-law and extended family; as well as numerous friends, co-workers, and many others. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: Services were held Sept. 24 at Dummerston Congregational Church. Donations to the Creative Arts Program at Dartmouth. Beth highly appreciated the program throughout her treatment.

• **Esta Liimatainen Morse, 76**, of Springfield, Vermont. Died on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, following a nine-month battle with chronic pain. Known for her generosity and love of family and animals, she will be missed by many. One of eight children, Esta was born in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1946 to Hazel O'Brien and Toivo Liimatainen Sr. She grew up in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, where she was a prominent athlete at Hinsdale High School, playing basketball and softball. After graduating in 1964, Esta moved to Brattleboro where she raised her first family of daughters, gardening and cooking together; camping and sharing her love of the beach in the summer; and hiking in the fall. She pitched on local softball teams for a number of years, won several trophies participating in local candlepin bowling tournaments, and ran numerous 10K races. In 1996, while working at C.S. Wholesale Grocers, she met and married Steven Morse. One day on a country drive in 1999, the couple came upon the Dutton property in Springfield, and so began their new chapter as organic farmers, humanely raising cows, chickens, pigs and turkeys, and selling their products at multiple farmers markets; and harvesting and selling hay as Ephraim Mountain Farm. She had a prime spot by the waterfall at West River Farmers Market in Londonderry, where she waited on customers-turned-friends. Esta loved the outdoor, physical lifestyle of farming, most notably the meditative time on her tractor. Having been a foster child herself, Esta always wanted to give back and from 2001 through 2021, she and Steve opened up their home to nearly 80 foster children, falling in love with and adopting several girls and raising their own family. All inherited her passion for the outdoors and hard work on the farm; a deep bond with animals, particularly dogs; a fondness for the weekly races at Thunder Road; and the joy of cooking and family meals. In 2014, they were awarded the Windsor County Farm of the Year Award. In recent years, the couple and their kids headed to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and had just purchased a house in Morven, North Carolina, with the hopes to renovate it and turn it into their permanent escape from Vermont's harsh winters. Esta is survived by her husband and soulmate of 27 years, Steven J. Morse of Springfield; her daughters Karen (Croumie) Thomas of Rootstown, Ohio; Katharyn (Croumie) Pacheco of Westfield, Massachusetts; Kimberlee Croumie of Swanzey, New Hampshire; their daughters, Stormie Morse Gordon of Windham, and Ashley Lynn Morse, Autumn Morse, and Ciana Winston all of Springfield. She is also survived by her siblings, Martha Doyle of Keene, New Hampshire, Ernest Liimatainen of Chicopee, Mass., John Liimatainen of Hinsdale, Warren Liimatainen of Sullivan, Maine, and Toivo Liimatainen Jr. of Laconia, New Hampshire; grandchildren Angela (Gaudette) Alarie, Antone Pacheco, Johnny Comer Jr., Zachary Thomas, Christina Comer, and Carson and Remington Gordon; many beloved nieces and nephews; and her cherished dog, Maverick. She was predeceased by her siblings, Linda Liimatainen and Alan Liimatainen, and her canine companion of 15 years, Barney. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: None provided. ■ STORY CONTINUES ON FACING PAGE

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• **Charles Boyd "Charlie" Robb Sr., 86**, of West Brattleboro, died peacefully at home on Sept. 23, 2023, following a brief illness.

Charlie was born in Brattleboro on Sept. 30, 1936 at what was known as the Mutual Aid on Harris Place. He was the third son of Hermon and Bertha (Haynes) Robb, growing up on the family farm on Ames Hill. As a young boy in the 1940s, he recalled delivering milk with his dad on their milk route, as various hired help were drafted into World War II. Charlie attended the original Academy School in West Brattleboro and graduated in 1954 from Brattleboro Union High School. During his high school years, he was active in the Future Farmers of America (FFA), serving in several office positions and ultimately serving as a state of Vermont FFA officer. A fond memory was traveling by train to Kansas City to represent the Vermont FFA. Although his siblings all went on to college following high school, Charlie chose to stay home and help operate the farm with his father, and dedicate his life to the farm. At that time, he joined the Vermont National Guard, where he proudly served for seven years and eight months. He was also a proud volunteer firefighter for the West Brattleboro Fire Department when the department was located in Levasseur's garage, serving under "Gramp" Levasseur. In 1964, he married the former Helen Thurber from the farm "down the road" who had always vowed to never marry a farmer. In 1973, Charlie and Helen bought the farm from his parents, and represented the fourth generation to own and operate the Robb Farm. In 1993, the Robb Farm became the Robb Family Farm, LLC which now included their son Charlie Jr, and his wife Karen, representing the fifth generation of this multigenerational farm. Charlie was civically active serving as a trustee, deacon and elder in his former church, West Brattleboro Baptist Church. He participated in the West Brattleboro Association activities and was a Representative Town Meeting member for many years. Although he enjoyed being a town rep, he always lamented that the annual town meeting was always held on the same weekend as the annual Vermont Maple Open House weekend, meaning he would miss out on meeting guests in the sugarhouse. He also complained loudly about the "redundant rhetoric" by certain reps at the town meeting. As the years have progressed, the Robb Family Farm has transitioned from dairy, selling the herd in 2011 to focus more on the maple sugaring aspect of the farm. Charlie thoroughly enjoyed giving tours to guests who visited the gift shop, or the Harvest Host guests, explaining the process of making maple syrup and how it has changed over his 86 years, with his favorite line "98% of the changes are good, but I'll debate the other 2% with anyone," at which point his wife could only smile and roll her eyes. His favorite pastime was sitting on the porch, talking with the neighbors, or smoking a cigar with his neighbor, Bob. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Helen; his son, Charles, Jr. and wife Karen; three daughters, Laurie and husband Samuel Garland, Mary and husband Michael Clark, and Betsy and fiancée David Eldridge; seven grandchildren, Elizabeth, Jonathan, Benjamin, Meghan, Lydia, Peter, and Daniel; and one great granddaughter, Olivia. He also leaves his older brother, Thomas and wife Carol; sister-in-law, Norma Robb; and brother-in-law, Richard Mansfield. He was predeceased by his parents, Hermon and Bertha; his sister, Mary Mansfield; and his brother, John (Jack) Robb. MEMORIAL INFORMATION: A memorial celebration of Charlie will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30, his birthday, at the Robb Family Farm at 1 p.m. If you are able, the family invites you to bring and share your favorite appetizer. Donations to the Brattleboro Fire Department Benefit Association, c/o Brattleboro Fire Department, 103 Elliot St., Brattleboro, VT 05301 or the Monadnock Covenant Church, specifically The Bridge Campaign, 90 Base Hill Rd., Keene, NH 03431. To offer condolences, visit atamaniuk.com.

Rotary scholarship addresses child-care worker shortage

BRATTLEBORO — A Brattleboro Rotary Club Gateway Foundation scholarship awarded to a Community College of Vermont (CCV) student each year aims to address the shortage of child-care workers in Windham County. Rheauna Pare received this year's \$2,500 Jesse M. Corum IV Scholarship.

In a news release, CCV promoters say it is deeply embedded in Vermont's early childhood education system, providing the educational foundation for students pursuing careers in the field through its child care certificate and early childhood education associate degree. The college is also

Allbee discusses 260 years of Vermont agriculture at Athens Meetinghouse

ATHENS — On Thursday, Sept. 28, at 4 p.m., former Vermont State Secretary of Agriculture Roger Albee will be sharing research from his upcoming book *Turning the Soil: 260 Years of Vermont Agriculture* at the historic Athens Meetinghouse.

He will speak about the major changes that have taken place in Vermont agriculture since the 1760s, why they have occurred, what is happening today, and why there is a renaissance.

ACCVT celebrates Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

BRATTLEBORO — Asian Cultural Center of Vermont (ACCVT) presents the 23rd annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (Zhongqiu Jie, Chuseok, or Tet Trung Thu), which is celebrated in China, Korea, Vietnam, and other places around the world. The Moon Festival will be held rain or shine on Friday, Sept. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Kiwanis Shelter atop Living Memorial Park.

All are invited to celebrate the Autumn Moon Festival

with crafts, songs, food, taiji, paper lanterns, Chinese exercises, the Korean rope tug and more. Participants can hear the story of The Goddess of the Moon, Chang'e; the great archer Hou-Yi; and the Elixir of Immortality, then watch the harvest moon rise.

The celebration will start with a potluck (bring a dish to share). All are invited to this free event. For more information, call 802-579-9088 or visit accvt.org.

BF Woman's Club serves public pasta supper

BELLOWS FALLS — The Bellows Falls Woman's Club is sponsoring a public pasta supper on Friday, Sept. 29, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St. The church is accessible to all, just enter from the back of the building.

Included in the menu are a variety of pasta dishes, a salad bar, home-baked bread, cake, and beverages. Vegetarian and gluten-free choices will be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Proceeds will help fund the club's high school scholarship. Call 603-445-2527 for more information.

All Souls Church hosts chili supper

WEST BRATTLEBORO — All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church will host a chili supper on Friday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will feature homemade meat or vegetarian

chili, cornbread, apple crisp, and beverages.

Proceeds will support special projects at the church. All Souls Church is located at 29 South St., up the driveway from the West Brattleboro fire station.

Spoken word poet discusses storytelling, social justice at Landmark College

PUTNEY — The Landmark College Academic Speaker Series welcomes spoken word poet and teaching artist Rajni Eddins to campus on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m., in the Brooks M. O'Brien Auditorium/Lewis Academic Building.

Eddins' presentation, "The Value of Our Stories," will include performances of his own poems and a discussion of the historical context in which they were created. He will also talk with attendees about how their stories can be used to confront racism and other injustices, affirm diversity and equity, and initiate community dialogue.

Originally from Seattle, Eddins has been engaging diverse community audiences for over 30 years. He was the youngest member of the Afrikan American Writers Alliance at age 11 and has been actively sharing with youth and community in Vermont since 2010.

This event is free. For additional information or questions about venue accessibility, contact Solvegi Shmulyk at sshmulyk@landmark.edu. Driving directions, a campus map, and more information

about the Landmark College Academic Speaker Series are available at landmark.edu.

Grace Cottage hosts flu shot clinic

TOWNSHEND — Grace Cottage Family Health, 185 Grafton Rd., will hold two Saturday flu vaccine clinics this year, on Oct. 7 and on Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. Pre-registration is recommended; call 802-365-4331. Walk-ins will be accommodated as space allows. During both of the flu clinics, Grace Cottage will also host a food drive for the Townshend Food Shelf. If you can, bring a nonperishable food item.

You do not need to be an established patient at Grace Cottage to get a flu shot at these clinics. 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. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get a yearly flu vaccine. People over age 65 or those with any chronic disease, such as diabetes or asthma, have a higher risk of contracting the flu and are especially urged to get the shot.

Two different flu shots are

being offered this year, one for those age 6 months to 64, and another for those who are 65 and older. For more information about flu shots or the flu in general, visit the national CDC and Prevention website (cdc.gov), the Vermont Department of Health website (healthvermont.gov), or call the Vermont helpline at 2-1-1.

Moore Free Library plans fall book sale

NEWFANE — The Friends of the Moore Free Library will hold their fall book sale on the lawn of the library, 23 West St., on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., during Heritage Festival weekend.

More than 40 well-organized categories will be offered. Prices will range from \$1 to \$2; more for special items. For more information, contact Julie at julielavorgna@gmail.com or 802-365-7278.

Wardsboro Yoked Parish moves worship services to Methodist Church

WARDSBORO — Worship services of the Wardsboro Yoked Parish have moved for the fall and winter seasons to the Methodist Church at 121 Main St., through Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024.

Service each Sunday starts at 9 a.m. Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

New program at Youth Services offers community conflict support for all ages

BRATTLEBORO — Youth Services is offering a restorative practices program, Circle Up, to provide community conflict support through circle facilitation and training in restorative practices, starting this month.

In 2021, the Brattleboro Community Justice Center merged with Youth Services' Restorative Justice programs.

"Over the years we frequently received requests for these kinds of services, but haven't had enough staff to respond to most of them," Mel Motel, formerly the Brattleboro Community Justice Center Executive Director and now co-director of Youth Services' Restorative Justice programs, explained in a news release.

"We're excited to finally be able to offer this new program, with a seasoned staff member taking on the role, at a time when

community members are still navigating the stresses and tensions heightened by the pandemic with fewer resources," Motel added.

Rachael Trill is moving into the role of Circle Up program coordinator, having spent the last several years as Youth Services' Pretrial Services and Tamarack Coordinator, in which she assisted justice-system involved adults to address underlying mental health and/or substance use concerns related to their charge.

According to Trill, circles are an established, restorative practice in which parties experiencing conflict are invited to come together with the help of a trained facilitator to listen to all affected parties, share about their own experience, and collaborate on steps that can be taken to repair and prevent harm.

"I see a lot of conflict, but

insufficient support to help people work together towards a resolution," said Trill. This can lead people to feeling stuck, or even worse off than when a problem started. Learning and practicing restorative approaches to conflict can even help people solve conflicts on their own, whether it's having a productive conversation with a neighbor you're having trouble with, improving a difficult relationship with a coworker, or helping your kids work out conflicts at home."

According to Trill, the new conflict facilitation services she will deliver will offer an opportunity for people in conflict to talk together with the assistance of an impartial third party with the goal of crafting an agreement that will help solve their conflict.

Youth Services will be offering group training in restorative practices and related

topics for agencies and groups seeking to expand conflict resolution approaches through their business or agency. Monthly community trainings, open to any community member, will be offered at no cost from September through December of 2023. Introduction to Skillful Communication and Restorative Practices 101 are some of the

trainings slated for the fall, dates to be determined.

If you have an individual or group conflict you would like help addressing in a restorative manner or wish to have your group trained, please contact Rachael Trill at rachael.trill@youthservicesinc.org or call 802-416-1374.

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

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 25-Oct. 1

CHANNEL 1078 CHANNEL 1079

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHANNEL NUMBERS!

<p>Here We Are - Sandy Rouse, Brattleboro Literary Festival, Founder & E.D. Mon 8p, Tues 3:15p, Wed 9p, Thurs 1:20p, Fri 11:25a, Sat 6:25a, Sun 5:20p</p>	<p>VT Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Mtg. 9/18/23: Mon 6:15p, Tues 6:15a, Wed 12p</p>
<p>The World Fusion Show - Ep# 161 - Palaver Strings: Mon 5:30p, Tues 6:15a, Wed 1:30p & 5:30p, Thurs 12:30p, Fri 3:30p, Sat 9:35p, Sun 8:15p</p>	<p>Brattleboro Housing Partnerships Board Mtg. 9/25/23: Wed 6p, Thurs 8:30a, Fri 11:45a</p>
<p>Couch Potatoe Productions - Halloween 20th Anniversary Celebration: Tues 12:30p, Wed 3:30p, Thurs 9a, Fri 9:30p, Sat 2p, Sun 6p</p>	<p>Jamaica Selectboard Mtg. 9/25/23: Wed 8:30p, Thurs 6a, Fri 2:15p</p>
<p>Landmark College Presents - Richard Crumline - What Plant Is That? Mon 11a, Tues 8p, Wed 9a, Thurs 5p, Sat 6p, Sun 4p</p>	<p>Guilford Selectboard Mtg. 9/25/23: Thurs 6p, Fri 8a, Sat 12p</p>
<p>Stained Glass Windows of St. Michaels - Week 4: St. Peter: Mon 10a, Tues 9a, Wed 11a, Thurs 4p, Fri 5p, Sat 8p, Sun 6a</p>	<p>Townshend Selectboard Mtg. 9/26/23: Thurs 8:30p, Fri 5:30a, Sat 2:50p</p>
<p>BCTV Annual Members Meeting 2023: Mon 3:45p, Tues 10:45a, Thurs 10:15a & 9:15p, Fri 10a & 12:30p, Sat 8:45p, Sun 2:15p</p>	<p>Windham Southeast School District Board Mtg. 9/26/23: Fri 6p, Sat 9:30a, Sun 12p</p>
<p>Around Town With Maria - Gun Sense VT Award Ceremony: Mon 7a, Tues 9p, Wed 12:30p, Thurs 6a & 3p, Fri 7a & 4p, Sat 9a & 5p, Sun 7:15p</p>	<p>River Valleys Unified School District Board Mtg. 9/18/23: Sun 7:15p</p>
<p>Keeping Up with Senior Solutions - Ep 29 - Falls Prevention with Dr. Tortolani: Mon 8:35p, Tues 10a, Wed 4:45p, Fri 10:45a, Sat 12:15p</p>	<p>Brattleboro Selectboard Mtg. 9/19/23: Tues 6p, Wed 8:15a, Thurs 2:15p, Fri 8:30p, Sat 5:15p, Sun 8:15a</p>
<p>Brattleboro Gallery Walk - September 1, 2023: Mon 10:45a & 6:45p, Tues 9:50a & 6:50p, Wed 11:50a & 6:50p, Thurs 4:50p & 6:50p, Fri 5:50p & 6:50p, Sun 6:50a</p>	<p>West River Education District Board Mtg. 9/11/23: Mon 9p, Thurs 11a</p>
<p>Energy Week with George Harvey & Tom Finnell: Mon 9a, Tues 5p, Thurs 11a, Sat 7p</p>	<p>Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Board Mtg. 9/13/23: Mon 11:45a</p>
<p>Vermontitude - Weekly Episode: Tue 11:50a & 6:50p, Wed 6a, Thu 1p, Sat 12p, Sun 5p</p>	<p>Brattleboro Planning Commission Mtg. 9/6/23: Mon 6:45a, Tues 5a, Fri 4:45p, Sun 7a</p>
<p>News Block: WTSA News: Mon-Fri 12p & 6p, Reformer News Break: Mon-Fri 12:05p & 6:05p</p>	<p>Brattleboro Charter Revision Commission Mtg. 8/10/23: Mon 5:30a, Wed 5:30a, Sun 6p</p>
<p>St. Michael's Episcopal Church - Weekly Service: Wed 2p, Sat 7:30a, Sun 11a</p>	<p>Town of Brattleboro EMS Forum 9/12/23: Sat 7a, Sun 2:30p</p>
<p>Trinity Lutheran Church - Weekly Service: Wed 10a, Thurs 7a, Sun 3p</p>	<p>Rescue Inc Open House 8/26/23: Wed 6:45a, Sat 9p</p>
<p>Guilford Community Church - Weekly Service: Wed 6:30a, Fri 8p, Sun 8a</p>	<p>Town Matters - Weekly Episode: Mon 6p, Wed 4:45p, Thurs 11a, Fri 11:30a, Sat 5p</p>
<p>St. Michael's Catholic Church Mass: Sat 4p (LIVE), Tue 6:45a & 2p, Thurs 8p</p>	<p>The David Pakman Show: Mon 9a, Tues 9a, Wed 5p, Fri 10:30a, Sun 5p</p>

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.commonsnws.org.

Brattleboro Community Television - 257-0888

Brattleboro hosts 15th annual Buddy Walk on Sept. 30

BRATTLEBORO — On Saturday, Sept. 30, beginning at 10 a.m., Brattleboro will host the 15th annual Brattleboro Buddy Walk at the town common.

The Buddy Walk was established by National Down Syndrome Society (ndss.org) in 1995 to promote acceptance and inclusion for people with Down syndrome and to celebrate Down syndrome awareness. According to their website, it has since "grown to be the world's largest and most recognizable [...] program, with hundreds of local walks taking place across the US and select international countries."

The Brattleboro event aims to

raise awareness and funds for local programs and services, as well as national initiatives, that benefit people with Down syndrome and their families.

With the support of all of its sponsors at HCRS, Community Bank, and Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council, the 2023 Brattleboro Buddy Walk invites community members to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of individuals of all abilities.

In addition to a one-mile walk or roll, this year's event will include special speakers, a barbecue lunch, live music, games, prizes, and vendors that support inclusion for individuals of

all abilities. This event will also help raise much needed funds for Special Olympics programs in Windham County, which help provide important opportunities for achievement and create an inclusive environment in our communities.

Everyone is welcome to join the celebration and help raise awareness and promote inclusion for individuals of all abilities.

Register for this year's Brattleboro Buddy Walk at BrattleboroBuddyWalk.org. It is free for individuals and any family of four that raises \$50 or more in pledges for Special Olympics in Windham County. Volunteers welcome.

Grief is in two parts. The first is loss. The second is the remaking of life.

—ANNE ROIPHE

BDCC joins global network of local governments, nonprofits fostering immigrant inclusion

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) has joined the Welcoming Network, a global network of local governments and nonprofits committed to making communities more welcoming.

Led by the nonpartisan nonprofit organization, Welcoming America, the network provides BDCC access to research, technical assistance, webinars, and collaborative programs with other Welcoming Network organizations.

“Joining Welcoming America has long been an aspiration for the BDCC,” said Alex Beck, BDCC Welcoming Communities manager, in a news release. “The success of our own Welcoming Communities initiative, now in its third year, encouraged us to dive headfirst into this national network of partners.”

According to BDCC, Welcoming America uses a multi-sector approach to leverage the Welcoming Standard “as a comprehensive roadmap to identify areas in which members can make their community

more equitable. Member organizations receive timely resources related to a variety of topics, including: government leadership, language access, healthcare, economic development, and more.”

“We are thrilled to have the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation join the Welcoming Network. Their membership is a testament to their commitment to creating a more welcoming place for all people living in Windham County and we look forward to working with them,” said Rachel Perić, executive director of Welcoming America.

In addition to participating in a members-only learning lab, the Welcoming Communities team participating in Welcoming Week by hosting a community celebration on Sept. 16 at 118 Elliot in Brattleboro. The event sought to build community, foster solidarity, and celebrate the start of fall.

More information about the local initiative can be found at welcomingcommunitiesvt.com.

Volunteers needed for AARP tax service

BRATTLEBORO—AARP Foundation has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation’s largest volunteer-based tax preparation service, according to a news release. Volunteers may sign up to assist taxpayers either in person or virtually, with a number of roles available.

In addition to tax preparers the program will train, Tax-Aide needs people who can provide technical and communications assistance, interpreters, and program leaders. Volunteers come from a variety of industries and range from retirees to university students. All levels and types of experience are welcome.

Tax-Aide offers free in-person and online tax preparation and assistance nationwide to taxpayers with low to moderate income.

Because of the complexity of the U.S. tax code, many taxpayers

overpay their taxes or turn to paid tax services they cannot afford. Some may forgo filing their taxes and miss out on the credits and deductions they’ve earned because they are unable to pay for assistance. Tax-Aide volunteers can help by providing necessary services in communities where there is the greatest need.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968 and has served over 68 million taxpayers since its inception. The program has volunteers in every state who typically number more than 26,000.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer or call 888-AARP NOW (888-227-7669). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

Sam’s to close

Army and Navy surplus goods in 1932. Eighty years later, the late founder’s son and grandson had expanded the business into brand-name clothing, footwear and sports gear, earning the 2012 Vermont Retailer of the Year award from the Vermont Retail Association.

“Sam’s is that rarest of all retail species, a true ‘destination store’ in the tradition of L.L. Bean,” store publicity said upon the win a decade ago. “Sam’s also gives back to its community in many ways, providing financial and volunteer support for numerous civic, religious and social institutions.”

But doing so has proved increasingly difficult.

In 2016, the family sold its property on the corner of Main and Flat streets — not only its storefronts, but also 48 upper-floor apartments — to New York’s Time Equities Inc. real estate firm. Paying off debt with the \$2.48 million sale price, Sam’s went on to sign a long-term lease in the building.

“We have no plans of leaving anytime soon,” Brad Borofsky told reporters at the time. “We’ll be here longer if the sales environment can stay healthy enough to sustain us.”

But with its lease set to expire next spring, Sam’s is facing a chillier business climate.

In an interview, Borofsky said the Brattleboro store was challenged particularly by local and state taxes that shoppers can avoid by driving less than a mile across the Connecticut River to New Hampshire.

“The sales tax has been eroding the whole retail industry on this side of the river for years,” he said. “I don’t think stores that sell hard goods will ever be reestablished here in a big way unless somebody does something about it.”

In his letter, Borofsky wrote that “the Brattleboro store’s performance has been decreasing slowly but surely for many years.”

“We’re planning on starting the store closing sale very soon,” he wrote, “and we’re hoping to liquidate as much merchandise as possible by early spring.”

No one has yet to discuss future plans for the property, local government and business leaders said.

Sam’s had tried to sell its Brattleboro store and the satellite locations in Hadley and Swanzey on the internet. A BizBuySell.com listing reports a nearly \$5.5 million asking price for the three properties, with combined 2022 retail sales of more than \$13 million.

Borofsky’s letter noted lagging sales in Brattleboro have been “our biggest problem” in



A 1927 photo of Sam’s Outdoor Outfitters founder Sam Borofsky and his wife, Yetta, looks over the downtown Brattleboro store.

sparking buyer interest, as the out-of-state locations “are doing just fine.”

‘Change is inevitable, right?’

News of the coming closure comes the same year the nearby Hotel Pharmacy shuttered after 83 years and the former Vermont National-turned-Chittenden, People’s United to M&T Bank withdrew from a neighboring corner after 150 years.

“Change is inevitable, right?” Kate Trzaskos, executive director of the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance, said upon the bank closure this month. “How we approach that and see it as an opportunity is what makes a difference.”

Sam’s own history dates back to the Great Depression, when founder Sam Borofsky moved from peddling everything from coal and ice to meat and produce to focus on military surplus goods.

Sam’s son, Pal, sold rationed cigarettes at the store as a schoolboy during World War II, while Pal’s son, Brad, grew up learning sales as the counterculture arrived to buy Levi’s during the Vietnam War.

The store’s watershed moment came when Tropical Storm Irene flooded its lower levels in 2011. Staffers barricaded the rear entrance as 5 feet of water from the nearby Whetstone Brook poured through cracks



Brad Borofsky

in what one employee described as “something out of an Indiana Jones movie,” sweeping away a stockpile of canoes and kayaks and submerging 6,500 pairs of shoes and boots.

“I got my first hunting rifle at Sam’s,” then-Gov. Peter Shumlin, touring the damage a dozen years ago, told a reporter for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Reached over the weekend,

Shumlin said he still had the rifle, which his father gave him for a childhood birthday.

“For Brattleboro, losing Sam’s is like New York losing Macy’s,” Shumlin said. “Something always replaces everything. That’s the beauty of life. But I won’t be able to walk past whatever is there without feeling a huge sense of loss. It’s just devastating.”

Spring of Hope Church opens new ministry in Brattleboro

WEST BRATTLEBORO—Spring of Hope Church of God in Christ opened their new facility on Sept. 1 at the West Village Meeting House, 29 South St.

From their Springfield, Massachusetts, location since 1980, Spring of Hope established a new church and began serving the Brattleboro area. After meeting in hotel spaces since 2021, Spring of Hope will offer weekly worship services and other activities at All Souls.

“We are very excited about our arrangement with All Souls and access to a wonderful facility that allows us to expand ministry, develop programs and activities, and serve the community better,” Bishop and Senior Pastor Talbert W. Swan II said in a news release. “Reestablishing the presence of

the Church Of God In Christ physically in the state of Vermont has been a goal of ours that we are delighted to have accomplished.”

The Church Of God In Christ is a Pentecostal denomination with more than 6.5 million members in 110 nations. Swan and his Brattleboro church hosted the denomination’s Presiding Bishop, Bishop J. Drew Sheard, in June. It was the first time a leader of the denomination visited Vermont.

Spring of Hope Brattleboro is one of only two predominantly African American churches in Vermont, the other being New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church in Burlington.

For more information about Spring of Hope, contact Bishop Swan at tswan@cgic.org or 413-221-2647

Qigong Classes at Confluence Acupuncture
Gentle Exercises Aligning Movement with Breath

Mondays at 9am: Qigong for Circulating the Acupuncture Channels
Wednesdays at 9am: 16 Exercises for Health and Longevity

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WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Hi, my name is **Luke!** I am a little nervous at first, but once I get to know you I will be following you everywhere. I need a lot of socialization so I can grow into a very confident dog. I haven’t had much experience with other animals and kids, so the intro needs to be nice and slow. I will be a larger dog when I am full grown.

Hi, my name is **Buddy!** I was a very spunky cool dude. I seem to like everyone. I do have quite the personality and loves to snuggle. I love going for walks and being around my peeps. I may be able to live with another dog. Cats are a complete unknown to me. Please come and make my sweet dreams come true.

Hi there, I’m **Maggie!** I’m an older gal who came to WCHS after my owner could no longer care for me. I can take a little while to settle in but once I get to know you I’m affectionate and talkative. As a senior gal I have a few age related things like arthritis that my new home will need to keep an eye on. I have an independent streak and enjoy time on my own, usually sitting up somewhere high to reign over my kingdom. As the queen I may prefer to be the only pet in my new home although I have lived with other cats and cat-savvy dogs in the past. Children are not my favorite so I would prefer an adults only home where I’m comfortable. I don’t want to wait for my new home any longer, can it be with you?

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Event centers work of young photographers

— and their dreams

In-Sight Photography Project celebrates 30 years with youth photo fair and contest

"I love In-Sight because it is a safe space that inspires me to create art."
— THADDEUS TAGGART, 15

By Annie Landenberger
The Commons

BRATTLEBORO—Giving young people a chance to see the world through a different lens for 30 years, In-Sight Photography Project now hosts its first annual Youth Photo Contest & Fair.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, some 31 young artists from Brattleboro and across the region — including Bennington; Greenfield, Massachusetts; and Keene, New Hampshire — will be celebrated at the Latchis Theatre for their 89 submissions to the contest.

Every year, In-Sight Executive Director Emily Wagner notes, the organization has benefited from a fall fundraiser. This year, though, marks the first youth-centered event with youth art.

According to Wagner, from 4 to 7 p.m. that day, all teens' submitted work can be seen on the walls of the Latchis' main theater; there'll be food, balloon

art, face painting, photo games, a photo booth (think old-timey selfie), and even a film-roll-loading contest honoring the old, predigital days of film photography.

A 6 p.m. awards ceremony will name three winners in each of these categories: analog film, artistic, people, places, and the New England experience.

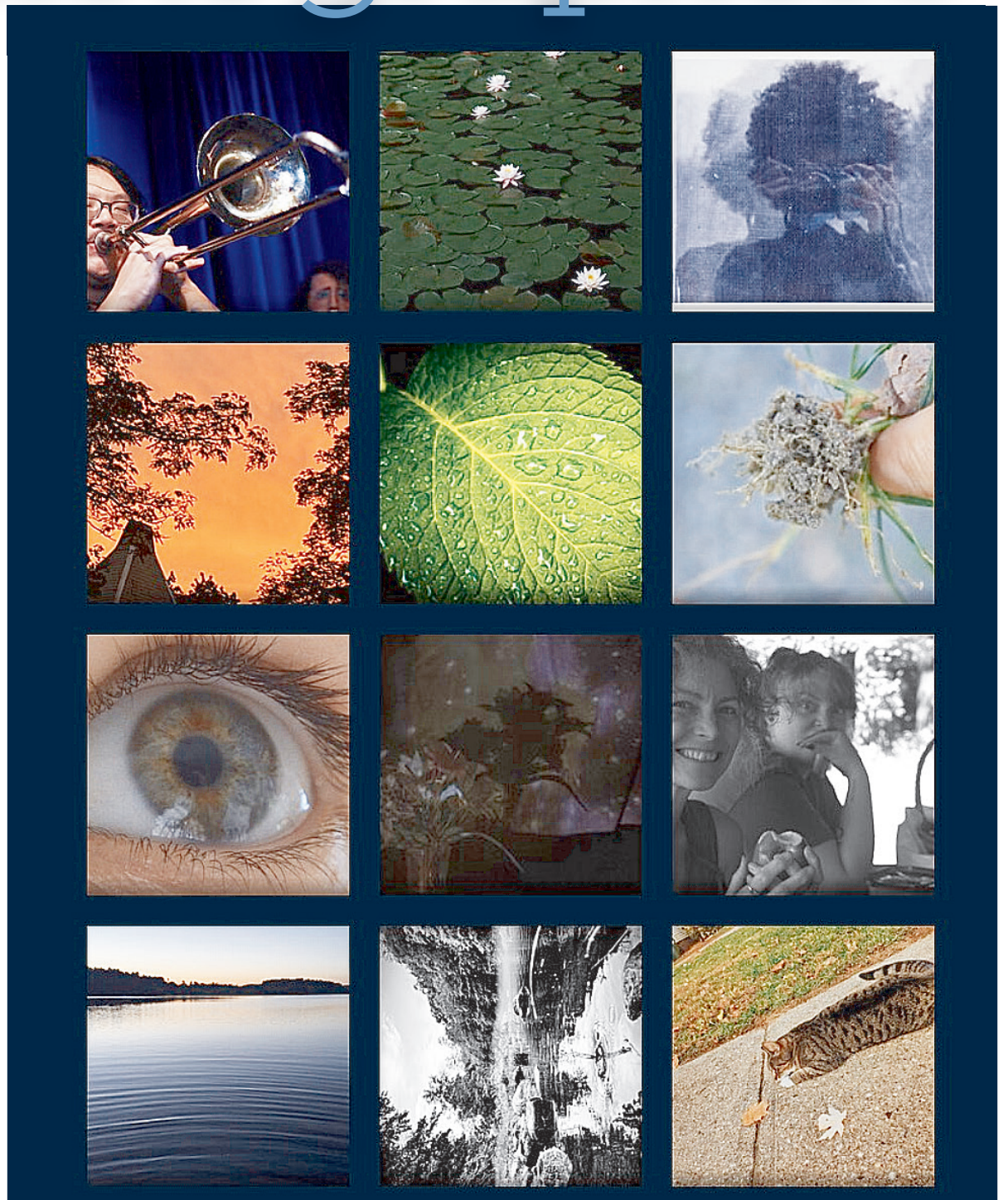
Submissions to the youth contest were welcomed from youth ages 11–18 living within an hour's drive of Brattleboro. Three prizes will be awarded in each category, with a grand prize of a DSLR camera kit.

The public is invited to vote for a contest participant to win a People's Choice Award.

While most photography contests demand an entrance fee, this event was free to submitters, thanks to the generosity of a growing list of individuals and businesses.

Cathy Cone, a photographer and painter and co-founder of Cone Editions Press whose works are in the collections of IBM, Hallmark Fine Art Collections, and American Express, among others, is the event's honorary chair.

■ SEE IN-SIGHT, B6



Just a few of the youth photographs that are vying for the People's Choice award at In-Sight Photography Project's website (insightphotography.org).

COLUMN | Creative Conversations

Putney artist opens barn gallery

Carol Keiser says she is thrilled that she can display the whole body of her work in one location

Artist Carol Keiser moved to the area in 1970 to attend Antioch Graduate School and liked it so much she never left.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, Keiser will realize a longtime dream: the opening of her own art gallery to showcase her four decades of work.

"I'm very excited to have the whole body of my work hanging in one place again," she says. "It's thrilling to see it that way."

Keiser paints on canvas and tile and works in her Putney studio primarily, creating rich and colorful images that include scenes of women at leisure, romantic couples, flowers, still lifes, ladders, and landscapes.



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.

For Keiser, the dream started indirectly.

"So I have this barn on my property where I've done Airbnb and some short-term rentals," she said. "It was pretty frustrating. Someone would come to my house and want to see my work and I'd have to pull out my paintings from the closets, the basement, the living

■ SEE KEISER, B6



Artist Carol Keiser in her new studio with six of her many paintings.

VICTORIA CHERTOK, THE COMMONS

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arts & community CALENDAR

THURSDAY THURSDAY CONT. FRIDAY CONT. SATURDAY CONT. SUNDAY CONT.

THURSDAY
28

Performing arts
BRATTLEBORO Free Satan: Comedy variety show of weird, dark, dumb, philosophical, silly things. Content in general caters to fans of silly and cringe comedy. Each edition of Free Satan is hosted by the shortlist-placing comedy screenwriter, stand-up comedian Marisa Imon, playing the character of Monk Imon (pronounced Monkey Moan) - a strange, nearly-mythological being who believes themselves to be both Satan and God - and more to be revealed on the stage.
► 7:30 p.m.
► \$10 suggested donation.
► Hooker-Dunham Theater, 139 Main St. Information: 802-281-3232; hookerdunham.org.

Well-being
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): Family-to-Family Classes (via Zoom): This is an 8-week educational program for family members or close friends of individuals with mental health conditions to learn more about mental illness, problem-solving and communication skills, coping strategies, ways to take care of themselves, and more. Attendance is expected at all eight classes in order to gain the most benefit from the course.
► 6:30-9:30 p.m.
► Through Thursday, November 16.
► Free.
► Zoom. Information: Registration required: namivt.org/family-to-family-class-registration/.

LONDONDERRY Walk with Ease program - Informal Session (Arthritis Foundation): Walk your way to health. Evidence-based Wellness Program uses the activity of walking to improve health and well-being. Walking is an excellent and simple form of exercise that's good for nearly everyone - from beginners to people who have been active for years. Walk with Ease helps you to make walking a more formal lifestyle.
► 10:15 a.m. info session. Participants get free 175-page book detailing program/forms for recording progress. Get the book and do program on your own or in group with certified leader in 6-week program (10 min.-30 min.). Group walk the following week. This 6-week program is sponsored by Senior Solutions.
► Free.
► Neighborhood Connections, The Meeting Place, Rte. 100, 5700 Marketplace (across from the post office). Information: 802-824-4343; neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org.

Community building
BRATTLEBORO Got Books? Donate them to the Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale! Books need to be in good condition (no mold, stains, tears, highlights) and contain up-to-date information! (no textbooks). Book sale will be on November 9.
► Please bring your donations to the Adult Circulation desk on the 1st floor of the library.
► Through Thursday, November 9.
► Free.
► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

ATHENS Roger Albee: "Turning the Soil - 260 Years of Vermont Agriculture": Roger Albee, former VT State Secretary of Agriculture, shares research from his upcoming book "Turning the Soil - 260 Years of Vermont Agriculture." Hear about major changes that have taken place in Vermont agriculture since the 1760s, why they have occurred, what's happening today, and why today there is a renaissance of the past.
► 4 p.m. Presented by the Athens Historic Preservation Society.
► Free. Donations welcome and support preservation of this historic landmark.
► Athens Brick Meeting House/Community Center, 2 Meeting House Rd., (just off Rte. 35).
► Through Thursday, November 9.
► Free.
► Zoom. Information: Registration required: namivt.org/family-to-family-class-registration/.

ANXIOUS NATION
A feature documentary exploring anxiety and our kids
Free Screening • October 11 from 6-8pm
Brooks Memorial Library
Community Meeting Room
"You will not need to go further than this documentary to understand the wave of anxiety that has hit our nation."
- Psychology Today
To learn more, SCAN HERE or visit namivt.org/anxiousnation
Hosted by: NAMI Vermont
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FIRST FRIDAYS | 5-9 PM
MAY-DECEMBER 2023
GALLERY WALK
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

BRATTLEBORO Budget Engagement Open House: Brattleboro is in the early stages of developing its budget. Meet the Town departments that provide your services and share your ideas. "We are eager to hear from you!"
► 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.
► Free.
► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

WILLIAMSVILLE The Rock River Players present "Harvey": Classic screwball comedy by Mary Chase is the Pulitzer Prize-winning story of Elwood P. Dowd and his unlikely companion - an invisible six-foot-tall rabbit. As Elwood's family tries to commit him to a sanitarium, tale unfolds with delightful humor and heart, reminding us all of the power of imagination and importance of acceptance.
► 9/29 and 9/30: 7 p.m. 10/1: 2 p.m., 10/6 and 10/7: 7 p.m., 10/8: 2 p.m. Hall is ADA compliant.
► Through Sunday, October 8.
► Purchase tickets online in advance or at door (cash only): \$12 general admission / \$10 students/seniors (65+).
► Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd. Information: Tickets: rockriverplayers.org, info@rockriverplayers.org.

Community meals
GUILFORD Guilford Cares Food Pantry: All are welcome to shop curbside from a list of fresh and frozen foods, canned and packaged items, dairy products.
► 3-4 p.m. every Thursday.
► Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd. Information: Questions: call Pat Haine, Pantry Director, 802-257-0626.
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. All are welcome.
► 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m. 4th Thursday of every month. This is a drive-up service. Bags provided. Located on Alice Holloway drive (in front of Putney Meadows - white building across from the Putney Coop and Putney Fire Station).
► Free.
► Putney Foodshelf, 10 Christian Sq. Information: 802-387-8551.

Visual arts and shows
BELLOWS FALLS "Kitchee Pontegu, Great Falls, Bellows Falls a Sense of Place": Exhibit features artwork by eight local artists inspired by the unique geography, culture, industrial history of Bellows Falls. Artists include Charlie Hunter, Jean Cannon, Nancy Fitz-Rapalje,

FRIDAY
29

FRIDAY CONT.
CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
BRATTLEBORO Mid-Autumn Moon Festival of China, Korea and Vietnam: Potluck, stories, tai chi, paper lanterns and more. All ages.
► 6-8 p.m.
► Free.
► Kiwanis Shelter, Living Memorial Park, Guilford St. Ext., top of hill. Information: More information: accvt.org, 802-579-9088.

FRIDAY CONT.
PUTNEY Vermont Comedy All-Stars: Jessie Baade, Austin Borg, Julia DiFerdinando, Adison Eyring, and Liam Welsh: Gordon Clark is the director of the non-profit Vermont Comedy All Stars offering this quarterly showcase at Next Stage.
► 7:30 p.m.
► \$12 in advance, \$15 at door.
► Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. More information about the comedians, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/423usjzk> 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

Well-being
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro Environmental Education Center: Full Moon Forest Immersion: Experience nature unfolding as we shift from daylight to twilight to nightfall and the rising of a full moon. Amanda Kenyon of Landkind Guide leads participants in the Japanese practice of forest bathing. Using prompts that tap into senses and quiet minds, this Full Moon Forest Immersion offers a deeply relaxing antidote to the stresses of the world.
► 5:15 - 7:30 p.m.
► \$45 (\$35 BEEC members).
► Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, 1221 Bonnyvale Rd. Information: Register and learn more: beec.org.

Community meals
BELLOWS FALLS Bellows Falls Woman's Club sponsors Public Pasta Supper: Included on the menu are a variety of pasta dishes, salad bar, home baked bread, cake, beverages. Vegetarian and gluten free choices available.
► Proceeds help fund the club's high school scholarship. Church is accessible to all. Enter from back of building.
► \$15 adults, \$8 ages 6-12, free for ages 5 and under.
► United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School St. Information: Information: Call Sally at (603) 445.2527.

FRIDAY CONT.
CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
BRATTLEBORO Montreal Circus Company - duo Agathe et Adrien - performs at the New England Center for Circus Arts: Agathe et Adrien is set to wow audiences with their show N.Ormes. Brought to NECCA through a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts, this extraordinary acrobatic duo will share their show that found acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and the MICC circus festival in Montreal.
► 7:30 p.m. Accessible parking. Wheelchair accessible.
► \$25 general seating, \$15 (age under 12 and seniors 65+), \$35 VIP, free for under age 2.
► New England Center for Circus Arts (Trapezium), 10 Town Crier Dr. Information: Reserve tickets at circusschool.org. Volunteers receive a free ticket at the same link.

FRIDAY CONT.
CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
BRATTLEBORO TENGGER: Translated as "Unlimited Expanse of Sky" in Mongolian, TENGGER are a traveling musical family based in Seoul, South Korea who create ethereal, psychedelic drone magic using Indian harmonium, voice, synths, and electronics. Their 11-year-old son RAAI accompanies with voice, synth, toy instruments and dance. Opening by Austin-based experimental composer Jesse Beaman.
► 8-11 p.m. TENGGER's self-titled 13th album will be released by We Are Busy Bodies on 9/29. It represents this globetrotting family - explores their origins and accepting the mood of the world using the motion of wind and waves as sonic inspiration and the spiritual concept of sky as mirror to the Earth.
► \$20.
► Epsilon Spires, 190 Main St. Information: Tickets: tinyurl.com/2s3a28hn.

FRIDAY CONT.
CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
BRATTLEBORO Area Farmers Market: BAFM has over 50 vendors, bringing our region's best farmers, makers, and chefs all to one place. Live music 11 a.m.-1 p.m., special events and workshops throughout the season.
► 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. Rain or shine.
► Through Saturday, October 28.
► Brattleboro Farmers Market, 570 Western Ave., Rt. 9, near covered bridge. Information: 802-490-4371; brattleborofarmersmarket.com.

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SATURDAY
30

SATURDAY CONT.
COMMUNITY BUILDING
BRATTLEBORO 15th annual Brattleboro Buddy Walk: This event helps raise awareness and promote inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (different abilities) and raises funds for Special Olympics programs in Windham County. Meet new friends and help promote inclusion for people of all abilities.
► 10 a.m.: Check in; 10:30 a.m.: Keynote address; 11 a.m.: one mile walk through town (open to everyone); 12 noon: bar BQ, music, games, vendors, open mic; 1 p.m. raffle prizes.
► Free registration for individuals or family of 4 raising \$50 or more in pledges for Special Olympics in Windham County.
► Brattleboro Town Common, U.S. 5 and Rte. 30 (north end of downtown by the Rotary). Information: BrattleboroBuddyWalk.org.
BRATTLEBORO Brattleboro in Stitches: Bring a work in progress to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, or mend. Sewing machines, irons, and companionship provided.
► 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays in the Community Room.
► Free.
► Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

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SUNDAY
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SUNDAY CONT. FROM B2

ing, and liberation of Black, indigenous, people of color and their allies. We welcome them to this First Sunday service."

- ▶ 10 a.m.: Pre-service activities; 8:45 a.m.: Choir rehearsal begins. 9 a.m.: Children's Religious Exploration class, Adult Coffee & Conversation, and Quiet Meditation.
- ▶ Donations welcome.
- ▶ All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 29 South St. To join via Zoom, visit www.ascvt.org shortly before 10 a.m. 802.254.9377, office@ascvt.org, ascvt.org.

PUTNEY Putney Historical Society Annual Meeting: Open to the public. A brief business meeting will be followed by presentations on plans for rehabilitating the town hall. Tom Jamison will outline the history of the Town Hall with deed research and historic photographs. Lyssa Papazian will discuss the project including plans and funding.

- ▶ 2 p.m. Light refreshments available.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

Dance

BRATTLEBORO West Coast Swing (WCS) - Brattleboro!

- ▶ 3 p.m. in Thomas Hall. 3 p.m.: West Coast Swing Beginner Lesson, 3:45 p.m.: West Coast Swing Intermediate Lesson, 4:30-6 p.m.: Open Dance. Free parking.
- ▶ Open Dance: 4:30 - 6 p.m. \$10 Lessons / \$20 Dance.
- ▶ Winston Prouty Campus, 209 Austine Dr. Information: More information: Text Bonnie at 802-249-8646.

Film and video

BRATTLEBORO 350 Brattleboro offers screening of "How to Blow Up a Pipeline": In the days following the heat, smoke and recent floods in VT, one would be hard pressed to notice any serious response to what should be a significant signal for radical change. This exciting film is based on a book of the same name that brings forward a strikingly cogent historical overview of the stages of climate activism starting with the UN-led COP1 climate conference in 1995 and up to the pandemic.

▶ 6:30 p.m. Book also examines movements thru time depicting some level of property destruction that even successful movements may think were above the fray. Central to the book is the question why some in the climate movement have not embraced this sort of action. Film had its world premiere at 2022 Toronto International Film Fest where it was showcased in Platform Prize program, receiving critical acclaim.

- ▶ \$10 suggested donation. No one turned away.
- ▶ One Eighteen Elliot, 118 Elliot St. Information: More information: brattleboro@350vt.org.

MONDAY

2

Music

BRATTLEBORO Kevin Parry hosts Open Mic every Monday: Musicians only.

- ▶ 6:30 - 9 p.m.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ River Garden Marketplace, 157 Main St. Information: Sign up for a 10 min. set visit: kevinparrymusic.com and click on Open Mic.

TUESDAY

3

Well-being

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

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

Visual arts and shows

NEWFANE Crowell Art Gallery presents Gianna Robinson: "The Ways of Water: Never Destroyed, Always Changing Form": A common thread is how

Vermont Comedy All-Stars stand-up comedy showcase returns to Next Stage

PUTNEY—Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All-Stars return for a night of stand-up comedy at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill Rd., on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Featured performers will include several contest-winning and touring comedians most often seen in the Burlington area.

- Jessie Baade is a Catskill native who moved to Vermont by way of New York City and Boston. She has appeared in the New York International Fringe Festival and as a comic-in-residence at Boston's Comedy Studio. Among the several festivals she's been in are the Boston Comedy Festival competition and the Women In Comedy Festival. Baade was named as a nominee for the 2019 Audio Verse Award.

She's appeared in Chris Fleming's web series and live shows *Gayle* as cast super-weirdo, Linda. She's also performed as MC Mama Bang Bang (and occasionally some

other people) for Boston's Rogue Burlesque, where she wrote scripted variety, and in independent movies including *The Invention Of Lying*, *The A Plate*, and *The Polka King*.

- Austin Borg lives in a van with his dog, Summit, and never parks in the same place twice. He names his real education as beginning outside the confines of conventional schooling. He's been a thru-hiker along the Appalachian trail, trekking in the Himalayas, and hiked in the Andes.

Austin's been doing comedy for five years, an art through which he says he shares his stories and unconventional perspective.

- Julia DiFerdinando is a Vermonter and comedian. After touring and teaching comedy for more than 10 years with Second City in Chicago, she returned to Vermont in 2018 to be the creative director at the Vermont Comedy Club, where she developed all programming and

artistic content for the groundbreaking theater.

In 2019, she won the London Short Series Best Actress for her performance in *The Coat Room*, which she also wrote and produced. Teaching and performing comedy has taken her around the world, most notably to Birmingham, San Francisco, and Beijing. Last year, she accepted a job at South Burlington High School as a theater teacher, where, she says, she brings her love of comedy to the students and has directed and produced a range of performance opportunities for the students.

- Adison Eyring is a standup in Burlington and a recent Texas transplant. She was voted Best New Comic at the Vermont Comedy Club Awards She performs regularly at shows and open mics throughout the state.

- Liam Welsh is a Burlington-based stand up comic. A multiple finalist at Vermont's Funniest Comedian Contest, including first runner up in

2019, he performs regularly around the state and especially at the Vermont Comedy Club, where he has featured for national headliners such as Michael Rapaport, Solomon Georgia, Jenny Yang, and Jay Jurden, to name a few. He also hosts a weekly comedy game show, *Free Stuff*, at Lincoln's in Burlington.

- Gordon Clark (host) says he is proof that you can teach an old dog new tricks. A lifelong organizer and activist, he took up comedy when he was nearing 60.

Clark is the director of the nonprofit Vermont Comedy All-Stars, through which he produces and hosts monthly stand-up comedy showcase specials in Burlington (at Nectar's) and Montpelier (Bent Nails Bistro), as well as the quarterly showcase at the Next Stage Arts Theater in Putney.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, available at nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

TUESDAY CONT.

water, in all its different guises, is changing our landscapes in beautiful as well as destructive ways. It is just the way nature works. "It is not an angry, punishing force. It is change and movement, evolving and regenerative. Water is matter and energy and the law of energy is that energy can neither be created nor destroyed, rather, it only changes form.

- ▶ 10/14: 3-5 p.m. Artist's reception. Gallery open Tues., Wed., Friday 1-5 p.m., Thurs: 1-6 p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ▶ Through Saturday, October 28.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Crowell Gallery at the Moore Free Library, 23 West St. Information: 802-365-7948; moorefreelibrary.org.

Film and video

PUTNEY Documentary: "Four Winters": Film tells the story of the Jewish partisans who fought back against the Nazis and their collaborators from deep within forests of WWII's Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Belarus. Secrets held for lifetimes

reveal heartfelt narrative of heroism, determination, resilience. Featuring the photography of Faye Schulman.

- ▶ 7-8:40 p.m. film screening. Q&A with director Julia Mintz follows.
- ▶ \$10. Advance ticketing closes two hours before showtime.
- ▶ Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hill. Information: 802-387-0102; nextstagearts.org.

WEDNESDAY

4

Kids and families

BRATTLEBORO Rhyme Time: Stories, Songs, and Fun! We use different songs, fingerplays, and movement games. For kids 5 and younger and their caregivers.

- ▶ 10:30 - 11 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Community Meeting Room.
- ▶ Free.

WEDNESDAY CONT.

- ▶ Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. Information: 802-254-5290; brookslibraryvt.org.

Community building

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

- ▶ 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. After today, the Market is closed for the season.
- ▶ Vernon Community Market, Vernon Recreation Area, 607 Pond Rd. Information: 802-254-9251, VernonVTCommunityMarket@gmail.com.

Ideas and education

PUTNEY "The Value of our Stories": Spoken Word Poet Rajni Eddins Discusses Storytelling/Social Justice: Part of the Landmark College Academic Speaker Series, Eddins' presentation includes performances of his own poems and a discussion of the historical context in

which they were created. He will also talk with attendees about how their stories can be used to confront racism and other injustices, affirm diversity and equity, and initiate community dialogue.

- ▶ 5 p.m. This is a Vermont Humanities Council program.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Landmark College, Lewis Academic Bldg., O'Brien Auditorium, 1 River Road South. Venue accessibility questions contact Solvegi Shmulsky at sshmulsky@landmark.edu Driving directions and more: landmark.edu.

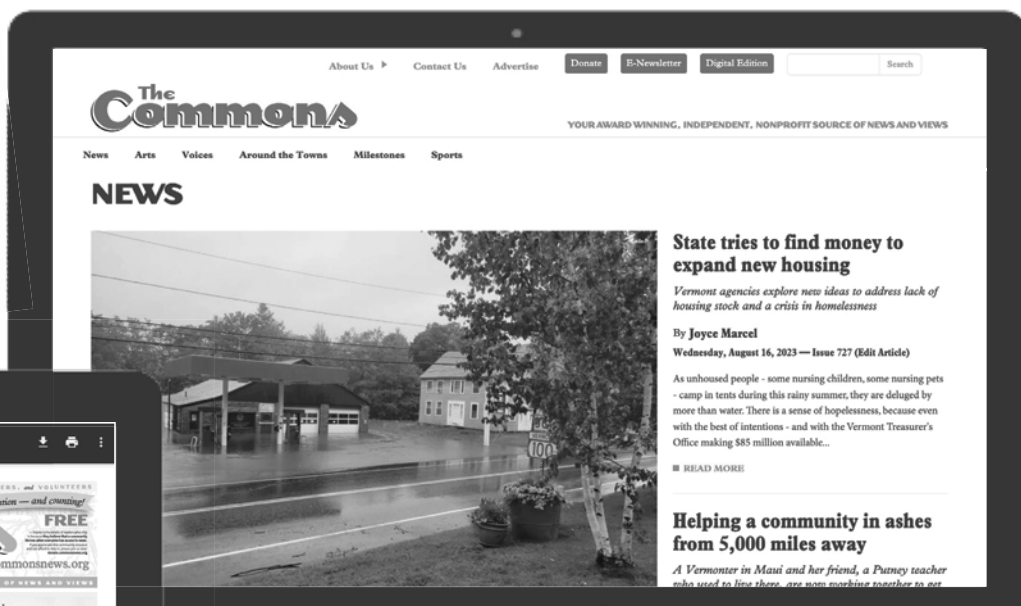
To submit your event: calendar@commonsnews.org
Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

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Tracy Berchi, left, as Mrs. Chumley and Joel Kaemmerlen as Elwood P. Dowd in a scene from the Rock River Player's upcoming production of "Harvey."

Rock River Players present 'Harvey' in Williamsville Hall

WILLIAMSVILLE—The Rock River Players present their production of the classic screwball comedy *Harvey*, taking the stage at Williamsville Hall this fall. Audiences can witness this timeless story unfold with performances over two weekends, from Sept. 29 through Oct. 8.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by Mary Chase, *Harvey* tells the story of Elwood P. Dowd and his unlikely companion, an invisible six-foot-tall rabbit. As Elwood's family tries to commit him to a sanitarium, the tale unfolds with delightful humor and heart, reminding us all of the

power of imagination and the importance of acceptance.

"We are extremely excited to bring *Harvey* to life. It's a classic story but has a radical message of compassion and integrity," director Pamela Corkey said in a news release. "We have an incredible cast and crew, many of whom are new to the Players and have gone above and beyond to share the magic of this beloved comedy with our community."

"This is a performance that promises to be both entertaining and thought-provoking, capturing the imagination of all who

attend," says the show's producer, Amy Donahue, who assumed her role as co-artistic director of the Players this past June.

Harvey will be presented on Sept. 29 and 30 and Oct. 6 and 7 at 7 p.m., and Oct. 1 and 8 at 2 p.m. at the Players' home venue of Williamsville Hall (ADA compliant; 35 Dover Rd. in Williamsville). Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors (65+), and can be purchased online in advance or at the door (cash only).

For reservations and more information, visit rockriverplayers.org or contact info@rockriverplayers.org.



Wendy O'Connell, host and producer of "Here We Are: Brattleboro's Community Talk Show," recorded her 200th episode in the BCTV Studio, interviewing poet and songwriter Wyn Cooper in August 2023.

'Here We Are' celebrates 200th episode on BCTV

BRATTLEBORO—"Here We Are: Brattleboro's Community Talk Show" recently celebrated the airing of its 200th episode on Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV).

Host Wendy O'Connell started her show in August 2017 with the aim of connecting the community through the simple act of conversation. The 200th episode features poet and songwriter Wyn Cooper, who has co-created award-winning songs for TV series and individual artists, including lyrics for Sheryl Crow's hit "All I Wanna Do." The episode is currently airing on Comcast Channel 1078 and available on brattleborotv.org.

O'Connell, a longtime resident of the area, said, "I'm continually amazed by the diversity of background and talents in this area. I find it fascinating to hear how my guests arrived here — stories that sometimes go back generations — and learn about their childhoods, their experiences, what they are doing today, and their plans and visions for the future. I think every community could benefit from a show like this."

Over the last six years, O'Connell has talked with local folks of all ages, circumstances, vocations, and interests — from tattoo artists, circus performers, and chimney sweeps to social justice advocates, town officials, and asylum seekers. Notable guests have included the late Curtis Tuff, owner of the famous Curtis's Bar-B-Q, writer Ann Braden, filmmaker Ken Burns, actor and activist Shoshana Rihn, and humorist Tom Bodett.

In March, O'Connell received a major endorsement when her episode featuring Echo Mars of the local band "Thus Love" received a shoutout in an interview at the music festival SXSW (South by Southwest). In 2020, "Here We Are" was awarded in the category Profile Talk Show by the Alliance for Community Media - Northeast Region.

"Here We Are" is picked up by other public access stations throughout the state and nationwide. New episodes air on BCTV every other week and all shows are archived and available for streaming at brattleborotv.org/here-we-are.

Montreal Circus Company performs to the limit at NECCA

BRATTLEBORO—Montreal-based acrobatic circus duet Agathe & Adrien is set to wow Brattleboro audiences with their show *N. Ormes* on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 pm.

Brought to New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) through a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts, this acrobatic duo will share their show that found acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and the MICC circus festival in Montreal.

"It has become more and more important to us at NECCA that we showcase a wide range of what circus is today," Producing Director and NECCA co-Founder Serenity Smith Forchion said in a news release. "This show is provocative and important because it pushes the limits and expectations of bodies and gender norms using circus as the medium."

The acrobatic story features two protagonists and their relationship navigating between complicity and power struggles. The exchange of traditional roles based on size and gender are mixed up and re-explored, like a new language, blurring preconceptions of what our bodies are through what they are capable of.

The duo Agathe & Adrien works across continents at the frontiers of circus, dance, and theater-performance including as founding members of Acting for Climate.

According to the artists, "Our mission is to create a network of artists and activists to nurture collaboration, equity, and admiration

of nature for a sustainable future." They consider that, "as artists, we have the opportunity and responsibility to inspire action, joy, and change."

This perspective is evident in their show *N. Ormes*. As the artists state on their website (agathe-adrien.com/propos), "Tired of the obsolete and toxic patterns of male/female relationships present in the circus world today, they combine the codes of circus, contemporary dance, and performance art to create a rich, complex acrobatic language, as a part of a feminist approach to re-defining standards."

Agathe & Adrien will perform *N. Ormes* for one show only at NECCA's Trapezium, 10 Town Crier Drive. Tickets are \$15 (under 12/senior), \$25 general seating, \$35 VIP, and free for children under 2. Reserve tickets at necenterforcircusarts.org (necenterforcircusarts.org/about/agathe-et-adrien-n-ormes); volunteers receive a free ticket at this link.

New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) is a non-profit organization that offers recreational circus classes, pre-professional and professional programs, performances, and workshops. Visit necenterforcircusarts.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ads@commonsnews.org • 888-511-5150

CLOSING OF LAW PRACTICE OF MASSUCCO & STERN, P.C.

FINAL NOTICE is hereby given that the law practice of MASSUCCO & STERN, P.C. located at 90 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vermont is now closed as of September 29, 2023.

All files, documents, and other materials stored or located at the Bellows Falls Vermont premises have been securely distributed or destroyed.

Please contact the office of Dakin & Benelli, P.C., P.O. Box 499, Chester, VT 05143, 802-875-4000, for further information.

Proportionate Share Presentation and Consultation

Who: Homeschooling Families with Children Suspected of Having a Disability in the Windham Central Supervisory Union

What: Learn more about Proportionate Share and Child Find

October 4th, 8:30-9:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84556737093>

Meeting ID: 845 5673 7093

For more information, contact Stephanie Betit-Hancock, Director of Student Services 802-221-2065 or email at sbetit-hancock@windhamcentral.org

TOWN OF PUTNEY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, and Putney Zoning Regulations, Section 110.4, notice is hereby given that the Putney Development Review Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 17, 2023 for the purpose of considering one application.

Application #23-09-23 Kara Curtis (Applicant) and Timothy Wells (Owner), property location 646 Bellows Falls Road, Tax Map 08-01-25. Applicant is proposing a minor subdivision by creating two parcels from one parcel. Application will be reviewed under Section 320.3 Rural Residential; of the 2021 Zoning Regulations and Article 3.1.B; 3.6-3.8 Article 4 "Design Standards and Required Improvements" of the 2021 Subdivision Regulations.

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

Dated at Putney, Vermont, this 25th day of September, 2023.

Karen M. Astley
Zoning Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE DUMMERSTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Dummerston Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Dummerston Town Offices, 1523 Middle Road, Dummerston Center and via Zoom video teleconference, for the purpose of reviewing the following applications:

- A review of application #3744; Andrew Earle, The Spinnery, for Conditional Use and Site Plan Review for Accessory Structure (Garage, Commercial Use), under Sections 715 - 726 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #335, 7 Brickyard Ln., Dummerston, VT, a Commercial Industrial District. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on October 17, 2023, beginning at or about 5:00 pm.

- A review of application #3739; Eesha Williams et al, for Appeal of Zoning Administrator Decision (Permit #3735), under Section 716 of the Dummerston Zoning Bylaw, at parcel #654, Middle Rd., Dummerston, VT, Rural Residential and Conservation Districts. The hearing will be preceded by a site visit on October 17, 2023, beginning at or about 5:30 pm.

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

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

Dated: September 27, 2023

Roger Vincent Jasaitis
Dummerston Zoning Administrator

CHILD FIND NOTICE

Each year the Windham Central Supervisory Union conducts an annual Child Find Search. The purpose of this is to locate unserved or under-served disabled children between the ages of zero and twenty-one years.

Windham Central Supervisory Union serves the towns of Brookline, Dover, Jamaica, Marlboro, Newfane, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Windham.

Therefore, if you know of a child who is disabled and may be in need of specialized education services, please contact the Windham Central Supervisory Union Special Education Office by calling 802-365-9515.

Windham Central Supervisory Union does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap, in admission, or access to, or treatment, in employment, or in any of its programs or activities.

Any person having inquiries concerning Windham Central Supervisory Union's compliance with regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, section 505 A.D.A. and IDEA should contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1219 VT Route 30, Townshend, VT 05353.

Notice of Special Education Records Destruction

Windham Central Supervisory Union — Individual student special education records which have been collected by the Windham Central Supervisory Union related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement or the provision of special education in the district must be maintained under state and federal laws for a period of five to seven years after special education services have ended for the student. Special education services end when the student is no longer eligible for services, graduates, completes their educational program at age 22, or moves from the district.

This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students of the Windham Central Supervisory Union's intent to destroy the special education records effective November 15, 2023 of students who are no longer receiving special education services and whose year of graduation was 2016 or earlier. These records will be destroyed in accordance with state law unless the parent/guardian or eligible adult student notifies the school district otherwise.

After seven years, the records are no longer useful to the district but they may be useful to the parent/guardian or former student in applying for Social Security benefits, rehabilitation services, college entrance, etc. The parent/guardian or eligible adult student may contact the Special Education office at 802-365-9515 to make arrangements to pick up their records or may contact us in writing at the following address:

Windham Central Supervisory Union, 1219 Vermont Route 30, Townshend, Vermont 05353. Attn: Special Education Department.

Your request for the original file must be received by November 15th, 2023. For more information, call 802-365-9515.

Bellows Falls

A sense of PLACE Exhibit THROUGH OCT. 6

Flat Iron Cooperative Coffee House

51 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT
Tuesday-Friday 9 to 3

Saturday & Sunday 9 to 5

Curated by: Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAM) www.ramp-vt.org

Artists:
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Jean Cannon,
Nancy Fitz-Rapalje,
Arlene Scully,
Robert McBride,
Phyllis Rosser,
Gregory Thorpe,
Kristen Fehrenbach

For more information scan the QR code, or visit www.fact8.com/news.php





Titled "Undercover," this acrylic was created by Lucie Barons-Benoit, a Dummerston ninth-grader at Brattleboro Union High School. She is the youngest participant in this exhibit.

'Artisans of Dummerston' exhibit opens at historical society

DUMMERSTON—What is an artisan? An artisan is someone who works with their hands to create unique, functional and/or decorative items using traditional techniques. Artisans are masters of their craft and create products, such as clothes, toys, tools, paintings, furnishings, and many more.

The Dummerston Historical Society invites you to view an exhibit representing artwork and crafts of 27 Dummerston residents. The exhibit will be

open this Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 8 during the Apple Pie Festival, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Historical Society Schoolhouse in Dummerston Center next to the Town Office.

Organizers say the purpose of this exhibit is "to provide an opportunity to feature the creative works of Dummerston residents (both year-round and summer) in a wide variety of media. Some artists many will be aware of, others are 'closet'

artists who may be new to you, but are pleased to have this opportunity to display their work. Be prepared to see oil and watercolor paintings, jewelry, wood carvings, weavings, photographs, fiber art, leather works, sculptures, pottery."

All are invited, admission is free, donations are welcome, and the Society is accessible. For more information, contact 802-254-9311 or gailsvt@gmail.com.

Juno Orchestra celebrates Bach with Oct. 8 concert

MARLBORO—The Brattleboro Music Center's Juno Orchestra presents a program set for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, at Persons Auditorium in Marlboro. The performance will feature the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as works by his son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, and by Georges Frideric Handel.

As Juno Founder and Music Director Zon Eastes explains, "This concert recalls the wonder of the New England Bach Festival, often presented this same weekend years ago, and created by Brattleboro Music Center founder Blanche Moyses. The works to be performed were often part of the Festival program."

Eastes, who was among the musicians taking part in the Bach Festival, adds, "I'm inspired by the promise of this concert. The music is particularly uplifting, heartening, and engaging, and we also look forward to collaborating with three talented, soloists, each with deep associations with this community."

The October performance will include Handel's Concerto Grosso in A minor, Op. 6, No. 4, and then spotlight works by J. S. Bach. They include "Ich habe genug," BWV 82, featuring Grammy-nominated baritone Randall Scarlata, and Concerto for Oboe and Violin, BWV 1060, with Jennifer Slowik, oboe, and Kathy Andrew, violin.

The program also will include C. P. E. Bach's Sinfonia in B-flat major, Wq. 182, No. 2.

According to Eastes, Juno reveals new and recent compositions while also presenting less well-known and time-honored masterworks. They invite curious audiences to find the connection,

to discover the spark. Two central values underpin Juno's work: exploration and collaboration.

Tickets are \$50 for Circle seating, \$20 for advance general admission, and \$25 at the door; contact bmcvt.org or 802-257-4523. A limited number of reduced-price tickets are also available; call the BMC or email info@bmcvt.org for more information.

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Tens of thousands of dominoes to topple in Brattleboro on Oct. 8

BRATTLEBORO—Forty-eight hours of painstaking set-up. Tens of thousands of pieces arranged with mathematical precision. And just one light tap to set roughly 900 square feet of domino art in motion.

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC)'s annual crowd favorite — the Domino Toppling Extravaganza — returns on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 5:30 p.m. The colorful spectacle is now in its 16th year, which makes it the longest-running domino event in the world, according to a news release. This year it will take place before a live audience at the former Marlboro College Graduate School building at 28 Vernon St., next door to the museum. The event also will be livestreamed

on Facebook.

Internationally known domino topper and YouTube creator Lily Hevesh and a team of artists — including Brady Dolan, Nathan Heck, and Chris Wright — will arrive on Friday, Oct. 6, to begin their installation process.

Hevesh has been called the "queen" of domino art by *Inc.* magazine and "the brightest star in the domino universe" by *The Washington Post*.

She has attracted nearly four million YouTube subscribers, launched her own brand of dominoes, and collaborated on projects with Google, Disney, Marvel, Ford, Honda, and LEGO. Her work has been highlighted on NBC, Fox News, Nickelodeon, CNN, and CBS, and she was

featured in the award-winning 2021 documentary, *Lily Topples the World*.

Despite those global accomplishments, Brattleboro's domino event holds a special place in Hevesh's very full event calendar. "This is unique because we get to do anything we want, and this is one of the riskiest because we're making it up on the spot," she told VTDigger before the 2022 toppling. "We don't have a lot of time to test everything. We just fill the floor."

Last year, Hevesh and her fellow artists used 26,000 dominoes to fill the floor of the museum's Wolf Kahn & Emily Mason Gallery.

"The exhibition currently on view at the museum doesn't leave

enough floor space for all the dominoes as well as the audience members who usually show up for this event," said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld. "We're grateful to the new owner of the building next door for letting us take over that space for a few days. It's going to work beautifully and might even allow for more dominoes than usual."

Doors open to spectators at 5 p.m. on Oct. 8, and the toppling begins at 5:30 p.m. The Facebook Live event begins at 5:15 p.m. Members of the in-person audience can win the chance to start the whole chain reaction by guessing the correct number of dominoes used in the building process.

Parking is available at 28 Vernon St. Backpacks and strollers will need to be left at the door. Admission to the in-person event, sponsored by the Latchis Hotel and Theatre, is free for children 8 and under, \$3 for BMAC members, and \$5 for all others. Tickets are available in advance or at the door, but because space is limited, advance purchase is advised. Buy tickets at brattlebormuseum.org or call 802-257-0124, ext. 101.



Part of the layout at last year's Domino Toppling event at the Brattleboro Museum & Arts Center.

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In-Sight

FROM SECTION FRONT

A longtime supporter of In-Sight and its students, she says in a media release that the contest represents “an opportunity for the community to encourage and help guide a young photographer’s dreams.”

A space for teens to learn

In-Sight was conceived in 1992 by Bill Ledger and John Willis, to be offered at the former Brattleboro Teen Center as a means of giving young people a chance to engage in self-expression through the medium of photography.

In 2003, In-Sight found its own home at 45 Flat St., before moving to its current Main Street space in 2018.

There, one finds a classroom, a digital lab, an analog darkroom with nine enlargers, and a small space for small works which is fondly called the Tiny Gallery.

In the reception area, sun pours through skylights to warm cozy gathering nooks.

Hundreds of young people have benefitted from In-Sight’s programs over the years. Its programming has offered a range of workshops and classes taught by the area’s leading photographers.

In addition, as noted on insight-photography.org, the Exposures Cross Cultural Program “brought youth from different cultures together to the current Teen Photo Team (TPT),” which it described as “a program specifically designed to help youth explore professional pathways.”

In-Sight’s approach to photography is “to foster personal expression, artistic growth, and self-confidence” with the mission “to create opportunities for youth to learn and use the photographic arts as a technical and expressive medium fostering personal development and cultural engagement.”

“In our vision, all youth have equitable access to opportunities to express their creativity in the photographic arts in a learning environment and curriculum that supports the diversity of individuals, communities, and cultures,” the organization writes. “The programming includes core classes in analog film and

digital photography, after school partnership programs, the Photo Team, and an artist residency.”

In-Sight student Matrix Balsley-Petraska, 13, says, “Something that I really love about TPT is how comfortable and relaxed it is. Rachel [Boettcher, operations and program manager] helps keep us on task without being controlling and it’s really lovely. We’re all just having fun learning together and taking pictures.”

Genevieve Taggart, 15, adds: “In-Sight has let me explore my creativity; they have become my second family. In-Sight gets me out into the community to shoot real events; they have given me opportunities of a lifetime.”

Lynn Barrett of PrimeTime Concepts, a consultant for In-Sight, praises what the nonprofit offers “to the community and to the young people in Brattleboro — giving them skills and confidence to grow in a positive direction...and we certainly need that these days!”

Wagner, who took the helm at In-Sight in 2022, grew up in South Carolina and attended Marlboro College, where she studied visual arts and psychology. An artist and arts administrator, she has worked with various nonprofit programs and in public and private schools.

She believes strongly in the role of the arts in education.

“The arts had a big impact on me as a young person,” she said. Having had a very traditional education in her youth through which she “really struggled,” she “found Marlboro and alternative education to be really interesting, so that is where I’ve spent a lot of my study.” Eventually, she earned a master’s degree and licensure in art education.

Lamenting the fact that the Windham Regional Career Center has dropped its filmmaking program, Wagner told of seeing a television commercial on Vermont Public promoting career education in the state and, she observed, “there were a lot of cameras in that commercial. A lot of kids standing behind tripods with cameras on them.”

According to the J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation



In-Sight Photography Project executive director Emily Wagner.

and Vermont Department of Labor’s study (mclurevt.org/most-promising-jobs/) of promising jobs, Wagner adds, “photography is an up-and-coming career choice.”

In-Sight’s fall 2023 programs include: 35mm Film: Darkroom Experiments & Beyond; Digital Photography 202: Working in Genres; and Photographic Storytelling: Creating Series & Narratives. All classes are fully accessible through a sliding-scale fee structure, and all equipment is provided.

Wagner says In-Sight’s funds “are raised through sponsorships and a generous anonymous donation. We wanted to see if [the Youth Photo Contest and Fair] is something youth would respond to and have an impact. Next year, we will be better able to solicit sponsorships big and small with data on the positive results of this first run of the event.”

Cone, and In-Sight’s board of directors vice-chair and local photographer Rachel Portesi, assembled the jury panel.

In addition to Cone, the contest jury panel is comprised of Michael Kirchoff, editor-in-chief at *Analog Forever Magazine*; Vaune Trachtman, a photographer and printmaker whose images explore the evanescence of dreams and memory; Aline Smithson, founder and editor-in-chief of [Lenscratch.com](https://lenscratch.com), a daily online journal on photography; Crista Dix, executive director at the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, Massachusetts, with 15 years’ experience in operating her own photography gallery; and Joan O’Beirne, photographer and teacher at Greenfield Community College.

Photographer Geoffrey Peckham, founder and

executive director of Tusen Takk Foundation, is on the jury as well, joined by Dale Rio, co-founder of The Halide Project, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit whose mission is to support film and historic process photography; Jon Gitelson, a professor of art at Keene State College, who works in a variety of media: photography, artist books, video, installation, and public art; and Timothy Trelease, an artist-educator who has been exhibiting and teaching visual art for 30 years.

For more information on the Sept. 30 event and offerings of In-Sight, visit insight-photography.org.

Disclosure: Mentioned in this story is Lynn Barrett, a member of the board of directors of Vermont Independent Media, the nonprofit organization that publishes The Commons. By long-standing policy, board members do not participate in the newspaper’s editorial process.

Vermont Crafts Council sets fall open studio tour

The statewide Vermont Crafts Council’s Fall Open Studio Weekend on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 will include four artist studios and two galleries in the Brattleboro area, as well as others in southern Vermont.

Participating sites will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, and visitors will have the chance to see demonstrations, purchase handcrafted items, talk to the professional artisans who made them, and see the environment where they create their work.

The council’s website describes the event as a celebration of the creation of craft and artwork and the work life of Vermont artists. With a focus on the studio, including work space and materials, the event aims to illustrate both that creating art requires an investment of time, specialized tools and equipment, and that the process is accessible and rewarding.

The tour is organized into 18 “loops” of sites to visit in one outing. In addition to the six stops in the Brattleboro area, the southern Vermont loop includes the Readsboro Glassworks to the west. During the tour, look for the yellow road signs from I-91, Exit 2, and along Western Avenue to guide you to the sites in Brattleboro.

Also, you can view an interactive map of the local stops on your device, and tour-goers can pick up guidebooks with maps at any participating site. Please note that there are two changes to the local tour lineup since the printing of the statewide guidebooks: Lost Mile Designs in Dummerston will not be participating, and Lesley

Heathcote in Brattleboro has joined the tour.

Here are the area tour stops, with their respective site numbers in the guidebook:

43: Readsboro Glassworks — Mary Angus and K. William LeQuier. Handblown glass and glass sculpture. 6954 Main St., Readsboro. maryangusglass.com, kwilliamlequier.com.

44: Vermont Artisan Designs & Gallery 2. (Tour information center) Pottery, art, glass, jewelry and wood. 106 Main St., Brattleboro. vart.com.

45: Rae Heller. Paintings, quilts, collage. 212 Fox Farm Rd., Brattleboro. raeheller.com. With guest artist Rose Bernhard Ceramics. Handcrafted ceramics. rosebernhard.com.

41: (added after printing of the guidebook): Lesley Heathcote Studio — Lesley Heathcote. Pastels and oils of animals, birds, and landscapes. 32 Larkin St., Brattleboro. lesleyheathcote.com.

46: Orchard Street Pottery — Walter Slowinski. Woodfired salt-glazed pottery, branch handles. 658 Orchard St., Brattleboro. walterslowinskipottery.weebly.com.

47: Leopard Frog Art Gallery — Larisa Volkavichyuta and other artists. Vermont art, gifts, shop, gallery. 257 Marlboro Rd., Brattleboro. leopardfrog.shop.

48: Chris Lann Designs — Chris Lann. Contemporary handcrafted jewelry. 1420 Sunset Lake Rd., Brattleboro. chrislann.com.

A complete list of all participating sites statewide can be found at vermontcrafts.com.

NPR’s Martha Barnette explores the ‘Joy of Lex’ at Brooks Memorial Library

BRATTLEBORO—Surprising word histories, regional dialects, ancient linguistic roots, and modern slang are explored with Martha Barnette, co-host of public radio’s popular *A Way with Words* in the main reading room of Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St., on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m.

The show about words and how we use them — including word and phrase origins, writing well, books and reading, and that weird thing Grandma used to say — is heard each week by listeners of National Public Radio affiliates

across North America, and the podcast worldwide.

This is the premiere Brattleboro program in the Vermont Humanities program series, Snapshot, the new iteration of the former First Wednesday series. Attendees can explore bold ideas and complex challenges with these pop-up events in libraries and community hubs all over the state from the comfort of one’s couch or in community with neighbors. The full Fall schedule is available at vermonthumanities.org.

This in-person event will also

be livestreamed. Please register on the Vermont Humanities website if you wish to receive the link for the livestream and other information about the event.

The program is free thanks to the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library and the Vermont Department of Libraries, through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The venue is accessible to people in wheelchairs.

For more information, call 802-254-5290 or visit brookslibraryvt.org.

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Keiser

room, the bedroom, etc.”

Which got her thinking: “I have that space out there.”

“So I asked my friend who is a carpenter to help me design it,” Keiser said. “We decided to put a wall up to hide the water heater. It made a storage closet and gave me more wall space for paintings.”

Keiser, who also has a studio in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, goes there for three months each winter. She is now a permanent resident of Mexico but can’t pay her taxes the way local Mexican artists can.

“Mexican artists can pay their taxes with a painting!” she said. An artist must be accepted into the juried program, and Keiser noted that some of this public art in lieu of taxes goes into a traveling exhibition.

Keiser’s paintings and tile work have been exhibited in galleries in the United States and Mexico. She is a member of the Vermont State Craft Centers, the League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts, and the National Association of Women Artists. Her work is also represented at the Canal Street Art Gallery in Bellows Falls.

Of her paintings, Keiser says, “They are mostly about something that gave me a moment of pleasure and delight, like the sun falling on the kitchen table, a walk through an orchard, a corner of my studio, a dance, or a remembered moment [...]. They are really a visual diary of my life and my response to the joy and beauty around me.”

The Commons met up with Keiser to see her new gallery and to learn about her painting process and where her inspiration comes from. Here’s an excerpt of the conversation.

VICTORIA CHERTOK: What do you like about living and painting in Vermont?

CAROL KEISER: It is quiet and peaceful. I can walk anywhere. I like being surrounded by nature. I like waking up to the birds in the morning, but I do like to visit other places

occasionally for inspiration and new perspectives.

V.C.: I heard you went to France earlier this year on an artist retreat, and you’ve talked about your travels in Italy, Costa Rica, and Maine. How is the light unique in all of these places?

C.K.: The light is always different. In Italy, the light is soft and steady. In Costa Rica, with their 12-hour days and jungle foliage, the light is intense and full of sharp contrasts. I love the open-sky light of the Southwest, and I really love the crystal clear light of the Maine coast.

I don’t know what to say about the light of Vermont, except it sure seems like we have too many dark, gray days!

V.C.: You divide your time between your home and studio in Putney and also your studio in Mexico. How has Mexico shaped your art?

C.K.: When I was producing the tiles, my painting time was in the winter when I went to Mexico, where I have a studio in San Miguel de Allende, an old colonial town with cobblestone streets and a year-round temperate climate. I love the colors of the culture, and I love the warm light. I think my painting has always been inspired by the colors of Mexico.

V.C.: You often use symbols in your work, like mountains, water, sun, moon, stars, sailboats, things that represent the natural world and our connection to the divine. Where does your inspiration for a painting come from?

C.K.: Inspiration for me can come from anywhere — the way the sun lands on the kitchen table, the way a friend looks sitting on her couch, the path through the trees, the fresh-picked flowers in the vase, the combination of colors in a piece of fabric. Colors and light are the main elements that I respond to, when something catches my eye.

When I do a landscape, I

want to leave an opening; there are always openings in life to other places. I do a lot of reading and travel. I am always observing the world, studying people. I am fascinated by life.

V.C.: How do you know when a painting is finished?

C.K.: Honestly, that is a difficult question. Sometimes, I settle too quickly, and a few days later I might look at something I have done and know that I need to go deeper.

A painting takes on a life of its own, and it begins to talk to you. It is really like a dance: You make a mark here, so then you need to make a mark there, back and forth, back and forth, until finally, a balance is achieved, and it feels settled.

The French painter Bonnard used to sneak into the museum with a sawed-off paintbrush in his pocket to retouch one of his paintings.

In some ways, you can say a work is never finished, there is always more that can be done.

V.C.: Did you start painting as a child? When did you know you wanted to be an artist?

C.K.: I did. Growing up in Wellesley, Massachusetts, I was exposed to art early on. My mother would take me into the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and I had some private painting classes in grade school. In high school, I did both the art program and the college-prep program.

I went to the University of New Hampshire, where I took art classes and then transferred to Ohio State University, where I continued with art classes. Then I went to Antioch’s graduate school to get a degree in early childhood education, which brought me to Putney in 1970.

V.C.: What is it about Acrylic paint that you like?

C.K.: Acrylic paint is very fluid; it can be used thin like watercolor or thick like an oil paint. I especially like that you can wash your brushes in soap and water. And because it dries

FROM SECTION FRONT

quickly, it is the perfect medium for travel.

V.C.: You said that most of your paintings on display have been done in the last four years. What were you drawn to paint?

C.K.: These past few years I have been drawn to paint what is immediately around me. Since the start of Covid I have painted what is close. I painted views from my long walks. I painted still lifes of my kitchen table, my porch, my cat, my gardens. I like painting interior scenes with maybe a view out the window to another world. I like to have an opening or a suggestion of another world beyond what is right in front.

V.C.: You are also known for your tiles and have an installation at the Putney Public Library. Are you still making tiles?

C.K.: Yes, the tiles provided me with a living and allowed me to work with color and composition and design — basically, the same elements used in painting, so in a way I was really just painting all those years, just with glazes instead of paints.

V.C.: What is it about Putney that has kept you here?

C.K.: After growing up in a suburb, I really like the independence of living in the country, being free to set up a studio, free to work. Living in Putney has allowed me a way of life that continues to make sense for me.

V.C.: What do you hope visitors will take away from your work?

C.K.: I hope people can feel my love of color and joy, and I hope they leave with a smile.

Carol Keiser’s Barn Gallery (carolkeiser.com) opens on Saturday, September 30th from 2 to 5 p.m. at 338 Hickory Ridge Rd. South in Putney. The new gallery will be open by appointment. Call 802-387-5774 or email cjkeiser5@gmail.com (cjkeiser5@gmail.com) to schedule a visit.

VIEWPOINT

Avoid Covid and flu this winter

Too many healthcare-policy experts are minimizing the threat of Covid, and they are doing a disservice to the public by not urging more active prevention measures

Covid will always be with us, and most of us have learned to live with it. Unfortunately, people continue to die from the disease at a rate of 255 deaths per day in the United States. Hospitalizations for the disease are up 8.7%, and the death rate has increased by 4.5%. The U.S. full vaccination rate is 68%.

Mask wearing continues to be rare, but it seems to me that a few more people are starting to mask up again, and I am even considering if it makes sense to wear a mask in crowded public places now that a new variant is on the scene.

MANY healthcare policy experts who also serve as talking heads tend to operate in the political realm as well. Too many of them are minimizing the threat of Covid, and they are doing a disservice to the public by not urging more active prevention measures.

The fact that the federal government has declared an end to the public health emergency doesn't help. Americans can no longer get free test kits. They are not cheap, and that means that as the disease spreads this winter, lower-income people will become even more vulnerable to the disease, as they have been all along.

The government will no longer pay for vaccines and, unless you have insurance,

RICHARD DAVIS, a retired registered nurse and tireless advocate for access to health care, is a former Brattleboro Reformer columnist. He continues to post his writing on his Facebook profile (bit.ly/575_davis).

either privately or through Medicaid or Medicare, you will have to pay out of pocket.

Once again, those who can't afford insurance will go unprotected, and they will suffer and die more than the rest of the population.

Just another day in the land where "survival of the fittest" is the operative motto.

IF YOU WANT a reality check, here's something from a recent piece in *The Nation*.

"While too many people who should know better are downplaying the ongoing public health risk from Covid, others are trying to signal the peril of our current moment.

"The *New York Times* recently reported on new estimates from researchers that Covid might lead to at least 45,000 deaths between September and April — and that's the best-case scenario.

"Based on these projections, Covid is likely to remain in the leading causes of death in the United States for the foreseeable future," Justin Lessler, an epidemiologist

■ SEE COVID, C3

COLUMN



Sam's Army and Navy sign was front and center on Main Street in Brattleboro in 1975.

End of an era

Over the course of a century, three generations of a family pivoted, keeping Sam's an anchor of Brattleboro's vibrant downtown economy and experience. For the daughter of a proprietor of an Army and Navy store in Brooklyn, its loss will hit home.

NOW THAT IT HAS been confirmed that Sam's Outdoor Outfitters on Main Street will be closing in April of 2024, there are so many ways to think about it.

We could think about the big retail hole it will leave on Main Street, where it has been losing business for years.

We could think about the dedicated Sam's employees, some of whom have worked for the owners, the Borofsky family, for decades, who will be losing their jobs and their sense of community. Waiting for them to finish their conversation



JOYCE MARCEL, an award-winning freelance business journalist and columnist, contributes frequently to *The Commons*.

so I could buy some things was a time-honored tradition at Sam's.

We could think about the current social devastation on Main Street, where panhandlers, people struggling with drug dependency, and those who have no home vie for sidewalk space. We could think about the impact the whole of this

environment might have on small retailers already struggling with the business and economic climate. The whole of these complicated problems makes many shoppers so fearful they refuse to come downtown anymore — or, at least, that's what they tell me.

We could think of the other big retail losses downtown and try to create a group narrative when there really isn't one.

Hotel Pharmacy closed because of predatory pricing by pharmaceutical middlemen. The downtown M&T Bank? Management said its customers no longer like coming down

■ SEE ARMY AND NAVY, C2

VIEWPOINT

A SQUANDERED OPPORTUNITY

The Brattleboro Selectboard has failed to grasp that the fire department is primarily a public safety organization, while Rescue is primarily a healthcare organization. Its vote to embrace the fire-EMS model was disheartening but did not come as a surprise.

IHAVE A LANDLINE and a rotary phone on my kitchen counter, underneath a kitchen cabinet with an orange sticker on the inside of the door — it's from the 1980s. It has the telephone number for Rescue Inc.

I yearn to be able to call Rescue for our next medical emergency but, to quote Bob Dylan, "the pump don't work," 'cause the vandals took the handles."

The Brattleboro Selectboard's decision to choose the fire-EMS model and to reject Rescue Inc. as our emergency medical services provider was disheartening but did not come as a surprise.

WILLIAM KRAHAM is an attorney and counselor at law in Brattleboro.

The die was cast long ago. The fire-EMS model had been the town's goal all along, ever since it abruptly severed ties with Rescue in April 2022. The town never had any intention of ever going back to Rescue, and that's why it stacked the deck against Rescue in the bid process. The Selectboard is now complicit in the town's regrettable contra-Rescue campaign.

Equally disturbing, however, was



WILLIAM E. KRAHAM

the Selectboard's abdication of its responsibility under our town charter to "serve the needs of all Brattleboro residents by respecting the will of the people."

If there was any doubt that the 425 residents who took the time to sign the Rescue petition did not reflect the will

of the people, the Selectboard had the opportunity to call for a referendum — a simple up-or-down vote by the legal voters — to determine whether Rescue should be our EMS provider.

There was no referendum, because the town and the Selectboard do not care what the people want.

Should the Fire Department's coincidental removal of the "Celebrate Democracy" banner hanging over Main Street a few days before the Selectboard's vote have been taken as an omen?

We have heard at least one Selectboard member publicly state, "We can do whatever we want."

THE TOWN has squandered the opportunity to be a prominent proponent and participant in a robust regional EMS system, with Rescue Inc. as its anchor, leading the way for the rest of the state. The challenges that we face today, and the challenges that we will face tomorrow transcend town boundaries.

Brattleboro is not an island. Our town has decided to close ranks, to start its own EMS, permanently withdrawing from the network of 15 towns being served by the best regional EMS provider in the state.

The message we are sending to our friends and neighbors served by Rescue in surrounding towns is this: We are going to take care of our own people, we don't need you, and we

■ SEE EMS VOTE, C2



garage provides direct access to the house and there is a shed attached for storage. The back yard has terraced garden space and plenty of room for play and relaxation on the 1.58(+/-) acres and a shed to store toys and tools.

Wonderful home with plenty of indoor and outdoor space. The family room has a gas fireplace and hardwood floors. There is a slider to the large deck. The kitchen has a breakfast nook space that overlooks the deck and back yard. Ample dining room for family gatherings and a spacious living room with built in book shelves. The 2nd floor bedrooms are spacious and have great closet space. The primary bedroom has ensuite 3/4 bath and two large closets. The basement media/rec room is ready for your pool table and great as a game room. There is also a potential workshop with slider to the back yard and a cement patio. The in-law apartment has a modest kitchen area/living room area with spiral staircase to the 2nd floor bedroom and slider to the back deck. The attached 2 car

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■ Army and Navy

FROM SECTION FRONT

to Main Street. Delectable Mountain? The longtime owner, who built a fabric store into a destination shopping experience, retired.

Restaurants on Main Street come and go and go, but some stay, don't they? We could be grateful to the new owners of Shin La, and to Yalla and The Works and the various iterations of Amy's Bakery.

Or we could write about the sales tax, which Sam's current owner, Brad Borofsky, the third generation in the business, blames for the decision to close the flagship store while keeping the other two, in Swanzey, New Hampshire and Hadley, Massachusetts open while he tries to sell them.

But oddly, what I think about first is Kagan's Army & Navy Store in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

It was my family's store, and I deeply loved it.

IN THE EARLY 1900s, the United States of America was flooded with European immigrants seeking safety from religious and political persecution, hunger, and poverty. As they struggled to survive in the New World, a great opportunity opened for them in the aftermath of World War I.

The U.S. military, needing to unload a huge amount of surplus clothing and equipment, began cleaning and baling used shirts, pants, and jackets to sell as rags. Some of those canny immigrants bought the bales, sorted through the merchandise, sized and priced it, put it on pushcarts, and peddled it in the streets.

On paydays, they would usually sit outside of the doors of factories and sell to the men and women who worked inside. For many peddlers, the "rag trade" turned out to be a good business.

Eventually, tired of working in the rain and snow and cold, they opened small stores.

My grandfather, Issac Kagan, from Odessa, Russia, who until then owned a gas station in anti-Semitic Connecticut, grabbed my father, Harry, right out of high school and started taking him to the auctions.

What was for sale? Army coats. Long wool coats. Trunks. Socks. Woolen watch caps. Long underwear. Bell bottoms. Mess kits. Belts. Shoes. Peacoats and flyers' jackets. Denim pants and jackets. Canteens. Scratchy wool blankets.

Soon, almost every neighborhood, whether in a large town or small city, had at least one Army and Navy store. The owners brought in all sorts of surplus merchandise to sell. When they ran out of military surplus, they started selling workers' clothing.

The Kagans found a corner store on Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn within walking distance of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and opened up shop.

The shelves were jammed with merchandise. The wooden

floors creaked. The bathroom was out of a horror movie. A big brass cash register stood on the counter, next to the New York Daily News, which my father read religiously every morning.

MY GRANDFATHER eventually retired, and my dad took over, running a very successful business selling surplus and some fairly upscale men's clothing to Brooklynites as well as to foreign sailors from the yard. His pickled assistant, "Morris the Drunk," kept bottles of cheap booze stashed under piles of men's shirts.

Harry Kagan was known as a seriously good salesman. People liked to say he could sell a traveling seaman an empty trunk and then fill it for him. It was a cash-and-carry business and my dad ran two sets of books, and soon the family was doing well enough to join the middle class.

When I was old enough, I helped out in the store on weekends, although it made my dad uncomfortable for several reasons: a) The customers were all men and the conversation was — how shall I put this — kind of salty, b) I had boobs, and c) you sold jeans by measuring inseams.

When the 1960s happened, things exploded. Well-to-do young people suddenly wanted to dress like the working class. The demand for dungarees — soon called "blue jeans," or just "jeans" — so strongly outpaced the supply that the larger manufacturers, Levi Strauss and Lee and Wrangler, could not meet it.

They serviced their long-standing customers, the Army and Navy stores, first. This brought a new wave of customers.

My dad was able to retire to Florida in his 50s, and my brother took over the store. He moved the merchandise even more upscale, so Puma and Adidas sneakers and Timberland boots were being sold along with with metal-toed workshoes.

But you could still buy a green Army cot at Kagan's, right until the end — which came after a devastating fire destroyed the building.

Instead of reopening the business, my brother paid off all the bills, moved up to Woodstock, New York and became a Realtor.

It broke my father's heart.

BY THE TIME Walmart and the other big-box stores and discounters began to threaten small retailers, most of the original Army and Navy stores had run their course.

The immigrant founders had mostly retired or died, and most of their children, well-educated and inhabiting the professional classes, were uninterested in taking over the businesses.

Today, very few Army and Navy stores survive. Of the ones that do, most are quite different today from their humble

VIEWPOINT

On false promises and outright deceit

If our politicians are so cowed by powerful interest groups like the pro-Israel lobby or corporate sponsors or weapons makers or a wannabe autocrat that they willingly lie, then we have lost our Republic

DAN DEWALT, one of the founders of this newspaper, is a woodworker and teacher at Leland & Gray Union High School. He is a longtime activist for social justice, clean energy, peace, and restorative justice.

WHAT MAKES POLITICIANS publicly embrace a lie when the truth is staring them in the face?

"There is an apartheid state here. In a territory where two people are judged under two legal systems, that is an apartheid state."

A simple statement of fact — in this case made recently by Tamir Pardo, a former head of Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, referring to Israel's current system of treatment of Palestinians.

Pardo is not the only Israeli official to say so. Former diplomats, leaders, security officials, and cultural figures — loyal Israelis who love their country — are making the same point. These are not people who would be accused of being antisemitic even by the rabid right-wing Israeli defenders-at-all-costs in the United States.

So, when an American member of Congress — in the most recent case, Rep. Pramila Jayapal — makes the same assessment, why is it immediately followed by a clamorous uproar as politicians stampede to the microphones to utterly condemn and denounce such statements as antisemitic and anti-Israel?

What makes politicians publicly embrace a lie, when the truth is staring them in the face?

WHY DON'T WE ASK Rep. Becca Balint? She lined up with her colleagues and threw Jayapal under the bus, voting to affirm that Israel is not an apartheid state and its government is not racist (bit.ly/733-hcr-israel).

On the campaign trail, Balint told us how she would stand up to the lobbyists and powerful forces in Washington that are warping our policies and unduly influencing public opinion.

But Democratic Party realpolitik pressures whipped (almost) the entire party into line, and Balint put her notions about the dignity of the Palestinian people in abeyance in order to maintain her place as an up-and-coming future Democratic leader in the House.

Although Balint was quick to vote to condemn her fellow progressive House

member, it took several calls and emails to her office to find out how she voted. Balint isn't alone in her errant thinking about Israeli government policies and intentions. Sen. Peter Welch was asked to respond to a constituent upset about Israel's recent drift toward authoritarianism, a drift recognized by hundreds of thousands of Israelis who have been demonstrating in opposition for months and who oppose the elevated platform given to Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, to address the Congress.

Welch did say on X.com (formerly Twitter) that "the pro-settlement agenda of the current Israeli government exacerbates violence and threatens the prospect of a two-state solution in the region" and urged work "toward peace." Yet, despite this stance, he said that he was encouraged that President Herzog reaffirmed his government's commitment to democracy.

That's all it took to satisfy Welch: a few meaningless words that are contradicted daily by the actions of the current Israeli government? This makes as much sense as Donald Trump taking Vladimir Putin at his word about not interfering in U.S. elections in 2016. Some may say that this is not really lying, it's just political expedience and it happens all the time.

They are correct. It does happen all the time.

Weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. "You'll be able to keep your health insurance." Holding the Saudi crown prince accountable for murdering a U.S. journalist.

The list of false promises and outright deceit is long and sordid.

SO WHY ARE WE surprised that the current Republican Party, whose ideology is proving to be out of touch with the nation and its voters, is resorting to flat-out lies about countless issues, from a so-called stolen

election to climate change, election security, and voter suppression, to false claims about rising crime and border security?

If we had one political party that chose not to lie to us, we might still have some faith in our system of government.

Instead, faced with a barrage of pathetically laughable claims and counterclaims, we can only throw up our hands and give up on taking these people seriously. Why should any Trump supporter have qualms about accepting the lies his Don tells him when false statements are the coin of the realm?

If you're going to believe a liar, you are more likely to believe a good one.

TRUMP IS the mother of all liars. He himself has said it doesn't matter what you say, just keep saying it. The Democrats lie to us, but they do a bad job of it, as if they don't feel comfortable.

But, by golly, if they have to toe the party line they will.

As a result, how could we possibly believe them? How can we not be disgusted with them for being so shallow and craven?

If our politicians are so cowed by powerful interest groups like the pro-Israel lobby or corporate sponsors or weapons makers or a wannabe autocrat that they willingly lie, then we have lost our Republic.

An argument might be made that we deserve to lose it because we have become too lazy to think or advocate for ourselves. Maybe we have been collectively traumatized by the worst of capitalism and the ravages of racism and can't help our inaction.

Whatever the case, if we continue to believe in a system that has been fixed against us, if we have any faith that the political class wants to change that fixed system, then we are doomed to watch this downward spiral accelerate into collapse.

Holding failed governments and politicians to account is not unpatriotic, or in the case of Israel, antisemitic. It is a necessary duty.

Only if we demand better will we deserve better.

origins. They sell new merchandise now, including stylish clothing, outdoor gear, and expensive running shoes along with their Carhartt work clothes.

One of the most successful of these stores is Sam's, which went from being Sam's Army & Navy Store in the Depression years to Sam's Department Store to what it is today, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters. It won the 2012 Vermont Retailer of the Year award from a state trade association.

WHEN I MOVED to Brattleboro 35 years ago, I felt an immediate affinity for Sam's because its backstory — although adjusted for New England values — was the same as my own.

In 2004, I interviewed second-generation owner Samuel "Pal" Borofsky for a Vermont Business Magazine profile. When I learned that his son would be closing the store, I looked up the story.

"My father started the store," Pal Borofsky told me then. "Sam Borofsky, his name was. He came from New York. He had a delicatessen in the city, and he peddled ice and fuel for starters with my grandfather. They were immigrants from Russia. They came over about 1911. He peddled fruit and groceries for a while, then went into the delicatessen business. He sold that business to his brother-in-law, and I guess he might have peddled after that."

"Then my uncle in Keene had a store. He bought the Brattleboro store from a guy in Northampton and asked my father to come and work with him.

"My father said, 'Look, I can't work for anybody else. I got to work for myself. Either I buy the store from you, or I'll find something else.' So he bought the store from my uncle. That was in 1932, and the rest is kind of history. It just grew and grew and grew."

The name changed with the business. "My father called it 'Army and Navy' to begin with," Borofsky said. "But there were a lot of Army and Navy stores all over, so he put 'Sam's' on it. Then he had 'Sam's Army &

Navy Department Store.' And when I came, I made the 'Sam's' bigger and the 'Army & Navy' smaller.

"I hated to get away from it because it had been successful. First we answered the phone with, 'Army & Navy store.' When I started, I said, 'Good afternoon, Sam's.'"

"The customer would say, 'Is this the Army & Navy store?' 'After a while, I said, 'People want the Army & Navy store. Let them have it.'"

"Finally, one day I picked up the phone and said 'Army & Navy' and they said, 'Is this Sam's?' And I realized we had made the switch."

The business was forever changing, Borofsky said.

"Ever hear about the farmer who lifts a little calf every day?" he said. "He lifts the same calf, and one day it's a full cow and he lifts a full cow. I think that's what happens in this business when you grow into it and it expands around you, and you enjoy what you do."

There is precedent for closing the Brattleboro store. The Borofskys once had a Sam's in Bellows Falls and closed it in 2010 after 63 years in favor of expanding along an established commercial strip in Hadley, Massachusetts, at the edge of the University of Massachusetts' flagship campus and near four other colleges in the Connecticut River Valley — and their combined 30,000 students.

"You find out what you're

doing wrong every single day," Pal Borofsky told me. "There's always something you're doing wrong. There's always something you can do better. But you can always do something different."

WHEN I WAS a reporter for the Brattleboro Reformer, I covered Pal Borofsky often because he played an outsized role in making sure that Brattleboro continued to thrive. He twice served three one-year terms as selectman, once in the 1970s and once in the 1980s.

He served on the Planning Commission, too, but stopped when he realized, "Every time I said yes to somebody I said no to somebody else, and that wasn't good for my customer base."

He was the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce's 2002 Person of the Year. He served on the District Two Environmental Commission and was active in the Elks and the Jewish community.

When Walmart decided to build a store across the river in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, in 1992, he brought in an expert to teach local business owners how to compete.

"We went to Walmarts all over," Borofsky said. "We saw the type of merchandise they got, and how they put it out, and how they did business."

He made important changes. For example, Walmart carried some of the same merchandise as Sam's, so Borofsky

phased out some of it. But he also retained some.

"We try not to mix as much as we can, but there's certain stuff we've carried for a long, long time, and we do a better job of presenting, and we carry a fuller line than they do," Borofsky said. "We have a strong customer base for a lot of that stuff."

Sam's changed its refund and exchange policies.

"We made that much easier for customers to be satisfied," Borofsky said. "We remodeled the bathrooms, made them more acceptable. We changed our hours so we were open more hours, like Walmart. We did other things that needed to be done."

Other towns hollowed out and caved in when Walmart came to town, but Brattleboro thrived.

The scrappy downtown that fought and won against Walmart (and, later, Home Depot) now doesn't have to worry about ever seeing a big-box store again, because none will ever be built in Brattleboro. Except for a few locations like Brown & Roberts, it's pretty much a tourist town now.

Brattleboro is going through a hard time, but storefronts are still mostly full and new businesses are opening.

But Sam's? Its closing will mark the end of several eras. A lot of American history — and a lot of it my personal history — will close with it.

■ EMS vote

FROM SECTION FRONT

expect the same.

This is not only shortsighted, it's dangerous. This train is on the wrong track, and there is trouble ahead.

EMS HAS EVOLVED well beyond a "load and go" or "scoop and run" transportation service. An EMS service must be able to provide pre-hospital care to victims of sudden and life-threatening injuries or emergencies, using advanced clinical technology and advanced life support transportation from the scene to the nearest emergency

department.

Rescue has the experienced paramedics, ambulances, and equipment to accomplish this task. The fire department does not.

The chosen EMS model is what a Texan might call "all hat and no cattle." The quality of emergency medical care provided to the patient is the essential element that may determine whether someone lives or dies.

The town has failed to grasp that the fire department is primarily a public safety organization, while Rescue is primarily a

healthcare organization.

If there are Brattleboro firefighters who wish to be trained to become paramedics at Rescue's Vermont EMS Academy in Newfane, they will be welcomed. If the town desires to acquire an Advanced Life Support ambulance of its own, to back up and support Rescue and our friends and neighbors in the region, that would be ideal.

We are all in this together. Rescue should be our partner — not our pariah.

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Use of ARPA funds can only be seen as evidence of its bad faith

RE: "Brattleboro to run its own EMS" [News, Sept. 20]:

Representative Town Meeting approved a motion in 2023, calling on the Selectboard to allocate American Rescue Plan Act funds only after engaging with the public as to its preferences for use of those funds.

In Selectboard meetings before and after, members of the public asked — really, begged — the board not to obligate ARPA funds until the public had been given a meaningful chance to register its priorities, and we were given assurances that such a public process would occur before drawing on these funds.

The Selectboard's Sept. 19 vote to take 51% of the ARPA balance for the EMS startup, without promised public deliberation, can only be seen as evidence of its bad faith.

At its 2022 meeting, Annual Representative Town Meeting approved a budget that included a payment of \$285,600 to Rescue for EMS services — services that no one disputes provided quality patient care.

It should also be noted that in FY23, when Brattleboro would have paid Rescue \$285,600, the Town anticipated collecting \$48,000 in dispatch fees from Rescue, meaning the net cost of EMS was anticipated to be less than \$238,000.

The Selectboard's decision to go forward with a town EMS is much more expensive and much more complicated than what we would have experienced had the existing relationship with Rescue continued. (It should be noted that the costs for the 2023

Rescue proposal are higher only because of the Selectboard's 2022 decision to end its relationship with Rescue.)

This unnecessary mess reflects badly on the members of the Selectboard in office in April 2022, three of whom continue to serve. The consequences of their adoption of a Fire-EMS program will reflect on this Selectboard.

F. David Levenbach
Brattleboro

The writer is a Brattleboro Town Meeting member, representing District 3.

'These are human beings, and as a society, we are failing them'

THE problem is the drugs — my father, last time I talked to him, was living in a tent in Brattleboro.

I live in Maine, where I see encampments in Portland, too. Recently, 140 people were offered shelter and they declined, choosing to live outside.

We can't talk about the homelessness problem without discussing the drug problem — and that these drugs that are out there and are so powerful that withdrawals can kill people, or at best be agonizing.

We have such a different viewpoint when we discuss medications for those with physical illnesses. People who have become addicted to drugs have a mental illness that, when they go through withdrawals, is compounded with real physical pain.

We need methadone outreach programs, more clinics, and transitional services.

These are human beings, and as a society, we are failing them.

Cindi Brown
Brattleboro

Covid

FROM SECTION FRONT

at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, told the Times."

THERE IS some good news for those of us who can afford to avail ourselves of test kits, vaccines, and masks: If we stay vigilant and get the latest vaccine, which is now available, our chances of contracting the virus will remain low, and the likelihood of getting sick enough to be hospitalized will be low.

There is also comfort in recent news from the CDC.

"Approximately 97% of the U.S. population has antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 from vaccination, previous infection, or both (hybrid immunity).

"Immune responses to vaccines and infections are complex and involve both humoral (antibodies) and cellular immunity. It is likely that the humoral and cellular immune responses will continue to provide protection

against severe disease from this variant.

"Laboratories are currently working on measuring antibody neutralization of BA.2.86 [the new variant] as well as other immune responses. This is an area of ongoing scientific investigation."

THE CDC NOTES that the new variant does not show any signs of spreading faster or causing more severe disease than prior variants.

The federal agency urges people to stay up to date with vaccines. You can get a flu shot and a Covid vaccine at the same time, and now is a good time to do it.

Using commonsense prevention measures as winter approaches will give you a fighting chance not to be one of the 45,000 Covid deaths predicted or one of the 36,000 flu deaths that happen in most years.

Lessons from an old, sick dog's crazy adventure

ON Friday, Sept. 8, many in the area experienced an amazing thunderstorm — possibly one of the most intense lightning strikes that I can ever remember.

We have a very old, very large, disabled dog. Luke generally spends 23 hours a day asleep — he takes an occasional mosey to the brook to lie down in the cool water. He has severe arthritis and diabetes, and is almost blind and likely deaf, but he still likes his food, swims, and ear rubs.

He was lying down in his normal place on the entryway of the house we are building in Guilford. When the chaos after a massive lightning strike was over, Luke was gone.

We hunted every place we could imagine, but since his usual walking radius is under a quarter mile, that was our search range. After about 3.5 hours of searching behind every tree and log, in every ditch, in the pond, and through the

construction site, we concluded that he must be dead.

I put that information out to friends and family, but my daughter refused to believe Luke was gone unless she could see his body. She contacted the Humane Society, and they knew where he was!

So, 21 hours after he left the porch, Luke was found after his slog through the woods and bogs — about a mile away from his starting point!

When we picked him up, he actually seemed perfectly normal for an old, sick dog — tail wagging, hangdog look on his face.

We will never understand how a dog who almost never moves in a voluntary way was freaked out enough by the storm that it sent him on his crazy adventure, but I am so grateful that we have him back and he is snoozing away.

I certainly have learned a valuable lesson: No matter how old a dog (or a person?) is, don't assume they are not able to accomplish very surprising feats

— especially under duress!
Nancy Braus
Guilford

Brattleboro town department heads 'blindsided' by

RE: "Brattleboro employees support municipal fire-based EMS model" [News, Sept. 13]:

This hearing was supposed to be an opportunity for citizens of Brattleboro to have a voice in their choice for emergency medical care.

Instead, those attending were blindsided by a panel of town department heads reading prepared speeches in support of the fire-EMS model.

For the attendees, it was a classic bait-and-switch by the town. After we were being lectured to by Town Manager John Potter (to behave) from "we want to hear what you have to say" to Sunday, when "we are here telling you what we want."

Take note that the department heads have no skin in the game. None. Nada. All but two do not live in Brattleboro,

and at least one doesn't even live in Vermont! They do not pay Brattleboro taxes, and the change will not affect them. In fact, many live in consortium towns served by Rescue. How hypocritical is that?

Rescue is able to provide state of the art care, is equipped, is staffed, and has a proven capability which is nationally recognized and awarded. The "powers that be" in Brattleboro should be so proud and feel so grateful to have this organization ready, willing and able to serve them. They should have (as the saying goes) been thanking their lucky stars, rather than tearing the system apart.

Remember, they have said that they don't care if it costs more. That should tell everyone a lot. Remember, too, that it will not be coming out of the pockets of the department heads supporting the fire ems model but it most definitely will be coming out of the pockets of the taxpayers.

Barbara Mellish
Brattleboro

BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

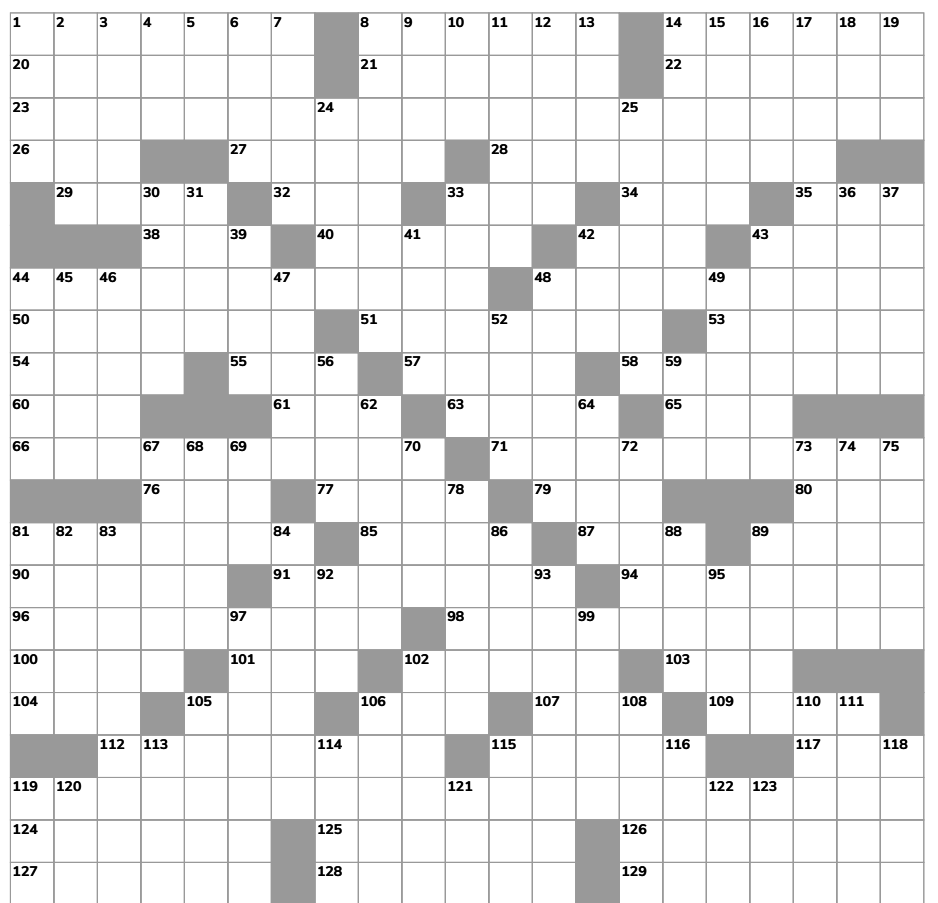
THE COMMONS CROSSWORD

"Six Consonants in a Row"

Across

- Descendants of Muhammad and Fatima
- Primary event
- Reduce in rank
- Winter-ailment treatment
- Right-leaning writing
- "Well!" [Harrumph!]
- Bottom's play
- Reusable ___
- Overperform
- Harder to please
- Good, long bath
- The Matterhorn, e.g.
- "Get comfortable"
- Veterinary patient
- "Enough with the details!"
- ... --- ...
- A, as in Archimedes
- Include privately
- Brief lives
- Popular slogan
- Feminist punk rock offshoot
- Nipple rings
- Buddhist's attainment
- Actress Witherspoon
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- Neck of the woods
- Chimney channel
- ___ cum laude
- Intention of losing
- Issy infinitive
- Prohibit
- Actress Vikander
- Drunk as a skunk
- Sound effect
- Cut open in a lab
- Break things off
- Nothing other than
- Fully exhausts
- Bigelow product
- "Uhhhh..."
- One may be crowned
- Paint job finale
- Necktie type
- Reunification chancellor
- Nepalese guide
- "Inspector ___"
- Minor key?
- Trade punches
- Trident-shaped letters
- Trash can
- Actress Blethyn
- Rod with a bat
- Team building?
- Doctrine
- Soul mate?
- Speed past
- Rosey of the Fearsome Foursome
- Rain or shine
- Gloomy
- Pugilists' org.
- Stan's drawings
- Pool shade
- Hits the rock gym
- Pandemonium
- Sault ___ Marie
- High hairstyle
- Soccer or squash
- Series starter

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- Free (of)
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- Pool shade
- Hits the rock gym
- Pandemonium
- Sault ___ Marie
- High hairstyle
- Soccer or squash
- Series starter

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- Corp. shake-up
- Bell tower
- Venomous snake
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- Material assets
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Last issue's solution

"The Land of Nod"



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COLUMN | Sports Roundup

Bears girls' and boys' soccer off to a good start

The Brattleboro soccer teams played host last week to their lower-division neighbors, Green Mountain and Leland & Gray, for a pair of games under the lights at Natowich Field.

The boys rolled to a 5-1 win over GM on Sept. 20 as senior forward Ozzie VanHendrick scored three goals. It was a little tougher for the Brattleboro girls, as the defending Division IV champions put up a good fight in a 4-2 loss to the Bears on Sept. 21.

The Brattleboro girls came into the match on a high. Two nights earlier, the Bears rallied from a 5-1 deficit to tie Mount Anthony, 5-5, in double overtime in Bennington. Leland & Gray was determined to break the Bears' momentum, but the skills of forward Sophia Albright and midfielder Reese Croutworst — both of whom keyed the big comeback against MAU — were too much for the Rebels.

A defensive lapse led to Albright's first goal in the second minute. Croutworst added another goal in the 18th minute to make it 2-0. The Rebels cut the lead in half when Mary Sanderson scored off a Maggie Parker corner kick in the 19th minute, but Croutworst responded with a 25-yard kick that caromed off the right goalpost in the 36th minute to give the Bears a 3-1 lead.

The Rebels answered with a nifty goal by Avery Hiner with just 32.1 seconds left in the first half to pull her team back to within a goal of the Bears. Leland & Gray kept pressing for the equalizer, but Bears goalkeeper Abigail Henry stopped several shots. The Bears got the breathing room they needed in the 62nd minute, when Albright popped a shot just over the outstretched hands of Rebels goalkeeper Annabelle Brooks to make it a 4-2 game.

The Rebels kept attacking and let the Bears know that they were not going to go quietly into that good night. Rebels coach Joe Towle told his players after the game, he was happy with the effort of the team, despite the final score.

"We played our best game so far this year," Towle said of his 5-2 team. "Brattleboro scored on four really nice plays. We had them back on their heels, but we didn't convert on some opportunities and they did and that happens sometimes."

"I have been telling them this since we started, we can beat anybody on our schedule," said Bears co-coach Jay Cudworth. "I think we believed that in the very beginning of the season and I think after that [MAU] game most of them started to believe. I think it's done wonders for their confidence."

Brattleboro ended the week with a 3-1-1 record. In the boys' match, VanHendrick put on a show. He sped through the GM defense just about every time he touched the ball. His first goal came off a through ball from Jackson Pals in the 11th minute. Two minutes later, VanHendrick converted a penalty kick after he got taken down in the penalty area, and then picked up a yellow card after a choreographed celebration with his teammates was deemed excessive by the referee.

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.

The Bears had two other goals disallowed in the first half, so there was a silver of hope for Green Mountain as they trailed, 2-0, at the break.

"We were working on some new things tonight," said Bears coach Ben Brewer. That experimentation, featuring a new alignment on offense, gave GM got a few more chances at the Bears' goal in the second half, but Brattleboro simply had too much talent.

Pals got a goal in the 51st minute, but GM got on the board eight minutes later on an own goal by Brattleboro. The Bears finished up the scoring when Emmitt Hoyer converted a penalty kick in the 70th minute that was awarded after VanHendrick was taken down in the box for a second time. VanHendrick then finished his hat trick less than a minute later.

Bears goalkeeper Sam Bogart had an easy night as the Bears improved to 3-1 with the victory.

Football

Brattleboro hadn't played a football game against Keene, New Hampshire since 2010. A series that first began in 1891 had gone dormant, but changes in Vermont high school football this season reopened the door to give the Bears a chance to rekindle this historic rivalry.

Unfortunately for the Bears, the Keene Blackbirds' overwhelming offensive attack rolled to a 42-6 win before a big crowd on Sept. 22 at Keene's Alumni Field. Keene now leads the all-time series, 43-35-2, and will hang onto the Darrell Sawyer-KHS Booster Club Trophy for another year.

The tone was set early as the Blackbirds ran the ball 15 times on the opening drive of the game as running back Wyatt Avery kept blasting through the center of the Bears defense again and again. He had 10 carries for 55 yards, finishing with a 2-yard touchdown run with 4:43 left in the first quarter.

Avery would finish with 188 yards on 24 carries, plus four receptions for 98 yards as the Bears' defense had no answer for stopping the Blackbirds clock-eating running attack.

On offense, the Bears could get nothing going as the Blackbirds forced four turnovers, including three interceptions, as Brattleboro finished with 40 yards of offense.

Keene got two more touchdowns in the first half. Kasen Abbot scored on a 1-yard run, set up by a 58-yard scamper by Avery, with 1:03 left in the first quarter, followed by a 2-yard touchdown run by Eli Kopcha, who also recovered a fumble to start that drive, with 6:08 left in the second quarter.

Keene had 248 yards of offense in the first half to take a 21-0 lead, while Brattleboro



Brattleboro defenders Kaitlyn Pattison (10), Sophie Albright (9), and Reese Croutworst (1) set up a wall in front of goalkeeper Abigail Henry to stop a direct kick by Leland & Gray's Maggie Parker (13) during the first half of their girls' soccer game on Sept. 21 at Natowich Field. Brattleboro went on to win the game, 4-2.

managed only 23 yards of offense. The second half saw more of the same as Sawyer Leppie scored on a 3-yard run set up by a Colin Tinnin interception to make it 28-0 with 7:08 left in the third quarter.

Avery scored on a 3-yard run with 8:07 left in the game. He set up his second touchdown of the night with a 48-yard pass reception. The Bears' only score came with four minutes left in the fourth quarter, a 7-yard touchdown pass from Karson Elliott to Cam Cruz that was set up by a 70-yard kickoff return by Noah Perusse.

Jasiah Sales closed out the Keene onslaught with a 86-yard touchdown run that came on the first play after the Bears' lone touchdown. Keene finished the game with 472 yards of offense in a thoroughly dominating performance.

The road to a Division I playoff spot gets even tougher for the 1-2-1 Bears when they host the undefeated Hartford Hurricanes this Friday at 7 p.m. at Natowich Field.

Bellows Falls took care of business with a 32-7 win over the U-32 Marauders on Sept. 22 at Hadley Field.

The Terriers took a 13-0 lead at the half, thanks to an 18-yard touchdown run by Jesse Darrell in the first quarter and a 4-yard run by Cole Moore near the end of the second quarter.

Walker James had two long runs for touchdowns for BF with a 39-yard ramble in the third quarter and a 32-yard burst to start the fourth quarter. Quarterback Cole Moore ran for a 32-yard score late in the fourth quarter to make it 32-0 before U-32 spoiled the shut-out bid when quarterback Drew Frostick connected with Elliot Caswell for a 32-yard touchdown with 1:37 to play.

Now 3-1, Bellows Falls hosts Fair Haven this Saturday at 1 p.m. for a homecoming matinee at Hadley Field.

Field hockey

Windsor pulled out a tough 2-0 win over Brattleboro on Sept. 19. The Bears held the Yellowjackets scoreless through the first three quarters before Windsor broke through with goals from Mackenzie Kleefisch and Amber Simonds in the fourth quarter.

Windsor goalie Sydney Perry made 10 saves for the shutout victory. The Bears managed only two penalty corners to Windsor's 15, but Brattleboro's defense and the goalkeeping on Ericka Fletcher (16 saves) kept this game close.

Bellows Falls needed overtime to beat Hartford, 2-1, on Sept. 21 in White River Junction. Emma Bazin scored first for BF early in the opening quarter, but Hartford's Cam

Brattleboro forward Ozzie VanHendrick (8) celebrates after scoring the first of his three goals in a 5-1 victory over Green Mountain in boys' soccer action on Sept. 20 at Natowich Field.



Brower tied the game with a goal late in the fourth quarter. Veronica Moore then got the game-winner in overtime off a penalty corner. Livie Clough made 11 saves in goal for the Terriers.

Boys' soccer

West Rutland blasted Bellows Falls, 11-0, on Sept. 19 in Westminster. West Rutland had a 40-3 advantage in shots on goal as Peter Guay had three goals and two assists and Tristan Roche added two goals and two assists.

Green Mountain bounced back from its loss to Brattleboro with a 2-1 win over Leland & Gray in Chester on Sept. 22. It was the first win of the season for the 1-3-1 Chieftains.

Girls' soccer

Mount St. Joseph defeated Twin Valley, 5-1, on Sept. 19 in the John Werner Tournament in Arlington.

Springfield defeated Bellows Falls, 5-1, on Sept. 21 in Westminster. Meadow Murchie and Ella Donahue each had two goals for the Cosmos and Amelia Murchie added another. Tela Harty had the lone BF goal.

Londonderry dedicates historic site marker as birthplace of Burton Snowboards

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m., the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation will team up with Burton Snowboards

and The Londonderry Arts & Historical Society to dedicate a Vermont Roadside Historic Site Marker at Williams Park, 2242 Main St.

Donna Carpenter, the owner and chair of Burton Snowboards and Vermont's Kelly Clark, five-time Olympian and winningest snowboard athlete, will be there along with many snowboard enthusiasts and officials to mark the late Jake Burton Carpenter's contribution to snowboarding and the town of Londonderry.

In 1977, Burton Carpenter opened his first workshop on Main Street in Londonderry. A small team of local residents helped him fabricate his first snowboards, and from these humble beginnings as a backyard hobby grew one of the world's most popular winter sports.

Burton Carpenter died in 2019 and the original Burton factory was lost in a fire several years ago. However, many people who have played important roles in the history of Burton Snowboards still remain in Londonderry, including Ross Powers, winner of a bronze medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics at Nagano, Japan, and a gold medal at Salt Lake's 2002 Winter Olympics.

Following the dedication of the new historic marker, a reception will be held nearby at the Londonderry Arts & Historical Society, 2461 Middletown Rd. A special exhibit, "First Tracks" — with memorabilia and photos from the late 1970s that highlight

"pioneers" of the sport and capture the progression of Burton boards from their earliest days — will be on display.

Senior bowling roundup

Week 3 of the fall/winter season of the Brattleboro Senior Bowling League at Brattleboro Bowl on Sept. 21 saw Hairiers and Stepping Stones (both 13-2) tied for first place, followed by Four Seasons (11-4), Four Pins (8-2), No Splits and Skippers (both 8-7), High Rollers (4-11), Dumblebor (3-12), and PEWJ (1-14).

Debbie Kolpa had the women's high handicap game (244) and series (700). Duane Schillemat had the men's high handicap game (246), while Stan Kolpa had the high handicap series (681). Hairiers had the high team handicap game (891) and series (2,606).

Robert Rigby again had the men's high scratch series (584) with games of 230 and 184. Warren Corriveau Sr. had a 576 series that featured games of 222 and 181. Schillemat had a 529 series with a 207 game, while Gary Montgomery had a 516 series with games of 198 and 196, and Stan Kolpa had a 507 series. John Walker had a 191 game and Wayne Randall rolled a 180.

Debbie Kolpa had the women's high scratch series (493), while Shirley Aiken had the high scratch game (181). Kolpa had games of 175 and 161, Aiken had a 169 game, and Carol Gloski rolled a 172 game.

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